

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Awareness of Therapeutic Field of Language and Communication in General Population, Lahore Pakistan

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## ABSTRACT

Factual levels of awareness about speech-language therapy/pathology (SLP) and communication disorders are right now obscure in the general population in the city of Punjab, Pakistan. This study assess the awareness about SLP in general population. A cross-sectional study was accomplished by using a random sampling technique. A totality of 331 members with the age range 19 years to 55 years were surveyed through structured questionnaire regarding their awareness of the profession of speech-language therapy and of communication clutters at public places. The result of this study shows that general population perception and basic understanding about speech -language therapy in Lahore- Pakistan come out as to be quite restricted. Members who had much precise understanding of speech-language therapy and communication clutters are mainly women with children.

**Conclusion(s):** This research has revealed the female respondents had much knowledge about speech-language pathology and more positive attitudes toward communication disorders compared to males.

**Keywords:** Speech Language Pathology, Speech Language Therapist, Speech technicians, communications problems, awareness, basic knowledge, Lahore, Pakistan. Public.

## INTRODUCTION

Speech-language therapy/ pathology is bothered with the research or interpretation of individual conveyance and its clutters, as well as the identification and intervention of feeding, vocalization, and perceptual-divulgence disorders that ends in communication difficulties.<sup>1</sup> A speech-language pathologist (SLP) is the individual or professional which is responsible for treating these disorders. Allied health professionals include speech and language therapists. Patients with voice and swallowing issues, as well as stroke patients and patients with fluency issues, all benefit from the services of a speech language pathologist. Children may require discourse language treatment for some, reasons, including hearing debilitations, psychological (scholarly, thinking) or other formative deferrals, powerless oral muscles, constant raspiness, congenital fissure, chemical imbalance, engine arranging issues, verbalization issues, familiarity issues, respiratory issues (breathing issues), taking care of, gulping problems and awful mind injury.<sup>2</sup>

A typical confusion is that discourse language pathology is confined to the treatment of enunciation issues (for example helping English-talking people articulate the customarily troublesome r) or potentially the treatment of people who stammer yet, indeed, discourse language pathology is worried about an expansive extent of discourse, language, education, gulping, and voice issues engaged with correspondence. Patients with neurological,

oncological, or other infection measures that influence the patient's correspondence, perception, or gulping capacities are referred to SLPs for rehabilitation. They help in the diagnosis and localization of diseases and conditions by identifying, defining, and diagnosing disorders of human communication and swallowing.<sup>3</sup>

Speech-language pathologists are self-contained health care providers. However, multidisciplinary teaming is an important setting for clinical practice. It is often necessary and appropriate for speech-language pathologists to collaborate with other professionals in order to ensure that patients are treated holistically.<sup>4</sup> Speech-language pathologist's work in an assortment of settings, including yet not restricted to public and non-public schools, emergency clinics, and facilities. Emergency clinics, clinical restoration offices, long haul care offices, home health agencies, community clinics, and behavioral/mental health facilities are examples of health care settings.<sup>5</sup> Parents and guardians, homeroom instructors, understanding educators, learning incapacity educators, advocates, school clinicians, actual specialists, word related advisors, ESL educators, and social laborers all collaborate with us in the classroom. In private practice environments Universities and clinics affiliated with universities, Individual homes, group homes, and sheltered workshops are all available.<sup>6</sup>

This ponder reports the comes about of an examination of open mindfulness of speech-language pathology & it moreover decides the awareness of speech and language impairments that the general population has. Allied health professionals include speech and language therapists. The speech-language pathologist (SLP) is a

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medical care proficient who has some expertise in correspondence and swallowing problems in people of all ages. SLPs work with individuals, everything being equal, from infants to grown-ups.

**Literature Review:** Tina Leann Janes in 2021 presented a study with the aim of widespread of speech pathology. Discourse pathology has a background marked by low open mindfulness and without momentum research it is muddled if local area mindfulness has changed as of late.<sup>7</sup> This investigation tried to investigate a territorial local area's attention to discourse pathology as the catalyst for considering future headings relating to mindfulness and comprehension of the extent of training of this calling. An unknown online review was made utilizing inquiries from recently approved studies on this point, and afterward circulated through snowball inspecting utilizing web-based media. Information are from occupants of the Central Queensland people group in Australia. 200 and seven grown-ups who live in Central Queensland finished the overview.<sup>8</sup> Correlations were drawn between the reactions from this review to those from prior investigations. Most of respondents had known about discourse pathology for the most part because of individual contact, yet they showed that they didn't have the foggiest idea 'a ton' about discourse pathology. Proficient people had more elevated levels of instruction and were better ready to distinguish discourse pathologists' extent of training. Individual contact with a discourse pathologist likewise fundamentally added to self-evaluated information and exact ID of extent of training of discourse pathologists. While territorial Central Queensland people group individuals have known about discourse pathology, their self-detailed information on the calling keeps on being low. To streamline administration access and purchaser results it is prescribed that the calling expects to improve local area familiarity with discourse pathology.<sup>9</sup>

S.Lokheshwar in 2021 purpose a study in which Speech language pathologists (SLPs) endeavor to furnish restoration of individuals accompanied by correspondence problems.<sup>10</sup> In the Indian situation, general doctors go about related to wellspring of cross- reference for SLPs. In this study we get the knowledge into the familiarity with SLPs among clinical experts. Meeting based survey were set up in Google frames and circled by means of various web-based media stages. An aggregate of 120 members from different clinical streams finished the structure.<sup>11</sup> Thirteen members were avoided as they were either understudies or assistants. Among 107 members, just 60 (56.1%) knew about SLPs. The executives of stammering, aphasia, congenital fissure and sense of taste, and hearing impedance (91.7%, 85%, 81.7% and 81.7% separately) had greater fame than extirpation and gulping issues (35% and 30% individually). Out of 60 members, 98.3% alluded patients to SLPs for different correspondence issues. The examination uncovered that almost 50% of the specialists were uninformed of SLPs. Nonetheless, every one of the specialists concurred that there ought to be a talk on discourse language pathology for clinical understudies.<sup>12</sup>

Shin Ying Chu in 2019 presented a study with the aim to analyze the information and perspectives toward correspondence issues and discourse language therapy amidst the overall population in Malaysia. A self-created

survey comprising of things identified with information and perspectives about correspondence problems and discourse language pathology was disseminated by means of Google structure and a paper pencil design.<sup>13</sup> An aggregate of 535 reactions were acquired. Clear investigations dependent on the correlation of the socioeconomics to the information and disposition levels were directed utilizing inferential measurements. The greater part of the participants showed an ordinary information level about correspondence problems and a high information about discourse language therapy. As far as perspectives, 67.3% of the respondents saw an inspirational demeanor towards individuals with correspondence problems, and 86.5% of them were by and large certain in regards to the calling of discourse language pathology. Wellbeing experts showed a higher information level and more uplifting mentalities toward correspondence problems and discourse language pathology contrasted with different callings (teachers/organizations, trading, engineers, and redundant/surrendered).<sup>14</sup> Moreover, members with a higher informative level (specialists or Ph.D. holders) had more unmistakable data about talk dialect pathology and additional inspiring points of view toward correspondence issues diverged from the people who were fundamental or assistant school graduates. Giving really tutoring and care programs about correspondence issues and talk language pathology to the general populace should be done to improve recent scenarios and assumptions in assistance conveyance.<sup>15</sup>

Eman Mostafa presented a study in 2018 with the purpose to explore public perception concerning delayed language. The point of this examination was to explore public mindfulness and the disposition of deferred language advancement (DLD) in kids in Sohag, Upper Egypt. The Phoniatric Unit at Sohag University Hospital gets a significant number of late instances of youngsters with DLD. No Egyptian reviews were discovered gathering data about open mindfulness and information on DLD and discourse language pathology administrations.<sup>16</sup> A cross-sectional overview was done of both male and female members who were approached to fill in a survey. The poll contains member's segment data, eight shut finished inquiries, and one open-finished inquiry, tending as far as anyone is concerned and perspectives toward DLD. The survey was acquainted with 1500 polls (1380 have returned 92% reaction). Great familiarity with DLD in youngsters was perceived in 74.49% of the examination bunch. The age of 2 years was believed to be the most reasonable age to look for clinical guidance for youngsters with DLD in 48.84% of the investigation bunch. A few occupations, for example, educators didn't esteem early intercession of language delay. Language treatment was believed to be the most ideal approach to treat DLD in 68.7% of the examination bunch. There is restricted familiarity with the worth of early language learning and the best treatment of DLD. Mindfulness ought to be raised and changing the mentality of people in certain occupations, particularly educators, toward DLD ought to be tended.<sup>17</sup>

Simone Howells in 2016 presented a study with the purpose of progress of Discourse language pathology programs comprehensive had the opportunity to plan graduates to work with socially and etymologically various

peoples.<sup>18</sup> This think about researched the data, acknowledgments and experiences identified with progress of social care of graduate-section Ace of Discourse Pathology understudies at an Australian school. Sixty understudies over both year-levels finished a social care outline toward the start of the semester.<sup>19</sup> To investigate what clinical circumstance meant for understudies' data and acknowledgments, year-2 understudies finished created reflections pre-and post-position (n = 7) and participated in focus bundles post-arrangement (n = 6). Study comes about seemed understudy interested in working with socially and etymologically different peoples was tall (over 80%) and conviction was immediate (more than half). Over 80% of understudies definite care of their have social characters, speculations and inclinations. Substance examination of focus bundle and formed reflection data perceived key ideas including: (1) setting—college, and clinical circumstance area; (2) skills—expert and individual; and (3) social ramifications—customers' and understudies' social establishments. Revelations suggest clinical game plan may vehemently affect social care progression and understudies' case social establishments may affect this more. Advance examination of how understudies move along a continuum of social progression is supported idea.<sup>20</sup>

Chris Code put forward his study in 2015 in which he recommended that public awareness of aphasia is crucial for expanding organizations, research backing, and social thought and zeroed in on raising of care. Earlier assessments show that data on aphasia changes across an extent of components, yet is amazingly low differentiated and various conditions. To report a movement of audits of public awareness of aphasia from six countries, the greatest assessment coordinated this far. Reviews were led in Argentina (N = 800), Canada (N = 831), Croatia (N = 400), Greece (N = 800), Norway (N = 251) and Slovenia (N = 400) utilizing a similar procedure mentioning data on age, gender and profession, finding out if participants had known about dysphasia and how they known about it. Participants were tried on the degrees of information on aphasia. Conclusion uncovered little degrees of consciousness of aphasia in nations studied with checked fluctuation that seemed to collaborate along with profession, nation and other demographics. We studied 3483 respondents (mean age = 43.16; SD = 17.68). Between 60% (Croatia) and 16% (Slovenia) said they had known about aphasia (37.1% generally speaking), however those with genuine information went from 13.9% (Norway) to 1.0% (Argentina). The consolidated mean of those with essential information was 9.2%. The individuals who had known about aphasia were more youthful; and females/woman had more significant degree of mindfulness. They additionally discovered relationship that is connecting financial standing and mindfulness. These kind of functioning in wellbeing, community and instructive circles had the most significant levels. Participants essentially caught wind of this brain disorder all over the media and efforts or individual exposure with dysphasia. Levels of mindfulness are low wherever in outright terms, and comparative with the consciousness of different conditions, with huge fluctuation between nations, sex and financial status. We look at how overviews could be used

for design approaches to expand perception as well as examine the correlation of attention to dysphasia along with different backgrounds.<sup>21</sup>

A study was conducted by Mahmoud in 2014 determines the level of measurable degrees of mindfulness and information on discourse language pathology and of correspondence issues are as of now obscure among general society in the East. This assessment reports the results of an assessment of population care and data on talk of language pathology. It additionally decides the degree of information on correspondence problems that the overall population has. This examination was brought from a poll. A sum of 1204 members reviewed with regard to their insight into the profession of discourse language therapy and of correspondence issues in a neighborhood shopping center. Data was gathered dependent on members' age (going from 20–50 years), sexual orientation, capabilities and employment, if they have youngsters. Public mindfulness and information on discourse - language pathology in Amman-Jordan give off an impression of being restricted. Participants with the most exact information on discourse language pathology and correspondence problems, for the most part females with youngsters, had four year certification in wellbeing or instruction related fields. In addition, results demonstrated absence of knowledge of various kinds of correspondence issues with the exception of faltering.<sup>22</sup>

**Theoretical Framework:** To date, small data is accessible with respect to community apprehension and information of communication disorder, the paucity/insufficiency of awareness with regard to these disorder may have contradictory effect on the population. The primary goal of this project is that if people have awareness about speech and language pathology as a profession they do not apparently ignore/ avoid these disorder and become more responsible and focused on the management of these disorder. They would be able to differentiate between normal and abnormal communication development, if their child had develop normal communication patterns or not. Moreover by spreading awareness of SLP general population will be able to know where these services are available at local level. The secondary goal is to promote holistic approach, a holistic approach focuses on person's wellness and not just their illness or condition. This approach consider patient's physical, emotional and social wellbeing. An example of holistic is health care that focuses on the health of the entire body and mind and not just parts of the body.<sup>23</sup>

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross-sectional study was conducted at shopping centers. A total of 331 questionnaires distributed among general population. Convenient sampling technique was selected to collect the data. Data was collected through structure questionnaire. The questionnaire comprised of two parts (A and B) section A include member's socio-economic data (name, age, gender, employment status). Section B elicited data on the member's information and awareness of the profession of speech-language therapy/pathology, and the calling of the speech-language pathologist. Surveys were given out to guests, in one of the shopping centers. Results scores will be recorded for every

participant. The questionnaire took around 10 minutes in total. Members did not get any data or offer assistance from the analyst amid filling the survey. All these responses was recorded and analyzed using Statistical Package for social sciences (SPSS). There were 18 variables consisting of 8 columns & 18 rows in SPSS file. For the purpose of this study, descriptive statistics were used to analyze the results.

## RESULT

Table 1 shows that a total of 331 surveys were completed, and Participants' ages ranged from 18 to 23 (46.5 %), 23 to 28 (40.2 %) & 28 or above (13.3%). Age distribution graph represents the frequency of ages & their percentages which took part in this research. More women (n=178, 53.8%) than men (n =153, 46.2%) completed the survey. Regarding employment, 35.6% of the participants were employed while 10.3% were not. Many of the participants

(34.7%) were students. 12.4% had a part-time jobs & 6.9% of the participants doing home-duties.

Table 1: Demographic information of participants (N=331)

Description	Categories	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Age	18-23 years	154	46.5
	24-28 years	133	40.2
	29 year and above	44	13.3
Gender	Female	178	53.8
	Male	152	46.2
Employment	Full Time Employed	120	36.5
	Part time Employed	41	12.3
	Unemployed	34	10.2
	Students	114	34.4
	Homemaker/House wives	22	6.6

Table 2: Participants' responses regarding Awareness of Speech Language Pathology

Questions	Categories	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Have you read anything about SLP?	yes	212	64
	no	119	36
If yes where?	Newspaper	47	14.2
	Magazine	48	14.5
	Book	96	29.0
	Other	140	42.3
Have you ever noticed or heard a programme about SLP?	yes	204	61.6
	no	127	38.4
If yes where?	Television	52	15.7
	Radio	29	8.8
	Lecture or Talk	96	29.0
	Other	154	46.5
How much do you know about SLP?	nothing	121	36.6
	a little	128	38.7
	some	60	18.1
	a lot	22	6.6
Have you ever met a SLP?	yes	156	47.1
	no	175	52.9
Do you need referral from your family doctor to see SLP?	yes	159	48
	no	172	52
How much training would you expect SLP have beyond college?	none	92	27.8
	at least 1 year	75	22.7
	at least 2 year	109	32.9
	more than 2 year	55	16.6
A SLP may also be called a doctor?	yes	107	32.3
	no	106	32
	don't know	118	35.6
Which of these groups you might expect a SLP to work with?	adults	67	20.2
	children	114	34.4
	both	150	45.3
Where do SLP work?	special schools	92	27.8
	hospital	104	31.4
	both	135	40.8
Did you know location of SLP in your area?	yes	78	23.6
	no	169	51.1
	don't know	84	25.4
Do you know anyone who knows a SLP?	yes	91	27.5
	no	154	46.5
	don't know	86	26.0
Do you know anyone who knows a SLP?	yes	58	17.5
	no	173	52.3
	don't know	100	30.2
Total Score		46.9 %	

Results demonstrated that 36.0% of the members had never examined anything about Speech Language Pathologist & 64.0 % had read about Speech language pathologists. Amongst those who had the foremost as often as possible encountered origin of knowledge from highest to lowest percentage of respondents were magazines, newspapers, brochures, television, and books. 14.2 % participants have read on newspaper, 14.5 % on magazine, 29.0 % on book & 42.3 % read on social media, google, and internet. Nearly 38.4 % of the members shown that they had never listened concerning Speech language pathologists & 61.6 % participants have heard about Speech language pathologists. Around 36.6% participants does not know anything about Speech language pathologists, 38.7% have a little knowledge regarding Speech language pathologist, 18.1 % had some understanding about this & 6.6% participants known a lot about Speech language pathologists field. Although 32.3% of the research members believe that a Speech language pathologist is specified the "Doctor" label, 32% believed that the speech language pathologist does not called a Doctor and 35.6% are not sure about that Speech language pathologists might called a Doctor or not. Concerning Speech language pathologists training, 27.8 % of the participants thought that SLPs get no training after college, 22.7% believe SLPs have at least 1 year training, 32.9% think at least 2 year of training is required and 16.6% consider Speech language pathologist acquire more than 2 year training beyond college. Over 45.3% participants believe that Speech language pathologist work with both age group adult and children, 34.4% consider SLPs work only with children and just 20.2% be of the opinion that SLP is concerned with adult. Over 40.8% participants thought that the SLP does work in both hospital setting and special schools, 27.8% thinks SLPs work only in special schools to meet their needs and 31.4% considers SLPs to be working in hospital and provide their participation in hospital. As far this question about half of the participants 51.1% does not have any idea about where are SLPs impart services in their area, 23.6% are well known about the location in their area and 25.4% does not have any idea either they are aware of location in their area or not. Furthermore, 27.5% of the sample believed that they know someone who knows a SLP while 46.5% think they did not know anyone who has knowledge about SLP and 26 % does not know whether they know any person who might recognize SLP or not. Among all the participants 17.5% consider that society is aware of SLPs, 30.2% did not know about this and around half of the respondent's 52.3% think that society is not well aware about SLPs and their services in the society.

## DISCUSSION

The point of this research was to find out the awareness and information of the people with respect to speech-language therapy. To conduct this inquire about the information were collected in a shopping center. Those customers might comprise of more youthful people, especially between the ages of 19 and 30 as the test reflected. The numbers of females was more than the male members 53.8% and 46.2% respectively. A basic

investigation of the information appears that in spite of the fact that a few women were with their offspring but they were still inquisitive about quilting out majority of the overview questions, basically within the information and perception segment compared with male. In addition, our findings show that females had more positive sees of communication clutters compared to males. In spite of the fact that Scior's (2011) findings revealed that females express more positive attitudes towards mental incapacity, impacts of gender orientation related to demeanors were not found in other studies, implying no coordinate relationship between gender and attitudes. The consequences that were appeared in shoppers shows specific subgroups were more likely to be apprehensive to reply a survey form about speech-language therapy than others.<sup>24</sup>

The crucial findings of this research about are that perception and information of speech-language pathology as a calling isn't more than would be anticipated. Comparatively to the information approximately the speech language therapy occupation, the larger part of the contributor illustrated a higher information level about capabilities, working settings, professional scope of practice, and the populations serviced by SLPs. This result appeared higher values than the past considers in Amman (Mahmoud et al., 2014) and in London (Breadner et al., 1987). Within the Amman study, respondents were incapable to distinguish the working setting of SLPs and accepted that SLPs were involved as it were in working with preschool age children.<sup>25</sup> The results in this study were empowering considering that this profession has only moderately as of late introduced to the common public and is slowly growing in Pakistan. Besides, the comes about propose that approximately 64% of the members detailed they had examined approximately SLPs, and they accepted that web and magazines and books were the primary sources of data. There are a few reasons why this may be able the case. Firstly, the innovation by means of the web has brought unused data and information speedier than the conventional investigate within the library. Furthermore, numerous individuals especially the youth would be more pulled in to purchase and examined magazines & books since they continuously cover a wide run of subjects such as magnificence, mold and cosmetics and men's and women's needs. At last, numerous people feel that it is exceptionally difficult to discover specialized booklets or handout in differing topics. It shows up that booklets and handouts can be set down to more noteworthy utilize to teach the population. It is anticipated to discover that lectures and the web were moreover the best detailed sources where individuals had ever read or listened about SLPs.<sup>26</sup>

Regarding participant's information or knowledge about the speech language pathologist's field a large number of respondents were aware of this field and know at least little, some or a lot about speech language pathologists as compared to previous studies in which half of the participants did not have the right knowledge about speech language pathologists profession and their services to the society. Speech language pathologist are evolving all around the world and slowly being recognize as health

professionalist. Only 36.6% respondents did not had the correct knowledge or knows nothing about speech language pathologist's participation in health care setting.<sup>27</sup>

As an outcome of the past results, it is shocking to discover that the most of the survey representative had met a Speech language pathologist. It is empowering to consider that utmost members accepted that a guideline of a doctor was not vital to link up with a SLP, which is observed as a great thing due to the truth that not all doctors have perfect information almost indications, evaluation and management of discourse clutters. Additionally, all of the families in Lahore does not have a family specialist to inquire for guidance. At long last, a few guardians who children with communicative clutters had accepted that these clutters are not a restorative issue but are an instructive matter, in spite of the fact that around 48% of members accepted a physician's referral is required. A Speech language pathologist ought to perform an imperative part in teaching doctors about discourse clutter symptoms and the vital contribution of the Speech language pathologists. One more finding associate to accommodate that utilized SLPs manifest that roughly half of the individuals consider that both the independent health centers and healing centers was the starting place that utilized SLPs though the data and understanding of other positions was constrained. It is likely sensible to acknowledge that peoples who undergo through discourse clutters, in any case, performed in their own centers. On the contrary, centers more regularly than not provide grown-ups and children inside the community with inclusive and energetic discourse and dialect administrations, in extension to getting a synergetic perspective with guardians, teachers and other specialists.<sup>28</sup>

Further assist for need of understanding comes from the reality that many of the members don't accept that the SLP work with grown-ups and elderly bunches. Be that as it may, high extent of members examined that they were generally putting efforts with preschool and school-aged children. This may be due to the truth that they make up the majority of the speech-language workloads. Moreover, the bigger portion of those who persevere from communication clutters are found among preschool and review school children. SLPs may desire to make it known that they are proficient to work with grown-ups and mature people with communication clutter by pointing out some common clutters in grown-ups such as swallowing issues and postponed dialect change due to hearing incident, aphasia and dysarthria in elderly people.<sup>29</sup>

With respect to SLP preparing, 27.8% respondent's accepted that discourse language pathologist does not require any training whereas larger part of the members in this consider detailed that one to two a long time of preparing is required to be validated, which appeared that speech-language pathology as a calling requiring specialized preparing. Concurring to the Licenses for Practicing Different Therapeutic Callings Unit within the Service of Wellbeing (Benefit of Prosperity, 2013), a SLP who held a Master's degree in discourse pathology need to add up to two a long time preparing after graduation to finished up certified, while there's no require of advance preparing for a discourse master who held a Bachelor's

degree in this field since he have to be work underneath a regulating certified SLP.<sup>30</sup>

It is captivating to consider that around 32.3% of members believe that a SLP might be called a "Doctor" while around 30% of the research participants accepted that they might not be named as "Doctor." In any case, work entitles were a beginning of disarray to the members. It is conjecture that numerous inside the reacting test were incapable to distinguish between "speech pathologist" and "doctor." The primary title was for the most part utilized to portray the person who perform within the profession of speech therapy whereas 'doctor' is a restorative entitle. Be that as it may, in any case of the work title whether pathologist or specialist masters within the Speech and Language region ought to proceed their endeavors to teach the common open around the significance of carefully looking for SLPs to be particular, they carries the capabilities requisite. Moreover, it is vital to look for this data to maintain a strategic distance from cover between SLPs and other callings like specialists, language asset instructors, uncommon instruction masters and classroom instructors in expansion to any individual it were gone to brief courses or workshops in discourse treatment. Around half of the member's in this study did not know the exact location of speech language pathologist clinic in their area. There may be several reasons for that, one may not know the exact location but had idea about speech language pathologist profession because they not need their services or may feel like. Another reason was that there may be no private clinics around their residential area and they did not know that speech language pathologists also provide services in hospitals, rehabilitation centers and many more places. Additionally peoples are too busy in their life that they did not have idea of many places including speech pathologist location and even they did not try to find out where these health care professionalist are providing their services.

A very least number of participants believe that they know someone who had knowledge about speech language pathologists. Some people had known through their relative, some through family and friends. Few of them knows a speech pathologist and get to know more about this field via them and also spread awareness to their family so that in any case if they need speech and language pathologists services they could. Majority of the respondents thought that they did not knows anyone who had information about speech language pathologist's field and they had the awareness of this field because of internet, magazines and books. Many participants did not have the idea whether they perceive anybody who knows a discourse dialect pathologist or not. The lack of information is due to little social interaction, general population did not discuss much about the health care provider and their participation so they did not had the idea if they really be friend with someone who knows a speech language therapist. Regarding the society awareness about half of the participants thought the society is not aware about this occupation because the lower class people in Pakistan did not have idea about the health care setting and their assistance, they continue to believe that if their child had delayed speech and language, stuttering or swallowing problems there is no big issue in this and their children

would be normal as they grown that is due to lack of awareness about these issues. However the educated people have much awareness and information regarding these issues and they did not normalize it. Unfortunately, few educated people are also blinded by the cultural bound and they did not realize that they are going in wrong direction. In Pakistan people were not willing to accept that their children might have an issue or disorder so the counselling is required for them with the aim to create awareness in general population that these issues could be managed. Only 17.5% participant think that society is aware with the facilities given by speech language pathologists.

## CONCLUSIONS

This research has revealed the female respondents had much knowledge about speech-language pathology and communication disorders compared to males. Providing more awareness programs about SLP to the general public should be implemented to improve current practices and expectations in service delivery.

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