

Parental Knowledge and Attitudes towards Hearing Loss and Audiology Services in Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Paediatric hearing loss is a significant health concern worldwide, emphasizing the importance of parental knowledge and attitudes towards hearing health. Despite efforts to raise awareness, gaps in understanding persist, particularly in regions like Saudi Arabia. The aim of this cross-sectional study was to assess parental knowledge and attitudes towards childhood hearing loss and audiology services in Saudi Arabia.

Methodology: We surveyed 1191 parents in Saudi Arabia between September 2021 and January 2022 using the convenience sampling technique. We used a validated and adapted questionnaire from previous research to assess parental knowledge and attitudes through 31 items. Multilinear regression analysis was used to identify predictive factors of knowledge and attitude towards hearing loss and hearing services.

Results: A total of 1191 participants were involved in this study. Among the participants, 42.2% reported attending a hearing clinic, with 65.4% indicating a positive experience. 43.6% of parents demonstrated good knowledge, while 56.4% demonstrated poor knowledge. 79.9% of parents showed positive attitudes, while 20.1% displayed negative ones. Multilinear regression revealed clinic attendance, experience, education level, and income as significant predictors of knowledge and attitudes ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The study highlights gaps in parental knowledge despite overall positive attitudes towards paediatric hearing health in Saudi Arabia. Targeted interventions, improved access to audiology services, and enhanced provider-patient communication are crucial to address these gaps and promote better outcomes for children with hearing impairment.

Keywords: Pediatric hearing loss, parental knowledge, attitudes, audiology services, Saudi Arabia.

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