

The Social Psychological Effects of Gadgets on Speech Development of Toddlers: An Analysis of District Multan

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ABSTRACT: Nowadays toddlers use gadgets frequently. Although too much use of gadgets has some specific influence on children language development. contemporary gadgets have lot of features and instruments to entertain kids. Young toddlers are using gadgets with comfort and getting involved towards them. Extreme use of gadgets devices influences kids' cognitive abilities, and their linguistic skills during their growing age, that is a period of 1 to 5 years. The objective of this research was to examine social psychological effects of gadgets on children speech development. And to find out relationship between gadgets usage and its influence on toddlers' language. This research has use qualitative methodology for present study. In depth interview was used as a tool for collection of data. The data was collected through 19 respondents who were parents and family members of toddlers who are experiencing language delay issues due to excessive use of gadgets. The data analysis was done using thematic approach. The results clearly showed a connection between high gadget use and delays in both speech and social skills. A large number of children who were using devices for more than 3 hours each day were facing issues related to speech development. The findings of this study will be helpful for parents to understand how extreme gadgets usage harm children linguistic development and causes communication problem among toddlers in Pakistan.

KEYWORDS: Gadgets, Toddlers, Speech Delay, Sentence Problems, Communication Issues

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Introduction

Gadgets are electronic devices intended to make specific tasks, often with enhanced efficiency and convenience. Ranging from portable gadgets that fit in the palm of your hand to larger devices, these creations are geared towards making various aspects of life more manageable and enjoyable. Gadget is a word which means an electronic device that has a unique feature for viewing and downloading the data and different material and stuff. Latest technology has made people life easy and the same time it is creating many problems for younger generation. Gadgets can be in the form of computer, tabs, laptops, mobile phones, video games. Few years ago, Gadget devices were mostly used in higher societies or people with higher class. But now gadgets have become so common that all classes in societies are using them from higher to lower class including children of all ages. Mostly gadgets are used by people for watching videos, downloading

information, listening to songs, and for educational purposes. In the modern digital stage, electrical gadgets such as mobile, tablets, and communicating toys have become universal in families worldwide.

These devices are frequently presented to kids at an initial age, with numerous children appealing with screens beforehand they can say. Although these gadgets are advertised as instructive gears, their influence on initial childhood growth, mainly on language gaining, remains a topic of continuing study and discussion. speech growth in children is a multi-layered procedure that includes the gaining of language, understanding, and the skill to use verbal skills efficiently in communication. Usually, this growth is nurtured through straight human communication, including chats with friends and family, interpretation aloud, and engaging in daily life activities. However, the rise of occurrence of screen period has presented new subtleties into this developing procedure. New research has tinted both possible benefits and dangers related with initial contact to digital technology. For example, research ran by Manchester Metropolitan University originate that though overexposure to digital media might position risks, it also proposals important aids for new kids' verbal growth and reasoning skills, mainly once used in control and with maternal leadership. Current generation of toddlers can be named as digital generation because now kids are unable to spend only one day without using of gadgets. Gadgets have become toys for younger generation, and they concede use of gadgets as their basic necessary. Now parents often use gadget devices to control their toddlers when they are outside of home. Now parents do not focus on how much time their kids are spending on these devices because these devices can be dangerous or can be positive depending on how they are using these devices. Speech delay means delay in growth of toddler's language and communication abilities. Speech Delay can occur in toddlers in different forms for example problem in pronunciation, unable to make sentences or speaking very few words. There are many reasons for speech delay in toddlers such as genetic problem, hearing problem and toddler's atmosphere at home also influence speech development. Higher use of gadget devices in toddlers has been a biggest problem linked with language delay in young kids especially around 2 to 5 years of toddlers.

Impact of Gadget Devices on Speech & Language

First, there is limited verbal communication to human especially with parents. According to USA academy of pediatrics toddler's verbal communication development is linked to the amount of time family members spend talking to them. Second, technological devices restrict the growth of speech in the important period. Many research articles have revealed that toddlers who had access to television in young age or screen time for more than 2 hours a day was associated with speech delay (Rosen et al., 2014). Therefore, there is less verbal communication in this group of toddlers. Third, gadgets devices access has been linked with disturbed sleep and that's leads towards mood swings, psychological issues and attention problems. Forth, at young age of access to gadgets plays important role in speech development programs. A study by Tan S et al, reveal that toddlers under 2 years of age who have access to gadget devices have more chances of speech delay as compared to kids who are bigger than 2 years of age. Fifth, with constant used of gadgets devices, the playtime of the toddlers with their friends is also disturbed due to these devices. This impact the child brain capacity and makes child a slow learner. Moreover, the gadget devices cause hyper anger issues because of disrupted melatonin production which cause to sleep problems which directly affect toddlers speaking growth (Rema & Bhuvaneshwari, 2021).

Symptoms of Speech Delay

Signs that an older toddler is missing their speech milestones:

- ▶ Age one: uses no words
- ▶ Age two: doesn't use 3 to 4 words together
- ▶ Age three: uses very less words, unable to call things by their name, mostly people are unable to understand what they are trying to say even family members find quite difficult to understand what these toddlers are trying to say.
- ▶ Any age: difficulty to speak previously learned words.

Reasons Why Toddlers Use Gadgets Device's Too Much

Parents convenience: Mostly parents allow their kids to use gadgets become these device's keep toddlers busy which allows their parents to do their work specifically in busy schedules.

Gadgets as Toys: Gadgets have become part of every household from upper household to lower income families everyone has these devices, so this makes easy access for toddlers to have these devices like toys.

Educational Apps: Sometimes parents think that educational apps or English cartoons or poems will help their toddlers in learning and development.

Imitate Parents: Children mostly imitate their family members or people in their surrounding many times parents or other family members uses gadget devices too much which leads toddlers towards gadgets.

For Calming Toddlers: Many times, parents use gadgets to keep their crying or angry child to calm down this is the one of the easy solution parents find to keep their children happy.

Environmental Influence: In current era use of gadget has increased dramatically toddlers see every other person using these devices such as mobile phone, laptops, tabs which makes toddlers interest in these devices.

The period toddlers spend on gadgets is a display to electronic medium for example TV, games, dramas, and other electronic advancements that uses electronic screens. But Covid-19 has raised screen time among children. The objective of his study was to examine impact of screen time on language difficulties and delay in children. This research uses thematic analysis. The results reveal that screen time impact language in children. Children who spent more time on screen are more prone to language delay (Abida et al., 2024).

Presence of parent communication plays an important role in the growth of language and general language skills. His research originates that kids who engage more time interrelating with caregivers through chat, playing, and interpretation showed meaningfully advanced linguistic skills than kids who were unprotected to inactive media like TV, electronic screens. This highpoint the significance of active, spoken engagement in difference to inactive screen period. (Zimmerman et al., 2007).

Early experience to digital gadgets impact children's intellectual growth. His research determined that children who consumed more time with devices displayed abridged focus spans and had trouble in doing works that is vital reminiscence memory and problem resolving as these actions are characteristically improved through communicating communal play (Levy et al., 2017).

Speaking is a system of words, symbols or methods which toddlers uses to interact with each other with purpose of exchanging different point of view, goals, suggestion, objectives. The purpose of their study was to examine use of gadget related to gender. correlational analysis method was used. The data was collected

through 70 participants. The conclusion reveals that there is connection between gadget use and its link to continuance of time and language problems (Yunalia et al., 2023).

The researcher wants to examine effect of counseling on gadget use around thirty toddlers aged 2 to 6 years learning in a comprehensive education group from a city school in Bangalore. Instruments used were Impact of Technology on Kids 2015 by Dr. Jacqui Taylor. Therapy Involvement along with psycho teaching is given to parentages and kids about the bad effect of gadgets on kids. Involvement is assumed for one month and in end of the interference gadget usage has been measured using the similar questionnaire. Consequences showed that there is an influence of device usage on kids' actions.

Objectives

1. To examine social psychological effects of gadgets on children speech development.
2. To find out level of usage of gadgets among toddlers in Pakistan.
3. To explore digital devices impact toddler's social interaction and language abilities.
4. To find out relationship between gadgets usage and its influence on toddlers' language.

Research Questions

1. Did your child use any gadget device's?
2. How many hours your child uses gadgets devices in a day
3. Did he answer you while he's using mobile or tab?
4. From which age your child is using gadgets device's?
5. Which gadget device your child often uses and why?
6. Did your child face any communication problems due to excessive use of gadget devices such as computer or smartphones?
7. Did your child have vocabulary and pronouncing issues?
8. Do you think speech delay issues in current generation are due to excessive use gadget devices?
9. Did your child find difficulty in making and completing sentences?
10. How do dissimilar kinds of digital content disturb toddlers' language development?

Methodology

This research has use qualitative research design, according to Thomas 2010 qualitative research provides more volume for analysing the problems through the in-depth details and facts. Qualitative research help respondents to express their emotions and through. Another major significance of qualitative approach is that it is excellent tool for analysing details about issues because it gives respondents a chance to share their emotions and through freely and express their personal feelings (Creswell, 2013). This study has been carried out with same size of 19 respondents. This sample size was perfect for deeper understanding of research objectives and to make conclusions according to research topic. The data was conducted in towns of Multan city Bosan Town, Shah Rukn-e-Alam Town, Sher Shah Town, Shahabad Town these were the towns from where study has been conducted. This research has used purposive sampling technique for present study. Purposive sampling technique allow researcher to obtain deep understanding of societies and natural phenomenon from individuals specific point of view. Purposive sampling method is mostly used by

investigators when they want to focus on specific topics of attention. This approach is best when researcher has a clear vision of the attributes which they want to analyse in their study. Purposive sampling technique is mostly used by researchers when they are using qualitative design. This approach is best for this study as it will help researcher for choosing of respondents who have appropriate information on language development issues and problems among children due to gadgets devices in order to solicit detail information.

Results

Language Delay Among Toddlers

Toddlers who are using gadgets more often than other children experience delay in their language development they were not able to pronounce more words as compared to other children of their age. And every other parent has pointed out this issue that their children are not able to speak properly and are experiencing delay in their language development. Because of these devices their duration of interaction has become very limited and due to that they are now very slow language learners as compared to previous generations. And children who are more involve in gadgets experience more delay in language development.

Incomplete Sentence Making Among Toddlers

Many children who are highly involve in gadgets usage were unable to make proper clear sentences and their sentence making was incomplete. Whenever they communicate with people, they are unable to translate their thoughts or ideas they want to tell people. Mostly they use only one or two words in their sentence. other than that, they do not speak more words. this is the one of the major issues in today's toddlers. they do not know how to make proper sentences because they are always busy on phone and have very less communication with their friends and family that's why mostly toddlers who experience language delay mostly experience problem of incomplete sentence making or no sentence making.

Limited Social Interaction Among Children

Gadgets devices have made toddlers less social active. Today's generation is not ready to meet new people, and they have no interest to learn new things or experience new things from social events and from social gathering whether they are family get gathers friend's get-together or school events they have no interest. Majority of respondents has addressed this issue that their toddlers run from social gatherings and social events. latest gadgets have become so entertaining that children do not feel need of playing with other kids or going to parties with family and friends. They feel bored without these digital devices.

Linguistic Change in Primary Childhood (The Influence of Another Language Contact on Mother Language Development)

Language alteration in early childhood as an outcome of another linguistic contact is multilayered procedure that disturbs numerous mechanisms of a kid's mother language with language, grammar, vocabulary and words pronunciation. In primary fluent surroundings, kids frequently show verbal copying and linguistic interference, where rudiments of another linguistic are involuntarily combined into mother language. These vicissitudes can be experiential in usual language patterns, interpretation and lettering behaviors, and organized language calculations. During study it was examine that many of my respondents' parents said that their child has experience change in mother tongue due to extreme use of gadgets.

Rise of Emotional Behavior Problems Due to Gadgets Among Toddlers

Emotional growth is thoroughly knotted with behavior. increase in temper issues, anger problems and emotional instability among children with overuse of electronic devices. These emotions sometimes shoot from overuse of gadgets devices. when children are highly involved in gadgets use, they do not listen to anything else and if their parents stop them from using these devices then they do not know how to react and many times they start crying out of anger and sometimes they start throwing things on floor. They only experience anger and frustration when their parents stop them from sitting at digital screen. With the time as technology has been growing with each passing day same problems are also growing with technology due to gadgets there has been rise in emotional issues about younger generations.

Decrease Spoken Interaction in the Home and Family Environment

Majority of respondents have mention that their children remain silent at their home and do not take part in any activity of home. Overuse of devices leads toddlers to limited speaking between children and their parentages or caregivers at homebased. When children devote more time viewing screens and these electronic devices, they might not get sufficient time to listen and practice speaking rather than speaking and hearing and asking inquiries they become silent. Parentages might also speak fewer to their kids when at the time when they are using gadgets. For instance, during mealtimes or when they are playing and sometimes parents remain quiet at the time of night when children have to sleep. And many times, parentages and kids together emphasis on gadgets devices rather than having chats. This can decrease kids' chances of learning different words and their meanings. Looking at the findings of this research the following are the recommendation's which can guarantee good speech and social development between children.

Conclusion

The results shows that kids in their early age specifically 1 to 5 years are usually introduced to mobile phone by their family members. The usage of mobile and other electric gadgets at young age is conquered by entertaining applications which are the key activity for today generation. The normal period of mobile phone usage was more than 3 to 4 hours per day. These results specify that gadgets have been made as a part of kids 'everyday routine at young age. Particularly in the procedure of entertaining is done in the form of digital devices. Gadgets have become one of the easiest ways for entertainment for today children. Gadgets are reachable and convenient medium for children because they have unlimited ways for entertainment. for example, like these devices have graphic displays, communicating sound, cheerful color themes and different kinds of music. These features make mobile and gadgets a very prevalent device for kids letting them to involve in playing activities for lengthier time duration. This comfort of process and verity of entertainment makes kids feel contented and interested but it can rise the danger of extreme usage which has the possible to influence kid' reasoning and expressive and community growth if not handle correctly.

Suggestions

Reduce gadget Time

- The WHO recommends that toddlers who are less than two years of age should not have screen time and toddlers who are above of two years of age should not use gadgets for more than one hour in a day

- ▶ Parents or family members must make a daily timetable that reduce devices use and increases more human communication.

Promote Oral Communication

- ▶ Talk to children frequently even they didn't reply. Define activities ask queries and reply to their noises and signs.
- ▶ Recite books sing tunes and say stories to inspire verbal use and understanding.

Become Inspiration for Toddlers

- ▶ Kids pick up by viewing. Parents must also decrease their personal gadget use and interrelate more with their children.
- ▶ Play with toddlers make eye exchange and show attention in their voice and talking and languages.

Use Gadgets Sensibly

If gadget devices are used, then select good quality informative content and view it with your toddlers. This benefits in learning and lets time for attachment.

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