



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Application of digital technology to enhance the functional communication of people with disability: CRSSC experience

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Introduction

With the development in technology, people with disabilities could use digital technology and online social media within their everyday lives to enhance their communication and enrich their social relationships (Hynan, Murray & Goldbart, 2014). People with Motor Neuron Disease (MND) or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) typically experience difficulties with communication and disabilities associated with movement. Assistive technology (AT) is essential to facilitate everyday activities, promote social support and enhance quality of life (Mackenzie et al., 2016). The integration of laptop or tablet computers into Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC aids), and the voice output applications or 'apps', on Apple and Android products, has provided increased opportunities for people who use AAC to engage with digital technology. The service objective of Community Rehabilitation Service Support Centre (CRSSC) is to restore the choices of living through application of technology. Assistive technology (AT) prescription to enhance the clients' functional communication is one of the key objectives of the center.

Objectives

We would like to evaluate the effectiveness of the AT prescription to enhance functional communication (whether the goal is achieved) and the client's satisfaction.

Methodology

10 subjects who have received service from CRSSC is analyzed. Their age ranged from 6-71. 8 of them suffered from motor neuron disease and 2 of them suffered from stroke. Goal attainment scale (GAS) and Chinese Version of Quebec User evaluation of Satisfaction with Assistive technology (C-QUEST) is adopted to measure the satisfaction.

Result

All of the clients achieved the goal after the AT prescription. The average change score in GAS is 16.3. Different forms of assistive technology (laptop/ tablet computer, ipad, android tablet, eye tracking device, adaptive switches) have been prescribed according to clients' abilities. Average total score in C-QUEST is 3.5/5 which is within quite satisfactory range. The 3 most important satisfaction items are effectiveness,

ease of use and professional services.