

A theoretical approach to analyse the importance of Government and non-governmental organisations' roles in lowering adolescent depressive symptoms in Orissa with hearing loss

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Abstract - It is possible that hearing loss contributes to the development of some symptoms often associated with ageing, such as the inability to keep up with discussions, withdrawing from social engagements, and the formation of moderate paranoid tendencies. There may also be a connection between hearing loss and some depressive symptoms. There is a cluster of symptoms that all sufferers of depression share. Symptoms include persistent feelings of melancholy, worry, or emptiness, along with hopelessness or pessimism that last for weeks at a time.

A connection between the two is obvious; depressed people often have trouble hearing. It is common for people with hearing loss to have trouble communicating, which may lead to frustration, exhaustion, and isolation. Research has linked being lonely to feeling down and depressed.

Keywords: Adolescent, Depression, Government assistance scope

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INTRODUCTION

Depression is a prevalent mental condition that is comparable to the common cold in terms of its widespread occurrence. It is quite likely that individuals may experience depression at some point in their life, either personally or indirectly, by way of association with a friend or family member. There is a prevalent occurrence of confusion around depression, particularly in terms of its precise definition and distinguishing characteristics from ordinary feelings of sadness.

There exists a considerable amount of ambiguity pertaining to the several manifestations of depression experienced by individuals, including unipolar depression, biological depression, manic depression, seasonal affective disorder, dysthymia, and others. Numerous terminologies have been used to delineate the spectrum of emotions experienced by individuals at various junctures in their life, hence potentially engendering confusion in distinguishing between transient melancholy and the manifestation of clinical depression.

Depression is characterised by a range of shared symptoms. These symptoms include a prolonged state of sadness, anxiety, or a pervasive sensation of emptiness, accompanied by a sense of despair or pessimism that persists on a daily basis for consecutive weeks. Individuals with depression often exhibit emotions of guilt, low self-esteem, and a sense of powerlessness. Individuals exhibit a diminished inclination or satisfaction towards formerly favoured pastimes and engagements, including socialising with acquaintances and engaging in intimate relations. Insomnia, premature rising in the morning, and excessive sleep are often seen phenomena.

These emotions are not transient moods that naturally dissipate after a few days. Conversely, individuals remain in close proximity to another individual for an extended duration, often spanning a minimum of two weeks, to facilitate the process of diagnosis. The onset of depressive symptoms does not occur spontaneously. Typically, these symptoms manifest gradually over a period of many weeks, exhibiting a gradual onset. Depression may manifest insidiously, gradually encroaching upon an individual's life. Certain individuals may have

moderate symptoms for an extended period of time prior to the onset of fully manifested depression.

In some individuals, depression may manifest as symptoms such as appetite and/or weight loss, as well as overeating and subsequent weight gain. Numerous individuals encounter a decline in energy levels, feelings of exhaustion, and a persistent sensation of reduced cognitive processing speed. Ideation pertaining to mortality or self-harm is often seen among individuals experiencing profound depressive symptoms. It is often observed that individuals with depression often experience restlessness and irritability. Individuals with depression often have challenges in maintaining concentration, memory retention, and decision-making abilities. Occasionally, individuals may have enduring physical symptoms that exhibit resistance to conventional therapeutic interventions, such as headaches, digestive issues, and chronic pain. These manifestations might potentially serve as indicators of an underlying depressive disease.

The manifestations of clinical depression include:

An individual diagnosed with a severe depressive illness, often known as clinical depression or just depression, is characterised by experiencing either a persistent low mood or a diminished interest or pleasure in everyday activities for a minimum duration of two weeks. The presence of a sad mood must indicate a substantial deviation from the individual's typical daily mood.

The alteration in mood must also have a detrimental effect on social, occupational, educational, or other significant aspects of functioning. For instance, when an individual experiencing depression exhibits absenteeism from work or school, or has a decline in attendance at courses or customary social interactions, such as socialising with friends.

Clinical depression is distinguished by the manifestation of five or more depressed symptoms:

The individual has a persistent and pervasive low mood for the majority of each day, practically every day. This is evident by either their own subjective account, such as expressing feelings of sadness, melancholy, or emptiness, or from external observations made by others, such as the individual seeming sorrowful or on the verge of crying.

Individuals may experience a significant decrease in their level of interest or enjoyment in many activities that are often part of their daily lives, such as hobbies, sports, or regular job.

There is a notable occurrence of substantial weight loss or gain, as well as fluctuations in hunger, on a daily basis, even in the absence of intentional dietary modifications.

Frequently, individuals have difficulties in maintaining a stationary posture, characterised by persistent

restlessness, engaging in activities such as pacing or picking at clothing (referred to as psychomotor agitation). Conversely, some individuals may exhibit a reduction in their motor activity, manifesting as slower motions, speaking softly, and exhibiting decelerated speech (referred to as psychomotor retardation).

Individuals often experience fatigue, weariness, or a notable decline in energy levels on a daily basis. This state of exhaustion is evident in the performance of even the most basic activities, such as dressing or washing, which become arduous and time-consuming.

The individual has persistent feelings of worthlessness or excessive and inappropriate guilt on a daily basis, often characterised by repetitive thoughts and reflections on small previous failures.

The individual has a consistent decline in cognitive function, including difficulty with concentration, decision-making, and memory, occurring on a daily basis.

Recurrent experiences of melancholy, accompanied by expressions of sorrow, shedding of tears, and engaging in activities such as donning dark attire and composing poetry.

Hopelessness refers to a state of mind characterised by a profound lack of motivation or belief in the value of one's existence, to the extent that individuals may not find it worthwhile to invest effort in basic self-care activities such as maintaining their looks or cleanliness.

A diminished inclination towards engaging in activities or an inability to get pleasure from formerly favoured pursuits.

The individual has a continual state of ennui accompanied by diminished levels of vitality.

Social isolation and poor communication are two interconnected phenomena that have significant implications for individuals and society.

Individuals may have low self-esteem and feelings of guilt.

Individuals with this condition have an exceptionally heightened sensitivity to instances of rejection or failure.

There is a notable elevation in irritation, rage, or aggressiveness.

The individual is experiencing challenges in their interpersonal connections.

Regular instances of non-attendance at educational institutions or substandard academic achievement.

One of the challenges individuals may face is a lack of focus or poor concentration.

One significant alteration seen is the modification of eating and sleeping routines.

Discussions or endeavours pertaining to the act of leaving one's residence without permission or consent.

Ideations pertaining to suicide or self-harming conduct.

The topic of discussion pertains to the issue of alcohol and drug abuse.

The topic of discussion pertains to self-injury.

The aetiology of depression:

There are several potential etiological factors contributing to the development of depression. The factors might vary from biological to situational in nature.

There are many prevalent factors that contribute to this phenomenon.

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of climate change on biodiversity in tropical rainThe experience of previous instances of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse has been shown to heighten the susceptibility to the development of severe depression in later stages of life.

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of X on Y. Additional personal challenges may include factors such as social isolation resulting from co-occurring mental health conditions or experiencing exclusion from one's familial or social network, which may potentially heighten the susceptibility to developing severe depression.

The number 7. Serious illness: On some occasions, the presence of depression coincides with a significant medical disease or may be instigated by another physiological ailment.

The therapeutic interventions for depression are diverse and include a range of approaches. These treatments aim to alleviate symptoms, improve overall functioning, and enhance the quality of life for those experiencing

Coping with depression may pose significant challenges, but, seeking appropriate therapy can effectively enhance one's overall well-being. It is a prevalent practise to integrate medical interventions with lifestyle therapy, including the following approaches:

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

In this study, we aim to investigate the impact of social media on mental health. drugs: Healthcare providers have the option to administer antidepressants, anti-anxiety drugs, or antipsychotic medications.

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

often known as talk therapy, is engaging in therapeutic conversations with a trained professional to acquire effective strategies for managing adverse emotions.

The number 7. Acquiring the skill of assertiveness in refusing requests: Experiencing a sense of being overwhelmed has the potential to exacerbate symptoms associated with anxiety and depression. Establishing clear boundaries in both your professional and personal spheres may

The Prevalence of Depression Among Adolescents with Hearing Impairment. Individuals with hearing impairment who have underlying depression are at a heightened risk of facing social isolation and engaging in suicidal behaviours compared to individuals without hearing impairment.

The subjective nature of the auditory impairment varies across individuals. Professionals in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology must possess a comprehensive understanding of the physiological and psychological aspects associated with hearing impairment. The presence of hearing loss poses challenges to individuals in effectively engaging in communication with the external environment, hence exerting an impact on their personality. The current study focuses on the phenomenon of depression among adolescents with hearing impairments in their daily lives. The study findings indicate that people who reported

Individuals with moderate or greater hearing impairment had a twofold increase in the likelihood of experiencing depression compared to those without any reported hearing impairment. A research by the National Council on Aging and the Hearing Industries Assn. also indicated a prevalence of depression among people with hearing loss.

Theoretical evaluation of The intricate relationship between depression and hearing loss

There is a general consensus among individuals that both mental health and hearing health have significant importance. However, it was only with the emergence of current research findings that a robust association between these two domains was substantiated. The connection between depression and hearing loss has been established, however regrettably, both ailments often remain unrecognised and untreated.

The correlation

It is logical to assert that there exists a correlation between depression and hearing impairment. Individuals who have hearing impairment often encounter challenges in communicating, which may result in elevated levels of stress, weariness, and social seclusion. Social isolation has been shown to

be associated with the development of depression. However, it was only in recent times that academics managed to demonstrate that the issue was more significant than previously believed. According to a research conducted by the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), the prevalence of depression among individuals with hearing loss is found to be above 11 percent, in contrast to a rate of just 5 percent seen in the general population. The age group with the highest prevalence of depression ranged from 18 to 69 years old.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Dr. Chuan-Ming Li, a researcher at NIDCD and the author of the study, a noteworthy correlation was seen between hearing impairment and the presence of moderate to severe depression.

Hearing loss ranks as the third most prevalent ailment among teenagers. Regrettably, the detection and treatment of hearing loss in the teenage population is often inadequate.

It is essential for doctors to not only advocate for the implementation of regular hearing assessments, but also to acquire knowledge about the indicators of depression and conduct screenings for patients, particularly when there is suspicion of hearing impairment. While some manifestations of depression, such as feelings of melancholy and despair, are readily apparent, there exist other symptoms that are less often recognised but as detrimental to an individual's overall well-being. The presence of fatigue, difficulties in concentration, less appetite, irritability, and decreased interest in hobbies may all impede the capacity to engage in regular activities and maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships within familial and social contexts. The responsibility does not just rest with the doctors; rather, friends and family members should also be vigilant in identifying any indications of depression. Based on the findings of recent study, medical professionals may exhibit increased awareness and enhanced proficiency in identifying signs of depression among individuals with hearing impairment, hence facilitating appropriate referrals for subsequent mental health interventions. Referring individuals who are experiencing both hearing loss and depression for appropriate therapy has the potential to facilitate their emotional recovery, enhance their social involvement, and ultimately enhance their overall quality of life.

This study investigates the relationship between depression and hearing loss.

Extensive research has been conducted to establish a correlation between hearing loss and depression, but with varying estimations of the prevalence of co-occurrence in individuals.

The correlation between hearing loss and depression is notably significant among older persons with hearing impairment, as shown by a research conducted in

2019, which revealed that around one out of every five individuals in this population exhibits symptoms indicative of clinical depression.

The Relationship Between Hearing Impairment and Mental Health:

The implications of this combination have wide-ranging consequences.

According to Milner, it may be especially difficult to keep up with the changes in dialogue.

According to Milner, individuals experience a disconnection and lack comprehension about the subject matter being discussed.

Alluding to previous discourse within a short timeframe might provide the impression of cognitive disorientation in individuals. According to Milner, it is worth noting that this phenomenon might also induce feelings of paranoia.

According to Milner, individuals who have varying degrees of hearing loss may perceive that others are discussing them due to their inability to comprehend and engage in conversations effectively.

The psychological dimensions of hearing loss.

Individuals may have heightened anxiety over their ability to accurately perceive and comprehend spoken requests, as well as their potential inability to effectively hear phone calls or alarms. This heightened anxiety, in turn, may contribute to an increased susceptibility to depressive symptoms. The potential correlation between depression and hearing loss may not be exclusively attributed to the adverse social consequences associated with experiencing auditory impairment.

Psychological Traits Associated with Hearing Impairment

The manifestation of some symptoms often associated with the ageing process, such as difficulties in maintaining engagement in conversations, withdrawal from social interactions, or the emergence of mild paranoid tendencies, may potentially be attributed to the presence of hearing impairment. Furthermore, there may exist a correlation between hearing loss and some symptoms associated with depression.

The available treatment modalities

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of climate change on biodiversity in a tropical. Hearing aids are widely recognised as a prevalent therapy modality. The integration of hearing aids with smart phones is possible. In addition to enhancing auditory perception, this phenomenon has the potential to enhance individuals' social, emotional, and psychological well-being.

Auditory training is an additional intervention that may provide assistance. Aural rehabilitation encompasses many treatment approaches aimed at enhancing communication effectiveness and mitigating the consequences of hearing impairment. Audiologists and hearing instrument experts provide the expertise to assist individuals in establishing realistic expectations about potential improvements in their hearing abilities. Additionally, they are capable of providing valuable recommendations pertaining to successful listening strategies. Hearing experts also play a crucial role in providing education on the impact of different listening settings on communication, as well as strategies for mitigating or surmounting these challenges. These endeavours have the potential to provide significant impact.

The Significance of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations in Facilitating Engagement in Community-Based Rehabilitation for Individuals with Hearing Impairments.

The significant contribution of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the global development of rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities is widely acknowledged. Historically, these efforts have often occurred in the absence of government involvement and have primarily followed an institutional and charity-based model. However, contemporary advancements now emphasise a participatory and community-based approach, which seeks to collaborate with government initiatives and services while engaging all relevant stakeholder groups. It is important to note that NGOs and governments differ in their ability to adapt their operational methods to effectively pursue these objectives.

The capacity of disability-related non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to enact necessary changes is influenced by various factors, one of which pertains to their diverse organisational structures. These structures encompass a spectrum ranging from small community-based entities to larger national or international organisations. These NGOs can be classified as indigenous humanitarian organisations or associations that are established by local community members, local professionals, or a combination thereof.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have experienced significant growth in recent years and have expanded their range of activities to address various aspects of human needs. This development has had a positive impact on the prevailing approach to development, which now prioritises the well-being of individuals. Consequently, there has been an increased involvement of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their families, leading to a greater understanding of their needs. Both NGOs and government entities have made efforts to operate in smaller locations, thereby achieving tangible results on the ground. Additionally, they have endeavoured to address the gaps in promoting the participation of

identified stakeholders, particularly in terms of improving access to community-based rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities. These efforts have been pursued through a range of strategies.

Resource mobilisation refers to the process of gathering and using various resources in order to achieve a certain goal or objective. It involves identifying and acquiring the necessary resources, such as

The process of community mobilisation and sensitization

Community education and training refer to the process of imparting knowledge and skills to individuals within a specific community. This educational approach aims to enhance the overall well-being and development of community members by providing them with opportunities to acquire new knowledge, develop essential skills,

The topic of interest pertains to the alteration of attitudes and behaviours.

Capacity development refers to the process of enhancing an individual's or organization's ability to effectively perform tasks, achieve goals, and address challenges.

- Mechanisms facilitating socioeconomic empowerment
- The investigation and distribution of scholarly knowledge and data

Networking, lobbying, and advocacy are three key strategies used in many contexts to achieve certain goals. These strategies include building connections, engaging in persuasive efforts, and promoting a cause or position.

Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have assumed a crucial intermediary role by engaging in diverse activities, hence facilitating the connection between grassroots initiatives and international organisations. This collaboration has significantly contributed to the advancement and promotion of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR).

Educational Services for Children and Adolescents with Hearing Impairment:

The education of children with hearing impairment in India has a very brief history of little over a century. Following the attainment of independence, notable advancements were seen, characterised by the proliferation of several educational institutions throughout the 1950s, and the emergence of various technology-driven initiatives in the 1960s.

During the 1960s, the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing was established in Mysore, providing access to diagnostic facilities for the detection of hearing impairment in newborns and young children. Early intervention schools were established in the

nation for the first time. The use of individual hearing aids had a pivotal role in the advancement of early verbal language acquisition. The possibility exists for their integration into conventional educational institutions.

The initiation of Early Intervention programmes was mostly spearheaded by parents of children with hearing impairments. The significance of parental and familial involvement in the education of hearing-impaired newborns and young children has been increasingly recognised, leading to heightened motivation among parents and family members to actively participate in this process.

Educational support from government and NGOs

There are several educational provisions.

Currently, there are more than 500 educational institutions catering specifically to children with hearing impairments in the nation. The establishment and administration of some schools are undertaken by the government, while several others are operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

There are two universities catering specifically to the needs of the deaf community. One is located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and is associated with the University of Madras. The other is situated in Vakalam, Kerala. Both institutions provide degree programmes in commerce and art topics. Additionally, there is a third programme available via the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in New Delhi.

The Early Care Intervention Centres has the capacity to encourage the active involvement of family members in the educational process of individuals with hearing impairments, therefore facilitating the early development of verbal language abilities. In several instances, parents and other family members have taken on the role of teaching newborns and young children with hearing impairments, with assistance from many resources. These programmes assist youngsters in the development of early verbal language abilities and facilitate their integration into mainstream educational institutions.

Determining the proportion of children with educational access presents challenges due to the unavailability of precise data for the specific number of children affected by hearing impairment. According to the study findings, a mere 31% of children with hearing impairments are enrolled in educational institutions, with just one-third of this population continuing their education beyond the elementary level. There are many potential factors that might contribute to the phenomenon of low enrolment rates among children in schools.

The elevated prevalence of children disengaging from formal education may be attributed to socioeconomic disadvantage, limited access to information, low levels of literacy within parental and familial networks, and inadequate educational infrastructure.

Given that children with disabilities often experience multiple difficulties, it is imperative to establish novel training programmes that provide instructors with the necessary skills to effectively support these children.

Enhanced initiatives in both the planning and execution stages are expected to provide the requisite advancements in the education of children with hearing impairments.

The current need is to address the significant problem that is impacting a substantial portion of the teenage population who are hearing impaired. Systematic examination and investigation will facilitate the development of interactive approaches that may effectively mitigate the increasing prevalence of social isolation and suicide among teenagers with hearing impairments.

The present study aims to provide a comprehensive review of the existing literature in the field.

A literature review is a comprehensive and impartial analysis of existing scholarly literature pertaining to a certain subject matter that is being examined for research purposes. The primary objective of this endeavour is to establish a level of acquaintance with contemporary perspectives and scholarly investigations pertaining to a certain subject matter. Furthermore, it has the potential to provide a rationale for undertaking future research endeavours in an area that has hitherto been neglected or insufficiently explored. The existing body of literature pertaining to my chosen subject encompasses a variety of scholarly sources, such as books, theses, dissertations, research reports, and articles authored by academics and researchers, which have been published in various academic journals and publications. The literature evaluation provides insight into the need to focus on the underexplored domain and enhance the distinctiveness of the current study in relation to previous research. The following literature is provided for reference:

According to M. Moeller (2007) in his book "Ear and Hearing," there is a distinct emphasis in contemporary research on the diverse psychosocial development of adolescents with hearing impairment compared to their typically developing peers.

Konuk, Erdogan, Atik, Ugur, and Simseyilmaz (2016) conducted a study on the assessment of behavioural and emotional difficulties in children with hearing impairment. In their publication titled "Neurology Psychiatry and Brain Research, 13," the authors emphasised the use of the child behaviour checklist as a tool for evaluating these issues.

According to a study conducted by T. Van Eldik (2005) and published in the "American Annals of the Deaf, 150," it was shown that Dutch adolescents with hearing impairments experience a range of mental health issues, as indicated by the Youth Self-Report.

In their publication titled "Major Depression in Community Adolescents: Age at Onset, Episode Duration, and Time to Recurrence," Lewinsohn, Clarke, Seeley, and Rodhe (1994) discuss the characteristics of major depression in adolescents within the community. The study was published in the "Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 33."

I apologise, but it seems that you have not provided any text for me to rewrite. In their publication titled "Child and Adolescent Depression: A Review of the Past Decade," Birmaher, Ryan, Williamson, Brent, Kaufman, Dhal, et al. (1996) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the literature in the field. This study, published in the esteemed "Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry," aimed to provide an overview of the research conducted on child and teenage depression during the preceding ten years.

Sahli, Arslan, and Belgin (2009) conducted a study published in the International Journal of Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology, specifically focusing on the development of depressed feelings in adolescents with cochlear implants compared to those with normal hearing.

In their publication titled "Experiential Avoidance as a Generalised Psychological Vulnerability: Comparison with Coping and Emotion Regulation Strategies" (Kashdan, Barrios, Forsyth, & Stegar, 2006), the authors discuss the concept of experiential avoidance and its relevance in understanding psychological vulnerability. This study was published in the journal "Behaviour Research and Therapy, 44."

In their publication titled "Altered Emotional Processing in Paediatric Anxiety, Depression, and Comorbid Anxiety-Depression," Ladouceur, Dhal, Williamson, Birhamer, Ryan, and Casey (2005) discuss the findings related to emotional processing in children with anxiety, depression, and the co-occurrence of both conditions. This study was published in the Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, volume 33.

In their publication titled "Cognitive Emotion Regulation Strategies and Emotional Problems in Children Aged 9-11: The Development of an Instrument," N. Garnefski, C. Rieffe, F. Jellesma, M. Murum Terwagt, and V. Krnajić (2007) discuss the relationship between cognitive emotion regulation techniques and emotional issues in children within the age range of 9 to 11 years. This study aims to design an instrument for assessing these cognitive emotion regulation strategies in children. The research is included in the book "European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 16."

According to Burry (2020), there is a logical correlation between hearing loss and depression. The difficulty in hearing leads to communication challenges, which in turn may result in feelings of loneliness, sadness, and social isolation.

According to Brain Wind, Ph.D., CBSM, the Chief Clinical Officer of Journey Pure, hearing impairments may have detrimental consequences on both professional and personal aspects of individuals' lives.

According to Dr. Wind, indicators of depression include alterations in sleep patterns, heightened levels of anger or irritability, and difficulties in maintaining focus and concentration when engaged in work-related tasks.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Hearing loss is a disorder characterised by heterogeneity, including a wide range of variations, and has significant implications for the development of social, emotional, and cognitive abilities. The global population has a prevalence of hearing loss ranging from 15% to 26%, with emerging nations exhibiting the greatest rates.

The occurrence of hearing loss has the potential to elicit discernible psychological consequences at different stages of human development. The possible psychological ramifications of hearing impairment vary between children and adults, and the manner in which individuals adjust to hearing loss and cochlear implants is influenced by their unique personality traits. In a broad sense, individuals with hearing impairment have challenges while engaging with their external environment. The condition of hearing loss has been characterised as an imperceptible disability, particularly within the context of social interactions. Helen Keller, a renowned figure, expressed the notion that deafness severs one's connection with other individuals, whereas blindness severs one's connection with the physical world.

Occasionally, the presence of hearing loss might have a direct influence on an individual's mental well-being. Depression and adjustment disorder may manifest as inherent reactions to the experience of hearing loss and its ensuing ramifications on an individual's overall well-being. Conversely, some individuals may possess pre-existing mental health conditions, and the presence of hearing loss exacerbates the situation.

CONCLUSION

Throughout history, individuals who have had hearing impairments have been susceptible to various emotional responses, such as mistrust, melancholy or persistent depression, anxiety, anger or irritability, social isolation, negative self-perception, feelings of ineptitude or inadequacy, and a sense of marginalisation. The use of methodological study and research is crucial in developing interactive tactics aimed at mitigating the escalating prevalence of social isolation and suicide among teenagers with hearing impairments.

Reducing the prevalence of hearing impairments in children and adolescents is of utmost significance, since the consequences of such impairments may have profound and far-reaching impacts on their communication skills, hence influencing their overall performance across several domains of life. As prospective members of the nation, it is imperative that they get timely and essential assistance. If impairments are detected during early childhood and appropriate treatments are offered by governmental and non-governmental organisations, individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to grow optimally and achieve their full developmental capabilities, therefore allowing them to actively contribute to society.

Individuals with hearing impairment represent a substantial segment of our society, with the potential to make valuable contributions as active members of our community. The provision of diagnostic and therapeutic services by State Governments and different non-governmental organisations (NGOs), together with their attempts to integrate these services into mainstream society, will contribute to the establishment of an inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based society for individuals with disabilities.

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