

## **Developing a word list to assess articulation skills in Sinhala speaking children with cleft lip and/ or palate, age range 2.5 years to 3.0 years**

L. B. T.C Lokubalasureya, S.P. Rathnayake

### *Abstract*

Cleft Lip and Palate (CLP) affects the individual's articulation and resonance. 0.79 per 1000 birth prevalence was observed in the Sri Lankan (SL) context. Early intervention could prevent articulation errors and the identification can be done using language assessment. In SL context we have no standardized assessments to identify this condition. Developing an assessment is a need in the field of Speech and Language Therapy in SL. The study was design to identify test materials and vocabulary for the age range 2.5yrs to 3.0yrs, develop a word list to assess cleft type errors and evaluate the suitability of the identified words. 18 typically developing children were selected. Play based structured observation was used to select the words for the tool and a pre test was conducted. 95 words were identified as high frequency words and out of those, 24 high frequent words were selected for the tool. After modification, the tool was administered for the 30 typically developing children. Except sound /s/ in word medial position all other sounds were produced in more than 75% accurately. The study

concluded that except /s/ in medial position all other sounds could be used to assess children at the age range of 2.5-3.0 years.

**Keywords:** Cleft lip and palate, Articulation, Children, Sinhala, Word list