

Taxing the ataxic – Pandemic effect on children with cerebral visual impairment

Dear Editor,

This pandemic is the first health emergency that our generation has ever seen. It has had its toll on almost every section of the society, catching the vulnerable and elderly. However, one section that may not have caught the headlines but has faced the perils very dearly are the children with cerebral visual impairment (CVI).^[1] Their world has undergone upheaval yet for them it is merely absence of certain stimuli and new routines to deal with.

The pandemic and lockdown norms have led to a huge setback in their development. Feedback from the care givers of these children with CVI in our center brought forward a multitude of problems, especially in the lower economic strata. Telemedicine may not be the preferred alternative in a predominantly impoverished population where rehabilitation of a disabled child may not be the first priority.^[2] Parents are engrossed in financial difficulties, health scare, and lockdown enigma, stuttering the growth of kids who are greatly dependent on them. Handling of masks is another Herculean task for mothers. Lack of transport has hampered physiotherapy sessions and availability of medications. Few parents reported increased episodes of seizure or tantrums because of shortage of medications. Limited social life with peers and teachers in schools is disrupted and missed. Only advantage seen is the quieter world with less traffic and less noise and more solitude and peace for these kids.

This neglected section needs special address and extra efforts to achieve the aim of bringing them into mainstream. Adaptations cannot be thrust upon their slow world. Only visible solution in these tough times seems to be exploring the cheaper online versions of a simulated environment and adaptation strategies for these special children, thereby achieving dual advantage of reducing the parental burden and helping these kids achieve the new normal.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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