

## **Towards Developing a Model to Sustain Rehabilitation and Intervention Services for Children during the Pandemic**

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The COVID 19 pandemic resulted in social restrictions adversely impacting most health services. Children requiring regular clinical services were denied access to the clinics. Many clinicians faced a dilemma trying to sustain the services for children with developmental needs and disabilities. Interventions for such conditions are time limited and crucial due to a window of opportunity depending on the neural plasticity of the developing brain. Therefore following urgent consultation of team members tele health services based on online platforms were designed. Seventy five children with various developmental needs including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome etc. and at risk neonates received the service during first four weeks of the pandemic in our centre. Thirty two cross referrals were made among the members of multidisciplinary team to maximise their needs. Both synchronous (live) and asynchronous sessions were offered. Many service providers reported that the parents expressed satisfaction during the consultations. This preliminary model is optimistic with successfully sustaining rehabilitation and early intervention services during the pandemic and reaching many families despite the barriers.

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