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**ENCOURAGING THE USE OF AUGMENTATIVE ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION (AAC) SYSTEM TO IMPROVE THE
COMMUNICATION ABILITIES OF CHILDREN WITH UNIQUE NEEDS**

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Abstract: When it becomes challenging to support the communication development of special needs children, those who struggle with communication turn to innovative technologies for alternate answers. Since, researches have revealed that teachers, parents, and therapy doctors struggle with time constraints when it comes to helping special needs children in Sri Lanka improve their literacy skills, Hence, the study's aim is to investigate whether it is possible to support special needs children's use of AAC to enhance their cognitive abilities of communication. "The present study on children with learning difficulties, including autism, cerebral palsy, and Downs syndrome, falls under the umbrella of special needs of children". The AAC offers specialized techniques to help people with severe aphasia successfully to extend their communication skills in a variety of contexts, including the hospital, rehabilitation, and home. A structured questionnaire is used to collect information to evaluate the unique needs of children's speaking abilities. A sample was chosen from the LRH and AYATI Centre of education therapy clusters. Collected data is critically analyzed considering the mixed research methodology. According to the findings, every respondent suffers from a hereditary condition; the vast majority (98 %) had cerebral palsy and learning difficulties. Additionally, it was discovered that the majority of children (60 %) are positioned by their lack of communication abilities for fulfill their fundamental needs who are presented by LRH. Further it was found that 37 % of the children who use AAC are able to accomplish the essential communication abilities to fulfill their basic needs. Also, 12 % of kids are better than LRH respondents; it's thankful to AAC for a 50 % increase in communication skills for those who presented by AYATI Centre. Accordingly, the study suggests that in order to enhance the communication abilities of children with special needs, LRH should also promote the use of the AAC. It is also advised to keep providing sufficient training on AAC for physicians, educators, and parents, as well as to expand the infrastructure and subscription services required for AAC.

Keywords: Use of the AAC; Communication Abilities; Special Needs of Children; Innovative Technologies