

# Advancements in Technology-Based Assessment and Intervention for Children with Developmental Disorders

Azizreza. Ghasemzadeh<sup>1</sup>, Razie. Kia Kojori<sup>2\*</sup>, Maryam. Saadat<sup>3</sup>, Zahra. Alizadeh<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Armada Medical Centre, Dubai, UAE

<sup>2</sup> M.A, Clinical Psychology, Tonkabon Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tonkabon, Iran

<sup>3</sup> Lifeworks Holistic Counselling Centre, Dubai, UAE

<sup>4</sup> PhD student, General Psychology, Ilam Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ilam, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: maryamsaadat@lifeworks.ae

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### ABSTRACT

The letter explores the critical role of technology in enhancing developmental assessments and interventions for children. It emphasizes the importance of early intervention in mental well-being issues among children and adolescents, the necessity of empirical research in decision-making regarding child maltreatment, and the recognition of forensic odontology for identifying child abuse cases. The authors discuss the potential of technology-driven evaluations and interventions in addressing specific needs of children in low- and middle-income countries, highlighting the effectiveness of video modeling in improving social skills in children with ADHD and the significance of technology in enhancing parental practices and early childhood interventions. The paper also stresses the need for early, parent-focused, multi-channel interventions to support responsive caregiving and child development. It presents evidence on the positive impact of technology-based interventions in improving maternal mentalization capabilities, underscoring technology's role in promoting psychosocial well-being and supporting early child development. However, the article also acknowledges challenges such as managing child and adolescent mental health problems, the need for empirical research in child maltreatment decision-making, and enhancing awareness of forensic odontology among dental practitioners. In conclusion, the authors call for an integrated approach that includes technology-based solutions for a comprehensive support system for child development. They advocate for further research and development of technology-based interventions, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and the active role of practitioners in early learning to ensure optimal child development outcomes. Additionally, the article highlights the crucial role of policymakers in incorporating technology-based assessments and interventions into child development programs to foster holistic development in the African context and beyond.

**Keywords:** Technology, Assessment, Intervention, Children, Developmental Disorders.

Dear Editor,

We are writing to discuss the significant role that technology-based assessments and interventions play in enhancing the development of children. The utilization of technology in interventions has garnered significant attention due to its potential to enhance parenting practices, foster healthy child development, and address a variety of challenges faced by children with developmental disabilities. This letter seeks to emphasize the significance of incorporating technology into interventions and assessments for child development, based on recent research findings.

Mental well-being issues in children and adolescents are widespread and often have an early onset, necessitating early interventions (O'Brien et al., 2016). Furthermore, child maltreatment is a pressing concern, and decision-making in such instances necessitates empirical research to enhance professional judgment (Bartelink et al., 2015). Besides, recognition of forensic odontology among dental practitioners is indispensable, as it can contribute to identifying cases of child abuse (Preethi et al., 2011). Accidental injuries are a substantial contributor to illness and death in the youth population, stressing the importance of implementing effective prevention strategies (Barton et al., 2017). Reflective practice in social work is crucial, but it is essential to acknowledge the boundaries to contemplation to prevent misinterpretations (Ferguson, 2018). In addition, there is a requirement for specific guidance and computational advancements to address the reporting of children's development below the test floor (Green & Stroud, 2023). The field of African child development should address the intrinsically African dimensions of development and integrate multiple disciplines (Serpell & Marfo, 2014). Pedagogy plays a significant yet unspoken role in early years learning, emphasizing the importance of practitioners' actions in supporting children's development (Stephen, 2010).

The Evidence Summit on Enhancing Child Survival and Development in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries stresses the critical role of interventions in modifying behavior to decrease under-5 mortality and improve healthy child development (Higgs et al., 2014). This suggests the importance of utilizing technology-driven evaluations and interventions to tackle the specific requirements of kids in countries with low- and middle-income. Innovations in the sector involve the utilization of technology-driven interventions to tackle child mental health issues, decision-making in instances of child maltreatment, and identification

of child abuse cases via forensic odontology. Furthermore, technological advancements provide solutions for documenting children's development below the minimum threshold, and professionals are acknowledging the significance of their actions in promoting children's development.

The current situation highlights the necessity of employing technology-based assessments and interventions to address the challenges associated with child development. Practitioners face obstructions in managing child and adolescent mental health problems, emphasizing the urgency for inventive approaches (O'Brien et al., 2016). Decision-making in cases of child maltreatment necessitates empirical inquiry to bolster professional judgement and enhance outcomes for children (Bartelink et al., 2015). In the other hand, it is vital for dental practitioners to be aware of forensic odontology in order to identify and address cases of child abuse. Additionally, addressing unintentional injuries among youth requires effective preventive strategies to reduce the burden on society (Barton et al., 2017). Reflective practice in the field of social work is crucial, however, it is imperative to acknowledge the limitations of reflection in order to prevent misunderstandings and unrealistic expectations (Ferguson, 2018). Moreover, computational advancements are required to address the documentation of children's development below the established benchmark, providing solutions for homogeneous populations and disaggregated data (Green & Stroud, 2023). The field of child development in Africa should incorporate multiple disciplines and address aspects of development that are inherently African (Serpell & Marfo, 2014). Specialists are instrumental in early years education, stressing the requirement for efficient pedagogical approaches to foster children's development (Stephen, 2010).

Furthermore, research emphasizes the relevance of technology-assisted interventions for parents of young children, indicating the potential of technology to enhance parenting practices and early childhood interventions (Hall & Bierman, 2015). This corresponds with the increasing emphasis on utilizing technology to assist parents in promoting the healthy development of their children. Additionally, the potential of technology-based interventions to target specific developmental challenges faced by children is highlighted by research on video modeling as a method for improving the social play skills of children with ADHD (Wilkes-Gillan et al., 2017). These findings emphasize the wide-ranging applications of technology in promoting child health and development.

Moreover, the utilization of technology-driven interventions to bolster the efficacy of injury prevention and enhance parents' understanding of child safety has been validated by recent research (Chow et al., 2016). This illustrates the potential of technology to improve parental awareness and foster child safety. Moreover, scholarly research shows the positive impact of video modeling as a technique for enhancing the social play skills of children with ADHD (Wilkes-Gillan et al., 2017) which indicates the possibility of technology-based interventions to tackle specific developmental challenges faced by children.

Additionally, the importance of early, parent-focused, and multi-channel interventions in supporting responsive caregiving and early child development is emphasized by Lucas et al. (2017), highlighting the crucial need for technology-based interventions that involve parents and are delivered through multiple channels in order to effectively promote child development (Lucas et al., 2017). Rochat et al. (2021) also reinforced recognizing the significance of technology-based interventions in promoting early child development by indicating the necessity of developing evidence-based policies and interventions to improve early child development (Rochat et al., 2021). Thus, it becomes evident that comprehensive approaches, inclusive of technology-based solutions, should be adopted to provide holistic support for child development.

Furthermore, the investigation executed by Overbeck et al. (2023) illuminates the influence of a intricate intervention specially formulated to enrich maternal mentalization capabilities, thereby underscoring the crucial part of technology in improving psychosocial well-being and supporting early child development. These findings further accentuate the potential benefits and impact of technology-based assessments and interventions in the realm of child development (Overbeck et al., 2023). Additionally, the advancement of computational technology provides viable solutions for reporting children's development below the test floor, while also emphasizing the crucial role that practitioners play in supporting children's development.

Nevertheless, despite the noteworthy merits of technology-based interventions, there are multiple hurdles that necessitate attention in the field. Those challenges involve roadblocks to effectively managing child and adolescent mental health problems, limited empirical research on decision-making in child maltreatment cases, and the necessity to enhance awareness of forensic odontology among dental practitioners. Furthermore, it is imperative to address the issue of unintentional injuries

among youth and recognize the limitations to reflection in social work, as these factors have a profound impact on child development. In addition, it is crucial for the African child development field to integrate multiple disciplines and address dimensions of development that are intrinsically African. Hence, practitioners play a vital role in ensuring optimal early years learning experiences for children.

To conquer these obstacles and further progress the field, researchers ought to concentrate on developing technology-based interventions to tackle child mental health problems, conduct empirical research to enhance decision-making in child maltreatment cases, and promote awareness of forensic odontology among dental practitioners. Additionally, there is a pressing need for computational advances that can effectively address the reporting of children's development below the test floor. Besides, it is extremely important to merge different fields in the African child development sector to provide a comprehensive understanding of child development that is suitable for the African context.

Practitioners also are encouraged to utilize technology-driven interventions, so that they can effectively address issues related to mental health in children; enhance decision-making in cases of child abuse; and improve the identification of child maltreatment cases using forensic odontology. It is also crucial for practitioners to recognize the limitations to reflection in social work and actively play a pivotal role in early years learning to ensure optimal child development outcomes.

Lastly, policy and lawmakers have a crucial role to play in prioritizing the incorporation of technology-based assessments and interventions in child development programs. They should allocate resources for empirical research on decision-making in child maltreatment cases and enhance training on forensic odontology for dental practitioners. Additionally, policy-makers should support the advancement of computational technology to enable the effective reporting of children's development below the test floor. In addition, they should not promote the integration of multiple disciplines in the African child development field to provide a holistic understanding of child development in the African context.

In summary, the amalgamation of technology-driven evaluations and interventions presents a considerable amount of potential in augmenting the growth and progress of children. By focusing on tackling obstacles related to development and fostering parental involvement and understanding, technology possesses the capacity to completely transform efforts aimed at bolstering the well-

being and flourishing of children. As we progress further, it is imperative to persist in exploring and harnessing the capabilities of technology to ensure the comprehensive and all-encompassing advancement of children.

Sincerely,  
Authors

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#### Declaration of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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#### Ethics Considerations

Not applicable.

#### Authors' Contributions

All authors contributed equally in this article.

#### Transparency of Data

In accordance with the principles of transparency and open research, we declare that all data and materials used in this article are available upon request.

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