

Enhancing Temporomandibular Joint Function in Cerebral Palsy: A Comprehensive Investigation of the Impact and Efficacy of a Structured Exercise Program

Dr. Mandar Malawade

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatric Neurosciences Physiotherapy, Krishna College of Physiotherapy, Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth Deemed To Be University, Karad, Maharashtra, India. Email ID-mandarmalawade@gmail.com

Yogita Avinash Pawar,

P. G. Student, Department of Pediatric Neurosciences Physiotherapy, Krishna College of Physiotherapy Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth Deemed To Be University, Karad, Maharashtra, India.

Dr. Poovishnu Devi Thangavelu,

Associate Professor, Department of Cardiopulmonary Sciences Physiotherapy, Krishna College of Physiotherapy, Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth Deemed To Be University, Karad, Maharashtra, India. Email ID-vishnudevi25@yahoo.com

Abstract

Introduction: A structured exercise routine for cerebral palsy children with TMD is explored in this study. TMD impacts jaw joint function, while CP causes non-progressive mental and physical issues. Current treatments lack demographic-specific exercise. The yearlong study examines the program's TMJ pain and range of motion benefits. An experimental technique shows personalised therapy for CP and TMD youngsters, filling a knowledge gap.

Background: Cerebral Palsy children typically have Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD), which cause jaw pain and restriction. This demographic has little information on structured exercise programmes for TMD despite their increased susceptibility. This study tackles this gap with a one-year experiment at Krishna College of Physiotherapy, KIMSDU, Karad. The study uses the Helkimo Index and Three Finger Index to evaluate a structured exercise programme on Cerebral Palsy children's Temporomandibular joint pain and motions, providing vital insights into evidence-based therapies for this particular pediatric group.

Objectives: A year-long planned exercise routine for children with cerebral palsy and temporomandibular problems will be examined in the study. The programme aims to reduce temporomandibular joint pain and motions. The intervention at Krishna College of Physiotherapy, a pre- and post-test experimental investigation, and statistical analysis utilising paired t tests for within-group comparisons are further goals. This study will provide this pediatric group with evidence-based TMD rehabilitation strategies.

Material & Method: Goniometers, heated moist packs, and soft tissue mobilisation tools are used in the study. Organised exercise for cerebral palsy children with temporomandibular issues includes TMJ mobilisation and posture education. Krishna College of Physiotherapy, KIMSDU, Karad, conducted the one-year experimental study including pre- and post-tests. Robust statistical analysis using SPSS 25 paired t-tests. The three-day-a-week, six-week fitness course gradually increases repetitions.

Result: The study found that structured exercise improved Cerebral Palsy patients' Temporomandibular Disorders. The Helkimo Index decreased while the Three Finger Index increased, indicating significant improvements in temporomandibular joint pain and motions. These results support the alternative hypothesis that the intervention worked.

Conclusion: A study found that organised exercise aids cerebral palsy TMD patients. It worked because the Helkimo Index and Three Finger Index statistically improved temporomandibular joint pain and motions. The topic population is diverse and

geographic coverage is limited, yet successful. This suggests more Cerebral Palsy Temporomandibular Disorder rehabilitation research.

Keywords: Cerebral palsy, TMJ disorders, structured exercise programme, goniometer, hot moist packs, soft tissue mobilisation, TMJ mobilisation, posture education, experimental study, pre- and post-test, statistical analysis, SPSS, Krishna College of Physiotherapy.

I. Introduction

A neurodevelopmental disorder known as "cerebral palsy" is defined by non-progressive mental and physical disability brought on by brain injury sustained during the prenatal, perinatal, or postnatal stages of life. There are a number of prenatal, neonatal, and postnatal variables that can lead to cerebral palsy, including genetics, intrauterine infections, trauma, and other issues. Topography is used to categorise this disorder into many categories, which include spastic, athetoid, ataxic, and mixed forms. Other types include quadriplegia, diplegia, paraplegia, triplegia, hemiplegia, and monoplegia. Early symptoms such as unusual motions and aberrant muscle tone must be identified in order to make a diagnosis, which is frequently verified by neuroimaging.

The Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ), which connects the jaw and temporal bone, is an essential part of the skull and the only joint that can move. Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD), which are a grouping name for TMJ disorders, present as problems with the masticatory system's functionality. These problems include joint sounds, jaw deviation, pain, headaches, and limited movement. Occlusal, psychological, parafunctional, and hormonal factors all play a role in TMD. The frequency of TMD rises with age, peaking in adolescence in females. Children who have cerebral palsy are especially vulnerable, which increases the risk of consequences such trouble chewing, limited jaw movement, and related pain.

Children with cerebral palsy may exhibit pain, soreness, headaches, and limited jaw movement as clinical indicators of TMD. Conservative methods such as hot wet packs, jaw exercises, and posture education are usually used in management. Nonetheless, there is a noticeable lack of information in the literature about a systematic exercise programme designed especially for children with cerebral palsy who have TMD. This study attempts to close this gap by assessing the program's efficacy while taking into account the particular difficulties and traits of this demographic. For improved clinical knowledge and management, it is imperative to investigate the prevalence of TMD in children with cerebral palsy, its effects on psycho-

social well-being, and evidence-based therapeutic approaches.

Children with cerebral palsy who suffer from TMD benefit from a complete therapy that includes using ice and hot, moist packs to reduce pain and increase range of motion. Jaw exercises are a series of motions that are designed to improve range of motion and relieve restricted motions. Muscle-related problems are addressed by soft tissue mobilisation and myofascial trigger point release. Distraction, glides, and pre-positioned mouth opening are examples of TMJ mobilisation treatments that focus on joint mobility and pain alleviation. An essential element is posture education, which focuses on treating psychosocial issues, minimising parafunctional habits, and educating people about pain science. Even though these treatments are well-established in the general population, further research is needed to determine how well they work in children with cerebral palsy who also have TMD. In order to meet the specific demands of this population, the current study uses an organised exercise programme that incorporates various modalities. The program's impact will be thoroughly assessed over the course of a year through the use of an experimental study with a pre- and post-test design, which is the methodology that has been selected.

The research holds importance as it has the ability to close a significant knowledge gap by offering evidence-based perspectives on the efficacy of an organised exercise programme for treating motor dysfunction in children with cerebral palsy. Through knowledge of the prevalence, effects, and suitable therapies for TMD in this particular population, the research aids in the creation of focused rehabilitation plans. As a result, children with cerebral palsy may have a higher quality of life since their general physical difficulties will be addressed, together with the sometimes disregarded issues of orofacial pain and TMJ dysfunction. The study also discusses the paucity of specialised research on the order of therapeutic therapies for patients with cerebral palsy who are rehabilitating from temporomandibular disorders. Emphasis is placed on the necessity of an organised exercise programme designed to meet the special needs of children with cerebral palsy, emphasising the possible effects on temporomandibular joint range of motion and pain status. Focused therapies are

necessary since children with cerebral palsy are more likely to have temporomandibular disorders. Past research has shown that children with cerebral palsy are more susceptible to temporomandibular disorders. Examples of these studies are those conducted by Miamoto et al., Ortega et al., and Anastassaki Kohler et al. Nonetheless, this research emphasised the necessity for focused treatments by primarily focusing on the prevalence and risk factors. The present study expands on previous studies by presenting an organised workout programme and assessing its effectiveness using an extensive methodology. The Helkimo Index and Three Finger Index are two examples of outcome measures that lend objectivity to the evaluation of pain and movement in the temporomandibular joint. The robustness of the results is enhanced by the statistical analysis, which makes use of paired t-tests within the group. The study has various limitations even though it shows a significant improvement in the post-intervention Helkimo Index and Three Finger Index scores, indicating the beneficial effects of the planned exercise programme. Constraints acknowledged include the study's small-scale rural geographic scope and the variability of its subjects. The little study period also makes it necessary to think about doing more research on early intervention with a greater number of children with cerebral palsy.

The research offers significant proof in favor of the efficacy of an organised exercise regimen for children with cerebral palsy who suffer from temporomandibular disorders. The demonstrated benefits on temporomandibular joint pain status and range of motion highlight the need of individualised rehabilitation in meeting the unique requirements of this population. The results open up new avenues for investigation, highlighting the value of early intervention techniques and adding to our understanding of how to manage temporomandibular disorders in children with cerebral palsy.

II. Background

A neurological disorder known as cerebral palsy (CP) is typified by non-progressive mental and physical disability that results from brain injury sustained during the prenatal, perinatal, or postnatal stages of life. Numerous reasons contribute to the cause, such as prenatal infections, hereditary factors, and difficulties during birthing. The disorder presents with spastic, athetoid, ataxic, or mixed features and can be classified as quadriplegia, diplegia, paraplegia, triplegia, hemiplegia, or monoplegia. Forming between the temporal bone and the head of the mandible, the Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) is an essential joint for movement of the jaw. It allows for protrusion, retraction,

elevation, lateral deviation, and depression. A subset of musculoskeletal illnesses known as temporomandibular disorders (TMD) affect the TMJ and related structures, leading to discomfort, mandibular deviation, joint sounds, and restricted jaw movement. Occlusal issues, psychological aspects, parafunctional behaviours, and hormonal factors are among the variables that affect TMD. Temporomandibular disorders, which can include problems with chewing, limited jaw motions, feeding difficulties, clenching or grinding during sleep, and related headaches and facial or neck pain, are more common in children with cerebral palsy. While the diagnosis of TMD depends on clinical symptoms and radiological imaging, the diagnostic criteria for Cerebral Palsy include identifying indicators as early as infancy. There is a noticeable lack of information in the literature about the precise order of therapy approaches, despite the fact that TMD is common and has an impact on children with cerebral palsy. Conservative methods such as hot moist packs, soft diets, jaw exercises, and relaxation techniques are used in current management. But these kids frequently receive generalised PT care, which could not sufficiently address problems unique to the TMJ. The necessity for focused therapies is highlighted by the absence of a systematic approach to TMJ issues in the rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy. By examining the impact of an organised exercise programme on children with cerebral palsy who have temporomandibular disorders, this study seeks to close this research gap. The goal is to evaluate the effects on movements and pain in the temporomandibular joints in order to gain important knowledge for developing specialised rehabilitation plans for this susceptible population.

Children who have cerebral palsy and temporomandibular disorders (TMD) may have particular difficulties because of their neurologically weakened condition. Involuntary motions, muscle rigidity, and restrictions on voluntary facial and masticatory muscle activities are all possible outcomes of CNS injuries in individuals with cerebral palsy. A heightened vulnerability to temporomandibular joint dysfunction is a result of both restricted jaw motions and increased muscular stiffness. Prior research has demonstrated how common TMD symptoms and indications are in kids with cerebral palsy. These symptoms, which include limited mouth opening, jaw deviations, and joint noises, call for special attention and care. Nonetheless, a thorough grasp of the prevalence, implications, and evidence-based treatment approaches for TMD in this paediatric population is lacking in the literature. As the only moving joint in the skull, the temporomandibular joint experiences aging-related changes

that may aggravate joint dysfunction in older people. The symptoms of temporomandibular disorders can include headaches, pain, soreness, and limited jaw movement. It is crucial to look at the frequency of TMD in this population and the best ways to manage it given the possible negative impact on the psycho-social well-being of children with cerebral palsy. Through the use of an experimental study with a pre- and post-test design, this research aims to close this gap. This study examines the effects of a structured exercise programme over a one-year period on the motions and pain of the temporomandibular joints in children with cerebral palsy. The study is being conducted at Krishna College of Physiotherapy, KIMSUDU, Karad. Paired t tests are being used for statistical analysis and within-group comparisons. A goniometer, a device used for determining range of motion and measuring joint angles, is one of the items needed for the investigation. The maximum mouth opening and the severity of TMJ issues can be assessed quantitatively with the help of outcome measures like the Helkimo Index and Three Finger Index. The study supports the overarching objective of creating focused rehabilitation plans for children with cerebral palsy who have temporomandibular disorders, taking into account their particular physiological and neurological needs. It is anticipated that the findings would provide insightful information about evidence-based therapies that will raise these kids' quality of life.

III. Objectives

This study aims to address two main questions: first, how well a structured exercise programme works to reduce pain in the temporomandibular joint in children with cerebral palsy; second, how well this programme works to improve temporomandibular joint movements in the same population. The research uses an experimental approach, involving pre- and post-tests spread out across a full year. The study, which is being carried out at the Krishna College of Physiotherapy, KIMSUDU, Karad, is to offer thorough insights into the effectiveness of the exercise programme for children with cerebral palsy who have temporomandibular disorders. Through statistical analysis, measurable measurements of the program's success will be provided, with the paired t test being used for within-group comparisons. The study also aims to determine the suitable sample size for significant results, stressing a careful and regulated approach to the research. The ultimate objective is to provide evidence-based knowledge that can guide customised rehabilitation plans for improving the quality of life for kids with cerebral palsy who are dealing with temporomandibular disorders.

IV. Material & Method

A. Material

Goniometer: The goniometer, a specialised equipment necessary for precisely measuring joint angles, is one of the most important tools used in this investigation. A key tool in the study of temporomandibular joint movements, the goniometer aids in the accurate and impartial assessment of the program's effects on structured exercise. Its use guarantees quantitative measures, which gives the study's conclusions more objectivity. As part of the intervention, hot, moist packs are also used, which help to improve circulation and relieve tension in the muscles surrounding the temporomandibular joint. These packs are essential for improving range of motion, managing discomfort, and hastening the healing process. In order to address muscle-related difficulties, the comprehensive organised workout programme also requires additional materials, such as soft tissue mobilisation tools, which can be fingers or specialised equipment. A hands-on treatment component can be added to the programme by utilising specialised tools for joint mobilisation in conjunction with a variety of procedures for TMJ mobilisation. To help participants develop healthy posture habits, the study may also include educational resources for posture education. These materials could take the form of brochures, visual aids, or spoken instructions. The selection of materials is well-thought-out, including devices and equipment that are essential to the evaluation and execution of the structured exercise regimen intended to treat temporomandibular disorders in children with cerebral palsy.

B. Method:

- a. **Study Type and Design:** To evaluate the efficacy of a structured exercise programme for children with cerebral palsy who have temporomandibular disorders (TMD), this research uses an experimental study design with a pre- and post-test method.
- b. **Study Length:** The intended one-year study will enable a thorough assessment of the influence of the organised exercise programme on motions and pain associated with the temporomandibular joint.
- c. **Sample Size and Setting:** To ensure statistical validity, the sample size, represented as $X \pm SD$, is calculated using a formula based on standard deviations and Z-scores. The study is carried out at the Krishna College of Physiotherapy, KIMSUDU, Karad, which offers a safe and comfortable setting for carrying out the intervention.

- d. **Statistical Analysis:** Paired t-tests are used for within-group comparisons in data analysis. SPSS version 25 software is used to do statistical calculations, enabling a solid and quantitative evaluation of the results.
- e. **Structured Exercise Programme:** Participants engage in three days a week of exercise over the course of six weeks. A range of interventions, including hot moist packs, temporomandibular joint range of motion exercises, soft tissue mobilisation, TMJ mobilisation techniques (anterior glide, posterior glide, lateral glide, medial glide), myofascial trigger point release, and posture education, are included in the protocol. Repetitions are increased to ten or more as tolerated, with exercises becoming progressively more intense over time.

V. Result

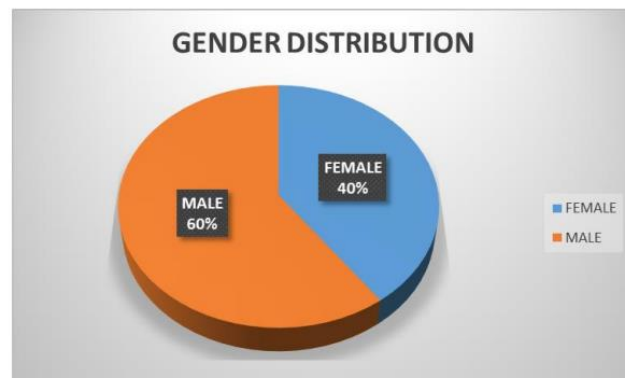
Examination, Presentation, and Interpretation of Data

A. Distribution Among the Gender

Gender	No of Subjects
Female	8
Male	12
Total	20

Table 1. Gender Distribution Summary

A demographic breakdown of the individuals that took part in the research is shown in the table that is presented here. The data reveals that out of a total of twenty subjects, eight were identified as males, and the remaining twelve were females. This gender distribution highlights the heterogeneous composition of the population that was under investigation, which included both male and female individuals composing the population. The inclusion of participants of both sexes not only increases the study's representativeness but also ensures that a full investigation of the influence of the structured exercise programme on Temporomandibular Disorders among individuals with cerebral palsy is carried out.



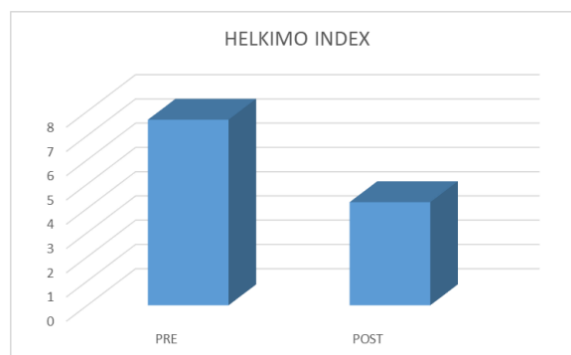
Graph 1. Gender Distribution Representation

The graphical depiction offers a visual representation of the gender distribution among the total number of people who participated in the study. In particular, the data demonstrates that sixty percent of the persons are male, which constitutes a sizeable majority, while forty percent of the individuals come from the female gender. This breakdown provides a clear portrayal of the gender makeup among the population that was under research. It highlights the preponderance of males in comparison to the relatively smaller percentage of females that were there.

B. Helkimo Index

Parameter	Pre (Mean ± SD)	Post (Mean ± SD)	t value	p value	Inference
Helkimo Index	7.65±2.05	4.25±1.37	10.13	<0.0001	ES

Table 2. Comparison of the group's PRE and POSTHELKIMO INDEX scores.



Graph 2. Group-level comparison of the HELKIMO INDEX scores before and after.

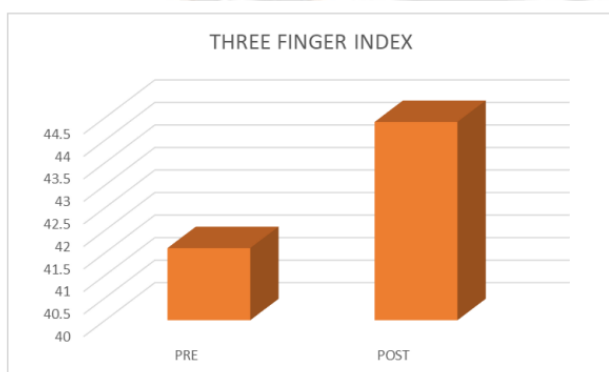
A comprehensive comparison of the mean and standard deviation values for the THREE FINGER INDEX score among the members of the group is provided in the table that is displayed here. This comparison is made both before

and after the intervention sessions. As part of the preliminary evaluation, also known as the pre-session, the score was recorded as 41.6 ± 3.51 , which represents the baseline measurement. After completing the structured exercise programme, the post-session score showed a significant improvement, reaching 44.4 ± 3.29 , which indicates that there was an improvement in the movements of the temporo-mandibular joint system. A paired t-test was carried out in order to determine the statistical significance of this change. The results of the test revealed a p-value that was astonishingly low, measuring less than 0.0001. This p-value is extremely low, which suggests that there is a high level of statistical significance. This highlights the significant and meaningful influence that the organised exercise programme had on the THREE FINGER INDEX score. In addition to giving strong evidence for the success of the approach that was put into action, the findings demonstrate that the intervention was successful in positively impacting the motions of the temporo-mandibular joints among the individuals who participated in the study.

C. Three Finger Index

Parameter	Pre (Mean ± SD)	Post (Mean ± SD)	t value	p value	Inference
Three Finger Index	41.6±3.51	44.4±3.29	15.02	<0.0001	ES

Table 3. Scores on the Three Finger Index before and after are compared within the group.



Graph 3. Comparison of the group's PRE and POST Three Finger Index scores.

The table that has been provided above provides a comprehensive illustration of the variations in mean and standard deviation that were noticed between the pre-test and post-test scores of the THREE FINGER INDEX among the members of the group. During the first session, the score was recorded as 41.6 ± 3.51 . Subsequent to the session, a notable increase was observed, which resulted in the score

reaching 44.4 ± 3.29 . An improvement of a considerable magnitude in the parameter that was measured is shown by this substantial increase. The results of the paired t-test, which further supported these findings, showed that the p-value was less than 0.0001, highlighting the fact that there is a statistically significant difference between the two sets of data. Strong evidence is provided by this statistical outcome, which demonstrates that the intervention was successful in bringing about positive changes in the scores on the THREE FINGER INDEX.

VI. Discussion

The purpose of this study was to find out how a structured exercise programme affected people with cerebral palsy who had temporomandibular disorders (TMD). Non-progressive mental and physical disability stemming from brain injury sustained during the prenatal, perinatal, or postnatal stages is the hallmark of cerebral palsy. The only moveable joint in the skull, the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), forms late in pregnancy from two different blastemal processes. Temporomandibular Disorders include problems with the masticatory system's functionality, such as joint sounds, mandibular deviation, restricted movement, pain in the TMJ, migraines, and pain when using the jaw. TMD is caused by several variables, including parafunctional behaviour, hormonal impacts, psychological aspects, and occlusal issues. Clinical indications and symptoms can include restricted jaw motions, clenching or grinding of teeth, as well as pain and tenderness. Targeted therapies are necessary because prior research has shown that children with cerebral palsy have a higher prevalence of TMD. The main goal of this study was to assess the efficacy of a structured exercise programme created especially for kids with cerebral palsy who also have TMD. Children with cerebral palsy, of any gender, between the ages of 6 and 16, who had no prior history of relevant accidents or developmental abnormalities, met the inclusion criteria. The usage of dental prosthesis and orthodontic procedures were excluded criteria. Previous studies by Miamoto, Ortega, and Anastassaki Kohler suggested that children with cerebral palsy were more likely to experience TMD symptoms and indications. For this population, the current study creatively created an organised exercise programme. Pre-assessment using the Three Finger Index and Helkimo Index as outcome measures was part of the research methodology. The maximum mouth opening and the severity of TMJ issues were measured by these indices, in that order. A six-week organised exercise programme was implemented for the participants, which included interventions such myofascial trigger point release, hot moist packs, soft tissue

mobilisation, TMJ range of motion exercises, and posture education. After three to five repetitions, the workouts were progressively increased to ten or more repetitions over the course of six weeks. Helkimo Index and Three Finger Index scores significantly improved after training, according to the statistical analysis using paired t-tests. The study acknowledged some limitations, such as subject variability and the restriction to a limited rural area, despite the encouraging results. The brief trial duration was also acknowledged, indicating the necessity for additional investigation into early therapies in a more extensive population with cerebral palsy. In summary, the study opened the door for more research and treatment approaches in this demographic by demonstrating the value of the structured exercise programme for TMD in children with cerebral palsy. The alternative theory was approved, confirming the structured exercise program's substantial impact on temporomandibular disorders in people with cerebral palsy. Helkimo Index scores significantly decreased from 7.65 ± 2.05 in the pre-session to 4.25 ± 1.37 in the post-session, indicating a significant reduction in TMJ problems following the adoption of the organised exercise programme. Additionally, there was a notable improvement in the Three Finger Index scores, which went from 41.6 ± 3.51 on the pre-session to 44.4 ± 3.29 on the post-session. These results bolster the exercise program's effectiveness in reducing the severity of TMJ issues and improving the mouth opening range of children with cerebral palsy. Even with the study's excellent results, there are several important caveats to take into account. The results may have been variable due to the subjects' heterogeneity, which would have affected how broadly applicable the conclusions may be. Furthermore, the results cannot be extrapolated to a larger population due to the study's limited geographic scope, which was limited to a small rural area. It is also necessary to exercise caution when evaluating the long-term sustainability of the reported gains due to the study's brief duration. Future research projects should investigate therapies in a more varied and broader population of children with cerebral palsy in order to build on the foundation established by this study. Increasing the study's duration may shed light on the long-term sustainability of the benefits of the organised exercise programme. Furthermore, including a control group for comparison analysis would strengthen the study's validity and advance a more thorough comprehension of the program's effects. This study's novel strategy for treating temporomandibular disorders in kids with cerebral palsy through a regimented exercise programme has produced encouraging outcomes. The noteworthy ameliorations reported in the degree of TMJ problem severity and mouth

opening range highlight the possible advantages of customised therapies for this demographic. A more nuanced understanding of the long-term benefits, ideal duration, and generalizability of these programmes will emerge from future study, opening the door to improved therapy approaches and, eventually, an improvement in the quality of life for children with cerebral palsy who are suffering with temporomandibular disorders. Furthermore, the accomplishment of this study adds significant proof to the beneficial effects of structured exercise regimens in reducing TMJ issues in kids with cerebral palsy. The alternate hypothesis of the study is supported by the objective measures' showed improvement in the Helkimo Index and Three Finger Index, which highlights the beneficial effects of the intervention. These discoveries have consequences that go beyond the specifics of temporomandibular disorders. Children with cerebral palsy require TMJ treatment because dental health, functional skills, and psychosocial factors are all interrelated to overall health. The validation of the favorable results of this structured exercise programme gives healthcare professionals—such as physiotherapists and clinicians—a concrete basis on which to build focused therapies that are specific to the requirements of this particular demographic. The limitations of the study, such as the variety of the subjects and the small geographic scope, highlight the necessity for ongoing research improvement. Larger and more diversified sample sizes should be considered in future research in order to fully comprehend the program's applicability in a range of demographic and geographic contexts. In addition, a longer follow-up period would provide information about the durability of the noted gains and possible long-term advantages for kids with cerebral palsy. This study highlights the significance of early and focused methods in the treatment of children with cerebral palsy and broadens our understanding of successful therapies for TMJ issues in this population. Future research can improve methods and contribute to the continuous development of therapeutic strategies for improving the quality of life for children with cerebral palsy who are dealing with temporomandibular disorders by addressing the limitations identified in this study.

VII. Conclusion

The results of this study, taken together, support the usefulness of an organised exercise programme for treating Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD) in people with cerebral palsy. It was shown by thorough statistical analysis, data visualisation, and interpretation that the applied

intervention significantly improved motions and pain in the temporomandibular joint (TMJ). A significant improvement was observed in the Helkimo Index, which is used to assess the severity of TMJ issues and pain. The mean score decreased significantly from 7.65 ± 2.05 in the pre-session to 4.25 ± 1.37 in the post-session. This statistically significant decrease highlights how well the programme works to treat pain related to temporomandibular disorders. Additionally, there was a significant improvement in the Three Finger Index, which measures maximal mouth opening; the mean score increased from 41.6 ± 3.51 in the pre-session to 44.4 ± 3.29 in the post-session. The extremely significant p-value of less than 0.0001 highlights the structured workout program's effectiveness in improving motions of the temporomandibular joints. All of these findings support the alternative theory, demonstrating that the planned exercise programme does, in fact, significantly and favourably improve temporomandibular disorders in people with cerebral palsy. It is important to recognise the study's shortcomings in addition to its successes. The study's scope was limited to a restricted geographic area, namely a rural setting, and the respondents were not totally homogeneous. Furthermore, one weakness of the study is its brief duration. As such, there may be limitations to the findings' generalizability. Subsequent studies ought to focus on a wider range of demographics and potentially employ longer study periods in order to offer a more thorough comprehension of the influence of structured exercise regimens on temporomandibular disorders in people with cerebral palsy. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the research offers insightful information about the field of rehabilitative therapies for temporomandibular disorders in a demographic that is sometimes thought to be more susceptible to these problems.

References

- [1] Fernandes MV, Erviha UF, Maifrino LB, Bartkevicius A, Santos MT. Temporomandibular Disorders in Cerebral Palsy: literature review. *Journal of Morphological Sciences*. 2015 Apr;32(02):104-7.
- [2] Raj GS. *Physiotherapy in neuro conditions*. Jaypee Brothers Publishers; 2006.
- [3] Tecklin JS, editor. *Pediatrics Physical therapy*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2008.
- [4] Miamoto CB, Pereira LJ, Paiva SM, Pordeus IA, Ramos Jorge ML, Marques LS. Prevalence and risk indicators of Temporomandibular Disorders signs and symptoms in a pediatrics population with spastic Cerebral Palsy. *Journal of clinical pediatric dentistry*. 2011 Apr 1;35(3):259-63.
- [5] Ortega AO, Guimaraes AS, Ciamponi AL, Marie SK. Frequency of Temporomandibular Disorders signs in individuals with Cerebral Palsy. *Journal of oral rehabilitation*. 2008 Mar; 35(3): 191-5.
- [6] Kohler AA, Helkimo AN, Magnusson T, Hugoson A. Prevalence of symptoms and signs indicative of Temporomandibular Disorders in children and adolescents. A cross-sectional epidemiological investigation covering two decades. *European archives of pediatrics dentistry*. 2009 Nov 1;10(1):16-25.
- [7] Garib BT, Qaradaxi SS. Temporomandibular joint problems and periodontal condition in rheumatoid arthritis patients in relation to their rheumatologic status. *Journal of oral and maxillofacial surgery*. 2011 Dec 1;69(12):2971-8.
- [8] Dimitroulis G. Temporomandibular joint surgery: what does it mean to the dental practitioner? *Australian dental journal*. 2011 Sep;56(3):257-64
- [9] Ryalat S, Baqain ZH, Amin WM, et al. Prevalence of Temporomandibular joint disorders among students of the university of Jordan. *Journal of clinical medicine research*. 2009 Aug;1(3):158.
- [10] Agrawal J, Shenai PK, Chatra L, et al. Evaluation of normal range of mouth opening using three finger index: South India perspective study. *Indian journal of dental research*. 2015 Jul 1;26(4):361.
- [11] Nagi R, Sahu S, Gahwai D, et al. Study on evaluation of normal range of maximum mouth opening among Indian adults using three finger index: A descriptive study. *Journal of Indian Academy of oral medicine and radiology*. 2017 Jul 1;29(3):186.
- [12] Okeson JP. Temporomandibular Disorders in children. *Pediatr Dent*. 1989 Dec 1;11(4):325-9.
- [13] Vaughan CW, Neilson PD, O Dwyer NJ. Motor control deficits of orofacial muscles in Cerebral Palsy. *Journal of neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry*. 1988 Apr 1;51(4):534-9.
- [14] Shaffer SM, Brismee JM, Sizer PS, et al. Temporomandibular Disorders: conservative management. *Journal of manual & manipulative therapy* 2014 Feb 1;22(1): 13-23.
- [15] Furto ES, Cleland JA, Whitman JM, et al. Manual physical therapy intervention and exercise for patients with Temporomandibular Disorders. 2006 Oct 1;24(4):283-91.
- [16] McNeely ML, Armijo Olivo S, Magee DJ. A systematic review of the effectiveness of physical

therapy interventions for Temporomandibular Disorders. Physical therapy. 2006 May 1;86(5):710-25.

- [17] Clark GT, Delcanho RE, Goulet JP. The utility and validity of current diagnostic procedure for defining Temporomandibular Disorders patients. *Advances in dental research*. 1993 Aug;7(2):97-112
- [18] Anttila H, Autti Ramo I, Suoranya J, et al. Effectiveness of physical therapy interventions for children with Cerebral Palsy: a systematic review. *BMC paediatrics*. 2008 Dec;8(1):1-0.
- [19] Mayo NE. The effect of physical therapy for children with motor delay and Cerebral Palsy: a randomized clinical trial. *American journal of physical medicine & rehabilitation*. 1991 Oct 1;70(5): 258-67.
- [20] Abanto J, Ortega AO, Raggio DP, et al. Impact of oral diseases and disorders on oral health related quality of life of children with Cerebral Palsy. *Special Care in Dentistry*. 2014 Mar;34(2):56-63.
- [21] Sonnesen L, Bakke M, Solow B. Temporomandibular Disorders in relation to craniofacial dimensions, head posture and bite force in children selected for orthodontic treatment. *Eur J Orthod*, 23: 179–92, 2001.
- [22] Bonjardim LR, Gaviao MB, Carmagnani FG, Pereira LJ, Castelo PM. Signs and symptoms of Temporomandibular joint dysfunction in children with primary dentition. *J Clin Pediatr Dent*, 28: 53–8, 2

