

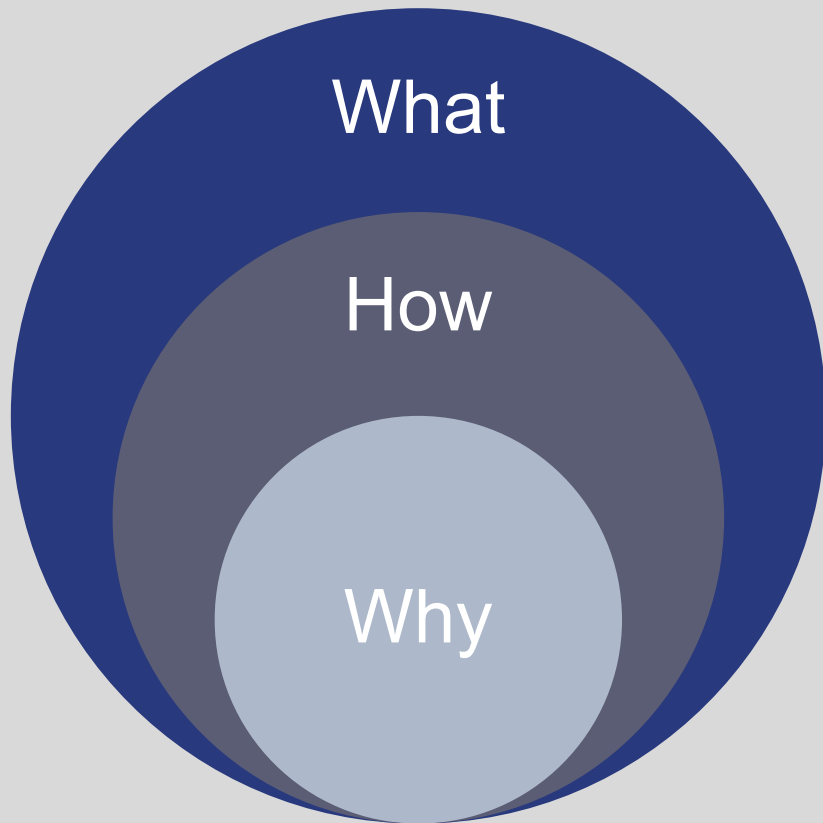


EDUPLEX
TRAINING
INSTITUTE

The role of online education in the expansion of audiological services in Ethiopia

Eduplex Training Institute NPC
a Non-Profit Company

BACKGROUND: EDUPLEX TRAINING INSTITUTE



Empower professionals and parents

Provision of training and practical guides

- International best practice
- Accessible
- In partnership with Ear Institute, Eduplex Mainstream school & Ethio-American hearing project

Make hearing loss invisible worldwide

PRACTICAL IN ETHIOPIA



BACKGROUND: ETHIOPIA

- The most populous landlocked country in the world and the second-most populous nation on the African continent.
- Hearing impairment is one of the most common reported disabilities.
- Characterised by a severe shortage of ENT and audiological services and resources.
- Many medical professionals are involved in various humanitarian projects in Ethiopia but these services and resources are not sustainable and continuously available.

WHY ONLINE LEARNING?

- Globally online learning is growing at an enormous pace - the industry is projected to double over the next two years.
- The highest growth rates in online learning are expected in Africa and Asia.
- It is estimated that by 2025 roughly half of all college classes will be online learning based.
- Corporations are also finding online learning to be highly efficient, reporting significant cost savings and instruction time.
- Although there is a severe lack of physical higher education institutions in developing countries internet connectivity is available to most persons living in developing countries.
- Development of online learning programs is making it possible for many people across Africa to engage in educational opportunities that previously would have been impossible.
- This leads us to believe that the only way to catch up with the growing need for audiology services is to deploy learning online, especially in developing countries.

METHOD

- **Research question**

- To determine whether medical professionals consider online education as a viable means to expand audiological service delivery in Ethiopia.

- **Study design**

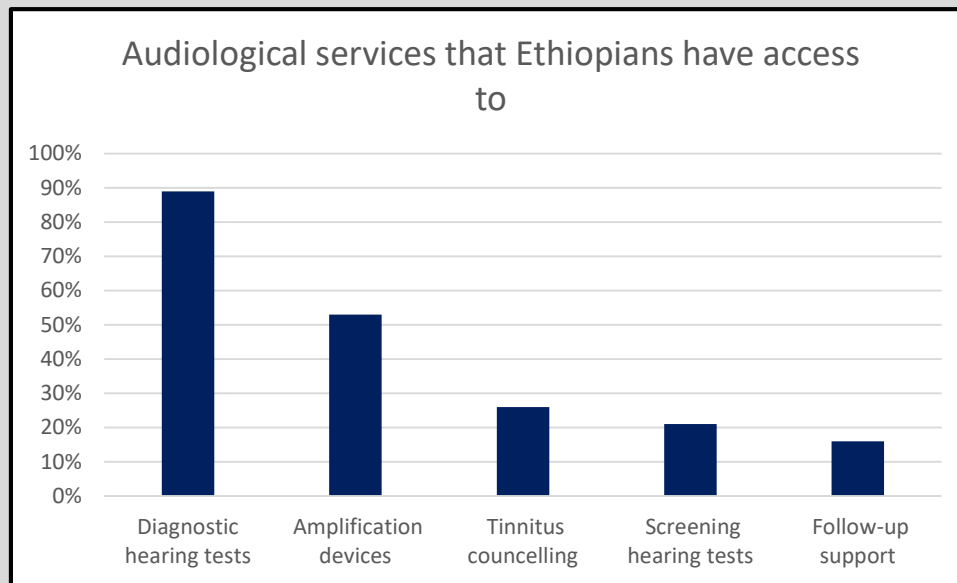
- A survey research design was implemented and a self-developed questionnaire were distributed.
- Questionnaires were completed in the presence of an ETI-member.

PARTICIPANTS

- 19 Medical professionals working in various medical fields in Ethiopia.
- All participants are enrolled for a Hearing Aid Acoustician programme.
- 11 Male; 8 Female
- 1 (18-24 years); 13 (25-30 years); 3 (31-40 years); 2 (>40 years)
- Medical profession currently working in:
 - Nurse (6)
 - Resident in ENT (5)
 - Hearing aid assistant (3)
 - Special needs therapist (2)
 - Medical laboratory assistant (1)
 - Speech therapist (1)
 - Resident in General Practitioner (1)

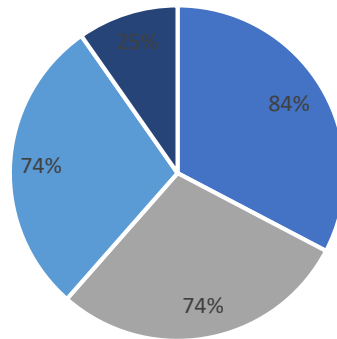
RESULTS: AUDIOLOGICAL SERVICES IN ETHIOPIA

- Are audiological services accessible to people in Ethiopia?
 - 84% = No; 16% = Yes



RESULTS: AUDIOLOGICAL SERVICES IN ETHIOPIA

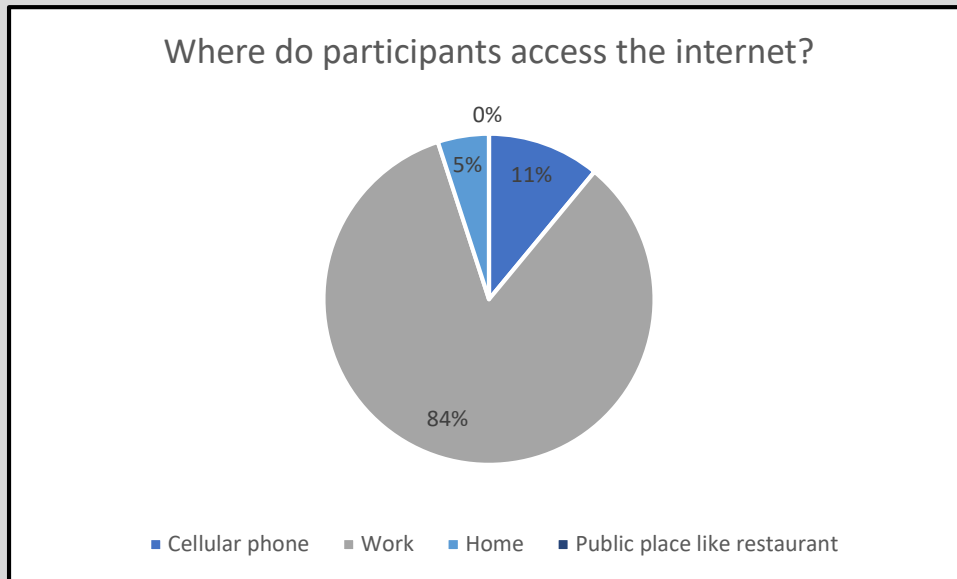
Why services are lacking to Ethiopians



- Lack of trained professionals
- Lack of hospitals and clinics that offer audiological services
- Poor awareness among communities
- Lack of action by government

RESULTS: ONLINE LEARNING IN ETHIOPIA

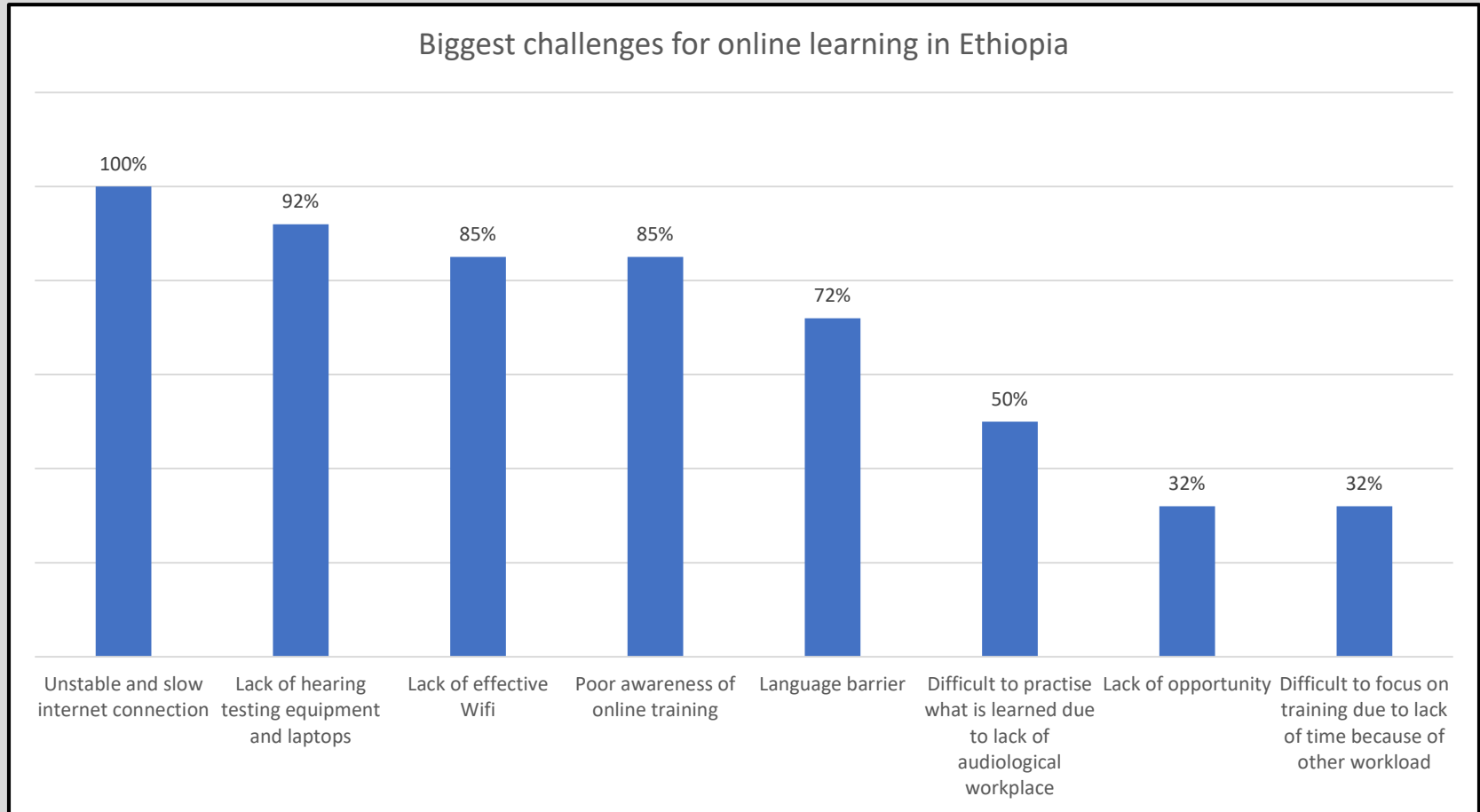
- **Access to fast, reliable internet at home or work:**
 - 53% = No; 47% = Yes



RESULTS: ONLINE LEARNING IN ETHIOPIA

- None of the participants previously obtained a qualification through online education
- **Can an online training program be an effective way to train professionals on how to do hearing tests and hearing aid fittings?**
 - 84% = Yes; 16% = No*
 - *Not only online, practical needs to be included

RESULTS: ONLINE LEARNING IN ETHIOPIA



CONCLUSION

- Results indicate that although reliable internet connection might be a challenge, the majority of participants are confident that an online training program in audiology will benefit service delivery and expand audiological services in Ethiopia.
- An ongoing, online training program is also considered as a means of addressing the need for sustainable service delivery and a manner in which the level of knowledge and skills of current professionals can be expanded.
- Although most of the participants are positive regarding online audiological training, they do feel that online training alone would not be sufficient and that such a program should incorporate a practical component as well.
- Online education in hearing health care can assist with the expansion of audiological service delivery in Ethiopia and further research should be performed to determine the components of such a program.



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