

Dr. Vidya Ramkumar,
Professor, Faculty of Audiology and Speech, Language Pathology

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Personal Profile

Vidya Ramkumar, Ph.D, is a **Professor** and **DBT/ Wellcome Trust fellow in Clinical and Public Health**, at the Faculty of Audiology and Speech, Language Pathology at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU), Chennai.

She has spent the last decade working on developing service delivery models using e-and mhealth tools to bridge gaps in hearing health care services in the underserved regions. She established the **SRESHT lab** in 2020 (*Services To Reach Children With Speech & Hearing Disorders Using Telepractice* [see SRESHT Lab](#)) to pursue implementation research in tele-practice applications for early identification and rehabilitation of childhood communication disorders. She works in collaboration with the Government towards implementation of these services.

She is also involved in development of **low-cost indigenous assistive and testing devices** that can support early identification and rehabilitation of children with developmental and hearing disabilities.

She conducts **training programs routinely for nurses and grass root workers towards early identification of hearing loss and developmental disabilities** and also **assesses public-funded programs for outcomes in her state**.

She is a **Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Professional Research fellow (2014)** and has had several major and minor funded projects including, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), DBT/Wellcome Trust, and CSR grants**.

She has published several papers in international journals in her area of expertise.

Research Interest

1. **Implementation Research in Childhood hearing and communication disorders**
2. **Early detection and intervention of childhood hearing and communication disorders**
3. **Community-based Participatory Research**
4. **M-health/E-health/ Tele-practice**
5. **Affordable Assistive technology**

Team Members

Dr. Vidya Ramkumar: Principal Investigator

Research Collaborators:

Dr. Lakshmi V- Professor, Dept. of Speech Language Pathology, SRIHER

Dr.Subramaniyan.B -Professor & Consultant Speech Language Pathologist,

Sree Balaji Medical College, Chennai

Prof.Roopa Nagarajan – Registrar, SRIHER

Prof.Anil Prabhakar- Professor, IIT Madras

Dr.Shuba Kumar- Social Scientist-Founder Member Samarth

Dr.Mannava Sunny-Health Economist

Research Fellow Ph.D Scholar: Ms.Deepashree Joshi

Project Assistant: Ms.K.Gomathy

Accounts Consultant: Ms.Radhika

NGO Workers: Ms.Susila, Ms.Aarthi



Selected Publications

1. Neethi Jesudass, **Vidya Ramkumar** and Shuba Kumar, (2023) Needs and readiness to use tele-practice for identification and rehabilitation of children with hearing and speech-language disorders: perceptions of public sector care providers in South India. *Early Child Development and Care*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2023.2276660>

2.**Vidya Ramkumar**, Varsha Shankar, Shuba Kumar. (2023) Implementation factors influencing the sustained provision of tele-audiology services: insights from a combined methodology of scoping review and qualitative semistructured interviews. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2023-075430

3.Joshi B, D., **Ramkumar, V.**, Nair, L. S., & Kuper, H. (2023). Early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) programmes for infants and young children in low-income and middle-income countries in Asia: a systematic review. *BMJ paediatrics open*, 7(1), e001752.

4.**Ramkumar V**, Nagarajan R, Shankarnarayan VC, Kumaravelu S, Hall JW. Implementation and evaluation of a rural community-based pediatric hearing screening program integrating in-person and tele-diagnostic auditory brainstem response (ABR). *BMC health services research*. 2019 Dec;19(1):1.

5.**Ramkumar, V.**, John, K.R., Selvakumar, K., Vanaja, C.S., Nagarajan, R., et al, 2018. Cost and outcome of a community-based paediatric hearing screening programme in rural India with application of tele-audiology for follow- up diagnostic hearing assessment Cost and outcome of a community-based paediatric hearing screening programme in rur. *Int. J. Audiol.*, 57(6), p.407-414