

Occupational Performance Problems of the Primary School Children with Special Needs: Preliminary Findings



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Introduction

- Occupation means everyday life activity.
- The task performances of the school children are self-care, work, play, social participation and education.
- Their school performance related activities are dependent on gross motor, fine motor abilities, visual-motor integration, and visual-perceptual skills.
- In Malaysia, students with special needs under category of learning disability (Down syndrome, mild autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder - ADHD, mild intellectual disability and specific learning disabilities) are located in the integrated special education program.
- School-based therapy has been established in developed countries.
- It has not been implemented in Malaysia.
- The evidence for this service requirement in school setting is timely to be explored.

Aims

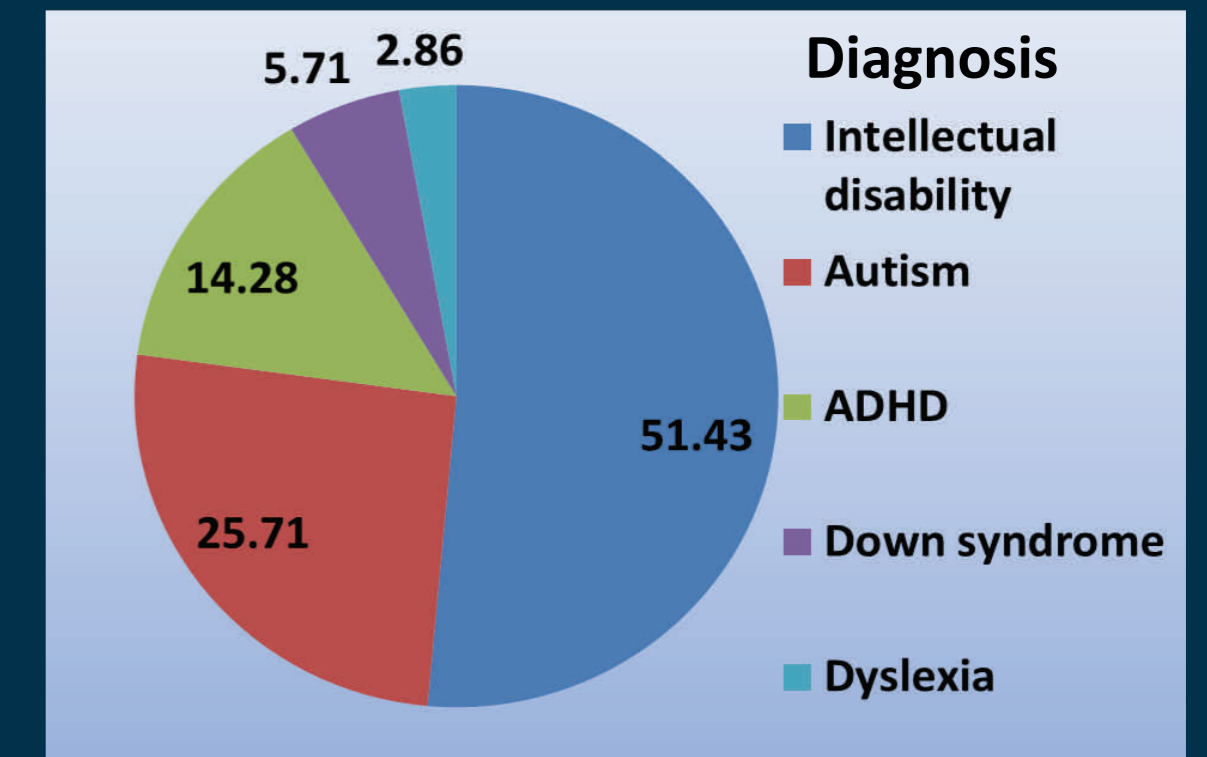
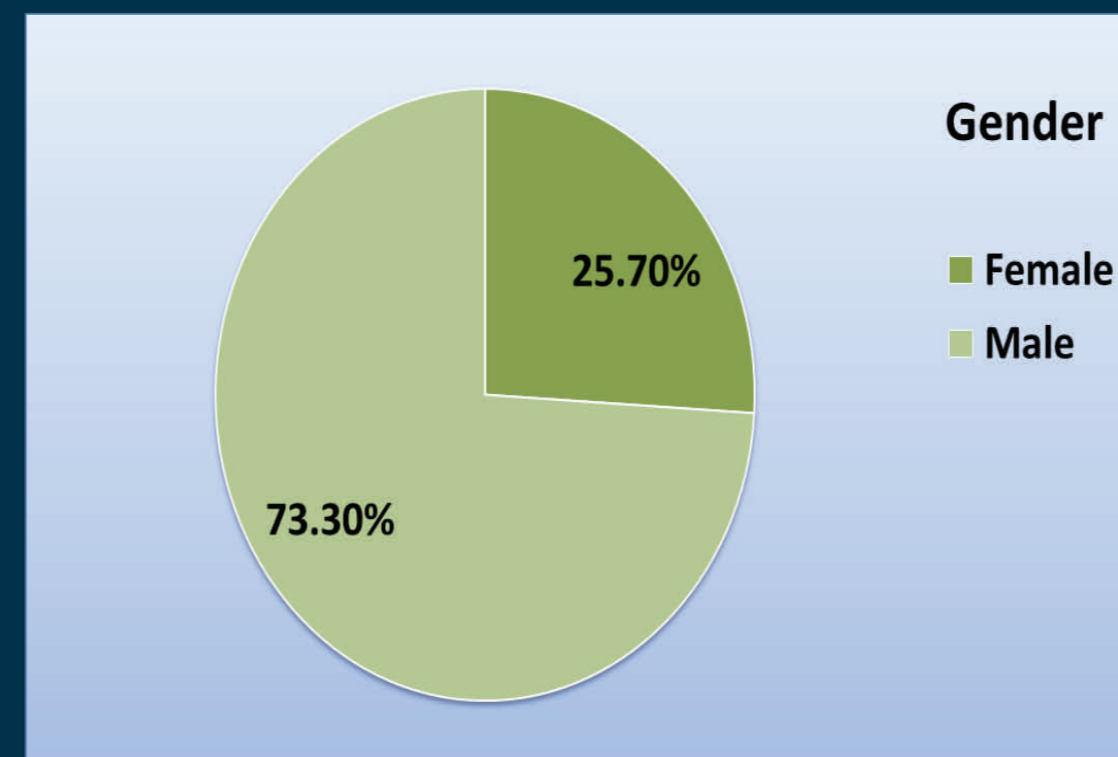
- To identify occupational performance problems of the primary school children with special needs:
visual perceptual, visual motor integration, gross motor development, hand writing skills and school function.

Methods

- This is an exploratory cross sectional study .
- By using purposive sampling, 35 students with learning disability (6-12 years old) from an integrated special education program of a primary school in Penampang, Kota Kinabalu, who can follow the instruction, were included in this preliminary study.
- Ethics approval was obtained from UMS medical research ethics committee.
- Following standardized assessment tools were used.
 1. Motor-Free Visual Perceptual Test 3rd.ed.
 2. Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration 5th.ed.
 3. Test of Gross Motor Development – 2
 4. Test of Hand Writing Skills-Revised
 5. School Function Assessment
- Results were analysed and tabulated by SPSS version 21.

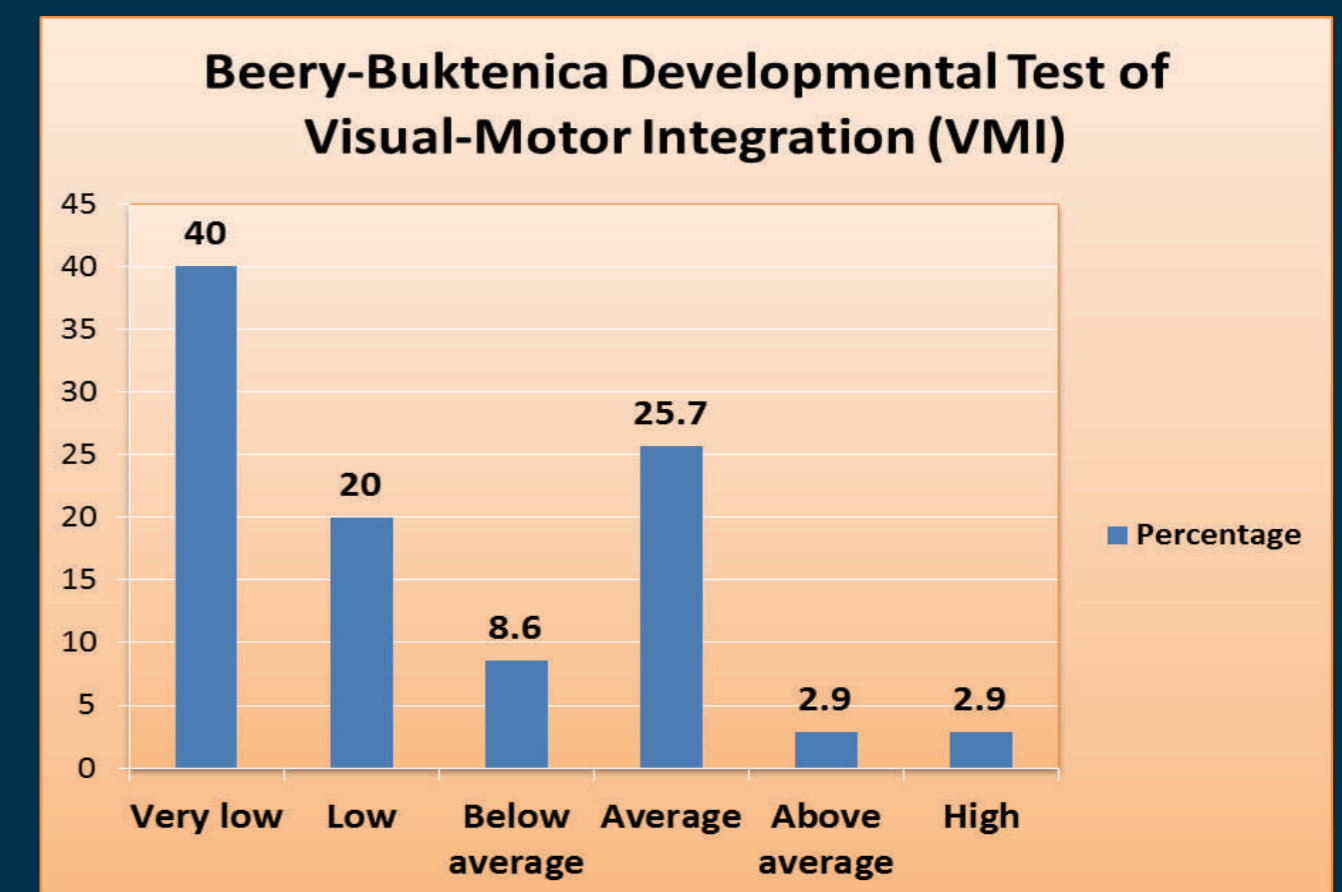
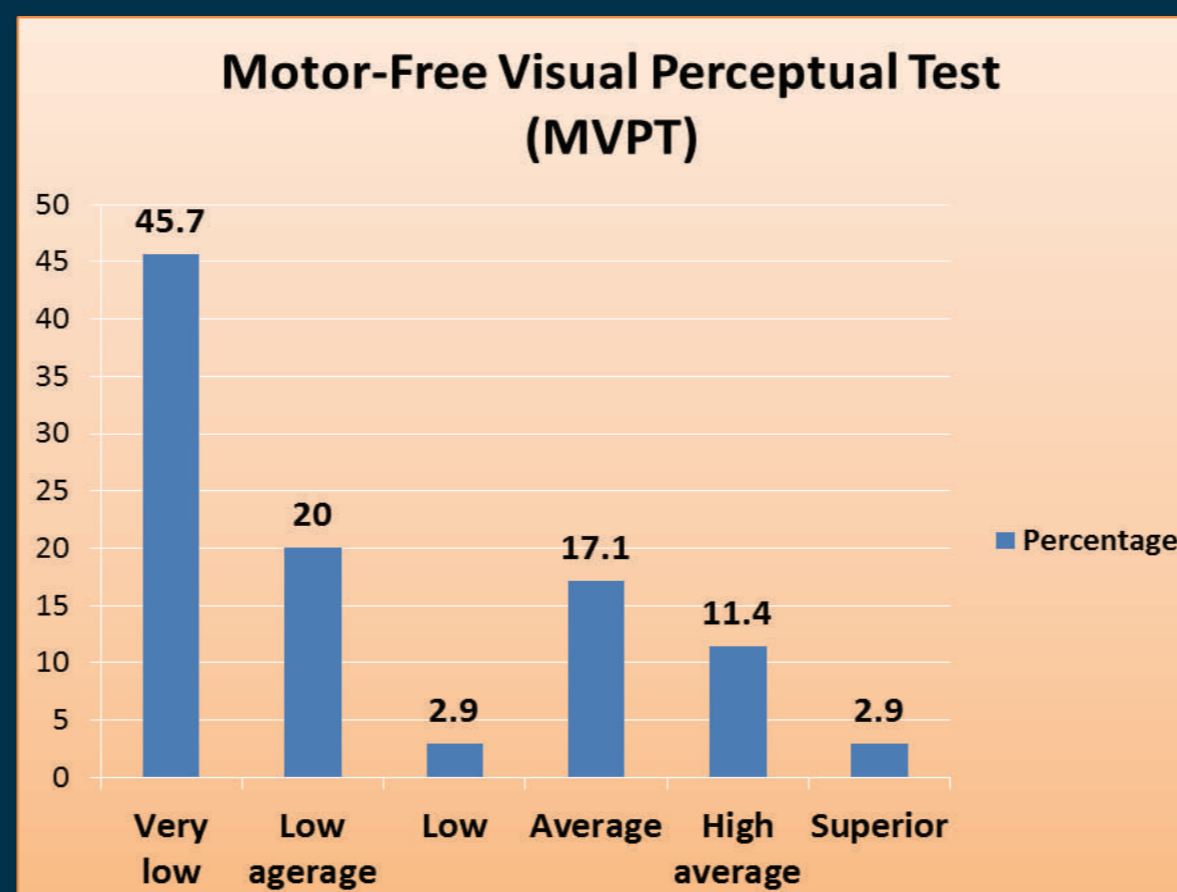
Results

Students Demographic Data

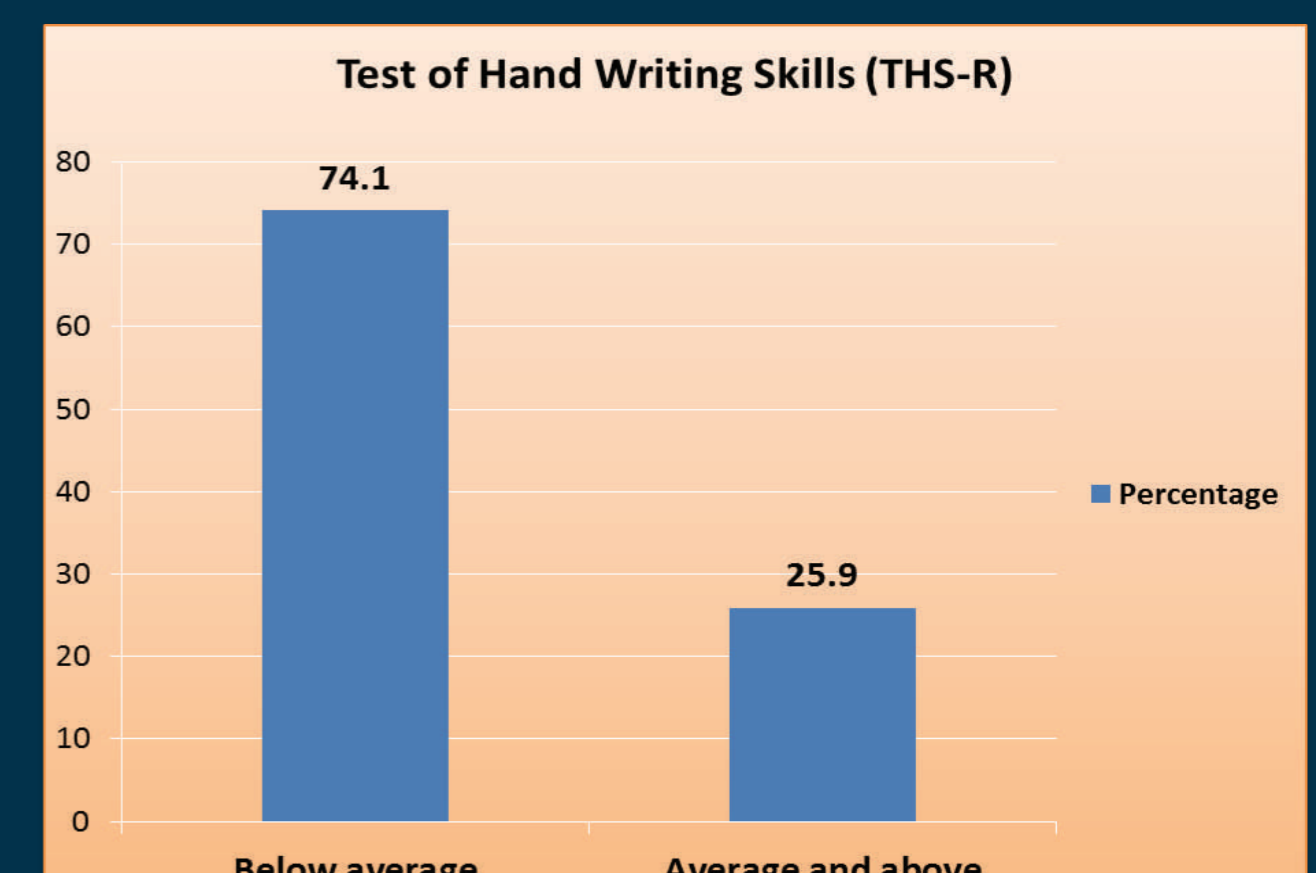
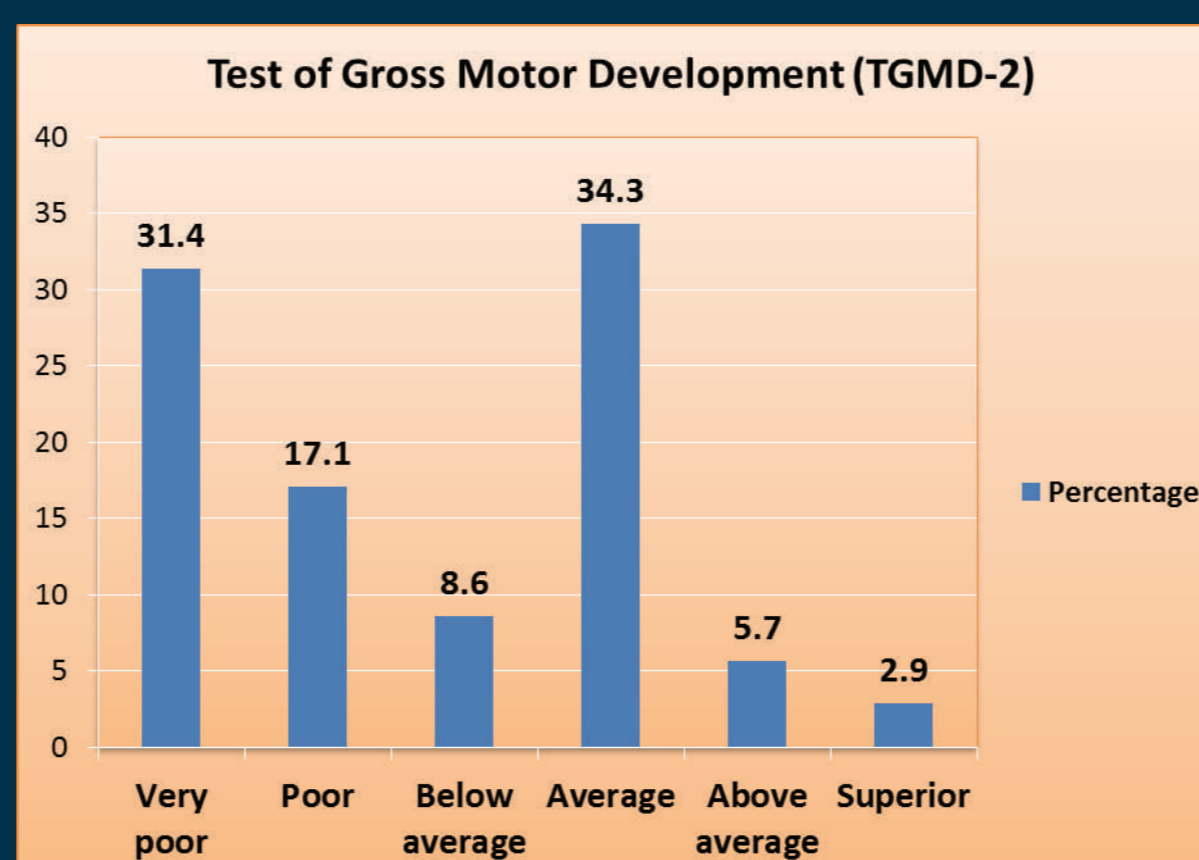
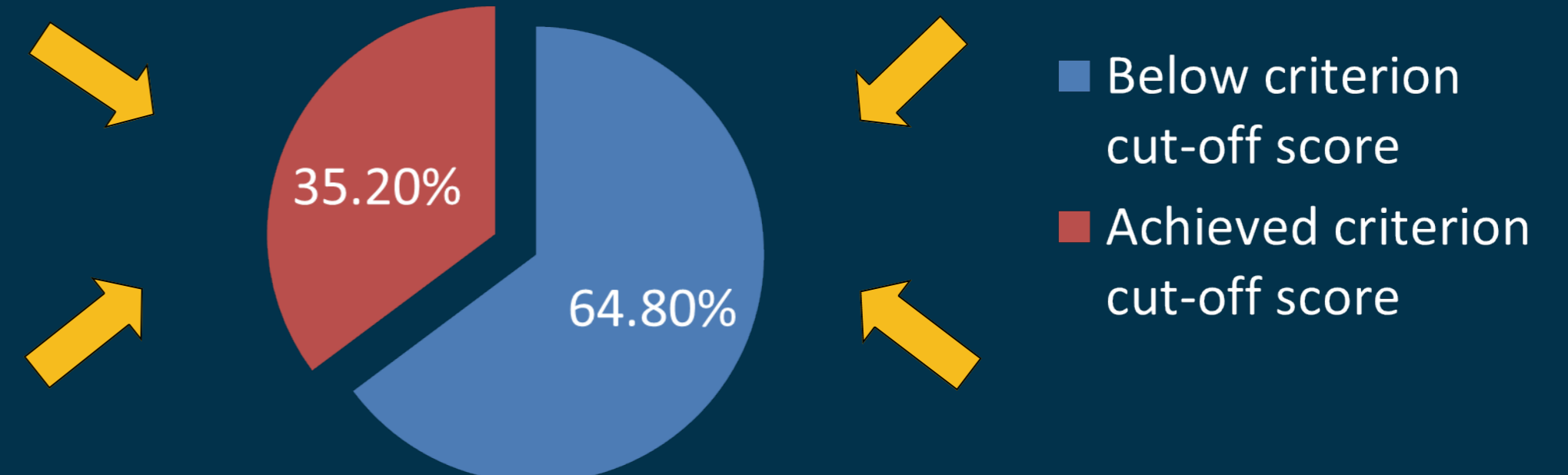


Test Results

Descriptive Results of MVPT, VMI, TGMD-2 and THS-R by classification



School Function Assessment



Conclusion

Study revealed that the students have problems in occupational performance indicating the needs of school-based therapy and other rehabilitation services in the school system.

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