

A CASE STUDY ABOUT THE DISABLED CHILDREN OF MRINALJOYTI, A REHABILITATION CENTRE, DULIAJAN, ASSAM

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Abstract

This paper deals with case study of disabled children of Mrinal Jyoti, A Rehabilitation Centre, Duliajan, Assam. The problem of disabilities are due to some genetic cause and some of the cases are due to social influence, accident, mode of life etc. Individual difference is may be one of the causes for difference in the achievement level.

Keywords: Children, Disabled, Rehabilitation, Handicapped.

Introduction

It is an established fact that even in the age of developed science and technology, a good number of disabled children who are either deprived of normal schooling or other rehabilitation programmes. The problem of disabilities are due to some genetical cause and some of the cases are due to social influence, accident, mode of life etc. Individual difference is may be one of the causes for difference in the achievement level.

Owing to individual difference, children are so distributed that a majority of them may be classified as average or normal. Some children are there who deviate mentally, physically, socially or educationally from normal children. Such children require special educational care and their adjustment problems have to be tackled in an exceptional manner. In the class room teaching-learning process also it is found that children are so distributed that majority of them may be classified as average or normal. Some children are there who deviate mentally, socially, educationally or physically from normal children. Such children require special educational and rehabilitation measure so that their adjustment problems can be tackled in an exceptional manner.

The physically handicapped can be sub-grouped under the category of the crippled, the blind, the deaf and those having defective speech and delicate health. An individual who is affected with a physical impairment that, in any way, limits or inhibits his participation in normal activities may be referred to as physically handicapped.

Blindness is regarded as the most severe and traumatic of the physical handicapped. The visually handicapped have always been the favoured group compared to those with other types of disabilities. Blindness is caused by certain environmental and genetic agents. Verbal communication and speech development through hearing are major sensory pathways for a human being. Auditory defects can be found in either one or both ears.

Communication is the essential feature of interaction. Development of speech and language depends upon the speech mechanism but the psychological environment in which the child lives in. There are physical, social and psychological conditions which greatly affects the normal development of a child. Mental retardation refers to significantly sub- average general intellectual functioning existing concurrently with defects in adopted behaviour and manifested during developmental period. Mental retardation implies important, in intellectual from early life and inadequate mental development through out the growing period.

Gifted children are those whose cognitive abilities place them in the upper 3 to 5 percentage of the population. A gifted child has an IQ of 130 or above. These children have superior cognitive ability, creativeness in thinking and superior talent in specific domains. The gifted are those student whose potential intellectual level in both productive and evaluative thinking that it can be reasonably assumed that they could be the future problem solvers, innovators, and evaluators of the culture if adequate educational experiences are provided.

Slow learners constitute an appropriate fraction of our population. Slow learner is reserved for those children who are unable to cope with the work normally expected of their age group. They need special attention and affection from the part of the guardians as well as from the teachers to bring them into the mainstream.

As the number of deviant students are occupying quite a good percentage in the students community of our society today. These children are far enough below or far enough above the average range. They need specialized attention which is not provided in regular class room. The basic aim of education is to educate all the children irrespective of their nature of development, caste, creed, language etc. So in the democratic country like India, where no inequalities in respect of education either of normal children or exceptional or disabled children, it is

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necessary to find out the ways and means for those lagging behind in normal growth and development to pursuit equal educational opportunities and development of personality and adjustment measures for all categories of students. In the classroom teaching learning process, it is observed that a majority of the students may be classified as average or normal. Some children are there who deviate mentally, socially, educationally or physically from normal children.

In view of the fact mentioned above in respect of exceptional children, the present investigator/ paper presenter being interested in studying about them and has undertaken this study to find out the various underlying causes resulting in behavioural disorders of the disabled group of children, with special reference to the Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre, Duliajan, Assam. The investigator is further interested to find out if there is any difference between the boys and girls with regard to their behaviour and also to study if there is any improvement in their behavioural pattern after joining the Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre, Duliajan. So there is an humble attempt to make a systematic and scientific analysis regarding the behavioural improvement and education of the disabled children.

Objectives of the Study

It is an humble attempt on the part of the paper presenter to study and to find out the following objectives:

- (i) To study of the causes of deviant behaviour,
- (ii) To study if there is any improvement in the behavioural pattern of the children after joining the rehabilitation centre,
- (iii) To find out if there is any difference between boys and girls with regard to their behavioural disorders,
- (iv) To find out the ways and means for further up gradation of present scenario of the disabled children.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was used in the study to collect the pertinent data. The population of this study including all the disabled children of Mrinaljyoti, rehabilitation centre, Duliajan, Assam. A total of 50 disabled children belonging to Mrinaljyoti, rehabilitation centre, Duliajan, Assam, constituted the sample of the study. Stratification of sample was made on the basis of nature of disabilities of children of the rehabilitation centre. After going through related literature a self prepared questionnaire based on various underlying causes of disabilities in relation to their adjustment problems, educational pursuit and social acceptance. Though the tool was self-administering, yet the

investigator explained to the guardian the procedure of filling up the tool. The subject were requested to fill the tool as they understand the tool best and return the same to the investigator at the earliest. After having collected the filled in questionnaire, the tool was analyzed and tabulated systematically for statistical conclusion.

Findings

On the basis of the analysis done and interpretation made of the data the major findings of the study may be enumerated below:

- (I) It is observed that majority of the children suffer from problems such as—they can not walk properly, speech difficulty, most of the time lagging behind in comparison to other children of the same institute and also demonstrate slow learning behaviour.
- (II) The study indicated that most of the children are disabled by birth and not by accident and other environmental reasons. The study also indicated that even though these children are disabled but they are accepted in the society since they get cooperation and sympathy from all concerns.
- (III) As far as the behavioural disorder is concerned the present study has not indicated any specific difference between the boys and girls.
- (IV) There is difference between physically and mentally retarded children in terms of their behavioural disorders as it is indicated by the study that some mentally re4rtarded children are slow learners, autistic where as physically challenged children are incapable of walking properly and also suffer from speech difficulty.
- (V) The study indicate that the majority of children are disabled by birth and their deviant behavioural symptoms are because of their physical disorder such as they unable to walk properly, speak properly, and as a result suffer from inferiority complex. On the other hand children suffering from mental disorder demonstrate slow learning ability, autism etc. and consequently develop inferiority complex in them.
- (VI) It is found that the Mrinaljyoti rehabilitation centre, Duliajan, Assam, is supporting the disabled group of children more or less satisfactorily. Since the teachers of this institute are trained to educate and handle the children with special needs.
- (VII) It is also observed through the study that the infrastructural facilities of the institute are quite satisfactorily and there is scope for further improvement and expansion of

services, since the institute is getting all possible aids from different organization and other agencies such as the Government of Assam, Oil India Limited, Duliajan, a public sector undertaking and other individual as well as NGOs etc. It has also acquired a huge land of 15 bighas from the Government of Assam, which further provided ample scope to extension and improvement.

- (VIII) It is further observed that the disabled children after joining the institute have improved in terms of their behavioural symptoms and other related aspects quite satisfactorily with boarding facilities for children.
- (IX) The study indicated that the institute is lacking in providing facilities such as presence of a full time doctor, trained nurse, adequate play ground which are very much required for this type of children with special needs.
- (X) The study indicated that most of the children are disabled by birth but are socially accepted in all spheres of the society. It also reported that there is a difference between physically and mentally retarded children in terms of their behavioural disorder.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made for further study and investigation:

- (I) Since the present study includes only 50 disabled children of Mrinaljyoti, rehabilitation centre, Duliajan, Assam, selected in the study. Further study in this regard may be done on a large sample of different rehabilitation centre of Assam.
- (II) The present study was conducted only on one rehabilitation centre, similar study may be conducted taking other institute and their impact on disabled children.
- (III) A comparative study also may be conducted on the same subject covering comprehensive areas of multiple disabilities with considering other institutes.
- (IV) A comparative study may also be conducted to have detailed information and necessary activities of different rehabilitation centre with regard to disabled children, orphan children etc.
- (V) Since in the present study only percentage have been calculated for analyzing data, the future researchers may apply some other valid statistical techniques in order to deduce better result, findings and conclusions.

- (VI) Further researchers may use better tools like rating scales etc. for conducting similar types of study, so as to get more reliable and valid results.

Implications

- (I) Since the present study has included 50 disabled children the further study can be extended to a large sample.
- (II) Since the present study is confined to one institute meant for disabled children, it may be extended to some more institutes in future to have comprehensive study.
- (III) A comparative study also may be made about the working of different rehabilitation centre concerning the disabled children.

Conclusion

Based on the present study it can be concluded that the Mrinaljyoti rehabilitation centre, Duliajan, Assam, after establishing here since 1999 has done a great work towards the rehabilitation and training of the disabled children to a high extent. The institute covers seven districts of the state of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The institute has a great impact specially to those family who have disabled children but otherwise there is no scope for them to any rehabilitation programme. All most all the teachers are adequately trained and kind hearted to deal with the children of special needs. A hostel facility is there for the students coming from far away. But it needs special attention from the part of Government both the Central as well as the State as there are several centrally sponsored schemes to extend services to this group of children. The institute may appoint regular registered doctor and other medical as well as Para-medical staff to take more care of the disabled children from medical and psychological point of view.

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