

ADJUSTMENT AND ACADEMIC GROWTH AMONG VISUALLY IMPAIRED SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN

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Abstract: Blindness, for many it's just total lack of vision or a state of being without any form of light perception. However, the WHO (1972) definition includes six different levels of visual impairment and for the same reason we could say that, blindness is more of like a continuum from mild vision loss to total impairment. The present study is an attempt to understand the adjustment behavior of visually impaired students. The data were collected from a sample of 40 visually impaired children 20 boys and 20 girls who were studying in the classes VI to X (age 12 to 16 years) in Tamil Nadu. The descriptive survey method has been adopted for collecting data followed by statistical analysis. The study concludes that there exists no difference between the adjustment behavior of boys and girls with respect to their visual impairment. Academic achievements and adjustment behavior are also shows zero relationship.

Keywords: Visual impairment, adjustment, academic achievement

1. Introduction

Eyes are the windows of soul as by the old sayings. Majority of the information goes to the brain via the visual channels only. So Visual impairments change the way children access information about the world around them and limit their opportunities to learn through observation in the school curriculum. When the way of accessing information around them changes the outcome of processing too changes naturally. Too many children with visual impairment are forced by themselves to leave the school due to the difficulties they face every day. This raises anxious question about the very right to education for each and every children of our country. The social movements and consequent developments paved a new way for the under privileged of our society and of course is a matter to be proud of. Recent survey by NCERT's eighth all-India school education survey has reported that there is a rise in enrolment (17.36%) of visually challenged children in schools between 2002 and 2009 (June 9, 2016, TOI). The survey also revealed that there were 2.5 lakh visually challenged students among 8.35 lakh differently-abled. Prof. Yagnamurthy Sreekanth Head, Educational Survey Division of NCERT is attributing the reasons as increased rate of school check ups and popularization

of pulse polio programme. Unfortunately the number of inclusive schools for these population stands as 2,74,445 (21.11%) out of 12,99,902 schools in the country.

Most of the institutions for visually impaired are urban based. Children who live in the rural areas are getting not enough resources. As per the definition of WHO we could go for two different categories of visually impaired people. They are low vision and no vision. Children who have Low vision are able to work with magnifying glass as they have visual acuity more than 20/200. Children with no vision are working with Braille script for academic reading and understanding.

2. Significance of the study

Indian constitution ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity for all of her people. Visual impairment is a minority and the nature of the problems they are facing differs from others. The research studies on them will ultimately help us to bridge the gap between the visually impaired and the non-impaired. It has been understood that even with disabilities people can lead a better life. The existing review of literature points towards the lack of Indian studies in this area. There are studies related to self-concept and self-esteem of visually impaired children. There exists dearth of studies in the field of visually impairment and self-sufficient behavior. Adjustment is such factors that make one to adapt to the needs and wants of their situations and surroundings. The present study is worthwhile in this regard and the number of visually impaired children in Tamilnadu is too high to pour attention. Govt. of Tamilnadu is not able to cater the demands of the entire population though they are doing their level best. Against this backdrop the researcher is motivated to study the adjustment problems of school going children in Tamilnadu.

3. Statement of the Problem

The present study is entitled as “Adjustment, an impeding factor for academic growth among Visually Impaired School going children”.

4. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were:

1. To study the adjustment pattern of visually impaired school children.
2. To find the relationship between adjustment and academic achievement
3. To find whether significant interaction exists between adjustment and level of educational aspirations of visually handicapped school children with academic achievement as the dependent variable.

5. Hypotheses of the Study

The study is designed to achieve the following hypotheses:

- a. The scores of adjustment, level of educational aspirations, and academic achievement are normally distributed.
- b. There is a no significant difference in adjustment, level of educational aspirations and academic achievement of boys and girls visually handicapped children.
- c. There is no significant relationship between adjustment and Level of educational aspirations.

6. Materials and Methods

6.1 Method

The descriptive survey method is used in the present study.

6.2 Population

The population of the present study comprised of all the students of classes VI to X studying in Schools for visually impaired in Tamilnadu.

6.3 Sample

For the present study, the sample is comprised of 40 visually impaired children 20 boys and 20 girls who are studying in the classes VI to X (age 12 to 16 years) in different schools of Tamilnadu has been selected through simple random technique.

6.4 Tools Used

The following tools are used for the present study:

- (a) Adjustment Inventory of A. K. P Sinha and R. P. Singh
- (b) Level of Educational Aspiration of J. C. Soni.
- (c) School Record for Academic Achievement.

6.5 Statistical Techniques Used

In the present study the investigator has used median, standard deviation and Spearman correlation, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, Mann-Whitney U-test, and Multiple Regression. The calculations are done by using SPSS package.

7. Delimitations of the Study

1. Unable to generalize the findings as the sample size is limited with confined age group.
2. Qualitative techniques were not used for data collection.

8. Findings and Conclusions

Based on analysis of data following results were found out:

- a. The adjustment of visually handicapped boys and girls are found similar on overall adjustment.
- b. The study also reported both visually handicapped boys and girls possess same level of educational aspirations.
- c. The results of the study further show that visually handicapped boys and girls do not differ significantly in respect of academic achievement.
- d. The study revealed that there exist no relationship between adjustment and level of educational aspirations.
- e. The study revealed that there exist no relationship between adjustment and academic achievement of visually handicapped children.

9. Recommendations

In order to help teachers, policy makers, parents and people who work for visually impaired the following recommendations are made.

- a. Developing and designing adjustment oriented skill development programme.
- b. Interactive sessions inside the class to understand about the value of adjustment.
- c. Emotional Intelligence development programme for making parents toward a better adjustment and coping up skills.
- d. Adequate stimulation inside the class rooms in order to make them more compatible with tactile and auditory stimulus.
- e. Implementation of integrative curriculum for visually impaired with sighted peer to make the more adaptable with the daily life requirements.
- f. Conducting educational programmes and vocational activities as part of the school curriculum.

10. Suggestion for Future Research

This study tried to understand visual impairment alone. So future attempts can be oriented for people with multiple disabilities. Also intervention techniques and it's moderation on the variables selected can also be another area to focus on.

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