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EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION OF PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN – A comparative study



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Today's world is world of science and technology. The advancement in this field is affecting all the fields and education is not an exception. The old aims and concepts are being replaced by new aims and concepts. Today the emphasis is on the overall development of an individual, giving him all the opportunities to develop to his fullest. Due to this view it is now realized that education is a concept philosophically evolved, psychologically developed and socially based. In the words of Swami Vivekananda, "Education is the manifestation of the perfection that is already in man." It means that there is a self in man, which is self-contained and is a part of the universal reality. The purpose of education is to make man aware of this cosmic power in him and enable him to draw this out to lead a complete life. The term education; however is the deliberate and conscious efforts exerted by the state, society, school and home towards the welfare of the growing child in order to mould him into a being who will fit in the society in which he is to live.

It is universal truth that all children are different basically from each other physically, mentally, educationally and socially up to a limit. Exceptional individuals are different both in their nature and kind of potentiality. The question thus arises, who are exceptional children? To understand this it is necessary to first define exceptional children.

An exceptional child may be defined as one who deviates physically, intellectually and socially so market from normal growth and development that he can not be benefited from regular classroom programme

and needs special treatment in school.

Exceptional children are classified into following groups :-

a) Mentally exceptional children. b) Emotionally exceptional children. c) Physically handicapped children. d) Socially handicapped children. e) Multi handicapped children.

The present study is dealing with physically handicapped children. An individual who is affected with a physical impairment that in any way, limits or inhibits his/her participation in normal activities may be referred to as physically handicapped.

Physically handicapped persons are divided as –

a) Visually handicapped. b) Orthopedically handicapped. c) Speech handicapped. d) Acoustically handicapped. The study is conducted on two type of physically handicapped children. They are visually handicapped and deaf and dumb children. The visually handicapped children are those who have problems with vision. Hearing impairment refers to a defect or damage to the hearing mechanism. Due to hearing impairment the child becomes unable to hear, speak and acquire language. Thus, a child may become dumb largely because he is deaf. The children with disability show maladjustment within their peer group and also with the society. They need special care and training to cope up with this problem. They should have real goal in their life as it will help them to adjust properly in the society. The present study is done to know the level of aspiration of visually and deaf and dumb children in educational field.

The concept of level of aspiration was developed Kurt Lewin. Level of Aspiration is the standard a person expects and hopes to reach in a given performance. It is the discrepancy between his achieved and stated goals. It may be realistic in the sense that the person has a good chance of success or it may be unrealistic if his chance of reaching the stated goal is in doubt. The factors which affect the level of aspiration are success and failure, motivation, school environment, past experiences, values, parental ambitions, culture etc.

Need of the study –The physically handicapped children are the exceptional children. Though they are exceptional children but they have the same characteristics as that of the normal children. The only difference is that they lack the vision or hearing or speech power. Due to their differences the physically handicapped children have variations among them also. Hence they have certain limitations in their life. If they aspire without considering their limitations they can become the victims of frustration and maladjustment. Many a times the society compares the different physically handicapped children without considering their limitations and it results into higher expectations and wrong setting of goals. Hence there is a need to know the aspirations of these children and also to compare different physically handicapped children, so that they can be directed into right direction for their all round development and also for the betterment of society and nation.

Objectives of the study –1. To compare the educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb children. 2. To compare the educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb boys. 3. To compare the educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb girls.

Review of Related Literature – The following research works were related to the study.

Muthayya, B.C. (1960) conducted a study on adolescents to study the level of aspiration and its relation to modes of reaction to frustration. The major findings were : aspiration was set above the past performance in all cases, the educational level had no influence over one's aspiration level and there was negligible correlation between aspiration and school

achievement.

Prakash, V. (1984) conducted a study of the factors affecting level of aspiration. He found in his study that area and sex as single variable did not show any significant difference on the level of aspiration. Area, sex, risk-taking and locus of control together showed significant interaction on level of aspiration.

Mathur, Abha (1985) conducted a comparative study between crippled and normal children to check their adjustment problems, level of aspiration, self concept and academic achievement. The major finding was that significant differences were found between crippled and normal children with respect to level of aspiration measured in terms of goal discrepancy score.

Suman, S. (1986) conducted a socio-psychological study on female students to study their goals and aspirations. The major findings are : unmarried girls had significantly higher educational goals than married girls and father's education, economic status, self concept of academic ability, academic motivation had significant positive association with educational goals. The studies taken up so far are based on the level of aspiration of normal children. One study is taken up as a comparison between crippled and normal children but no study has been conducted on the physically handicapped children. Hence the investigator took this problem as the study.

Methodology - The present study is qualitative descriptive research, which was qualitative methods to describe what is, describing, recording, analyzing and interpreting conditions that exists. The survey method is used to study the level of aspiration of physically handicapped children. Survey study are conducted to collect detailed description of existing phenomena with the intent of employing data to justify current conditions. The dependent variable in the study is level of aspiration and the independent variable is physically handicapped children. The sample in this study is group of 15 visually handicapped and 15 deaf and dumb children. The sample was chosen by the purposive sampling method. The tool used for collecting data was self made interview schedule and a formal interview was conducted to record the data.

Analysis and Interpretation – To analyse the data frequency and percentage were calculated. The findings are reported objective wise -

Objective 1 - To compare the education aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf & dumb children.

Table 1 - Comparison of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb children wrt educational aspirations

S. No.	Course Aspired	Visually handicapped		Deaf & Dumb = 15	
		No. of children	%age	No. of children	%age
1.	Class X	0	0	2	13.33
2.	Class XII	2	13.33	13	86.33
3.	Graduation	10	66.66	0	0
4.	Post Graduation	3	20	0	0

From the data obtained we can say that the level of educational aspiration of visually handicapped children are high in comparison to deaf and dumb children. Majority of visually handicapped children have aspired to complete graduation whereas deaf and dumb have aspired to complete class XII. This difference is because of their limitation. The visually handicapped children have the awareness of what is going around them. They get proper guidance, motivation and care from their teachers and hence they are able to aspire to such an extent. The visually handicapped children those who have aspired to study up to class XII are those who have come new to the institution and they are still adjusting with the change and exploring new horizons. The children those who have aspired very high i.e. they want to complete post graduation have a good educational background. The

deaf and dumb children have aspired only for class XII. The reason behind this is that, due to their disability they lack behind in communication power. This hinders them in finding new opportunities for themselves. The atmosphere of their institutions is also not so motivating as compared to visually handicapped children. The teachers are also few hence they are not able to give that much attention on the students. The finding reveals that the visually handicapped children have high aspiration in comparison to deaf and dumb children but both have realistic aspirations or which could be achieved by them. Both have aspired according to their potentialities.

Objective 2 – To compare the educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf & dumb boys.

Table 2 – Educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb boys.

S. No.	Course Aspired	Visually handicapped boys = 10		Deaf & Dumb boys = 15	
		No. of children	%age	No. of children	%age
1.	Class X	0	0	2	20
2.	Class XII	2	20	8	80
3.	Graduation	5	50	0	0
4.	Post Graduation	3	30	0	0

The findings reveal that the educational aspirations of visually handicapped boys are higher than the deaf and dumb boys. The reason behind this is that the factor which affects aspiration most is personality and communication skill. The more the interaction the more is aspiration. In this respect, the visually handicapped boys are more communicative with others but deaf and dumb boys are not so and thus it causes an effect on their educational aspirations. The visually handicapped children lack behind only in mobility. They have communication skill same as that of normal children hence they can comprehend things very easily. The deaf and dumb children have the main problem in their communication skill. They can communicate with only those people who know the sign language and that is know only by few people, hence their area for communication is confined. A normal person feels handicapped in communicating with them. The data shows that though the educational aspiration of deaf and dumb children are low with respect to visually handicapped but it is realistic.

Objective 3 –To compare the educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb girls.

Table 3 – Educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb girls.

S. No.	Course Aspired	Visually handicapped girls = 5		Deaf & Dumb girls = 5	
		No. of Girls	%age	No. of Girls	%age
1.	Class X	0	0	5	100
2.	Class XII	5	100	0	0

The findings shows that the educational aspirations of visually handicapped and deaf and dumb girls are different. The deaf and dumb girls have aspired

only for class XII and visually handicapped girls have aspired for graduation. The difference is due to their limitations and also because of their atmosphere. In majority of our families the emphasis is on the education is a secondary issue The institutes of these special children are less so the families are not able to send them to the schools. The parents are in the view that they are getting their daughter educated so that she may be able to read and write and not for vocational purposes. This low expectation from the parents side also causes a hindrance in the educational aspirations. The educational aspirations of visually handicapped girls are high as compared to deaf and dumb girls but both have realistic aspirations.

Conclusion – The educational aspirations of visually handicapped children are high as compared to the deaf and dumb children. But both have realistic aspirations means that can be achieved by them. The have made aspirations keeping in view their limitations. The visually handicapped children have high aspirations as they have got an atmosphere which is very supportive and motivating. The teachers and parents are giving proper guidance and care which in makes them more self reliant and more prepared to face the challenges of the live.

The deaf and dumb children lack the communication skill. this make them less interactive. Their limitation hinder them to comprehend the things around them. The atmosphere which they get in their school is not very motivating as compared to visually handicapped children. The changes should be made in the education system and a more encouraging and supportive environment should be provided by the teachers and parents so that deaf and dumb children could also aspire to their fullest.

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