
RESEARCH METHOD: A STUDY OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

Radhamani T R
(Research scholar,
Department of tribal studies,
Kannada University, Hampi, Karnataka)

Introduction :

The present research work is “A STUDY OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN OF TUMKUR” This study is new and aimed to examine the theoretical and field based aspects of mentally retarded children of mentally retarded school of Tumkur of Karnataka.

Mentally retardation is a challenging problem in these days. People of different community, different region, cast, creed, and class might have been suffered from mental retardation. There is no age bar to this problem. And illness may take shorter period and longer period to be cured. Expert doctors can take suitable decisions to cure the mental problem.

Mental retardation is big challenge to medical department. It is possible to diagnose the disease. Some other times it is impossible to diagnose. Mental diseases are different as per the individual's physical and mental strength. Some times some patients use to react in a good manner to the doctor's prescription. Some other times it is impossible to react in a good way to the patients.

Mental retardation may be cured by some suitable psychological treatments proper medicine can be cured the disease. expert doctors can take suitable steps to cure the mental diseases of the patient. Mental patient is naturally abnormal. He or she may be treated in a possible curable way.

Suitable education is one remedy to treat the mental patients. The learning process of the mentally challenged is naturally slow. Their power of concentration is very week. That must be strengthened. Proper guidance, education, medication is useful in this respect.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

1. It is aimed to study the nature of mental retardation in general.
2. It is aimed to study the different aspects mental retardation.
3. It is aimed to study the meaning and character of mentally retarded children .
4. It is intended to study the nature of culture mentally retarder's parents.
5. It is intended to study the problem solving of mentally retarded.
6. It is intended to study the relation between child and mentally retardation.
7. It is aimed to study the relation between mentally retarded and their parents.
8. It is intended to study the day to day reaction of mentally retarded parents.

MAJOR CONCEPTS OF THE STUDY :

There are three major concepts in this study. They are **1.Child 2.Mentally retarded 3.Parents**. We can briefly go through the concepts in the following way.

Child: A child is a human between the stages of birth and puberty. The legal definition of “child” generally refers to a minor; otherwise known as a person younger than the age of majority. “Child” may also describe a relationship with a parent or authority figure. Or signify group membership in a clan, tribe, or religion; it can also signify being strongly affected by a specific time, place, or circumstance, as in “a child of nature” or “a child of the Sixties.”

The United Nations on the Right of the Child defines a child as “every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.” Biologically, a child is anyone in the developmental stage of childhood, between infancy and adulthood.

Social attitudes toward children differ around the world in various cultures. These attitudes have changed over time. A 1988 study on European attitudes toward the centrality of children found that Italy was more child-centric and Holland less child-centred. With other countries, such as Austria, Great Britain, Ireland and West Germany falling in between.

The age at which children are considered responsible for their own actions has also changed over time, and this is reflected in the way they are treated in courts of law. In Roman times, children were regarded as not culpable for crimes. A position later adopted by the church. In the nineteenth century, children younger than seven years old were believed incapable of crime. Children from the age of seven were considered responsible for their actions. Therefore, they could face criminal charges, be sent to adult prison, and be punished like adults by whipping, branding or hanging.

Surveys have found that at least 25 countries around the world have no specified age of compulsory education. Minimum employment age and marriage age also vary. In at least 125 countries, children age 7-15 may be taken to court and risk imprisonment for criminal acts. In some countries, children are legally obliged to go to school until they are 14 to 16 years old, but may also work before that age. A child's right to education is threatened by early marriage, child labor and imprisonment.

All children go through stages for social development. The infant or very young child will play alone happily. If another child wanders onto the scene, he may be physically attacked or pushed out of the way. Next, the child is able to play with another child, gradually learning to share and take turns. In kindergarten, he or she is usually able to join in and enjoy group experiences.

Children with ADHD and learning disabilities may need extra help in developing social skills. The impulsiveness characteristic of an ADHD child may lead to poor peer relationships. Children with poor attention span may not tune in to the social cues in their environment, making it difficult for them to learn social skills through experience.

There was a time when one pitied a mentally retarded child and its parents, that thinking has now vanished. The emphasis today is to counsel, educate and bring up the mentally retarded child in such a way that he or she can stand shoulder to shoulder along with its contemporaries and face the everyday problems of life with confidence and skill. That is the role that this book will play in the lives of those parents who have mentally retarded children. Teachers who teach such students and counselors who have to work with such students. It explains many new principles, methods and procedures that help the child to develop its inherent skill and talent, and also its intelligence, which, just because it is retarded, does not mean that it cannot be helped grow and develop.

Mentally retarded: Mental retardation is a generalized disorder, characterized by significantly impaired cognitive functioning and deficits in two or more adaptive behaviors with onset before the age of 18. Once focused almost entirely on cognition, the definition now includes both a component relating to mental functioning and one relating to individual's functional skills in their environment.

The term "mental retardation" is a diagnostic term designed to capture and standardize a group of disconnected categories of mental functioning such as "idiot" "imbecile", and "moron" derived from early IQ tests, which acquired pejorative connotations in popular discourse over time. The term "mental retardation" has itself now acquired some pejorative and shameful connotation over the last few decades due to the use of "retarded" as an insult. This may in turn have contributed to its replacement with expressions such as "mentally challenged" or "intellectual disability" while "developmental disability" may be considered to subsume other disorders. "developmental disability" or "developmental delay" (for people under age 18), are generally considered more acceptable terms than "mental retardation" among members of the disability community.

Parent: A Parent is a mother or father; one who sires or gives birth to and/or nurtures and raises an offspring. The different roles of parents vary throughout the tree of life. And are especially complex in human culture.

The term **biological parent** refers to a parent who is the biological mother or father of an individual. While an individual's parents are often also their biological parents, it is seldom used unless there is an explicit difference between who acted as a parent for that individual and the person from whom they inherit half of their genes. For example, a person whose father has remarried may call his new wife their mother. For example, a person whose father

has remarried may call his new wife their stepmother and continue to refer to their mother normally, though someone who has had little or no contact with their biological mother may address their father as their mother, and their biological mother as such, or perhaps by her first name.

Parental testing :

A paternity test is conducted to prove paternity, that is whether a man is the biological father of another individual. This may be relevant in view of right and duties of the father. Similarly, a maternity test can be carried out. This is less common, because at least during childbirth and pregnancy, except in the case of a pregnancy involving embryo transfer or egg donation, it is obvious who the mother is. However, it is used in a number of events such as legal battles where a person's maternity is challenged, where the mother is uncertain because she has not seen her child for an extended period of time, or where deceased persons need to be identified.

Although not constituting completely reliable evidence. Several congenital traits such as attached earlobes, the widow's peak, or the cleft chin, may serve as tentative indicators of (non-) parenthood as they are readily observable and inherited via autosomal - dominated genes.

A more reliable way to ascertain parenthood is via DNA analysis (known as genetic fingerprinting of individuals. Although older methods have included ABO blood group typing. Analysis of various other proteins and enzymes, or using HLA antigens. The current techniques for paternity testing are using polymer chain reaction (PCR) and restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP). For the most part however, genetic fingerprinting has all but taken over all the other forms of testing.

Parent-offspring conflict :

Parent offspring conflict describes the evolutionary conflict arising from difference in optimal fitness of parents and their offspring. While parents tend to maximize the number of offspring. The offspring can increase their fitness by getting a greater share of parental investment often by competing with their siblings. The theory was proposed by Robert Trivers in 1974 and extends the more general selfish gene theory and has been used to explain many observed biological phenomena. For example, in some bird species, although parents often lay two eggs and attempt to raise two or more young, the strongest fledgling takes a greater share of the food brought by parents and will often kill the weaker sibling, an act known as siblicide.

David Haig has argued that human fetal genes would be selected to draw more resources from the mother than it would be optimal for the mother to give, an hypothesis that has received empirical support. The placenta, for example, secretes allosteric hormones that decrease the sensitivity of the mother to insulin and thus make a larger supply of blood sugar

available to the fetus. The mother responds by increasing the level of insulin in her blood stream, the placenta has insulin receptors that stimulate the production of insulin degrading enzymes which counteract this effect.

METHOD OF THE STUDY

Present research is done on the base of some specific methods which are used in sociology. Several methods are used in social since to undertake research work. The following methods of research are very popular in social sciences. They are the scientific method or experimental method, the historical method, the comparative or anthropological method, inverse deductive method, the ideal type method, the statistical method, sociometry, the social survey method, the case study method, interview method, the public opinion method, the verstehen method, functionalism or structural functional method etc..

At present it is used the scientific method to develop the research subject. It is intended to use INTERVIEW METHOD to elaborate the research. Interview method is a method of research which helps to visit somebody or related person for research and with the help of that the researcher can get responses to the related questions. The researcher here tries to get exhaustive information by the interviewee and it will helpful to interpret the research objectives. Interview is an intuition. The researcher goes deeper in the mind of the interviewee. The interviewee has to answer to the questions of the researcher one by one. The researcher tries to get answers to his research questions with friendly. Politely and intelligently. There may be a kind of cordial relationship at the time of interview in between the researcher and interviewee.

In the present research work several questions have been asked to the interviewee and come out with answers to the research questions. They have been utilized in the interpretation of research data.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The present research work is primarily based on the data collection. This work is theoretical in nature has well field oriented. The secondary sources of data have been collected with the help of books and articles of distinguished scholars. Data from the theoretical books, journals, bulletins have been collected. There is a little scope to collect primary data that is from field work. Several students of different collages have been met to execute the interview schedule. Different theories and experimental have been used to analyze the relation between the concepts.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The present research work is used the descriptive as well as diagnostic method of analysis. It means analyzing the theoretical aspects in the descriptive method is the major indicator of this method.

There or no other methods such as, explanatory, experimental etc.. the analysis of collected data on the theoretical aspects will help to understand the thematic nature of the concepts and interrelated ideologies.

The analysis of the research concepts in a distinguished or interrelated manner will help to understand the whole idea. Field data would be helpful to understand the nature of the mentally retarded their education and parents. Statistical analysis method is also used to some extent.

CONCLUSION

The present research work is “A study of mentally retarded children :- This study is new and aimed to examine the theoretical and field based aspects of mentally retarded children of mentally retarded school of Tumkur in Karnataka.

Mentally retardation is challenging problem in these days. People of different community, different region, caste creed and class might have been suffered from mental retardation there is no age bar to this problem. All illness may takes shorter period or longer period to be cured. Mental retardation is big challenge to medical department.

REFERENCE :

- Kearny PM.Griffin T. Between joy and sorrow: Being a parent of a child with developmental disability. 2001;34:582-92.
- Ramey SL. Keltner B. family adaptation and challenges: multiple perspectives. Psychiatry 1996;9:322-7.
- Goldbart J, Mukharjee S. the appropriateness of western models of parent involvement in calcutta, india. Part-1: parents view on teaching and child development. Child care health and development 1999;25:335-47.
- Akkok F, an over view of parent training and counseling with the parents of children with mental disabilities and autism in Turkey. 1994;17:129-38.
- Karayanni M. counseling parents with a down's syndrome child. Counseling 1989;12:153-64.
- McGaw S, Ball K, Clark A. the effect of group intervention on the relationships of parents with intellectual disabilities. Intellect disability 2002;15:354-66.
- Holroyd J & Guthrie D. (1979), stress in families with neuro-muscular disease. journal of clinical psychology. 35,734.
- Hannam C. (1975) parents and mentally handicapped children. London: penguin.
- WHO, 1980: international classification of impairments, disabilities and handicaps. Geneva: world health organization;1980.
- Datta SS, Russel PS, Gopalakrishna SC. Burden among the caregivers of children with intellectual disability: associated risk factors. 2002;6:337-50.