

Behavior of Parents Towards Physically Handicapped Children

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to assess the behavior of parents towards physically handicapped children in Faisalabad city by interview method. There are three institutions; 1) Al-Faisal Centre for blind, 2) Mike deaf and dumb and 3) Sir Syed Special education centre for physically disable children. It was decided to contact the parents of the children of the above mentioned institutions. A list along with the home addresses of these children were collected from these institutions. A major proportion of the respondents had intermediate to graduation levels of education. About 30% of the respondent's children suffered from deaf and dumb and blind. Majority of the respondents said that their children were physical handicapped since birth.

Key Words: Parents; Handicapped; Children; Disable; Disease

INTRODUCTION

Disability could be visible or invisible, temporary or permanent. The first major and systematic records of disabled persons in Pakistan are available from 1961 census. According to this record nearly 2% of the population suffered from all kinds of disabilities, particularly the children of age group 0-14 years (Govt. of Pakistan, 1981). After the initial crisis, many parents develop healthy and constructive attitude towards their handicapped children (David, 1978). As many as 70% population of Pakistan lives in rural areas so majority of the children are born and brought up there (Perveen, 2000). The overall condition of our villages gives their life as start with multiple disadvantages. They suffer from illness caused by malnutrition and non-hygienic condition.

The situation of handicapped children is far from satisfactory. The causes of this tragedy are poverty, ignorance, malnutrition, poor housing facilities, inadequate healthcare and environment act as a catalyst for infection. Good physical and mental growth can not be achieved in an environment where there is poverty and misery, food and shelter is inadequate and health services are either lacking or are extremely inadequate. The adverse social, economic and environmental conditions can be considered responsible for the poor intellectual performance of many children, who in more favorable environment could develop abilities within a spectrum.

Parents in every society play complex roles in training and socialization of their children. These responsibilities become more difficult, perplexing and arduous in the case of mentally retarded children. The parents of a handicapped child face more problems than normal ones in terms of medical care and upbringing. Along with affection, guidance and control one gives to any child, he also needs help in the unusual problems.

The behavior of the general public is very disappointing towards the disables. However, their friends, neighbors, and street fellows are very helpful, they play with them, but some times they also start misbehaving and pass harsh and rude remarks. Whenever they commit any mistake, even when the mentally handicap tries to become over smart and clever people start teasing them and pass different names.

The objectives of this study were to find out 1) socio-economic characteristics of respondent, 2) attitude of parents toward physically disabled children, 3) problems faced by the parents of disabled children in their rehabilitation and 4) suggestion to resolve the problems of disabled children.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was to assess the attitude and role of parents towards physically handicapped children in Faisalabad City. There are three institution i.e. 1) Al-Faisal Centre for blind 2) Mik deaf and dumb. 3) Sir Syed Special education centre for physically disable children. It was decided to contact the parents of the children of the above mentioned institutions. A list along with the home addresses of these children were collected from these institutions and 50 respondents were selected randomly. The data were collected through well-structured interviewing schedule and analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution of the respondents according to their education, age at the time of marriage, respondents' husband age at the time of marriage and handicapped children's sex is given in Table I.

The distribution of respondents according to the age of handicapped children and condition of disability at the time of discovery is given in Table II.

Majority of the respondents (58%) said that their children were physical handicapped since their birth, 28% were 1-5 and 14% were 6 or above years of age.

Half of the respondent was satisfied with the treatment with treatment of their handicapped child. Distribution of the respondents according to the general problem they face because of their child in their daily routine is given in Table III. Data revealed that majority of the respondents (60%) faced the pitiable behavior for their children and 40.0% faced helpful behavior. Likewise, 60% respondents noted improvement in the behaviour of the child since his/her admission in special education center.

Table I. Distribution of the respondents according to their education, age at the time of marriage, respondents' husband age at the time of marriage and handicapped children's sex

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	7	14.0
Upto Matric	14	28.0
Intermediate – graduation	18	36.0
Masters and above	11	22.0
Total	50	100.0
Respondents age at the time of marriage (years)	Frequency	Percentage
Upto 20	8	16.0
21-25	23	46.0
26 and above	19	38.0
Total	50	100.0
Husband's Age at the time of marriage (years)	Frequency	Percentage
Upto 20	12	24.0
21-25	19	38.0
26 and above	19	38.0
Total	50	100.0
Child's sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	39	78.0
Female	11	22.0
Total	50	100.0

Table II. Distribution of the respondents according to the age of handicapped children and condition of disability at the time of discovery

Age (years)	Frequency	Percentage
Upto 5	14	28.0
6-10	6	12.0
11-15	13	26.0
16 and above	17	34.0
Total	50	100.0
Condition of disability	Frequency	Percentage
Deaf and dumb	15	30.0
Polio	5	10.0
Typhoid	2	4.0
Mentally Retarded	7	14.0
Very Bad	6	12.0
Blind	15	30.0
Total	50	100.0

The gamma value shows a strong positive and significant relationship between education of the respondents and regular checkup during the pregnancy (Table IV). It means educated person had awareness about regular checkup during the pregnancy.

Table III. Distribution of the respondents according to the general problem they face because of their child in their daily routine

Problems	Frequency	Percentage
Not at all	21	42.0
Conservation problem	11	22.0
Many problem	11	22.0
No problem	3	6.0
Walking problem	2	4.0
Any other	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Table IV. Association between education of the respondents and their general children was immunized for the six fatal diseases and parents' relationship with each other before marriage

Education of the respondents	Regular checkup during pregnancy		Total
	No	Yes	
Illiterate	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)	7 (14.0%)
Upto Matric	9 (64.3%)	5 (35.7%)	14 (28.0%)
Above matric	5 (17.2%)	24 (82.8%)	29 (58.0%)
Total	16 (32.0%)	34 (68.0%)	50 (100.0%)

Gamma: 485 Standard Error: .190 Significance = .030

Suggestions. The following suggestions are offered for better rehabilitation.

1. There is a need to increase the number of special education centers.
2. A proper survey to find out the exact number of disable children with category of disabilities is needed.
3. Proper training for teaching staff is necessary.
4. Electronic media must be used to educate the masses, particularly the parents of the handicapped regarding behaviour, needs of such children and
5. Parents should actively cooperate in the rehabilitation programs

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