

A Study on the Societal Implication of Having a Special Child – From Parental Perspective

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Abstract: According to Child Rights International Network (CRIN) 150 million children worldwide are reported to live with disability. Special Child is a universal issue. This issue faced by both parents and their children. These people were not recognized by their relatives and society. They were also not provided with proper and consistent support by society, Non-Government Organization or Governmental Agencies. These factors lead to lack of motivation on the part of the children as well as their family members. So, the authors of present descriptive study aim to assess the psycho social problem of the parents of special children. Objective of this study reveals that the socio-economic background of special children's parent, to understand the reason why parents prefer institutionalization of their children, to portray the social problem of the special children parents and to know the extent of family involvement. The research tries to portray the various characteristics of the study population and also to find out the psycho-social problems of special children. The researchers have used a self prepared interview schedule to collect data from selected 50 parents respondents. The researchers distributed the questionnaire to 50 parents of students by using Stratified Dis Proportionate random Sampling technique using lottery method. The collected data have been coded and analyzed by using appropriate statistical test. The overall result of the study shall be presents in the conference.

Keywords: Social Implication, Special child, Parental Perspective.

I. Introduction

Even though being a special child they have learning problem they are human being just like everybody else & they deserve basically the same treatment as any other human being. According to Child Rights International Network (CRIN) over 150 million children worldwide have a disability. In India, children with disabilities mainly come under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Some of the issues are dealt with by the health ministry. But no single ministry has been assigned the protection of these children, which leads to varying data about occurrence of disability amongst children. In India 1.67% of the 0-19 population has a disability. 35.29% of all people living with disabilities are children. Other estimates say that India has 12 million children living with disabilities. Only 1% of children with disabilities have access to school. Under-nutrition is a severe problem with children who suffer from cerebral palsy. In India 80% of children with disabilities are not surviving more than forty year of age.

Many of the causes of disability are preventable by providing expecting mothers will better prenatal and post natal care as well as proper nutrition for infants and mothers.

The main causes of disability in children are

- Communicable disease
- Infection in early childhood
- Early motherhood
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Insufficient or inaccessible health care services
- Inadequate sanitation
- Inter-family marriages

There are many protection issues that also lead to disability, especially mental disabilities. Children who are trafficked, abused and sexually exploited are at risk for psychological effects as well as physical retardation. Other forms of violence against children can also lead to a disability such as corporal punishment in schools, children living on the streets, and purposefully created disabilities for begging. Children from poor families face a double disability. Disability in India is still functioning in the realm of social welfare instead of a rights perspective. Teachers are not trained and schools don't have the infrastructure to deal with children with disabilities. Neither are pediatrics wards of hospitals equipped to deal with them. There is not enough data on

the number of children living with disabilities to allow the government to provide the necessary services. Mental health disorders account for one sixth of all health disorders yet India spends 0.83% of its health budget on mental health. Child laborers are also at a higher risk of becoming disabled especially in hazardous industries. In 2008, CHILDLINE India Foundation published a study on Mentally Challenged Children in Sholapur District, Maharashtra. The study looks at information at all three levels: village, taluk and district. Key findings of the study were that in 24% of the mentally challenged children, one of the parents was mentally retarded. 11% of mothers of mentally challenged children were below eighteen years. 36% of mothers reported complications during pregnancy while 41.2% reported stress. Only 8% of mentally challenged children attended school past II grade pr up to VII grade in normal schools. 33% of parent didn't allow their children to interact with other children due to fear of them being teased, accidents, aggressive behavior, etc.

1.1 Definitions

According to the World Health Organization, a disability is, “any restriction or lack (resulting from any impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being”.

1.2 Number Of Disabled Population And Type Of Disability

Statistics	Population	Percentage (%)
Total population	1,028,610,328	100.0
Total disabled population	21,906,769	2.1
Disability rate (per lakh population)	2,130	--
Type of Disability		
(a) In seeing	10,634,881	1.0
(b) In speech	1,640,868	0.2
(c) In hearing	1,261,722	0.1
(d) In movement	6,105,477	0.6
(e) Mental	2,263,821	0.2

Source: Census of India 2011.

II. Review of Literature

Baker, et.al. (2005) in their study has found on an extensive amount of research has been conducted on the impact of childhood disability on parents, particularly mothers. The findings of this research have important implications for practitioners who are working with young children and will be discussed below. While parents are the most common type of caregivers for young children with disabilities, there are a growing number of grandparents who are providing custodial care.

Valenti, (2006) in this study has found that most children had positive attitudes towards a child using a wheelchair. They include the child using a wheelchair in games and other activities. They also thought the child using a wheelchair would have many friends and a high level of confidence. On the other hand, the children also realized that a child using a wheelchair would have complications in both playing and the environment.

Baker, et.al. (2005) in their study has found on an extensive amount of research has been conducted on the impact of childhood disability on parents, particularly mothers. The findings of this research have important implications for practitioners who are working with young children and will be discussed below. While parents are the most common type of caregivers for young children with disabilities, there are a growing number of grandparents who are providing custodial care.

III. Research Methodology

3.1 Significance

Special Child is a result of total or partial impairment of one's limbs. This is also accompanied by either total or either dependency on some sort of aid, be it a person or an appliance as a result the activities on special child are confined within certain limits. To both the attitude of the persons on whom the special child depend and of the community in which they live have a great influence on the psycho social problem of the parent.

3.2 Aim

To assess the level of psycho social problem of the parents of special children.

3.3 Objectives

- To study the socio-economic back ground of the Respondents
- To understand the reason why parents prefer institutionalization of their children
- To study the social problem of the special children parents.
- To study the extent of family involvement.

3.4 Hypothesis

1. There is a significant association between the respondents religion and their depressed feeling.
2. There is a significant association between the respondent's occupation and spend to meet out the expenditure of child.
3. There is a significant association between the respondent's gender and relatives & neighbors stopped or reduced their visits to the family because of the special child
4. There is a significant association between the respondent's taken any loan for sake of the child and get any help.

3.5 Research design

The research tries to portray the various characteristics of the study population and also to find out the psycho-social problems of special children. Hence the study is considered to be descriptive study.

3.6 Universe of the study

There are totally 15 special schools in Thiruchirappalli district and out of which only two schools are chosen as the universe to do the research (Hope 30 members & Manasigam 180 members). Because only the above mentioned schools gave permission. Hence the size of the universe is 210.

3.7 Sampling

Out of the 210 universe, 25 samples from each school are selected. A total no of 50 samples are taken using Stratified Dis-Proportionate random Sampling technique by using lottery method.

3.8 Data collection

The researcher collected the data from 50 respondents. The researcher got information from all the 50 respondents with the help of interview schedule prepared by the researcher consisting in Socio-Demographic profile, Financial burden, Psycho-social problems, Attitude, Need for institutionalization, Future plan.

IV. Analysis & Interpretation

Table -1 Socio Demographic characteristic of the Respondents

Sl. No.	Religion	Frequency (n=50)	Percentage (100%)
1	Religion		
	Hindu	31	62.0
	Muslim	12	24.0
	Christian	7	14.0
2	Occupation		
	Government	7	14.0
	Private	14	28.0
	Business	13	26.0
	Agriculture	16	32.0
3	Relatives stopped visits		
	Yes	10	20.0
	No	40	80.0
4	Loan for child		
	Yes	10	20.0
	No	40	80.0
5	Blood Related with Spouse		
	Yes	21	42.0
	No	29	58.0
6	Family member depressed		
	Yes	13	26.0
	No	37	74.0
7	Relatives blame for the birth		
	Yes	23	46.0
	No	27	54.0
8	Relatives stopped visits		
	Yes	10	20.0
	No	40	80.0

Table -2 Association between the respondents Religion and depressed about Special Child

Religion	Depressed about your child				Statistical Inference
	To a large extent	To a some extent	To a small extent	Absolutely no idea	
Hindu	4	7	3	17	X ² = 8.244 Df = 6 P > 0.05 Not Significant
Muslim	1	2	1	8	
Christian	3	2	1	1	

Inference: There is a no significant association between the respondent’s religion and the depression about special child

Table -3 Association between the respondent’s Occupation and expenses met for special child

Occupation	Spend to meet out the expenditure of your child				Statistical inference
	1000 – 3000	3001 – 5000	5001 - 6000	Above 6000	
Government	2	3	1	1	X ² = 14.633 Df = 9 P > 0.05 Not significant
Private	6	6	1	1	
Business	7	4	1	1	
Agriculture	4	7	4	1	

Inference: There is a no significant association between the respondent’s occupation and expenses met for the special child.

Table -4 Association between the respondent’s Gender and Relatives & neighbours stopped or reduced their visits to the family because of the special child

Gender	Relatives & neighbours stopped or reduced their visits to the family because of the special child		Statistical Inference
	Yes	No	
Female	4	23	X ² = 0.986 Df = 1 P > 0.05 Not Significant
Male	6	17	

Inference: There is a no significant association between the respondent’s gender and relatives & neighbours stopping or reducing their visits to the family because of the special child.

Table -5 Association between the respondent taking Loan for the sake of the child and getting any help from others

Taken any loan for sake of the child	Get any help		Statistical Inference
	Yes	No	
Yes	9	1	X ² = 1.087 Df = 1 P > 0.05 Not Significant
No	36	4	

Inference: There is a no significant association between the respondents taking loan for the sake of the child and getting any help from others.

V. Findings, Suggestions & Conclusion

5.1 Findings

- ☐ Nearly two third (62.0%) of the respondents belong to Hinduism.
- ☐ Majority (32.0%) of the respondents belongs to the category of Agricultral category.
- ☐ Majority (40%) of the respondents says yes, that relatives stopped to visit them because of having special chid
- ☐ Majority (80.0%) of the respondent saying yes loan for child.
- ☐ There is a no significant association between the respondent’s religion and the depression about special child
- ☐ There is a no significant association between the respondent’s occupation and expenses met for the special child
- ☐ There is a no significant association between the respondent’s gender and relatives & neigh bours stopping or reducing their visits to the family because of the special child.
- ☐ There is a no significant association between the respondents taking loan for the sake of the child and getting any help from others

5.2 Suggestions

- ☒ Public awareness about physically challenged children should be introduced through use of the mass media. The awareness programme should destroy baseless myths, traditional benefits and superstitions regarding psychically challenged children.

- ∞ Unlike other public health problems, mental retardation is not given much attention in our country. By giving proper propaganda, recognition and attention to this problem, it can be tackled to a large extent.
- ∞ Better institutional services with adequate facilities should be made available and accessible particularly to parents of low income group. Institution must also take conscious efforts in parental training regarding child management. The institutions should involve in playing a vital role in public awareness programmes.
- ∞ The government and voluntary agencies should enable them to become independent and attain self-sufficiency in their future.
- ∞ Steps should be taken to organize systematic parent education programmes on a regular basis regarding general health education aspects
- ∞ As teachers are found to have good knowledge on general health education aspects, steps should be taken to utilise their knowledge in imparting health education to parents with Special Child.
- ∞ Parent teacher associations in the special schools should be strengthened.
- ∞ Organizations of parents' should be formed to fight for the rights of special children

In order to have proper delivery, the mothers have to be looked after well during the time of pregnancy and the health of whom will be reflected on the developing flouts

5.3 Conclusion

The trend is to work into the problems in relation to family, community and cultural context. With this the study had been undertaken by the researcher. It is the duty of state and every one to help the mentally retarded child by providing various preventive and curative services. They have to be helped in all dimensions as the society as such and the family neglects the unfortunate children.

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