

How to Cite:

Brahmbhatt, S. (2022). Mentally retarded children and their social problems. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, 6(S4), 7630–7634.
<https://doi.org/10.53730/ijhs.v6nS4.10236>

Mentally retarded children and their social problems

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Abstract---Mental retardation is a university problem prevalent in every country, race, caste, and creed. Mental retardation is not only a medical problem but also educational, psychological and social problem. The present study deals with the comparison of social problems of mentally retarded children (MRC) of below poverty line parents (BPL) and above poverty line parents (APL). The proposed study considered five social problems faced by the mentally retarded children via referring MRC as mad, pummeling them, confining them in a room, other people instigating bad habits into them and having no opportunity to mix in society. Also the objective of this investigating was to find whether there is any significant impact of poverty over the MRC while facing these problems. For this study 340 mentally retarded children of special schools and their parents were interviewed by providing interview schedule. Statistical analysis of the data was carried out and tests of significance were used. It is observed that the social problems via. Referring MRC as made is the most grave problem faced by MRC whereas the social problem-other people instigate bad habits to MRC- is a least intensive social problem. With respect to the poverty line, there is no significant difference in social problems faced by MRC of BPL parents. The intensity of social significant difference in social problems faced by MRC of BPL parents and APL parents. The intensity of social problems faced by MRC of APL and BPL parents seems to statistically insignificant.

Keywords---mentally retarded children, social problems, poverty line parents.

Introduction

Mental retardation is a universal problem prevalent in every country, race, caste, and creed. Mental retardation is not only a medical problem but also educational, psychological and social problem. There are various educational, psychological, social and rehabilitation problems faced by MRC and their families which needs to analyzed and studied.

Research have become increasingly interested in analyzing and interpreting social problems faced by the MRC and their families. The outlook of society towards the MRC is very important aspect in dealing with MRC. Unscientific and orthodox outlook of society towards MRC and their families adversely affects the growth of MRC and their families. Because of this treatment by society, the families of MRC feel disturbed. In addition to their increased responsibility of handing the MRC, this negative approach of society demoralizes the spirit of parents, which results in aggravating the problem. The present study is devoted to find out the ranking of social problems according to their gravity and whether there is significant difference between MRC of APL and BPL parents regarding social problems. Various researchers have tried to analyze the problems faced by MRC and their families.

Method

In the present study 340 mentally retarded children from special school in Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra State were selected. The mentally retarded children, their parents were interviewed by providing the interview schedule.

Tools

Structured interview method was used to analyse the social problem of MRC. The social problems were ranked according to the seriousness (gravity) on 0-5 Scale. The respondents were asked to rank these social problems according to their experience. The scores were assigned to the different ranks in the following manner. Rank 1 is assigned score 5, Rank 2 is assigned score 4, rank 3 is assigned score 3, rank 4 is assigned score 2, and rank 5 is assigned score 1. The score 0 is assigned if the respondents did not have any of these problems. The weighted scores for each social problem were computed by multiplying the scores by corresponding number of respondents. Total score for each social is obtained by summing the weighted scores. Intensity of the social problems faced by MRC of APL and BPL parents is measured as above and t-test is used for testing the significance. The recorded interviews were transcribed and the data were analyzed through mean, SD and C.R and t-test.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: computation of total score for each social problem

Sr.no	Social Problems Faced by mentally retarded Children	Rank						Total Score
		I	ii	iii	iv	v	Vi	
1.	To refer mentally retarded children as med.	254 * 5	31 *4	25 * 3	11 *2	5 1	14 *0	
		1270	124	75	22	5	0	1496
2.	To pummel mentally retarded children	29 * 5	72 * 4	26 *3	16 *2	24 1	173 *0	

		145	288	78	32	24	0	567
3.	To confine mentally retarded children in room	19 * 5	39 4	57 *3	11 2	6 1	208 *0	
		95	156	171	22	6	0	450
4.	Other people instigate bad habit to mentally retarded children	15 * 5	37 4	19 * 3	35 2	15 *1	219 *0	
		75	148	57	70	15	0	365
5.	There is no opportunity to mix in society.	43 * 5	67 * 4	38 *3	25 * 2	22 *1	145 * 0	
		215	268	114	50	22	0	669

Result

- 1) The social problem- To refer mentally retarded children as mad is ranked first by 74.7% respondents. This problem seems to be most grave social problem.
- 2) The social problem- There is no opportunity to mix in society is ranked first by 12.6% respondents.
- 3) The social problem- To pummel mentally retarded children is ranked first by 8.5% respondents.
- 4) The social problem- To confine mentally retarded children in room is ranked first by 5.5% respondents.
- 5) The social problem- Other people instigate bad habit to mentally retarded is ranked first by 4.4% respondents. This problem seems to be least intense social problem.

From Table-1: mrc referred as a mad had highest total score, hence it is most intensive social problem, whereas the social problem- other people instigate bad habits to mrc is a least intensive social problem.

No.	MR Children/ Social Problems	Number of Student			Mentally retarded children referred as mad			To pummeling mentally retarded children			To confine mentally retarded children in room			Other people instigate bad habit to mentally retarded children			There is no opportunity to mix in society			Total score of social problems	Mean of Total Social Problem	S.D of Total Social Problem	T-Test	Levels of significance
		Mean	SD	CR	Mean	SD	CR	Mean	SD	CR	Mean	SD	CR	Mean	SD	CR								

1	MR Children Of BPL Parents	136	4.44	1.12		2.25	1.97		1.75	1.87		1.36	1.68		1.91	1.75		1596	319.2	148.17		0.52	Not Significant
2	MR Children Of above poverty line Parents	204	262.45	4.36	130.8	0.008	1.27	4.9	1.78	1.03	3.78	1.63	0.88	2.82	1.55	2.00	0.28	4.2	1951	390.2			

From Table II

1. For the social problem- To refer mentally retarded children as made, there is no significant difference between children of BPL and APL parents. (0.008<1.96)
2. For the social problem- To pummel mentally retarded children, there is significant difference between children of BPL and APL parents. This problem is more faced by children of BPL parents than APL parents (4.9>1.96)
3. For the social problem- To confine mentally retarded children in room, there is significant differences between children of BPL and APL parents. This problem is more faced by children of BPL parents than APL parents. (2.82>1.96)
4. For the social problem- Other people instigate bad habits to mentally retarded children, there is significant difference between children BPL and APL parents. This problem is more faced by children of BPL parents than APL parents. (2.82<1.96)
5. For the social problem- There is no opportunity to mix in society, there is no significant differences between children of BPL and APL parents. (0.28<1.96). This result matches with Datta (1995)
6. For over all social problems, there is no significant difference between the mentally retarded children of BPL and APL parents. (0.52<2.78)

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Abbreviations

1. MRC: Mentally Retarded Children
2. BPL: Below poverty line.
3. APL: Above poverty 1