



ATTITUDE OF PARENT'S TOWARDS THEIR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the attitude of parent's towards their mentally retarded children. The sample consisted of 62 numbers of parents from CRSR, Prasanti Bhawan, Bhadrak district of Odisha. A tool like Attitude Scale Towards Parents was used to measure the perception of parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children. The result show that the parents of children with mental retardation in the CRSR, Prasanti Bhawan show a positive attitude toward the mentally retarded children. They do not have feelings of embarrassment towards their mentally retarded children. However, both the groups, e.g., parents (male and female) members were over protective towards mentally retarded children. But the important finding is that there was a strong feeling of love and acceptance among all the parents towards the mentally retarded children and almost all of them did not display strongly negative attitudes.

KEYWORDS: Attitude, Mental retarded, Parents, Childrens.

INTRODUCTION

Mental retardation is one of the most well known social problem .It is very often observed that the mentally retarded children have several problems. The importance of the family in child development is more significant. Parents behavior and attitude creates a climate in the home which has influence upon the children development. The most extensive social interactions of the child during crucial developmental stages occurs within the family, thus making friendly attitude towards children with disable or without disable has a major importance in all round development of children. All over the world ,the combination of inadequate service provided to the mentally retarded children ,and the shift in care from the institution to the community ,has resulted in placing extra burden on families .It is still unknown how the attitude of parents of mentally retarded children towards their education are differs .In view of the above ,the researcher found it necessary to carry out a study to determine the attitude of parents towards their mentally retarded children and their education . No similar study has never been done on this subject in India.

It is hoped that the findings will be utilized by both mental health staff, teachers trained in special education, family with mentally retarded children.

REVIEW AND RELATED LITERATURE

Rathi, et al. (2017) Study the socio-demographic profile of mentally handicapped children and to compare the Psychiatric morbidity in parents of mentally handicapped children with that of parents of non handicapped children. He found that prevalence

of consanguinity, pregnancy complications, co-morbidity (speech and seizure disorder) and psychopathology in mothers was high in mentally handicapped children as compared to non handicapped children. Panday and Fatima (2016) Study the gender differences in term of Quality of Life among parents of mentally challenged children. Finding of this study showed that parents of male children have good Quality of Life in comparison to the parents of female children. Mohammad et al. (2015) studied on parental attitude of mentally retardation and found that there was a over protection with education and future, home management and total attitude.

A study carried by **Shetty and Menezes (2013)** The attitude of the people has taken a positive turn towards mentally retarded or the challenged, the new modern technical word 'Special Children' due to increased knowledge, awareness due to higher education and the societal initiatives. People with such disabilities are often not seen as full citizens of society. The researchers aim at assessing the knowledge of the parents regarding the mental retardation and the psycho- social, economical problems they face. **Maes et al. (2003)**, studied that family burden is associated with children or adults with Intellectual disability (ID) and behavioral or psychiatric problems living at home. **Kolb and Hanley-Maxwell (2003)** explored parental views about critical social skills of adolescents with high-incidence disabilities **Nihira et al. (2002)** described the relationships between home environment, family adjustment and the social competency of TMR (Trainable Mentally Retarded) and EMR (Educable Mentally Retarded) children. **Seltzer et al. (2001)** conducted a study on "Continuity or discontinuity of family involvement



following residential transitions of adults who have mental retardation". Wright (1988) studied attempt to evaluate the effects of the stresses of having a child with disabilities on the lives of their parents. Costigan et al. (1997) studied the family process and adaptation to children with mental retardation as disruption and resilience in family problem solving interactions. Condell (1966) points out that a mentally retarded child who does not experience acceptance and security in his house is in greater danger of developing behavior difficulties than a normal child. Rangaswami (1995) This study revealed that the overall attitude of mothers of retarded children with and without behavior problems differ significantly. The findings of this study showed that the mother's of mentally retarded children are not hopeful about education, future of the children, home management and they feel more hostile towards their children. Lachiewicz (1994) conducted a study on Behavioral disorders in moderately mentally retarded children and relation to parental attitude. The result indicated that parents have a negative attitude towards their children with mental retardation. Wagner et al. (1991) indicated that young people with disabilities have a more difficult time making the transition to adulthood than their peer without disabilities; and the fears and concerns expressed by parents of students with disabilities confirm that the impact of this transition can be felt by parents as well as the young person leaving high school. After scanning the review of literature it is found that maximum parents of mentally retarded children had positive attitude towards their children, but it is needed to find out the attitude of parents in general perception towards their children. So the present study is justified to conduct on parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the objectives of the study:

- 1 To study the difference in attitude between rural and urban parents towards their mentally retarded children.
2 To study the difference in attitude between male and female parents towards their mentally retarded children.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table-1: Significance difference between attitude of rural and urban parent's towards their mentally retarded children.

Table with 7 columns: AREA, N, Mean, SD, SED, t-ratio, Level of significant. Rows for Rural and Urban.

To compare the urban and rural parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children the mean score of these were found separately. The 't' score was employee to find out whether parent's attitude have differed significance for their mentally retarded children. The result indicates that there is no statistically significant difference between urban and rural parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children.

- 3 To study the difference in attitude between educated and uneducated parents towards their mentally retarded children.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. Are there any statistically significant differences in rural and urban parent's attitude towards mentally retarded children?
2. Are there any statistically significant differences in male and female parent's attitude towards mentally retarded children?
3. Are there any statistically significant differences in uneducated and educated parent's attitude towards mentally retarded children?

METHODOLOGY

The present research work is descriptive survey type of study. A total no. of 62 parents from Bhadrak district of Odisha as sample is drawn randomly. The majority of the sample consisted of parents with children attending CRSR School which caters mainly, for children from rural areas. Out of total 62 parents 79% (n= 49) of these parents were females and 21% (n=13) were males. An Attitude Scale Towards Parents was constructed to investigate parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children. Each item of scale is to be rated on five consecutive points i.e. Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. An individual's score on the scale is sum total of his/her ratings on all items/statement. The scale has 38 questions, out of these 25 are positive in nature (reflecting favorable attitude) and remaining 13 are negative nature (depicting unfavorable attitude). Two half of parental attitude scale was employing odd-even procedure. Each half of scale comprised with 10 items. Internal consistency reliability coefficient (r) for preliminary test of parental attitude scale is found to be 0.89 which also, indicates a fairly high index of intrinsic reliability of this scale.

On this descriptive statistics for Urban parent's (52) and Rural parents (10) attitudes toward mentally retarded children was found. The parent's mean attitude score is (44.56) and (47.28) and SD is (6.528) and (1.64) respectively. The SD was not significant at any level. The SED (2.07) and t ratio (1.31) for rural and urban parents which indicates that there is no statistically significant differences among rural and urban parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children.



Table-2: Significance of difference between Male (father's) and Female (mother's) attitude towards their mentally retarded children

Parents	N	Mean	SD	SED	t-ratio	Level of Significant
Male	13	43.09	6.754	2.06	1.27	Not Significant
Female	49	45.71	6.223			

Above Table II shows there are no statistically significant differences among the parent's attitude due to gender variable. It shows the results of the questionnaire which was distributed among (13) male and (49) female parents about their attitudes towards their mentally retarded child. Means and standard deviations were calculated and results show that females got a higher mean which was (45.71); this indicates that female parents

got more positive attitudes towards their mentally retarded children. Males got a little bit lower mean than females which was (43.09). The t-value (1.27) and SED (2.06) obtained for fathers and mothers respectively were not significant. Thus it is clear that there were no statistical significant differences between the attitudes of father and mother towards mentally retarded children due to gender.

Table-3: Significance of difference between Educated and Uneducated attitude of parent's towards their mentally retarded children

Parents	N	Mean(M)	SD	SED	t-ratio	Level of Significant
Uneducated	22	48.04	1.25	0.84	1.96	Significant at 0.5 level
Educated	62	46.39	1.61			

To compare the Uneducated and Educated parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children the mean score of these were found separately. The 't' score was employed to find out whether Uneducated and Educated parent's attitude have differed significantly for their mentally retarded children. The result indicates that there is statistically significant difference between Uneducated and Educated parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children.

children is positive?" was highly favoured. Responses suggested that many of the parents who have children in the special class are in many cases from the lower socioeconomic group. Parents seem to have a negative attitude toward their children's condition when they first learned of him being mentally retarded. Though parent's did not have any counseling or guidance from professional people, many of the parent's had managed to change their attitudes. This change was based mainly on their own experiences. Parent's appeared to have wanted their children placed in the special class and was pleased with the progress that their children were making in class. These parents appeared not to worry too much about the future of their children. They seemed to believe that if their children can get a job they will be able to take care of themselves. Parents in a few cases had not realized the limitations of their children| this is evident from the fact that they were hoping the children would one day go to college. It appeared that many of the parents wanted their children to get married so that taking care of them would no longer be a problem for them.

On this descriptive statistics for Uneducated parents (22) and Educated parents (40) attitudes toward mentally retarded children was found. The parent's mean attitude score is (48.04) and (46.39) and SD is (1.25) and (1.61) respectively. The SD was significant at 0.5 level of significance. The SED (0.84) and t ratio (1.96) for Uneducated and Educated parents which indicates that there is statistically significant differences among rural and urban parent's attitude towards their mentally retarded children. The mean score of Uneducated parents is higher than that of the Educated parents. It implies that Uneducated parent's have highly positive attitude towards their mentally retarded childrens.

CONCLUSION

The finding of the study suggest that the parents of children with mental retardation in the CRSR, Prasanti Bhawan express a positive attitude toward the mentally retarded children. They do not have feelings of embarrassment towards their mentally retarded children. However, both the groups, e.g., parents (male and female) members were over protective towards mentally retarded children. But the important finding is that there was a strong feeling of love and acceptance among all the parents towards the mentally retarded children and almost all of them did not display strongly negative attitudes. Thus the research question "whether the attitude of parents towards their mentally retarded

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