
Causes and Concerns of Learning Disabilities among Children

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Abstract

Learning disabilities (LD) refers to a significant deficit in learning due to persons inability to interpret what is seen and heard, or link information from different parts of brain (GEON,2005). Learning disabilities are basically neurologically problems. These processing problems can intervene in learning basic skills such as reading, writing, etc. This current study is a systematic review and willhighlight the various issues like symptoms, causes and treatments of learning disabilities among childrens. The main aim of this study is to explore the needs for creating awareness in general about learning disabilities among childrens.

Keywords: Learning; Problems Reading; Children

Introduction

The term learning disabilities refers to retardation, disorder or delayed development, may be manifested in language, speech, mathematical or motor skills. More precisely, Learning disabilities can simply define as a neurological condition that interferes with an individual's ability to store, process or produce information. A child with learning disability is unable to read, write, speak, spell, compute math, and reason in a normal. These childrens exhibits exceptionally inferior qualities and capacities in terms of learning and understanding in comparison to normal children of their age or class. In reality, learning disability is just a sort of handicappness or helplessness that takes a toll of academic performance of childrens. According to the Association for Children With learning Disabilities USA (1967), a child with learning disabilities is one with adequate mental ability, Sensory process and emotional stability who has limited number of specific deficits in perceptual, integrative or expressive process which severely impair learning efficiency. This includes children who have central

nervous system dysfunctions which is expressed primarily in impaired learning efficiency. The impaired learning inefficiency coupled with serious learning problems in one or other cognitive areas leads to distinctive between individual's potential and actual educational achievement and as a result he becomes disabled or handicapped in one or the other learning areas (Mangal,2005).

Kinds Learning Disabilities

Some common learning disabilities are aphasia (means complete loss of language). In other words aphasia refers to disturbance in the comprehension or production of spoken, written or signed language. Aphasia results from damage to one or more areas of brain responsible language like broca's area or wernicke's areas of brain. Dyslexia (means impairment in the ability to read). In dyslexia an individual faces a lot of problem in word recognition and reading comprehension. Dyscalculia is that type of learning disability in which a children faces lot of difficulty in learning or understanding mathematical operations. For example difficulty in understanding numbers, performing mathematical calculations and impaired mathematical reasoning. It has been found that a 5-7% student in America is involved in this type of learning disability. Dysgraphia is also a special learning disability which is characterized by distorted writing skills despite through instructions. A child with dysgraphia is unable to differentiate between upper and lower case letters and exhibits difficulty in writing on a line and inside margin, also shows poor coordination of fine motor movements like holding pencil correctly, inability to use scissors well, or coloring inside the line. Dyspraxia is a sensory integration disorder found in learning disable childrens, characterized by difficulty with fine motor skills, like problems with hand-eye coordination, balance, and manual dexterity. The diagnosis of learning disabilities or disorder is limited to those cases in which there is clear impairment in school performance or in daily living activities ^[1].

Signs and Symptoms

Children with learning disabilities are initially identified as such because of an apparent disparity between their expected academic, achievement level and their actual academic performance in one of more school subjects such as math, spelling, writing, or reading ^[1]. The mostly common symptoms of learning disability persons are given below:

- a) A child with learning disability shows a poor coordination.

- b) Difficulty in remembering and attention is also a common problem among learning disability children.
- c) A child with learning difficulty also shows the symptoms of difficulty with reading, writing and understanding words or concepts.
- d) Poor social skills, disruptiveness are also found among learning disabled children
- e) Trouble with open-ended test questions and word problems.
- f) Trouble with buttons, zipper, snaps, learning to tie shoes

Casual factors in learning disability

It has been found that specific cause for the learning disabilities is the impairments in the central nervous system. In particular these disabilities are thought to result from some sort of immaturity, deficiency, or dysregulation limited to those brain functions that supposedly mediate, for normal children, the cognitive skills that learning disability children cannot efficiently acquire ^[1]. It has been investigated by various researchers that language related learning disabilities such as dyslexia are associated with a failure of brain to develop normally asymmetrical manner with respect to the right and left hemispheres and some portions of the left hemisphere where language function is normally mediated for unknown reasons appear to remain relatively underdeveloped in many dyslexia individuals ^[2]. Some researches with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) has suggested that dyslexic individuals may have a deficiency of physiological activation in a brain centre believed to be involved with rapid visual processing.

Some studies considered the various forms of learning disability are genetically transmitted. Like the identification of a gene region for dyslexia on chromosome 6 has been reported. Similarly in one of the twin study it has been found that mathematics disability has also turned up evidence of some genetic contribution ^[1].

Learning disabilities may be caused by the improper and ineffable conditions and factors present in individuals physical social cultural and educational environment. Poor nourishment and defective environment received by the fetus for development in mother's womb, diet deficiency, severe diseases, accidents, emotional disturbances, and socio-cultural deprivation can be leading environmental challenges for learning disabilities among children.

Treatment of learning disabled children

Several strategies are used to treat learning disabilities, both in school programmes and in private tutoring. Traditional approaches used primarily in cases of reading and writing difficulties, focus on instruction in listening, speaking and writing skills in logical sequential and multisensory manner, such as reading loud under close supervision. In young children, readiness skills such as letter discriminations, phonetic analysis and learning and learning letters sound correspondence may need to be taught before explicit instruction in reading attempted. Phonics instructions involve helping children master the task of converting sounds to words^[3].

Learning disabled children are taught by appealing to their multi senses that is visual, auditory, touch, smell and taste etc. For example, to provide wholesome language experience, a multi-sensory approach named VAKT (providing visual, auditory, kinaesthetic and tactile experiences to the children) has been devised. This is a step-by-step approach where a learner is first acquainted with the letters of a word and then slowly familiarized with the word. The learner is then made to see, say, hear and feel the experiences woven around this particular word. Once the word is mastered the learner is asked to make use of it in a sentence. After the learning of words and sentences the learner may be given a story writing test. Then, finally they are provided reading practices^[4]. Psychoanalytic and behavioral approach can be applied to correct the defective behavior of learning disabled children.

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