

# Schooling Handicap's In Disabled Children

Dr. Ashok Yadav\*\*, Dr. J.V. Singh\*\*, Dr. A.K. Agarwal\*, Dr. P.C. Ahuja\*\*  
& Dr. A.K. Srivastava

**160 disabled children were interviewed at Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, K.G. Medical College, Lucknow. 41.7% disabled children were found handicapped in schooling and were not attending school inspite of their school age. 76% of disabled children are deprive of schooling due to disability alone. 64% disabled girls were not attending the school. Regarding schooling, parent's view were inadequate facilities for disabled children within their reach, (86.2%) lack of transportaton facilities, (91.25%) God's curse (57.5%), and the rest (33.1%) did not comment for schooling of their children.**

Disablement is unforeseen event in terms of agony, suffering and frustration to victims, the family and the community. When the child is the victim, these related problems increase manifold specially in their mental, physical, social development due to deprivation of schooling. Nearly 70% of disabilities are preventable (WHO Report, 1981). Only preventive measures can save atleast five million children a year from mental and physical disablement (Sunder Lal, 1986).

Every child has a right to attend school. It is the responsibility of the family, community and society to provide all infrastructural facilities to the children, normal and handicapped, to undergo schooling for their comprehensive physical, mental and social development. Special attention is required to handicapped children so that these neglected children can have the advantage of school environment.

Handicapped child encounters difficulties in independently carrying out day to day activities, in

communicating with family members or in establishing contact with physical environment. If intervention occurs in time, many of these disabilities can be prevented or reduced through special educational measures and rehabilitation or preventive services. Apart from various reasons for drop out in school as seen in normal children too, it is a major problem in disabled children which leads to social burden to family and society especially in the case of girl disabled, which warrents for the special attention.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

The present study has been conducted at the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, K.G. Medical College, Lucknow. Orthopaedically handicapped children below 14 years of age were interviewed alongwith their parents, who attended out- patient department and registered for follow-up. Data was recorded on pretested schedule and analysed accordingly.

\* Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (RALC), K.G. Medical College, Lucknow.

\*\* Upgraded Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, K.G. Medical College, Lucknow.

## OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Poliomyelitis (56.2%) was the main disease leading to disability followed by Congenital Talipes Equino Cavo Varus (16.2%). Disability was noticed more in male children than female (Table-I). Agarwal, A.K. et al 1991 reported in his study that post polio. residual paralysis in 58.7% of cases. Paccaud (1979) reported 70 to 80% Poliomyelitis victims in three countries i.e. Africa, Middle and Southern America and Asia. Almost similar report was published by WHO in 1979. Similar incidence was also reported by Project on Childhood Disability by Baroda Citizens Council, 1983-88.

It was noticed that 58.3% children were attending school being in school age, inspite of their normal milestone development i.e. 89.4%. The State of World's children (1992) has reported that 99% children were enrolled in Primary School during 1986-89). Although schooling facilities are available but disability becomes the barrier for schooling. Enrolment of disabled girls was found only 25% of disabled male children. The State of World's children 1992 further reported that 73% female as a percent of males were enrolled in

Primary School. This gross difference shows apathy towards girl child and were towards disabled one, as well as frustration of parents towards disability. 76% of children were unable to attend school on their own efforts due to disability in which majority 63.1% were female disabled. 24% children could not attend the school due to indifferent attitude and other reasoning which also forced 66% girl disabled not to attend the school (Table-III).

It was noticed that inadequate schooling facilities for disabled child within reach (86.2%) as well as transportation facilities (91.25%) were the major constraint for schooling in view of the many father of disabled children which warrants community/voluntary organisations as well as Government machinery to come forward and to reach to these disabled. Still father's view towards schooling is related to God's curse (57.5%) which again warrants the Health Educationist, Anthropologist, Psychologist to take care of this vulnerable group. 33.1% father's did not specify any reason for schooling of their children, could be motivated and rehabilitational services to be provided to them (Table-IV).

## REFERENCES

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3. Agarwal, A.K., Sharma, V.P., & Mishra, U.S." A Study of Childhood Disability with special reference to Poliomyelitis in relation to incidence, age and seasonal variation, Indian Journal of Disability & Rehabilitation, Vol.5, 37-42, Jan-June, 1991.
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**Table-I :Diseases Leading to Disability in Children**

Diseases leading to disability	Male No.	Female No.	Total	%
Poliomyelitis	52	38	90	56.2
Congenital Talipes Equino Cavo Varus	16	10	26	6.2
Rickets	3	4	7	4.0
Amputation	1	-	1	0.6
Congenital Bilateral Hyper Extension at Elbow	1	-	1	0.6
Cerebral Palsy	7	4	11	6.9
Pes Planus	2	2	4	2.5
Hemiparesis	1	2	3	1.9
Others	12	5	17	10.6
Total	95	65	160	100.0
Percentage	59.4	40.6		

**Table-II: Schooling and Milestones in Disabled Children**

S.No.	Milestones	Schooling				Total	%
		Yes		No			
		M	F	M	F		
1.	Normal	26	7	60	50	143	89.4
2.	Delayed	2	-	6	8	16	10.0
3.	Not known	-	-	1	-	1	0.6
	Total	28	7	67	58	160	
	Percentage	17.5	4.4	41.9	36.2		100.0

**Table-III: Reasons for not attending School**

S.No.	Reasons	Male No.	Female No.	Total %	
1.	Not of school age	58	42	100	80.0%
2.	Disability	7	12	19	15.2%
3.	Parent's indifferent attitude towards disability	1	2	3	2.4%
4.	Others	1	2	3	2.4%
Total		67	58	125	
Percentage		41.9%	36.2%		

**Table-IV: Father's views towards Schooling of Disabled Child**

S.No.	Views of parents	No. of patient	Percentage
1.	Inadequate schooling facilities within reach	138	86.20
2.	Transportation facilities not available	46	91.25
3.	God's curse	92	57.50
4.	No Comment	53	33.10