

The Special Ones at NAVJYOTI: Action research in field of special education- Introducing innovative techniques for assessment of special children

Swati Sharma*

Research scholar

Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad (Haryana)

Abstract

The 'special ones' at Navjyoti is an action research in the area of special education illustrating a special and an innovative approach to deal with special children ,and work in order to improve their concentration, maladjusted behaviour patterns, hand gripping, and eye contact . The study attempts to keep an innovative approach and make use of self devised strategies, keeping in mind that theoretical guideline are not enough to serve the special. The best way to understand this is by introspecting the literal meaning of the term 'special', the term itself explains its identity and existence of being '*unique*', different from the others, something or someone with its own variety set of traits, individual understanding, a marked deficit in functioning and intellect , which is ultimately affecting their adaptive functioning. One cannot help bring about a change in the level of their deficit, but can help reduce the apparent traits that make them different or unique from the others, simply by working on their adaptive functioning by using innovate and special ways. Keeping this in mind this action research for a month was conducted at a special school named Navjyoti School of mentally challenged located in vasant kunj, New Delhi. Research method was explorative and action oriented which was based on detailed case studies, counselling and activity sessions with a sample 5 special children, suffering from autism spectrum disorder, moderate mental retardation, and Down syndrome. The objective of the research was to improve the level of concentration and deal with maladjusted behavioural tendencies. In order to achieve these objectives the study made use of - i) 4 self devised exercises namely, smile board task, Pick a circle task, connect the dots pattern, and cutting task to check precision. , for the purpose of improving concentration and ii) secondly the use of behaviour modification action cards, which were behaviour specific to improve malfunctioned behavioural patterns and significant results were found. Finally the study illustrates positive results based on its statistical data depicting a marked improvement in the level of concentration and maladjusted behaviour patterns in these children.

Keywords: Autism spectrum disorder, moderate mental retardation, down syndrome