

A study on the educational problems experienced by visually impaired students in secondary schools for blinds

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Abstract

Education is not only the process of knowledge dissemination but also the process of overall development of the children. Especially for the visually impaired, the role of education is even more important. With the help of education, visually impaired child can achieve self- dependency in personal and social life. For normal students the process of education is quite simple and easy, but for visually impaired student it isn't, they have their unique educational problems that can hinder their academic achievement as well as their social interactions.

This study examines the common problems faces by the visually impaired students, including limited educational resources, delay in recruitment of special degree teachers. This study also explores innovative solutions and strategies to address these problems, such as assistive technologies, teaching learning resources, and school environment. The study aims to contribute to supportive educational environment for visually impaired students in Gujarat.

Key Words: *Visually Impaired students, Education.*

Introduction

Education is not only the process of knowledge dissemination but also the process of overall development of the children. Especially for the visually impaired, the role of education is even more important. With the help of education, visually impaired child can achieve self- dependency in personal and social life. For normal students the process of education is quite simple and easy, but for visually impaired student it isn't, they have their unique educational problems that can hinder their academic achievement as well as their social interactions. The educational problems and their solutions for visually impaired students were discussed in context to their educational development. Although, the special schools for visually impaired students are well equipped with all necessary needs for the visually impaired students, the students still face some educational problems regarding their learning, such as learning material in braille, sufficient audio material, smart phone, vision in dark room facility, computer with voice assistant is missing. If the visually impaired students get sufficient teaching learning resources, conducive environment, sufficient equipments and study material in braille, they will be better prepared to achieve their goals for life.

The governing body as well as the Government should understand the needs of the students for their all-round development.

Research Questions

- I. What are the educational problems experienced by visually impaired students in secondary schools for blinds in Gujarat?
- II. What are the suggestions towards the problem experienced by visually impaired students in secondary schools for blinds in Gujarat?

Research Objectives

- I. To study the educational problems of visually impaired students in secondary schools for blinds in Gujarat.
- II. To give suggestions of the problems of visually impaired students in secondary schools for blinds in Gujarat.

Population of the study

The population of the study were 283 visually impaired students of 8 schools for blinds in Gujarat.

Sample of the study

The all 8 Visually impaired school's 283 students were the sample of the study.

Research Method

The data collected for the study is descriptive by nature. So, the method used for the study is qualitative research method. Content analysis technique was used for analysis of data.

Tool

Students interview Sheet was used as a tool to collect the data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The aim of the study is to identify and to make suggestion of the problems of visually impaired students in the schools for blinds. The Information about the problems of visually impaired students were obtained during the interview by asking the questions. After that, the data obtained were analysed and interpreted based on the content analysis technique, and findings were drawn.

Problems Experienced by visually impaired students

- Limited accessibility to the educational materials and resources, such as Lack of Braille reference books and Audio materials

- Delay in recruitment of teachers with Special B.Ed Degree in schools. The teachers in schools for visually impaired students are mostly normal teachers, who do not have knowledge of braille. They are unable to teach braille. As a result of this students are unable to learn properly.
- The schools for visually impaired students were not well equipped. There is a limited integration of technology, Smart phone and voice assistance computers.
- There were no displays outside of the classrooms as well as other areas of school in braille for better mobility to the visually impaired students.
- Examinations is taken with the help of a writer instead of brailier or any technological support.
- Assessment of examination is done by normal teacher instead of special B.Ed. degree holder teacher.
- The Assessment is based on written examinations only.
- Lack of Vision in the Dark Room facility and Sensory room facility
- Lack of Government support in terms of Scholarship amount.

Findings of the study

- Most of the students suggested that standard 9th and 11th examinations should be conducted through Brailier or through technology-based device like audio recorder etc. instead of with the help of writer
- Some of the students suggested that examination should have equal weightage for oral and written examination.
- Most of the student suggested that the teachers in schools for visually impaired students should have Special B.Ed. Degree and have good knowledge of braille.
- A few students suggested that there should be braille displays outside of the classroom and other areas of the school.
- All the students suggested that along with braille textbooks, reference books in braille, audio material, and drawing books should also be made available in the schools.
- Some of the students also emphasis on having innovative technologies like Brailier, Embosser, printer, Skini 500, Audible software, angel, mobile, USB, play stop, orbit and Braille board and math board in schools.

- Some students suggest that assessments should be done by specialised teachers instead of normal teachers.
- Most of the students suggested that the Government should increase the amount of scholarships.

Suggestions and strategies:

- I. Technology can play a significant role in improving the educational experience of visually impaired students by providing them with equal access to information and learning opportunities.
- II. The schools should provide accessible educational reference material in Braille, also audio, or e-book formats that can help visually impaired students access course materials, textbooks, and other educational resources.
- III. The school should make available assistive technology integration, like braille displays outside of the classroom and other area of the school.
- IV. The school should make available new technological tools like Smart phone and voice assistant computer. Tools such as screen readers, and magnification software can help visually impaired students navigate digital content and complete assignments.
- V. Government or the School Governing body should focus of Recruitment of Teachers with Special B.Ed. degree, who can understand and teach braille to the students.
- VI. The examination system should change. Examinations should be in Braille script and assessment must be by specialised teachers. Examination system should have equal weightage for oral and written examinations.

Conclusion

The visually impaired students have all the capacity and knowledge that the normal child have. But because of the lack of availability for their educational needs they can't compete with the normal child. By implementing necessary learning material, equipment and other support we can empower the visually impaired students. By empowering them with education we can empower the society also.

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