



Problems Of Learning Disability And Its Impact On Education

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INTRODUCTION

Learning disability is a general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems. A learning disability can cause various trouble in reading, writing, listening, speaking, reasoning and calculations. It prevents a person from developing these certain skills. Learning disability can also be considered a neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to receive, process, store and respond to information. A person affected by learning disability is unable to control and coordinate his motor skills, speech capacity and attention. According to Gaye McNutt, and Stephen C. Larsen, "Learning disability is a generic term that refers to a heterogeneous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning or mathematical abilities.

Children with learning disabilities are generally considered differently able. They also have competency and specific intelligence. It is just they have inability to learn things in the same manner as the the rest of the children. It does not mean that they lack intelligence and it is a sheer indulgence, it is just that their brains cannot receive and process information properly.

OBJECTIVES

1. To give a brief description of learning disability.
2. To study the cause of learning disability.
3. Impact of learning disability in teaching learning process.

METHODOLOGY:

Descriptive and Analysis methods are used.

DISCUSSION

Learning Disability is a generic term that refers to a heterogenous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening ,speaking,reading,writing,reasoning or mathematical abilities.The various types of diabilities are discussed below.

TYPES OF LEARNING DISABILITIES

DYSLEXIA: It ia a specific type of learning disability which affects the reading skills of an indivisual.An indivisual is unable to decode,comprehend words.It is a neurological condition that is characterized by difficulties with word recognition and decoding.It may also affects language skills such as spelling ,writing and pronouncing words.

Symptoms of Dyslexia:

- difficulty in recognizing words and letters
- Lack of fluency in reading
- difficulties in pronouncing words
- Avoiding activities that involve reading

DYSGRAPHIA:In this learning disability,an indivisual lacks proper use of motor skills.They are unable to put their opinion or thought into writing in a proper way.It is also a neurodevelopment disorder that concerns impairments in written expression.

Symptoms of Dysgraphia:

- Incomplete letters and words
- Difficulty in translating ideas into writing
- Slow speed in writing or copying
- improper letter size and shape
- Lack of neatness

DYSCALCULIA:An indivisual with learning disability,dyscaculia has difficulty in comprehending arithmetic .He/she is not able to understand number-based information properly which can lead to a diverse range of difficulties with numeracy.He/she has to struggle with memorization and organization of numbers,operation signs etc.

Symptoms of Dyscalculia:

- difficulty in counting numbers
- unable to recognize numbers
- lack of number sense—ordering,sequencing
- use fingers while counting

DYSPRAXIA:It is also a neurological disorder that affects an individual's ability to plan and process motor skills.It is also known as perceptuo-motor dysfunction and developmental coordination disorder(DCD).According to the National Health Service,United Kingdom,many children with dyspraxia also have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.(ADHD).

Symptoms of Dyspraxia:

- Abnormal walking
- muscle weakness
- speech delay, anxiety
- poor balance, poor posture, fatigue, clumsiness

APHASIA:Aphasia is a learning disorder that affects individuals in understanding languages.An individual is not able to comprehend language due to brain injury.A person cannot express his thought properly.

Symptoms of Aphasia:

- difficulty in understanding speech
- difficulty in remembering words
- cannot speak clearly
- cannot grasp written words easily

AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER:Auditory processing disorder,in short APD is a disorder where a person is unable to process or comprehend sounds.It is a hearing disorder.An individual cannot coordinate his ears and brain fully.

Symptoms of APD:

- Lack of attention
- difficulty in learning a new language
- difficulty in following directions at a rapid speed

VISUAL MOTOR DEFICIT:Visual motor deficit affects an individual's ability to comprehend visual information.A person cannot understand the information he sees like shape of a word or letter,sequence of word or phrases etc.There is a lack of coordination between visual and motor skills of an individual.

Symptoms of visual motor deficit:

- Rubbing eyes frequently
- difficulty in copying information
- poor handwriting
- difficulty in forming letters etc.

ADHD:ADHD or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is also a common disorder.A child having this disorder cannot pay attention properly and control his behavior.He/she becomes restless in any situation.

Symptoms od ADHD:

- excessive body movements
- persistent anxiety,boredom,mood swing
- absent-mindedness,lack of focusing

CAUSE OF LEARNING DISABILITY

Learning disabilities are caused by various neurological,genetic and environmental factors which affect in learning.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

An appropriate and conducive environment plays an important role in early stages of childhood.An impoverished living conditions in early childhood may severely affect in learning.other factors such as pre mature delivery,malnutrition during early stage,severe diseases,accidents and injuries also cause difficulties in later stages.At the prenatal stage,Maternal use of drugs,alcohol and habit of smoking has a bad impact and create havoc during pregnancy.During perinatal stage,complication during birth,can have impact on umbilical cord that becomes twisted,can lead to anoxia.Brain injury during birth may also have a bad impact on learning.Postnatal factors such as meningitis can also affect a child's learning.The early home learning environment plays an important role in a child's learning.children have more freedom to learn to home and can learn at their own pace.Hart and Risley(1995),who found that infants and toddlers who received infrequent communication exchanges with their parents were more likely to show deficit in vocabulary,language use,and intellectual development before entering school.

GENETIC OR HEREDITY FACTOR

Genetic or heredity factors can also be considered inherited learning disability.These factors are the significant cause of learning disability.changes in the structure of chromosomes or their genes during cell division can cause genetic abnormalities.Moreover,single gene disorder,mitochondrial disorder,imprinting disorders etc can contribute to learning disabilities.Reading disabilities are reported more frequently between identical twins(wadsworth et al.,2000).Language and communication disorder also show substantial genetic influence.

NEUROLOGICAL FACTORS

Neurological impairments are often caused by problems during pregnancy and birth can result from anomalies in the developing brain,illness and injury,fatal exposure to drugs or alcohol,low birth weight and oxygen deprivation etc.It is the reflection of structural damage or improper development of the nervous system.visuospatial perception,auditory perception,semantic memory and phonetic discrimination are the learning disabilities which result in neuropsychological deficit.

IMPACT OF LEARNING DISABILITIES IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS

An individual who has learning disability has to struggle in every stages of life, especially it has an adverse effect in teaching learning process. For example, a person who is suffering from learning disability has to face a challenging situation. Language learning disability make the process of reading and writing slow and difficult. These types of students may need more time to grasp information within a given time. A child having attention deficit disorder may find it difficult to maintain focus in critical learning. Learning disability is not confined only to a school environment. It has also the effect of having relation with his family, peers and other relationships. Children with learning disability become less attentive to their social environment. They become less confident to handle any social behavior.

Learning disability generally affects the behavior of an individual. Behavioural problems in children can be categorized into two broad categories. External behaviour and internal behavior. In each situation a child behave differently. Externalizing behavior problems in children such as aggression, bullying, hyperactivity, inattention, impulsivity, disobeying rules etc can be seen in the classroom. These particular behaviours make the teaching learning process difficult. If left untreated, there may have more serious problems that can lead to criminal activity. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a common externalizing behavioural problems. On the otherhand Internalizing behavior such as withdrawal, anxiety, depression etc also have severe effect in teaching and learning process.

Children with learning disability also have difficulty in attention. They generally lack motor skills, they are not expert in time management and have emotional immaturity. That is why, they generally face fear of failure and criticism from their peers. It is one of the reasons for which an individual having learning disability shows indifference to any academic inclinations. Most of the students with learning disability dropout from schools at an early stage and they remain deprived of basic education in their life. They remain isolated from friends and societies due to low self esteem and depression.

An estimated 5 to 15% of school age children struggle with a learning disability. An estimated 80% of those with learning disorder have an impairment in reading in particular (commonly referred to as dyslexia) affecting 20% of the population. Dyslexia affects, males and females equally. Indian Journal of Pediatrics, a 2021 study estimates that 1 in 68 children in India have Autism. Boys are more commonly affected by autism than girls with a male to female ratio of approximately 3:1. Children having learning disability are not able to cope with the learning environment due to low esteem and socio economic disparity. It is not easy to handle such children if a person is not fully trained and aware of such circumstances.

The barrier experienced by students with learning disability is physically accessing the learning environment itself. For many students with learning disability the inaccessibility of buildings and surrounding areas is a problem. If a school does not provide basic infrastructure for children with Learning disability, learning will have an adverse effect. Physical barrier can prevent mobility or access and hinder the teaching and learning process.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Parents should create a conducive environment so that a child can be free to establish his own identity. They should focus on the child's strength and weaknesses.
2. Parents should provide guidance needed for independence. They should give moral support to their children.
3. Provide good language models and stimulation. Parents and teachers should communicate with them and try to make a conducive environment in which children can express their thoughts without any hindrance.
4. Specially trained teachers should be appointed who perform a comprehensive evaluation of the child's ability.
5. Proper medication should be provided to improve their ability to focus and concentrate.
6. A proper learning environment should be provided with well equipped facilities for the children with learning disability.
7. Inclusive education can provide all children with a fair chance to learn. It will eradicate the social barrier in the teaching and learning process.

CONCLUSION

Learning disabilities have no cure, but early intervention can lessen their effects. It increases the chance of success in school and later life. If remain untreated, it may lead to frustration, low self esteem and other problems. Social and emotional skills are most important factors of success for all children. Every parents should give full emotional support to their children for lifelong achievement and happiness.

WORK SITED

1. <https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov>
2. verywellmind.com
3. <http://www.practo.com>
4. Socialsci.librotexts.org