

To Study the Effectiveness of Audio Visual Aids on the Learning of Specially Abled Children

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Abstract

Special children are the ones who require special education and related services in order to realise their full human potential. They may have mental retardation, specific learning difficulties, emotional problems, physical disabilities hampering their learning, disordered speech, language or special talents. The purpose of present study is to measure the learning outcome of specially abled children with the help of audio visual aids. An experimental study is carried out on 10 educable special children studying in a special school of Raipur. They are being administered with AV aids comprising of animated movies and slide presentation. The topics taught were Traffic rules and Festivals celebrated in India. Two groups of five students each were formed, the controlled and the treatment group. The statistical analysis was done using (1) percentage to see the achievement and (2) mean, standard deviation and student's t-test to compare the traditional method with experiment method. There was significant difference observed ($t=11.848$, $p<0.05$) and it was in favour of children administered with AV aids. The study showed improvement in learning of special children of the experiment group. It was thus concluded that Audio visual aids positively affect the learning using multi sensory approach of specially abled children.

KEYWORDS: Special children, Audio visual aids, multi sensory approach.

INTRODUCTION

In India, a learner with special educational needs is defined variously in different documents. A child with special educational needs in District Primary Education Programme Document is defined as a child with disability, namely, visual, hearing, locomotor and intellectual (DPEP, 2001). Disabled children or Children with Special Needs would refer to sensory, physical and intellectual impairments, communication, emotional and behavioural disorders, mental health difficulties and multiple disabilities.

Special education refers to specially designed instruction which meets the unique needs of exceptional children. It involves special instructional materials, teaching techniques, content, equipment and facilities.

Special education is designed to provide:

- a) specific appropriate facilities,
- b) specialised methods and materials suitable for special children, and
- c) specially trained teachers to deal with children having wide range of developmental problems.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Disabled population occupies approximately 2.1% of total population as per Census 2001. The researcher intends to use audio visual aids so as to make the learning effective of special children by using multisensory approach.

AIM

To study the effectiveness of audio visual aids on the learning of specially abled children.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- 1) To study the learning outcome of specially abled children.
- 2) To study the effect of Audio-video aid on learning of specially abled children.

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Study type: Experimental

Sampling method: Purposive

Sample size: 10

Place of the study: Piyali Foundation, Raipur

Duration of study: 1 month

Criterion of study: Special school comprising of educable children.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

A total of 10 (n=10) educable special children studying in a special school of Raipur were selected using purposive sampling. These children were graded as of level II. They had received basic training of hygiene, how to sit in a classroom kind situation and in some cases respond to whatever has been taught. They had been suffering from different degrees and kinds of disabilities ranging from mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy and spina bifida. They were divided into two groups - Controlled group and treatment (experimental) group of five each. Two topics were identified to be taught to them in consultation to the Director of the institution. The topics were (1) Traffic signals and safety associated with it and (2) Festivals celebrated in our country. A pre-test for both groups was conducted to find out the understanding regarding the subjects. Then the controlled group was taught using traditional method and experimental group was taught using audio visual aids. These aids were in the form of Animated movies and slide shows. These were prepared and edited by the researcher as per the need of the study. Later a post test was conducted for both the groups.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Besides mean, standard deviation and independent 't' - test was administered to find out which method - traditional or with use of audio visual aids is better to teach specially abled children in an effective manner.

Table: 1 PHASE–IA Remediation of Learning of specially abled children through traditional method.

TESTING	N	M	SD	%
Pre Test	5	12.8	0.837	64%
Post Test	5	13.2	0.840	66%

Table: 2 PHASE–IB Remediation of Learning of specially abled children through Audio-visual method.

TESTING	N	M	SD	%
Pre Test	5	11.2	1.483	56%
Post Test	5	18.2	0.447	91%

Table: 3 PHASE–II Comparison of both methods (Post testing)

TESTING	N	M	SD	't'
Group A (Control group)	5	13.2	0.837	11.848
Group B (Treatment/Experimental group)	5	18.2	0.447	

RESULTS:

An observation of the table 1 shows pre to post achievement of controlled group. Table 2 reflects the achievement of experimental group and Table 3 shows that post test mean scores using Audio visual aids achieved by group–B students as compared to group–A students using traditional method. The difference was highly significant statistically ($t=11.848$, $p<0.05$). It infers that Audio visual instruction (powerpoint simulations and animation clips) method of teaching helped students significantly to perform better in learning the concepts of traffic rules and festivals of our country. This method effectively used the multisensory approach for specially abled students studying in Level II of a special school.

DISCUSSION:

The present study was conducted to study the effect of multimedia in the form of audio visual aids in the learning of educable special children. The findings of this study can be summarized as:

- Gainful learning was observed while teaching special children using multisensory approach.
- Apparent gain was observed in the achievement of children with different types of disabilities while teaching various concepts regarding traffic lights with presentation and animated movies.
- Children seem to respond well to animated clips depicting importance of traffic rules.
- The traditional teaching method however failed to garner interest in special children.

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