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A study to assess the attitude towards the child with learning disability among mothers in selected village, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Background: Mother's attitude most frequently considered involving the degree of warmth and acceptance or coldness and rejection that exist in the mother-child relationship. For hearing parents, it is a very difficult task to accept the disability. Once they come to know about the diagnosis of deafness, they are shocked and traumatised. Mothers may start developing negative attitude towards the child. Their parent's behavioural patterns must change.

Objectives: 1. To assess the attitude towards the child with learning disability among mothers. 2. To find the association between the attitude towards the child with learning disability and the selected socio demographic variables of mothers.

Methods: A quantitative approach with descriptive design, mothers between 20-35 years of age who are residing in Venkatachalem village and who met the inclusion criteria were selected by using Non-probability convenience sampling technique.

Results: Study revealed that the level of attitude among 30 mothers, 29(96.7%) mothers had positive attitude and 1(3.3%) mother had neutral attitude towards the child with learning disability.

Conclusion: The study concluded that the majority of the mothers had positive attitude towards the child with learning disability.

Keywords: Attitude, child with learning disability, mothers

Introduction

"A child can't learn the way we teach, may we should teach the way they learn."

Mother's attitude most frequently considered involving the degree of warmth and acceptance or coldness and rejection that exist in the mother-child relationship. For hearing parents, it is a very difficult task to accept the disability. Once they come to know about the diagnosis of deafness, they are shocked and traumatised. Mothers may start developing negative attitude towards the child. Their parent's behavioural patterns must change^[1].

The importance of the mother's attitude becomes vital in safe guarding and promoting the mental health of children and early identification of deviations from normal. This school is one of the most important, organized and powerful system in our place that influence the health and wellbeing of those who come in contact with it. Mothers have a major role in the challenging and dynamic inclusion process that starts with the mother's decision to place their child in a main stream setting. Consequently over the last two decades a number of studies examine parent views and concerns about inclusion, leading the contradictory results. Several of these studies concerning mothers of children with mild or moderate disabilities (SERRY & DAVIS 2012) and mothers of children with severe disabilities were supportive of practices and satisfied with the benefits provided for their children^[2].

Need For the Study

Mother's attitudes are cognitions that predispose an individual to act either positively or negatively towards a child. Attitudes most frequently considered to involving the degree of warmth and acceptance that exists in the parent-child relationship^[3].

The revised and expanded 2014 edition of "The State Of Learning Disabilities" reflects National Centre For Learning Disabilities (NCLD'S) commitment to ensuring that everyone who is concerned about the wellbeing of individuals - with or without identified learning disabilities has access to the most relevant and updated information^[4].

The US department of education reports that there are 2.8 million students being served for learning disabilities. In this 47.4% of all children receiving special education. In India there are 1.74 million children are present with learning disability caused by inadequate health care and ear care. Here 8.15 million are school children.⁵

Problem Statement

A Study to Assess the Attitude towards the Child with Learning Disability among Mothers in Selected Village, Nellore.

Objectives

- To assess the attitude towards the child with learning disability among mothers.
- To find the association between the attitude towards the child with learning disability and the selected socio demographic variables of mothers.

Delimitations

1. The study is limited to learning disabled children in a selected school in Nellore district.
2. The sample size is 30 only.
3. The data collection duration is two weeks only.

Materials and Methods

Research approach: The quantitative research approach.

Research design: A descriptive design.

Setting: The study was conducted in a selected village, Venkatachalam, Nellore.

Sample: Sample for the study was mothers between 20-35 years of age who are residing in Venkatachalem village and who met the inclusion criteria.

Sampling Technique: The convenience sampling technique was used.

Sample Size: The sample size consists of 30 mothers in Venkatachalem village.

Criteria for Sample Selection

Inclusion criteria

- Mothers between 20 to 35 years of age
- Mothers who are available at the time of data collection
- Mothers who could understand and speak Telugu/English

Exclusion criteria

- Mothers who are not willing to participate in the study
- Mothers who are not available at the time of data collection
- Mothers who don't know Telugu or English

Description of the Tool

- **Part-A:** Socio demographic variables
- **Part-B:** Five point Likert's attitude scale: It is the modified tool to assess the attitude towards the child with learning disability among mothers. The Likert scale was developed by US organizational behavior psychologist Dr.Rensi's Likert (1903-1981). In this

scale each statement carries 5 marks. The total score includes 150 marks.

Scoring Procedure

The modified five point Likert scale is used for this study. The total score is 150. The criteria for scoring are:-

Criteria	Score
Strongly agree	5
Agree	4
Unsure	3
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1

Score Interpretation

S. No.	Level of Attitude	Score
1.	Positive attitude	101-150
2.	Neutral attitude	51-100
3.	Negative attitude	1-50

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Frequency distribution of level of attitude towards the child with learning disability among mothers. (N=30)

S. No.	Level of Attitude	F	P
1.	Positive attitude	29	96.7%
2.	Neutral attitude	1	3.3%
3.	Negative attitude	-	-
Total		30	100

Among 30 mothers, 29(96.7%) mothers had positive attitude towards the child with learning disability and 1(3.3%) mother had neutral attitude towards the child with learning disability.

Table 2: Mean and Standard deviation of level of attitude towards the child with leaning disability among mothers.

Category	Mean	Standard Deviation
Level of attitude	114.9	9.09

Table 3: Association between the levels of attitude towards the child with learning disability with their selected socio demographic variables of mothers. (N=30)

S. No	Demographic Variables	Positive Attitude		Negative Attitude		Chi-Square (X ²)
		F	%	F	%	
1.	Age in years					CV=16.12 TV=9.4 Df=4 P<0.05 S*
	a.<20 years	7	23.3	-	-	
	b.21-25 years	1	3.3	1	3.3	
	c.26-30 years	5	16.7	-	-	
	d.31-35 years	4	13.3	-	-	
e. Above 35 years	12	40	-	-		

Among all the demographic variables, Age of the mother had significant association with attitude level of mothers at P<0.05 level.

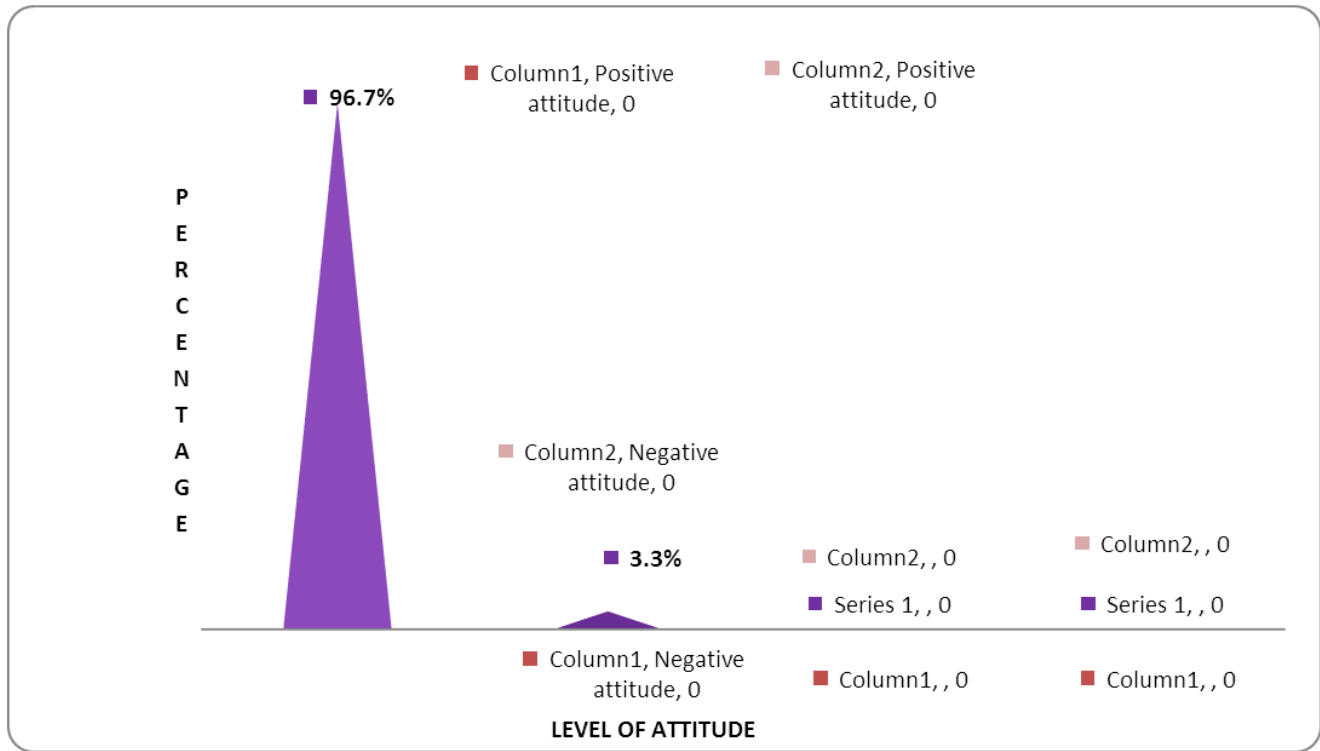


Fig 1: Frequency Distribution of Level of Attitude among Mothers

Major Findings of the Study

- Among 30 mothers, 29(96.7%) mothers had positive attitude towards the child with learning disability and 1(3.3%) mother had neutral attitude towards the child with learning disability.
- Mean and standard deviation of level of attitude towards the child with learning disability 114.9 & 9.09 respectively.
- Among all the demographic variables, Age of the mother had significant association with attitude level of mothers at $P < 0.05$ level.

Recommendations

- A similar study can be replicated on a large sample size to generalize the findings.
- A similar study can be done on different settings.
- An experimental study can be conducted to assess the knowledge and practice of learning disabled child.
- A comparative study to assess the changing student-teachers attitude towards the child with learning disability in a special school.
- A similar study can be done by the students and the teachers in a special school.

Conclusion

The study concluded that the majority of the mothers had positive attitude towards the child with learning disability. They exhibit more favourable attitude towards learning disability child. Since mother’s attitude play an important role in education and the rehabilitation of the disabled child.

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