

**A SURVEY OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES OF CHILDREN
WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME
IN LAHORE CITY**



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A.S

Abstract

The study was focused on educational facilities of children with Down's syndrome. The objectives were to identify the current facilities with in the vicinity of Lahore and what were the short comings in terms of facilities that were available to students. It also revealed the problems that were faced by parents and guardians in this regard. The study was aimed to provide an insight of these issues so that it becomes the starting position to improve the scenario.

Research was descriptive based on questionnaire taken from almost fifty teachers involved in these areas covering the facilities in place. The data was analyzed and it was found that from five schools from which data is taken Ameen Maktab being highest rated in terms of facilities. While Shadab found at lowest rate on the graph of facilities (education, medical, social)

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Down syndrome is a birth defect that occurs in approximately one of every 800 babies. The defect is caused by the presence of an extra chromosome, which results in physical abnormalities. The more serious abnormality; is mental retardation. Most children with Down syndrome develop more slowly than the average child, but this development can vary from a delay that is mild to one that is severe (Shelov, 1994).

Initial years are the most important period in life. Parents often do not have the skills necessary to engage Down syndrome children in ways that increase their development. The early intervention is crucial for the children with Down syndrome that provides the true picture that based on long and healthy life span. The positive result of their intervention also encourages the parent to continue to work with the child.

An initial educational facility for children with Down syndrome is the most important thing because without identifying them we cannot do any further activity. Identification is important for their further achievement. After identification researcher can give them the others services according to their needs.

As the child grows older and enters pre/elementary school, the child can benefit from inclusion, which means placing the child in a regular education classroom. Inclusion differs from mainstreaming in that the child becomes the part of regular classroom and not simply a visitor. A Down syndrome child's curricular goals and needs may differ from those of the average child, but these needs can be met through a carefully implemented plan.

In the case of learning and development, all children and adults with Down syndrome experience developmental delays. Babies with Down syndrome reach the same developmental milestones as all babies, but with some degree of delay.

Early intervention services should be provided shortly after birth. These services should include physical, speech and developmental therapies. It is felt that children with Down syndrome should be integrated in the society and should attend their neighborhood schools - some in regular classes and others in special education classes.

Children with Down syndrome can achieve post-secondary education and many adults are capable of working in the community. It is important to commence addressing their special needs from childhood. In certain individuals it may be that they require special care during their entire lifetime. Life expectancy is 50 to 60 years. Retrieved on May 12, 2011

<http://www.cdadc.com/ds/downsyndromelifeexpectancy.htm>

The facility is essential for the children to be included into the currently introduced classes with the government school for slow learners, which accepts children with Down syndrome. However, they have to pass the interview and be capable to cope with problems. It would be impossible for these children to join such classes if there are no proper pre-school facilities.

In Pakistan there are very less researches done on the educational field. After identification when parents become hopeless, they think what kind of facilities they can give to their children at home and in schools too. In these condition following factors include: Parent support group, many parents find that the best emotional support comes from other families with children with Down Syndrome, Early Intervention Centre (from birth to 9 years) , a non-government association , expansion by 2012 ,Integration to main stream schools , Ministry of Education, special classes from grades 1 to 4, less than 12- per class. Other non-government association, Family centered support systems, day care centers.

Pakistan is a developed country, with limited resources for the provision of educational facilities of children with Down syndrome. The children are not brought to the doctors because of the lack of awareness of the parents of children with Down syndrome about the disability. The most important and famous tool used on regular bases in the special schools for child development is Portage Guide.

Portage is well known home based program for children with Down syndrome in Pakistan. It was introduced in 1988, keeping in view of services for special- needs -children in the country. With the support of UNICEF, and then the program started in two cities of Pakistan i.e. Karachi and Lahore. Later it was promoted and teachers and parents also attracted towards its usability. Now, the Urdu version of portage is being used by many NGO in the country. Simultaneously, the test was used by an NGO in Lahore namely Ameen Maktab. The project was funded by UNESCO from 1989 to 1997. During the period, many children with Down syndrome were assessed, educational plan were developed and parents were guided to work on it.

In Lahore, many special schools work to provide different educational facilities to promote learning according to the child's needs e.g. they provide teaching materials, teachings

aids, physical accessories, hearing aids etc. The school faculty is consisted of multidisciplinary teams that includes special educationist, psychologist, Physician, therapist etc. So that is helpful for children with Down syndrome to encounter the problem related to educational facilities.

Statement of the problem

Reference to the above information the statement of the problem was a survey of educational facilities of children with Down syndrome in Lahore city.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were to;

- identify educational facilities available to the children with Down 's syndrome.
- find out the problem related to admission criteria for the children with Down 's syndrome.
- identify the problem in possible access of special schools for the parents of the children with Down 's syndrome.

Questions of the study

The questions of the study were;

- Do parents of children with Down syndrome have possible access to special schools?
- Do parents have knowledge related to admission criteria of the special education schools?
- Do parents know about classroom environment?
- Do classroom environment effective for learning?
- Are all required facilities of children with Down syndrome available?
- Do families have awareness of the disability of the children?

Significance of the study

The significance of the study will be;

- The study will provide the information about the further improvement/ achievement of children with Down's syndrome.
- This study will also provide the information about the specific educational services that teachers recommended to the parents of children with Down's syndrome.
- The study will be helpful for the parents to access in different special education schools.
- The study will be helpful for the policy makers for the sake of improvement in educational setup and provide appropriate educational facility free of cost.
- The study will be helpful to develop the standard of educational facilities in Lahore.

Limitations of the study

The data was collected from the 50 teachers of children with Down's syndrome from different special schools of Lahore city.

The procedure of the study

In start topic was introduced and the problem was stated. In the light of introduction and problem statement the researcher stated objectives of the study. Then some relevant questions were raised and significance of the study was stated.

The study was descriptive type of research. The research population of the study was

teacher of the Down syndrome children from special schools of Lahore city. The instrument of the study was questionnaire developed on the basis of major characteristics. Quantitative data were gathered, analyzed and interpreted. Finally the conclusion was drawn and on the basis of that conclusion the recommendations will be made.