

Parental Perception Regarding the Employability of their Hearing Impaired Children

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Abstract- To attain full participation and equality in society for a hearing impaired person, it is imperative to have a guarantee for the means of livelihood. Only through occupation and economic independence they can participate in social life without any stigma and use the benefits available to them. The field of employment is one which has received a relatively fair amount of investigation in studies of deaf. The present investigation is meant to assess parental perception regarding the employability of their hearing impaired children. Survey method was adopted for the conduct of the study. The sample consisted of 120 parents selected from eight revenue districts of Kerala, viz – Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Kozhikode. The sample was selected using random sampling technique. The selected sample represented almost all the sections prevailing in the society. High, middle and low income groups were randomly selected to get a better vision and deeper insight into the nature of what it is dealing with. To collect the data required for the study, an attitude scale prepared and validated by the investigator was used. The treatment of data was carried out employing percentage analysis. Parents believe that employments rendered to the HIC are capable of making a self confident, self reliable and self supporting generation in our society.

Index Terms- Parental perception, Hearing impaired children

I. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The challenging task of employment of the hearing impaired is that of deciding the continuing education and possible career. This requires the individual to be aware of his or her interests, values and abilities that relates to specific occupations. Career maturity is to be developed most intensively during adolescent period. Educational strategies increase the capacity and willingness to plan the future. The career development process occurs through a number of life stages. An individual's career pattern is determined by socio-economic levels, mental ability, personality characteristics and also by opportunities. They may face a lot of conflicts like tension, frustration, ambiguity and uncertainty before making any decision. Trice (1991) reported that children were more likely to maintain their early career aspirations if they wished to hold identical or similar occupation as their father. The problem of vocational guidance has also been linked with the problem of vocational placement. Thomas and Ferguson (1964) noted the need for further opportunities for vocational training and the need for 'specialized assistance' to the deaf and recommended that local education authorities should be urged to give consideration to the

establishment of vocational training centers on a regional basis. Residential courses of general education are considered as a preliminary to vocational training of the physically handicapped. Drewry (1958) advocated the need in some areas for a better co-coordinated placement scheme, including vocational guidance, is an urgent one. Boys and girls leaving some schools have little idea about their vocation and are ignorant about the countless openings available for the deaf in a complex industrial society or of the different kinds of training schemes available or the general organizations of factories and other industrial units (Cited in Taylor 1988).

To attain full participation and equality in society for a hearing impaired person, it is imperative to have a guarantee for the means of livelihood. Only through occupation and economic independence they can participate in social life without any stigma and use the benefits available to them. The field of employment is one which has received a relatively fair amount of investigation in studies of deaf. The need for a development of vocational training facilities for the deaf, whose communication skills and academic achievements are so limited as to prevent to obtaining any or only minimal benefit from conventional courses of instruction. Stuckless and Moores (1964) have shown that the deaf are consistently 'underemployed' both with respect to their own innate abilities and comparative performance of normally hearing groups.

Each parent is unique and has individual backgrounds, attitude and needs that must be dealt with on a very personal basis. The tendency of parents to want to find out immediately anything that concerns the future of the child help in analyzing their attitude. The positive attitude and understanding of the parent's feelings will help to minimize the problem and establish the parent child bond. For many years attention of professionals has been devoted solely to the deaf child, and little consideration has been given to parents. The parents of the deaf child may be the key to one of the most significant factors in the deaf youngster's development. The role of parents in the development of the child is very important. Therefore, it seems very essential to conduct a study to find out parents perception regarding the employability of their hearing impaired children.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To find out parent's perception of future benefits of their hearing impaired children being employed.
2. To find out parent's perception regarding the self sufficiency of hearing impaired child.
3. To examine the extent of support parents are expecting from employers, co-workers and community members.

III. METHODOLOGY IN BRIEF

The present investigation is meant to assess parental perception regarding the employability of their hearing impaired children. Survey method was adopted for the conduct of the study. The sample consisted of 120 parents selected from eight revenue districts of Kerala, viz – Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Kozhikode. The sample was selected using random sampling technique. The selected sample represented almost all the sections prevailing in the society. High, middle and low income groups were randomly selected to get a better vision and deeper insight into the nature of what it is dealing with. To collect the data required for the study, an attitude scale prepared and validated by the investigator was used. To study the parental perception towards the employability of their hearing impaired children, the investigator administered an attitude scale to a sample of 120 parents of hearing impaired students randomly selected from eight Districts in Kerala. The attitude scale consisted of twenty three items related to three areas such as

parent’s perception of future benefits of their hearing impaired children, self efficacy of their HI children, and the extent of support parents are expecting from employers, co-workers and community members. The first section consists of eight statements about the parent’s perception future benefits of being employed, second section consists of eight statements with about parent’s perception of the self efficacy of HI child and the third section consists of seven statements about the extent of support parents are expecting from employers, co-workers and community members. The attitude scale includes the responses, strongly agree (SA), agree (A), undecided (U), disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD). The treatment of data was carried out employing percentage analysis.

IV. ANALYSIS

The details of the analysis are given in table no.1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

Table 1
Data and result of extent of future benefits availed by employment

Qn. No	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	52 (43.33%)	60 (50%)	6 (5%)	1(0.83%)	1(0.83%)
2	35 (29.16%)	77 (64.16%)	4 (3.33%)	3(2.5%)	1(0.83%)
3	6 (5%)	29 (24.16%)	27 (22.5%)	48(40%)	10(8.33%)
4	3 (2.5%)	16 (13.33%)	29 (24.16%)	54(45%)	18(15%)
5	48 (40%)	68 (56.66%)	2(1.66%)	1(0.83%)	1((0.83%)
6	10 (8.33%)	20 (16.66%)	34(28.33%)	43(35.83%)	13(10.83%)
7	5 (4.16%)	9 (7.5%)	15(12.5%)	58(48.33%)	33(27.5%)
8	52 (43.33%)	54 (45%)	11(9.16%)	3(2.5%)	0

Nearly 90% of the parental community are of the opinion that employment will make the hearing impaired children a self sufficient and self-supported member in the community. Also the child will benefitted out of a wide web of friends and acquaintants which will again instill self confidence in the minds of hearing impaired children (95%). Majority of the parents believe that employment ensures financial security of the hearing impaired children (48.33%). Roughly 22.5% of the parental communities are doubtful of the economic self sufficiency and security of hearing impaired children supported competitive employment. Parents as a whole believe that supported competitive employment generates self-confidence and maturity in dealing with others (60%). Almost 97% of the parental community strongly believe that supported competitive employment enable the hearing impaired children to make an

adjustable life with members of the society. It may be noted that the benefits and privileges in not been extended to the hearing impaired children, as per the data revealed (46%).

The parental community is open in their approach that their good name and reputation are not being affected due to the placement of hearing impaired child to any stream of vocation (76%). About 88.33% of the parental community believes that supported competitive employment will enable the hearing impaired children to lead a life independent of their own even after the death of the parent. The above description gives us a clear indication as to the direction that the parental community are perceiving the future benefits of the hearing impaired children being employed.

Table 2
Data and result of the extent of self sufficiency of the hearing impaired children

Qn .No	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	51(42.5%)	63(52.5%)	4(3.33%)	21.66%	0
2	6(5%)	18(15%)	16(13.33%)	55(45.83%)	25(20.83%)
3	9(7.5%)	40(33.33%)	27(22.5%)	35(29.16%)	9(7.5%)
4	6(5%)	12(10%)	18(15%)	66(55%)	18(15%)
5	6(5%)	6(5%)	15(12%)	59(49.16%)	34(28.33%)
6	48(40%)	67(55.83%)	3(2%)	1(0.83%)	1(0.83%)
7	5(4.16%)	16(13.33%)	13(10.83%)	56(46.66%)	30(25%)
8	27(22.5%)	39(32.5%)	24(20%)	26(21.66%)	4(3.33%)

The above data shows the self sufficiency and self concept of hearing impaired children when they are given employment. 95% of the parents perceive their hearing impaired children can communicate and interact with each other through gestures. The parents perceive that the hearing impaired children are not capable of accepting the creative criticism of others (41%). These facts are to be noted specially that criticism of creative nature should be convinced with adequate reasoning to the hearing impaired children. So that they will accept and imbibe the suggestions contained thereunto. The behavioural pattern of the hearing impaired children is capable of working with the other members of the society (70%), a positive factor that supported competitive employment enables the HIC to lead a self sufficient,

self confident life of their own. 70% of the parental community strongly believe that the HIC are capable of fulfilling the interested tasks within the time limit. Also these HIC will do things without any interruption whatever that is being interested with them.

The tabulated data clearly indicates that employments rendered to the HIC are capable of making a self confident, self reliable and self supporting generation in our society. What is being shown in the form of sympathy and empathy is not the right readymade package demanded by the hearing impaired community but a concerted facilitating environment which promotes self confidence and also a feeling of wantedness from any community in the society.

Table 3
Data and result of the extent of support from employers, co-workers and community members

Qn. No	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	42(35%)	61(50.83%)	15(12.5%)	2(1.66%)	0
2	6(5%)	31(25.83%)	32(26.66%)	46(38.33%)	5(4.16%)
3	21(17.5%)	41(34.15%)	22(18.33%)	28(23.33%)	8(6.66%)
4	30(25%)	65(54.16%)	20(16.66%)	5(4.16%)	0
5	10(8.33%)	42(35%)	21(17.5%)	37(30.83%)	10(8.33%)
6	46(38.33%)	65(54.16%)	8(6.66%)	0	1(0.83%)
7	15(12.5%)	28(23.33%)	16(13.33%)	36(30%)	25(20.83%)

From the table, it is interesting to note that the parents are of the opinion that the hearing impaired child will attain recognition from the employer, send the hearing impaired child will do his assigned duty to the utmost sincerity and care (85%). About 42.44% of parental community is of the opinion that the employers will not be interest in these physically handicapped children since they are lagging behind normal worker. Also it was revealed that 52% of parents are of the opinion that the employers will exploit their physical handicappedness by way of reduction wages or overtime duty. At the same time these parental community are expecting that the hearing impaired children will acquire the co-operation and help from co-workers as part of sympathy extended to all physical handicappedness.

Roughly 44% of the parental community is of the opinion that chances are better for the exploitation of the abilities of the hearing impaired children even when these children are under the control of specially trained personnel. This finding is to be weighted with regard to the disagreement side with 39%. The undecided/ uncertain (17.5%) response should be got clarified to

get a clear picture of whether chances are better or worse when hearing impaired children are under the control of a specialized trained personnel. It is worthy to be noted that nearly 90% of the parental population are of the opinion that the hearing impaired children will get social recognition since they live a life fully supported by the earnings that they earn through appropriate vocational placements. The right vocational placements lead to self confidence and dignity of labour as well as social approval and recognition of the society by and large. It is again to be noted that the parental community generally are of the opinion that the public will treat the hearing impaired children just with a dint of sympathy and not with mockery (50%). This is a welcome note that the society is accepting handicappedness a something taken for granted and not matter to be ashamed off.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Nearly 90% of the parental community are of the opinion that employment will make the hearing impaired children a self

sufficient and self-supported member in the community. The parental community is open in their approach that their good name and reputation are not being affected due to the placement of hearing impaired child to any stream of vocation (76%). The behavioural pattern of the hearing impaired children is capable of working with the other members of the society (70%), a positive factor that supported employment enables the HIC to lead a self sufficient, self confident life of their own. Parents believe that employments rendered to the HIC are capable of making a self confident, self reliable and self supporting generation in our society.

VI. IMPLICATIONS

Most of the parents are well aware of the capabilities of their hearing impaired children and their capacity to take up a job in the community. Most of the parents have the knowledge of jobs available and their feasibility. So the non-governmental organizations as well as such other organizations should take earnest effort to extend employment for the hearing impaired children. Give appropriate vocational training for the hearing impaired children which help them in working with normal people. In general the parent community is expecting unconditional support and positive encouragements from employers, co-workers and from the society by and large. It needs to be reiterated that our society when exposed to an open warm welcome to the handicappedness, they will blossom as if to that of the main stream.

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Parental attitude scale on supported competitive employment for their hearing impaired children

Personal information about the child

1. Name of the child :
2. Age :
3. Male/Female :
4. Religion :
5. Residence, Rural/urban :
6. Years of schooling :
7. Guardian's Name :
8. Relationship with child :
9. Address :

Information about family members

No.	Relationship with the child	Age	Educational qualification	Occupation	Monthly income
1	Father				
2	Mother				
3	Brothers				
	Others				

In the following statements the word community denotes job with normal persons. Read the statement and respond with ‘√’ mark.

Sl. No.	I	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Since the child will complete the assigned job efficiently, it is easy to get recognition from his/her employer					
2	Since the child will not exhibit efficiency as other workers, employer will not have interest in the child					
3	As the hearing impaired child has very low capacity to react, the possibility for the exploitation by the employer is high					
4	Since the child has hearing handicap, co operation and encouragement from normal colleagues can be expected					
5	Even though the child will be supported by the employment specialist, the possibility is higher that co – workers would exploit the child					
6	Society will give recognition to the child as a worker who earns own money					
7	Since the child has hearing impairment the community members will ridicule both the employer and employee.					

In the following statements the word community denotes job with normal persons. Read the statement and respond with ‘√’ mark.

Sl. No.	II	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Supported competitive employment will help the child to become self dependent					
2	Work is an integrated setup will help the child to make a lot of friends					
3	Supported competitive employment does not assure child’s economic security					
4	Work in the community may not cause to improve the child’s self confidence and maturity					
5	Work in the community will help the child to live amicably with others					

6	Though the child work in the community with support, he/she may not get right and privileges of an ordinary worker.					
7	Child's work in the community will affect the reputation of parents and family members					
8	Supported competitive employment will help the child to lead a life without many hardships even after his parents' expiry.					

In the following statements the word community denotes job with normal persons. Read the statement and respond with '√' mark.

Sl. No.	111	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Child is able to communicate through gestures					
2	Child does not cooperate with others					
3	Child does not accept criticisms creatively					
4	Child's behavioral patterns do not permit him to work in an integrated setting					
5	Child cannot start and finish work in time					
6	Child is careful to do routine work without failure					
7	child cannot by himself/herself, wash and iron their dresses					
8	Child is capable of travelling by bus without others support					