

A STUDY OF AWARENESS ABOUT SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was an attempt to study the awareness about sensory impairments among college students with the objectives to study the differences in awareness among the B.Ed trainees and Degree college students about sensory impairments, to study the awareness difference between male and female students about sensory impairments. To study the awareness difference between male and female B.Ed trainees about sensory impairments, to study the awareness difference between male and female degree college students about sensory impairments, to study the awareness difference between male B.Ed trainees and male degree college students about sensory impairments and to study the awareness difference between female B.Ed trainees and degree college students about sensory impairments with 100 subjects. The findings of the present study were found in the case of difference in academic education, it is found that the B.Ed trainees are more aware than the degree college students. In the case of difference in sex, it is observed that both the groups are found to be equally awareness about sensory impairments. It is found that both male and female degree college students are not different in their level of awareness about sensory impairments. On the dimension of sex, the difference in awareness of B.Ed trainees is supported by the result, that the mean scores of female trainees group is significantly higher than those of the male students. In the case of difference in education, the two groups of male subject's belongings to two separate disciplines found significant difference on awareness about sensory impairments. On the dimension of education, the female B.Ed trainees have more awareness than female degree students about sensory impairments.

Key Words: Sensory Impairments, Awareness, College Students, Special Education

Human beings are the unique product of their creation and evolution. In contrasts to the other forms of animal life, their more highly developed nervous system has enabled them to develop sounds and symbols that make possible the communication and recording of their questions, observations, experiences and ideas. Since years man has tried to know the details about the problems with them.

Sensory impairments are physical problems without proper functioning of all the sense organs, man is lifeless. But sometimes impairment affects the function of one or more sense or organs, like sensorineural loss of vision or hearing. A visual or hearing impairment is considered a visual or hearing impairment only if it is not correctable.

AWARENESS: Having knowledge or experience of a particular thing or something exists in the individual's world. (Cambridge International Dictionary)

SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS: Impairment is interpreted as a disorder at the tissue level. When impairment affect the proper functioning of one or more sense, organ or the system.

But the rest remaining unimpaired or being even better than average. Impairment may be permanent or transitory, psychological or anatomical loss or abnormality. (Godfrey Stevens, 1963) Few researches were made relating to the above relative studies like Carney J.S. (1992) studied "Counselor education student's attitudes towards persons with disabilities." The study examined the attitudes towards persons with disabilities of master level counselor education students. These attitudes were compared to those reported by the general public. Subjects consisted of one hundred and ninety students. Attitudes towards persons with disabilities were measured by scores in attitudes towards disabled persons scale form A (ATDP-A). Results showed that they have more positive attitudes than the general public. Miles, (1995) conducted a study entitled "Disability in an eastern religious contrast, historical perspective." He argued that in the past disability in religious has attracted little formal or comparative scrutiny and sketches of range of historical data, view points and attitudes on disability in Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam, which continue to influence the thoughts of half of the world's population. Ramachandran et.al. (1971) conducted a feasibility survey for the employment of the blind as physiotherapists. He concluded that the blind can successfully undertake this profession.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is being conducted to achieve the following objectives:

1. To study the differences in awareness among the B.Ed trainees and Degree college students about sensory impairments.
2. To study the awareness difference between male and female students about sensory impairments.
3. To study the awareness difference between male and female B.Ed trainees about sensory impairments.
4. To study the awareness difference between male and female degree college students about sensory impairments.
5. To study the awareness difference between male B.Ed trainees and male degree college students about sensory impairments.
6. To study the awareness difference between female B.Ed trainees and degree college students about sensory impairments.

HYPOTHESES TO BE TESTED

1. There exist no significant differences in awareness among the B.Ed trainees and Degree college students about sensory impairments.
2. There exists no significant difference in awareness difference among the male and female students about sensory impairments.
3. There exists no significant difference in awareness among the male and female B.Ed trainees about sensory impairments.
4. There exists no significant difference in awareness among the male and female degree college students about sensory impairments.
5. There exists no significant difference in awareness between male B.Ed trainees and male degree college students about sensory impairments.
6. There exists no significant difference in awareness among the female B.Ed trainees and degree college students about sensory impairments.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The problem here under investigation is to study the awareness about sensory impairments among the B.Ed and Degree college students of Odisha. For this study the investigator has decided to adopt the survey method. It is an organized attempt to analyse, interpret and report the present status of social institution group or areas. In the present study, the sample constituted 100 subjects consisting of 50 B.Ed trainees (25 males and 25 females) and 50 degree college students (25 males and 25 females). The sample was drawn purposively. In order to achieve the objectives of the present study, the researcher has developed a questionnaire in English after going through relevant books, journals, magazines etc. The questionnaire consists of two parts having 58 statements (29 on blindness and 29 on deafness) having two choices each i.e. True/False. The questionnaire was framed to elicit information about the awareness among the college students about sensory impairments and how the students would act when they come across such a condition. The questionnaire was personally administered to 50 B.Ed Trainees and 50 degree college students' subjects for collection of data. The researcher collected data from salipur Training college, P.P. College, J.N. College, K.B.D.A.V. College, of cuttack and khurda districts of Odisha. The researcher personally contacted all the subjects and the subjects recorded their own responses as bper the instructions given on the questionnaire.

All the statements in the questionnaire are positive. One score is given for the true response and Zero for false response. Therefore the maximum score on the questionnaire can be 58 and minimum Zero. The researcher used Mean, S.D. and t-test for the present study to find out the significant difference of awareness between each two groups towards sensory impairments.

An overview of awareness among students is shown in the table 1. The researcher has restricted his study to sample of 100 college students, Fifty B.Ed Trainee (BT) out oof which 25 male and 25 female and another fifty are the degree college students (DCS) out of which 25 male and 25 female. The researcher has divided the sample into two as far as sex variable is concerned.

The positive responses given by the groups are as follows, BT=73.65%, BT (M)=69.5%, BT(F)=77.79%, DCS=63.41%, DCS(M)=64.89%, DCS(F)=61.93%. Male students 67.2%, Female students 69.86% and overall the subjects given 68.53%. The highest percentage of positive responses are given by the female B.Ed trainees (BTF) and the lowest given by the male degree college students. The following tables illustrate the differences in mean awareness scores of the groups of students about sensory impairments. To know the significant difference in mean scores, the researcher has further analyzed the data to find the 't' ratios which are given in the following tables.

MAIN FINDINGS

In the case of difference in academic education, it is found that the B.Ed trainees are more aware than the degree college students. In the case of difference in sex, it is observed that both the groups are found to be equally awareness about sensory impairments. It is found that both male and female degree college students are not different in their level of awareness about sensory impairments. On the dimension of sex, the difference in awareness of B.Ed trainees is supported by the result, that the mean scores of female trainees group is significantly higher than those of the male students. In the case of difference in education, the two groups of male subject's belongings to two separate disciplines found significant difference on awareness about sensory impairments. On the dimension of education, the female B.Ed trainees have more awareness than female degree students about sensory impairments.

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