

Significant Role of Guidance and Counselling for Special Learners

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Abstract

We are human being. As human being man needs guidance throughout our life. So in that sense guidance is a lifelong process and he or she needs it even from his or her infancy. Especially he learns everything from society and the society guides the individual to learn, to adjust oneself to the physical and social environment. Likewise counselling is the intimate and vital part of entire guidance. Counselling helps every individual student to make more effective adjustments to the environment in which he or she lives. Actually special learners are those who stand out as a distinct set from other students in a class and therefore require special attention. Special learners in institutions may be classified like as Gifted, Creative, Slow learners and learners with learning difficulty. If we want to overall development of the special learners then as a teacher as well as a parent must provide proper guide and counsel in proper time. In my analyzing paper would like to express about the concept, nature of guidance and counselling and special learners. Also an attempt has been made to significant role of guidance and counselling for overall development of the special learners.

Keywords: Guidance, Counselling, Special learner, Significant Role.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Generally we can say that guidance and counselling is not same. Counselling is a part of guidance, but not completely guidance. Guidance is relatively a broader term than counselling and counselling is one of the services under guidance programme. Also guidance includes orientation service, student information service and placement service apart from counselling service. Actually guidance and counselling are considered as two sides of the same coin. Both the process helps an individual in making a wise choice. Counselling helps us in selecting a potential choice or to modify, reinforce and give up it. On the other hand guidance is needed when we have to make any choice. So for the special learners the role of guidance and counselling is very significant. Because special needs children face a lot of emotional, social and psychological problems. A little help and concern from a teacher can help them stabilize their emotional, social and psychological levels into a more balanced learner in the classroom situation. Proper guidance and counselling can help students with special needs express their feelings and communicate their needs freely in the classroom.

The present study is mainly based on descriptive method which provides a method of analytical study. Through this descriptive method here have tried to analyse the concept, nature of special learners and significant role of guidance and counselling for overall development of the special learners. As methodology have used secondary data and required information are collected from different secondary sources like - Magazine, thesis, Books, Research articles, Internet, Journals, etc.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the present study is to how can identify

the nature of special learners as well as what will be their problems. An attempt has been made to how can solve the problems of special learners through proper role of guidance and counselling.

III. CONCEPT OF GUIDANCE

It is common sense that guidance is a process and it is concerned with the optimal development of the individual. In the context of education, guidance means providing assistance to students in selecting course of study according to their needs and interests, to achieve high level of academic excellence and derive maximum benefit of the resources and facilities available in the institution. If we want to analyze the wider meaning then it would include all types of education such as formal, non-formal, informal and vocational etc., which aims to help the individual to adjust with his environment in an effective way. It is an informative process of helping the individual to identify their potentials and maximize them also it is a process by which an individual solves his problems by his or her own efforts.

Generally as a process, guidance is not a simple matter but involves a series of actions or progressive steps which move towards a goal. It can be said to be a process which helps an individual to carry his or her own burden, which is beneficial both for himself or herself and the society. As dynamic process guidance is an individual understands himself, learns maximum use of his own capacities, interests and other abilities. It is helpful not only for student and teacher in an educational institution but also to the parents, administrators, planners, and community members. Guidance helps the person in his adjustment in different situations. This process allows learning to adjust to different types of problems. The nature of guidance also includes the characteristic of

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developing self-guidance in a person. Especially it is concerned with problem and choice. Guidance is the help given by one person to another in making choices in adjustments and in solving problems. It helps children to develop and promote their ability to deal with their own problems.

IV. CONCEPT OF COUNSELLING

We know that counselling is a part of guidance process, in which the person being counselled is assisted by the counsellor to select his or her area of interest or to solve the problem faced by him or her. It is a two-way process. Counselling process occurs between two individuals like counsellor and counsellee. It is intimated and maintained as a means of facilitating changes in the behaviour of the counsellee. It is also called a scientific process of assistance extended by an expert in an individual situation to a needy person. It is structured around the field needs of the counsellee and it is largely concerned with the so-called normal individuals in a bid to increase such individuals' self-awareness, helping improve, problems solving skills, educating the individual and supporting that individual. Counselling must not be interpreted merely as a process of giving information, advice, and suggestions as and when requested for. It is much more than that.

Counselling helps every individual student to make more effective adjustments to the environment in which he or she lives. It is a one-to-one relationship which is based on mutual trust and confidence amongst the counsellee and the counsellor. It grows out of the recognition of the counsellee towards counsellor as an adult person who can provide assistance. Basically counselling is democratic. It lays down the democratic system. The counsellee can behave as he or she wishes. It is based on the appropriateness of counsellor's prediction. It is completely based on self-guidance and it is a continuous, sequential and educational process.

V. COMMON CONCEPT AND NATURE OF SPECIAL LEARNER

It is significant sense that special means difference from general. Special learners are those who stand out as a distinct set from other students in a classroom and therefore require special attention. Educationally they deviate from the average students in their academic achievement. These children have learning difficulty because of their different sorts of handicaps, blindness, deafness, mental retardation, social maladjustment, physical disability, health problems or accident in later life. They may be categorised into some main groups like – Gifted, Creative or Talented Slow learners and learners with learning difficulty.

Gifted children as a group are taller, heavier, stronger, more energetic and healthier than other children of their age who have average intelligence. It is not surprising that gifted students tend to enter occupations that demand greater than average intellectual ability, creativity and motivation. Most of them find their ways into the ranks of professionals and managers. A slow learner is one who is unable to learn what the average child learns or is learning at a slower than average rate. Another discrepancy in the development of slow learner may be in the form of mental characteristics. The slow learner

is mentally immature for his age and his potentiality is lower compared to normal children. The chief mental characteristics can be systematized some headings like - low intelligence quotient, lack of abstract thinking, lack in reasoning ability. The slow learners differ from the normal in degree rather than kind. They are not divided from the normal and the gifted by sharp lines of demarcation for the same characteristics are found in all. Besides, the learning disabled students lag behind in spoken language development. They will not be able to cope with their age mates or classmates. Their knowledge of vocabulary is limited. They are known for immature vocabulary also. Learning disabled students experience unusual difficulty in becoming oriented to new surroundings. They forget their way around a complex building. They experience difficulty in assembling complex puzzle or executing complex mechanical tasks, and remembering how others executed multifaceted tasks. Learning disabled students lack judgement concerning what is important or where importance tends to occur.

VI. ROLE OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING FOR SPECIAL LEARNERS

The proper identification of special learners is very important matter before role playing by guidance and counselling. After identification of the particular learners guide and counsel should be given in proper time. Especially guidance and counselling are important for special learner and schools have a huge role in bringing out the best in learners. Proper guidance and counselling will help incorporate valuable lessons in their daily life.

- Gifted children need special help in the choice of reading materials and in the development of their talents. They also need freedom in the choice and completion of their courses of study. They should be nurtured because the society gets benefit most from their contribution to knowledge and other fields. Teaching gifted children demands special attention from the teachers. Their quest for fresh knowledge and development of their talents should be considered a matter of high priority.
- The roles of guidance and counsellors in ensuring effective and sustainable inclusive education to the special need children are very significant. The guidance counsellors are the key role players in ensuring proper development and actualization of these children with special needs. So, counsellors in schools should train school teachers to make them know that they need a repertoire of skills, expertise, knowledge, pedagogical approaches, adequate teaching methods and materials and time if they are address diversity effectively within their classroom situation.
- Especially slow learners are the backward children who have, even before admission to the school, experienced years of failure and frustration as a result of which their self-esteem is seriously undermined. These slow learners ultimately find themselves in a vicious circle. The interplay between the causes and symptoms becomes more and more complicated and difficult to disentangle. So, the teacher should instil self confidence in the mind of slow learners. For that he should avoid magnifying

the mistakes committed by the slow learners. He should also avert all sorts of sarcastic censure and he should manifest a sympathetic attitude towards slow learners.

- A good teacher of slow learner is a leader and a diagnostician rather than a more instructor, a ruler or a law giver. The slow learner needs teachers of exceptional efficiency and wide resources. They are more experiences, more competent and progressive. Therefore, the counsellor should guide students with special needs to develop their capacities and make them have the awareness of their capacities; capable of developing skills, tools, attitudes to become increasingly independent as learners and contribute to the development of the nation.
- In the field of special learners, majority of teachers are not professionally trained, special educators or teachers, the guidance counsellors in schools should trained teachers on professional specialist courses on teaching strategies, disability and special needs; how children learn, what they need to learn, classroom organization and management etc.
- The children who have not able to write spontaneously should be placed under writing disabled. Those children who have difficulty in learning to write legibly should be placed under mild or moderate category and for them general school serve the purpose. So in this field as counsellor to know the learning disabled children and their specific disabilities as well as to prepare exercises with a view to meeting the individual needs of the learning disabled children. Also to guide those children for repletion of learning tasks in which they difficulty and to arrange the subject matter into small steps on the basis of difficulty.
- Counsellors create opportunities for students without disabilities to accept differences, make diversity of friendships, encourage co-operation and as well help students to become resourceful and creative. Besides counsellor helps the parents or other responsible adults understand and avail the services that have been recommended, including possible referrals to outside organizations. Special education counselling is a specialization of school counselling that is concerned with the success of special needs students. The essential purpose of special education counselling is to ensure that special needs students and their families have access to the appropriate supports and interventions in order to facilitate improved achievement in a school environment
- Gifted students who demonstrated gifted behaviour are superior in some way and exhibit abilities and sensitivities that make them express themselves in special ways, learn quickly, be self-sufficient; or understand their own and others' feelings, motivations, and strengths and weaknesses. So, the classroom teacher should assume the responsibility during most of the school day for providing the educational experiences for gifted and talented students. Some of the techniques that teachers can try for teaching gifted and talented students are like self-directed learning, curriculum compacting, learning centres, independent study and contracts etc.

- Besides, a counsellor is always there to offer advice to learners at crucial turning points in their lives. Whether these counsellors work in primary, upper primary or high schools, they are there for learners who are going through a difficult time or just need advice and support. They help all learners in the areas of academic achievement, career and social as well as emotional development. Especially in secondary school counsellor may guide students through tough transitional years by helping them establish supportive communities comprising their parents, teachers and friends.

VII. CONCLUSION

At the end would like to conclude that guidance and counselling is of great importance for the special learners, those who face lot of problems. Especially guidance helps in the learners to have a better self-understanding and proper adjustment to self and society and counselling helps them to solve their home, environmental and learning problems. It helps understanding the physical, mental, emotional and attitudinal handicaps of learners in relation to their opportunities, plans and adjustment. It helps to understand the growing inferiority complex and deviates behaviour amongst learners and help them in adjustment. Guidance and counselling are defined as a planned and organized work aimed at assisting the trainee to understand himself and his abilities and develop his potentialities in order to solve his problems and achieve psychological, social, educational and professional compatibility. Both are the process used to solve problems of life. So, both service should be based on a holistic approach and regarded as a lifelong process which should recognize all clients' need. School counsellors should make it a point of duty to organize at local and state levels, seminars and conference with the parents of special needs children, care givers, special needs children themselves. Also teacher and parent can play a vital role in the field of special learners. Especially a parent has the right to use the school guidance and counselling services at school to ensure that their children are offered the right guidance. Role of parents in counselling learners at the school level to advice and encourage their children to make good use of school guidance and counselling services. Teachers can become the primary source of on campus support for the students. Teachers' support and participation are crucial to any programme that involves students. Through the proper guidance and counselling can solve the problems faced by special learners. Anyway in the field of special learners the role of guidance and counselling is very significant.

VIII. REFERENCES

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