

Impact of Social Class on the Behavioural Skills of Mentally Challenged Children

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ABSTRACT The present study assessed and compared the adaptive behaviour skills and disturbed behaviour of 150 mentally retarded children from three RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India) recognised special schools of Delhi across their social classes. Sample was drawn randomly in equal proportions from two social classes under study viz. LIG and MIG. The adaptive behaviour skills and disturbed behaviour of MR (Mentally Retarded) children were assessed using standardised Behavioural Assessment Scales for Indian Children with Mental Retardation Part A and Part B developed by NIMH. The study revealed that adaptive behavior skills of MR children did not vary significantly with the social class they belonged to viz. LIG or MIG. Whereas, mentally challenged children from LIG, irrespective of their degree of mental challenge, were significantly more violent; showed more temper tantrums; misbehaved with others; reflected higher self-injurious, odd, hyperactive and anti-social behaviour than their counterparts.