

Behavioral Problems of Mentally Retarded Children

Dr. Paras Jain

Director
Silicobyte Katni Degree College
Dikshabhumi Campus , Katni (M.P) -483501

Abstract: Mental retardation is neurological developmental disorder characterized by significantly impaired intellectual and adaptive functioning. It is referred to social incompetence. In children with mental retardation inadequate social abilities are noted consistently. Sociability may include different dimensions. This study was carried out focusing study of pro social and problem behavior of mentally retarded children and comparison with a group of normal children.

Keywords: Behavioral problems, Retardation, Mental

Introduction:

Mental retardation is related to mental functioning and individual's functional skills in their environment. It is divided into 2 classes i.e., syndrome and non syndrome intellectual disability. In syndrome disability intellectual deficits are associated with other medical and behavioral problems while in non syndrome intellectual disability intellectual deficits appear without other abnormalities. Emotional responsiveness and understanding are related to successful social development of children who are typically developing i.e., children with mental retardation are less proficient in recognizing other's emotions, in responding other's emotions and in pro social behavior.

Pro social behavior refers to actions that are intended to help others. These behaviors include a broad range of activities as sharing, comforting, rescuing, helping and reflect one's awareness of and concern for others. Intellectual ability, cognitive ability of a person helps him to understand better other's feelings. Factors affecting pro social behavior varies from internal factors including one's genetic makeup, personality factor and other factors. In case of mentally retarded children, the cognitive aspect of empathy is slow to develop.

Search of behavioral problems of mentally retarded children help us to identify problems and understands solution and needs. This helps to plan a better curriculum. Students with mental retardation have difficulty in remembering information. The rate at which individuals with mental retardation acquire new knowledge and skills is below that of normal children. Individuals with mental retardation often have sustaining attention to learning tasks. These problems compound and contribute to student's difficulties in acquiring, remembering, generalizing new knowledge and skills. Making and sustaining friendships, personal relationships are challenge for mental retarded persons.

Objective of Study:

- To find difference between mental retarded and non mental retarded children with respect to behavioral problems in their own view.
- To find difference between mental retarded and non mental retarded children with respect to behavioral problems in their parent's view.

Hypothesis:

- There is no significant difference between mental retarded and non mental retarded children with respect to behavioral problems in their own view.
- There is no significant between mental retarded and non mental retarded children with respect to behavioral problems in their parent's view.
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Methodology:

For study 100 students was taken as sample which was consists of 50 mental retarded and 50 normal students. In both group 25 boys and 25 girls were taken and selected randomly. A self prepared questionnaire was used to test behavior of students. Questionnaire was consists of 5 dimensions as pro social behavior, hyperactivity, emotional problem, conduct problem and friend's attitude problem.

In present study, parents of children also tested for student's behavior. A separate questionnaire was used to test parents. This test paper was consists of questions related to their children's behavioral problems. Aspects of this test paper were health problem, adjustment problem, introvert nature, interest towards creative activities and games. The mean, standard deviation and t values are used as statistical tools.

Table-1: Comparison of Behavior Problems of Mentally Retarded and Normal Children (Student Test Report)

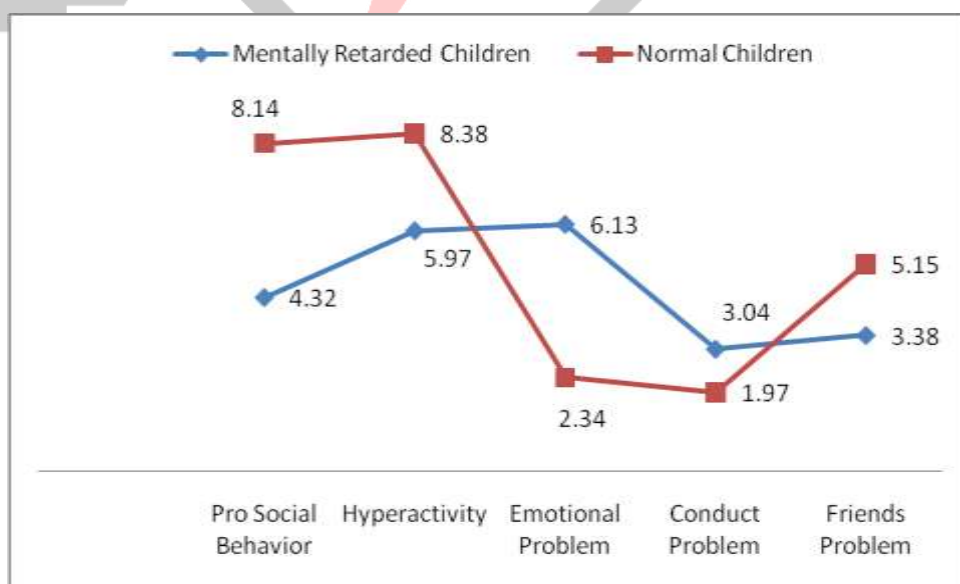
Behavior Problems	Mentally Retarded Children		Normal Children		t value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Pro Social Behavior	4.32	1.24	8.14	1.31	3.23*
Hyperactivity	5.97	1.33	8.38	1.03	2.19*
Emotional Problem	6.13	1.67	2.34	1.14	2.16*
Conduct Problem	3.04	1.12	1.97	1.26	3.02*
Friends Problem	3.38	1.14	5.15	1.47	2.67*

*significant at .01 level

Table-2: Comparison of Behavior Problems of Mentally Retarded and Normal Children (Parent Test Report)

Behavior Problems	Mentally Retarded Children		Normal Children		t value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Health Problems	8.14	3.12	3.08	1.22	2.16*
Adjustment Problems	7.69	2.76	3.27	1.28	2.31*
Introvert Nature	7.34	2.18	2.18	1.06	1.98*
Interest Towards Creative Activity	6.81	2.33	5.33	2.02	1.34*
Interest Towards Games	5.23	1.92	9.38	3.99	1.02*

*significant at .01 level

**Chart-1: Comparison of Behavior Problems of Mentally Retarded and Normal Children (Student Test Report)**

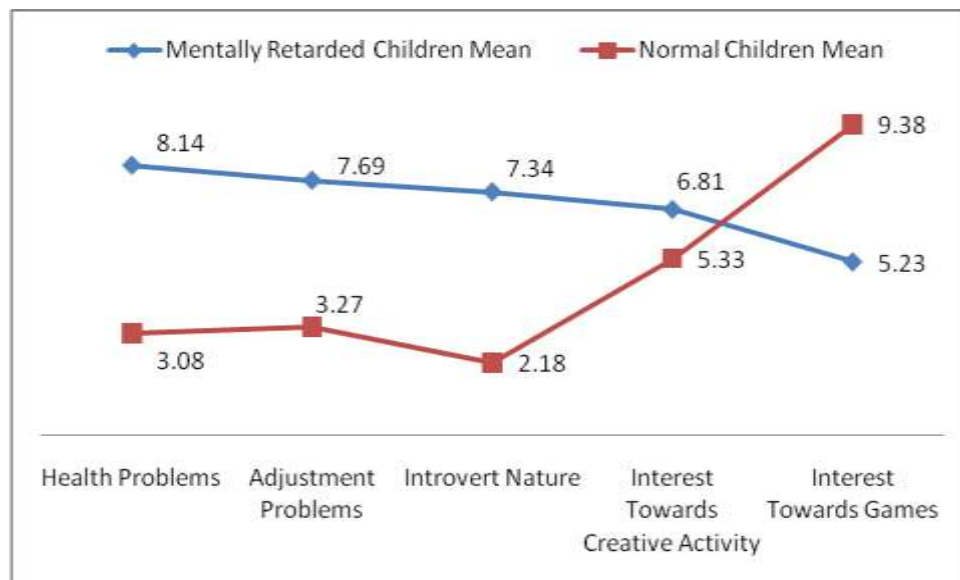


Chart-2: Comparison of Behavior Problems of Mentally Retarded and Normal Children (Parent Test Report)

Result shows that there are significant differences between mentally retarded and normal children in behavior. Hypothesis 1 is rejected that there is no significant difference between behavior of mentally retarded children and normal children. In pro social behavior, mentally retarded children have low mean value rather than normal children. For hyper activity, mentally retarded children has low mean value but for emotional problem mentally retarded children has high value showing emotional complication, high expectations. These students have high conduct problem and friend's problem also.

Parents test results denied hypothesis 2 that there is no significant difference between behavior of normal and mentally retarded child in parents view. Result shows high health problems, adjustment problems, introvert nature rather than other normal children. This study also indicates that these students are more interested in creative activities but less interest in games.

Conclusion:

Mentally retarded children want to live as normal children. They want to do all the things as normal children do. This feeling make them normal but due to mental inability they couldn't do so and feel depressed. That's why behavioral problems are seen more frequent among children with mental retardation in comparison of normal children.

References:

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