

Affiliation Need amongst Externally and Internally Oriented Handicapped Subjects

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Abstract

The purpose of the present investigation is to explore need for affiliation amongst externally and internally oriented 'differently abled' children. The sample consisted of 100 orthopedically handicapped children, age ranging between 5-13 years, was randomly selected from Viklang Keram, Bhardwaj Ashram, Allahabad. Externals and internals were identified on the basis of scores obtained on the locus of control scale designed by Pal. R. (1983) whereas need for affiliation was measured by a need scale developed by Heilburn and Gough (1965) which was later adopted by Aijaz and Kureshi, (1984) T-test statistics has been applied to analyse the data. The findings reveal a significant difference between the two groups, namely, externally and internally oriented children on their need for affiliation. The detail results are discussed in light of appropriate studies.

Key words: Affiliation, Differently abled children, Handicapped

Introduction:

Stedman's Medical Dictionary (2002, 2001), defined "handicap a physical, mental or emotional condition that interferes with one's normal functioning". The term differently abled refers to a societal attitude towards the concept which till now was termed as 'handicap'. Traditionally the term handicap referred to a relative incompetence ensuing from a condition which does not permit pursuit of achievement and goal reaching at normal optimal levels. Thus a state which is intrinsically pathological and which creates certain unfavourable condition is defined by this term. The term 'handicap' overlooks the hostile configuration of abilities among the disadvantaged. Differently abled is a better term and is being used in this case to refer to individuals with deficit at the orthopaedic level.

Some disability rights activist use an acronym TAB, ‘Temporarily Able-Bodied’, as a reminder that many people will develop disabilities at some point in their lives due to accidents, illness or late-emerging effects of genetics.

According to Joanna Dziura, (2015) “contrary to popular belief, the overwhelming majority of disabilities are acquired during a person’s lifetime rather than at birth” and “the process of losing the old self, which must precede the development of a new identity, is often described by patients as extremely traumatic. At that moment, the individual is forced to change his or her social affiliation and irreversibly switch teams from “abled” to “dis-abled”.

One of the exponents of relationship between body defect and behaviour was Adler (1917), who has given a “theory of loss” to explain that a disfiguring condition causes anxiety and fear of rejection by people who are important in a person’s life. Feeling of resentment often incurs in the case of disability. Cruickshank, Broida and Carroll (1950), attempted to study reaction of crippled children through understanding of their needs, It was indicated that crippled children demonstrate a high level need for affiliation that is, they form friendship and association in order to be free from feeling of rejection.

Veroff (1954), considers two different trends of need for affiliation, one is based on acceptance and other revolving around fear of rejection. Pokarni and Fewell (1988), Seligman and Darling (1989), Turnbull and Turnbull (1990), suggested that children require responsible role within the family such that other family member come to rely on them and accept them.

A study on differently abled children by Morgan, Sam, Wisely and Dale (1946), reported more positive attitude of non-handicapped children as they related children with wheel chair as more accepting. However their ratings became less positive as a function of age. The findings indicate that these children showed high degree of acceptance of a peer presented with handicap. Pason and Schneider (1974) also suggested that body image is a mental representation of the self, as an organic identity and serve as the base to which later self-related experiences are referred.

An important dimension which determines our interactions and relationships is our mode of causal attribution. We may be externally or internally oriented in our attributions, i.e., there is a tendency to perceive reinforcement as emanating from within (internal) or without (external). This aspect may become even more important if a problematic situation is perceived as a result

of luck, chance, fate or powerful others, and is bound to affect ones desire for friendship, attachment and belongingness, Thus affiliation need with reference to internal, external orientation is an important dimension for study.

Jenelle, Sylvic (1992), administered Nowicki-Strickland Locus of Control Scale on physically disabled children, age ranging between 10 – 14 years. It was hypothesised by the researcher that the Locus of Control Scale for the disabled group would show significantly more externality as compared to internality. Externally oriented subjects were found to be more assertive and better able to cope with their environment than internally oriented subjects. Lazarus (1957), has contended that internal orientation seems to imply an active and controlling approach to life. Internals approach situation with a more alert and direct posture than externals. They differ with each other in context of association, affiliation and adjustment.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study are:

- Comparison between externally oriented and internally oriented subjects on need for affiliation
- Comparison between male and female subjects on need for affiliation
- Comparison between internally oriented male and female subjects on need for affiliation
- Comparison between externally oriented male and female subjects on need for affiliation

Method

Sample: The initial sample comprised 160 orthopedically handicapped children , age ranging between 5-13 years. The subjects were randomly selected out of 500 orthopedically handicapped subjects of Viklang Kendra, Bharadwaj Ashram, Allahabad. Many incomplete forms had to be cancelled and finally 100 differently abled children were retained for the final sample.

Tools: Following tools were used-

- Hindi adaptation of Locus of Control Scale (Pal, 1983), was used. The test consists of 34 items to be rated by the subject on a five point scale ranging from one to five. The reliability

of the test as calculated by split-half method was found to be 0.80 and by retest method 0.76. Some items of the scale did not have bearing for the differently abled subjects, Therefore, discriminatory value for each of the thirty four items were determined and five items having low discriminatory value, item no. 1,9,10,12,29 were eliminated

- Another test used was the Hindi adaptation of Need Scale (Aijaz & Kureshi, 1984), the scale was prepared with the help of adjectives taken from Gough and Heilburn (1968), and is in the form of self-rating on a five-point scale ranging from 1-5

Procedure

Externals and internals were identified on the basis of scores obtained on Locus of Control Scale. Seventy-one were identified as externals and twenty-nine as internals, Need Scale was administered on these two groups of subjects to measure the need for affiliation.

Data Analysis

The scores obtained were tabulated and statistically analysed by means of t-test

Table 1

Comparison between externally and internally oriented differently abled subjects on need for affiliation

<i>Group</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t Value</i>	<i>P</i>
Int.-oriented	29	27.25	9.67	4.39	<.01
Ext.-oriented	71	36.19	8.05		

Table 2

Comparison between male and female differently abled subjects on need for affiliation

Group	N	Mean	SD	t Value	P
Int.-oriented	54	34.68	8.92	5.57	<.01
Ext.-oriented	46	25.37	7.75		

Table 3

Comparison between internally oriented male and female handicapped subjects on need for affiliation

Group	N	Mean	SD	t Value	P
Int.-oriented Male	18	30.06	9.56	1.92	<.05
Ext.-oriented Female	11	24.5	6.03		

Table 4

Comparison between externally oriented male and female differently abled subjects on need for affiliation

Group	N	Mean	SD	t Value	p
Int.-oriented Male	36	37.28	8.09	2.83	<.01
Ext.-oriented Female	35	31.36	8.37		

The data were analysed by means of t test. The two groups, namely, internally and externally oriented handicapped subject differ significantly on need for affiliation. Externally oriented subjects are higher in comparison to internally oriented subjects, The finding suggests that individuals ability and efforts to associate with others is influenced by his causal attributions and consequently this produces differences on affiliation needs within specific condition.

Affiliation need is related to forming friendship and desire to form association, the capacity to handle these associations is a function of how we perceive others. Since externally and internally oriented differently abled individual perceive others significant and insignificant respectively for the causes and reasons for their sufferings. Cruickshank (1948), in his study on crippled children and their social participation observed that the externals always have stronger desire for forming associations as compared to internals. This is in consonance with the findings of this study that externals seeking and perceiving their source of reinforcement in the outside world and therefore exhibiting greater affiliation need.

Another important finding of this investigation is that male differently abled subjects were higher on their need for affiliation in comparison to their female counterparts. The finding is in consonance with the findings obtained by Gold (1968) that found a pattern of behaviour related to social affiliation and approval amongst the male. In a study of Miriam Ittyerah, Nimisha Kumar (2007), men had a more positive self-concept than females. Correlations between the actual and ideal selves revealed a positive relation between the actual self and the desired ideal self for all the groups and there were no gender differences. Results indicated that children had a more positive self-concept than adults and adolescents.

Significant difference was not found between internally oriented male and female differently abled subjects but the internally oriented males showed greater need for affiliation than internally oriented females. The finding of this study provides empirical evidence to the findings obtained by Vuchinich and Bass (1974), who reported that male internally oriented subject, were higher on need for affiliation.

The last intergroup comparison revealed that externally oriented male and female differently abled children differ significantly on need for affiliation as shown in Table 4, males were found higher than females on need for affiliation. It is quite probable that the factor of physical deficit and its accompanied correlates are such a strong common base for male and female group that differences are observed among locus of control and need for affiliation.

Conclusion:

A physical deformity will result in an increased incident of social stigma. However this confrontation forces the individual to adapt to their differences and develop responses to social reactions (Iensidel & Clausner, 1999; Thomson & Kent, 2001). Individuals with less visible deformities face lesser social stigma and are likely to resort to camouflage methods of coping. Kent, 2000; Sarionski, 2001 focussed on the thoughts perceptions and feelings of individuals with physical deformity has yielded result that because of deformities individuals experience social mocking, embarrassment, feeling of stigmatisation, social withdrawal, depression and low self-esteem, It is generally agreed upon that severity is far less relevant to overall coping and adjustment than visibility (Kent & Keohane, 2001)

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