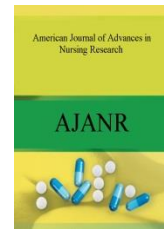




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### EFFECTIVENESS OF INFORMATION BOOKLET ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING LEARNING DISABILITY OF CHILDREN AMONG PARENTS IN SELECTED SPECIAL SCHOOL, BANGALORE

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#### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** - Learning disabilities cannot be cured but they can be treated successfully and children with learning disabilities can go to live happy and successful lives. Learning disability is a classification including several disorders in which a person has difficulty learning in a typical manner, usually caused by an unknown factor or factors. The unknown factor is the disorder that affects the brain's ability to receive and process information. This disorder can make it problematic for a person to learn as quickly or in the same way as someone who isn't affected by a learning disability. Learning disabilities have trouble performing specific types of skills or completing task if left to figure things out by themselves or if taught in conventional ways. **Objectives:** - 1. To assess the existing level of knowledge of parents regarding the learning disability of autistic children in selected special school, Bangalore. 2. To assess the post-test knowledge level of parents regarding the learning disabilities of autism children in selected special school, Bangalore. 3. To assess the effectiveness of information booklet on knowledge of parents regarding learning disabilities of autism children. 4. To find out the association between pre and post-test knowledge score with selected score of the parents in a selected demographic variables. **Design:** - Quasi - experimental one group pre-test and post-test design was selected for the study. 30 parents in Navachethana trust was recruited by non probability purposive sampling method. Necessary administrative permission was obtained from concerned authority. Structured interview schedule was used to elicit the baseline data and structured questionnaire were used to elicit the knowledge of parents. **Setting:** - The study was conducted in Navachethana trust, situated in Banashankari, Bangalore. **Result:** - The study revealed that among 10 (33%) parents had moderately adequate knowledge, 20 parents (67%) parents had adequate knowledge in the post-test score on learning disabilities. There was no inadequate knowledge found in the post-test. The mean pre-test knowledge score of parents in the special school was 18.5, whereas the mean post-test knowledge score was 24.56. The obtained 't' value for knowledge was 18.37 ('p' value was 3.92). **Conclusion:** - The study concluded that the information booklet on learning disabilities carried out in the study was found to be effective in improving the knowledge of parents as evidenced by the significant change between pre-test and post-test knowledge score.



## INTRODUCTION

The term "Learning Disabilities" coined in the year 1960. Learning Disability is also termed as "Specific Academic Skill Disorder" or "Specific Learning Disability". National Joint committee on Learning Disability defines Learning Disabilities as "A heterogeneous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning or mathematical abilities". [1]

Autism and learning disability are co-associated on the one hand. Autism is more common among individuals with learning disability and increasingly so with lower level of IQ. Usually among more severely affected individuals. The two conditions are so closely linked. That they have been some debate regarding whether they can be viewed as distinct syndrome. But whereas learning disability is characterized by global delay. Autism is synonymous with both delay and deviance. [2]

Learning disability is a classification including several disorders in which a person has difficulty learning in a typical manner, usually caused by an unknown factor or factors. The unknown factor is the disorder that affects the brain's ability to receive and process information. This disorder can make it problematic for a person to learn as quickly or in the same way as someone who isn't affected by a learning disability. Learning disability have trouble performing specific types of skills or completing task if left to figure things out by themselves or if taught in conventional ways. [3]

Identification of disorder prior to school age is difficult due to the instability of results obtained from formal testing procedures. Teachers are the first person to notice that the child is not learning as expected. They often exhibit some challenging behaviours also. There is no magic bullet to cure learning disability. Shaw and Mac Guire stated that for students with learning disabilities skills such as "planning, monitoring, regulating and scheduling are difficult". [4] These students require continuous help to adapt to learning situations. Selvin in an analysis of challenging behaviours among people with learning disability suggest that these children's are a major challenge for teachers and members of caring families. The success of these children are determined by the response of the school personnel to the needs of these children. [4]

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## OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the existing level of knowledge of parents regarding the learning disability of autism children in selected special school, Bangalore.
2. To assess the post-test knowledge level of parents regarding the learning disabilities of autism children in selected special school, Bangalore.
3. To assess the effectiveness of information booklet on knowledge of parents regarding learning disabilities of autism children.
4. To find out the association between pre and post-test knowledge score with selected score of the parents in a selected demographic variables.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Quasi- experimental one group pre-test and post-test design was used to study effectiveness of information booklet. 30 parents in Navachethana trust was recruited by non probability purposive sampling method. Necessary administrative permission was obtained from concerned authority. Oral consent was obtained from all subjects. Tools used were Demographic proforma. Structured interview schedule was used to elicit the baseline data and structured questionnaires, were used to elicit the knowledge of parents. Ethical clearance was obtained from ethical committee. Content validity of the tool was established by split of method. The obtained score was 0.95 & it was found to be reliable. Pre-testing of the tools was done. A pilot study was conducted to see the feasibility. The obtained data were analyzed based on the objectives and hypothesis by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

## IMPLICATION OF THIS STUDY

The findings of the study can be used in the following areas of nursing profession;

## NURSING EDUCATION

1. Students may be given chance to provide health education regarding autistic children parents.
2. Health education program can be organized by the students among parents
3. Continuing nursing education program can be organized on these aspects.
4. This study emphasizes the significance of short term course, in services education for nurse to acquire advance knowledge regarding learning disabilities children.
5. Nurse educators, should plan with a sample opportunity for the students to educate the parents.

## NURSING PRACTICE

1. Nurse working in community field should have enough knowledge about learning disability among parents they



should be a keen observer since the parents cannot speak out their problems.

2. Regular awareness classes can be conducted for parents to increase the knowledge about autistic children.

3. Not only nurse but all the health care providers such as auxiliary nurses and midwives, village, nursing working in community centers should provide in services education regarding autistic children.

#### NURSING ADMINISTRATION

1. Administration can organize educational program in school and community areas to provide knowledge regarding importance of autistic children.

2. The administrator in the higher level of authority must hold discussion and meeting on the revolving children's problems. Based on that, the knowledge of the parents can be assessed and prevention programme can be planned and implemented in community at various level.

#### NURSING RESEARCH

The findings of the study had shown the majority of the parents had inadequate knowledge regarding autism. The study will motivate the beginning researcher to conduct the same study with the different variables on large scale.

**Table 1: Classification of subjects according to pre-test level of knowledge regarding learning disabilities Among Parents in Selected Special School. n=30**

Pre-test knowledge regarding learning disabilities	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate (Below 50%)	13	43%
Moderately adequate (50-74%)	15	50%
Adequate (75-100%)	2	7%

**Table 2: Classification of subjects according to post-test level of knowledge regarding learning disabilities Among Parents in Selected Special School. n=30**

Post- test knowledge regarding learning disabilities	Frequency	Percentage
Inadequate	00	0%
Moderately adequate	10	33%
Adequate	20	67%

**Table 3: Association between pre-test and post-test knowledge scores regarding learning disabilities Among Parents in Selected Special School n=30**

	Max score	Mean	SD	Mean%	't' Value	Df	'p' Value
Pre-test knowledge	30	18.5	3.89	61.6%	18.37	29	3.92
Post-test knowledge	30	24.56	3.86	80.53%			

#### DISCUSSION

Information booklet was found to be an effective educative method for improving the knowledge of parents who are taking care of learning disabilities children. These findings were similar to other studies, which shown that parents are having good knowledge learning disabilities. In the present study results revealed that there was significant association found at 0.05 levels between pre-test knowledge of parents and their selected demographic variables. The present study emphasizes on enhancements regarding knowledge of learning disabilities. This study also emphasizes continuing education, seminar, and conferences on learning disabilities school health nurses & school teachers. So, that they can educate the parents who are taking learning disabilities children. The findings of the research are fruitful only when incorporated into practice. It is the

responsibility of school health nurses, teachers to make the parents to aware about learning disabilities. For this the school health nurses and teachers need to have adequate knowledge regarding learning disabilities and should have skills to assess the children's who are in risk group.

#### CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the information booklet on learning disabilities carried out was effective in improving the knowledge of parents as evidenced by the significant change between pre-test and post-test knowledge score. The school health nurse must initiate teaching on such topic for more numbers of teachers and parents to have exposure of the concept.



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