



Needs-assessment of parents of mentally challenged children regarding their education level

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the investigation was to study the Needs of parents of mentally challenged children. For this purpose, 90 parents were selected having mentally challenged children with different degrees of mental retardation. The children were attending certain schools/institutions in Lucknow and Kanpur cities and they were selected randomly. A self-constructed Parental Needs-Assessment Scale was used to study the information needs of parents related to child rearing and welfare of children, service and counseling needs related to family functioning. Findings revealed that parents of mentally challenged children expressed maximum needs related to information about child rearing, welfare of children and service needs whereas they expressed less needs related to counseling in the matter of family functioning. Parents' needs were also examined with respect to their education level. The data were analyzed in terms of frequency, percentage and 't' value. Significant differences were found in the needs of certain groups of parents. Implications of the findings of the study are meant for people and institutions working for the mentally challenged children.