

A Study on Pre-Vocational Training for the Hearing Impaired Students in Kolkata

Kumaresh Roy¹

¹Headmaster & Ex-Officio Secretary, School Education Department, Government of West Bengal, Chhoto Sehara High School (HS), Kolkata, India.

Corresponding Author: education.kroy@gmail.com

Abstract: Study means a systemic critical and careful investigation of the said research problem endeavour to find out new ideas using scientific method.

Pre-Vocational Training means a systemic training by which a student with hearing impairment acquires such skills and behaviour which are necessary for a particular vocation in future. Importance of Pre-Vocational Training is whether the hearing impaired students have some potentialities in different trades or areas of work, independent functioning, physical communication, social, economic activity, occupation and self-direction. They need to be trained and successfully completed the level of pre-vocational training course at least with maximum extent achievement improving the pre-vocational potentialities which help them to select future vocation.

Hearing impaired students means the special learners of special schools with residual hearing having communication problems due to loss of hearing. Special Schools mean educational institutions for the students with hearing impairment imparting instructions in special education which is declared as 'Sponsored Institution' by the state and or maintained by the Government of West Bengal.

Kolkata means the capital city of West Bengal under the country, India where schools for the students with hearing impairment are located.

Key Words: - *Pre-Vocational Training, Hearing impaired, Kolkata, special learners.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is the most important factor in the rehabilitation process for the students with hearing impairment. Special Education for the hearing impaired is that part of education which fulfils particular need of each individual with hearing impairment. In this process academic activities and pre-vocational training both are provided simultaneously for the benefit of such children in future. Pre-Vocational Training is that process of special education by which individual's competence in a professional area is increased through specialized training and instructions.

It is really true that pre-vocational training opens the door of need-based education for the students with hearing impairment. It develops the professional skills and efficiencies of students with hearing impairment. It also enhances their other associate skills and power of self-evaluation providing theoretical information with practical work. It helps the students with hearing impairment for Undergoing into vocational training in future according to their needs. Pre-Vocational Training is a comprehensive term embracing those aspects of the special educational process involving in addition to activities, the study of various trades and related subjects including the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understandings and knowledge related to vocations.

It is noted by the researcher that well implemented pre-vocational training programs afford the students with hearing impairment greater opportunities to interact with the hearing world. This translates into better adaptation at home and later in the working place. It also sets higher goals for the hearing impaired thereby helping them strive to achieve this maximum potential.

Therefore, a critical investigation is very much essential in the title of the research as mentioned for the interest of the students with hearing impairment of special schools in Kolkata.

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

A. Aims:

- To establish the fundamental based of rehabilitation of hearing impaired students through practical work with theoretical information.
- To provide Pre-Vocational orientation with an understanding of the world of work.
- To aware and conscious hearing impairment students through pre-vocational training that they are different but abled to serve for the society.
- To develop a broad and realistic view of opportunities in life and problems at all levels of pre-vocational training of the students with hearing

impairment.

B. Objectives:

After going through the title of the research /study, the researcher is expected-

- To help the hearing impaired students for appropriate selection of vocations according to their needs after completion of the prescribed course.
- To self-aware each student with hearing impairment regarding his/her own potentialities /efficiencies.
- To grow their creativity and productivity mind through pre-vocational training.
- To establish self-dependent mind among the hearing impaired students.
- To provide various scope for choice of their trades or areas during the pre-vocational sessions according to their own capacities.
- To extend the power of application and skill in a particular trade through pre-vocational training.
- To develop professional skill and efficiency which help them to select appropriate vocation in future.
- To integrate hearing impairment students into regular Industrial Training Centers for further training.

III. LITERATURE SURVEY

Education means more than just learning of academic skills. If we help children to feel more confident about themselves, then they will be stronger position to be able to cope with the inevitable stresses of life. It is the Teacher's role to help children development and build upon understandings. Skills, knowledge and attitudes which they bring with them into schools and which are the essential elements of the educational. The evolution of the present social point of view towards deafness has been marked by the growing recognition of its problems and by an increasing collecting effort to do something practical toward their solution. In the pre-Christian era, Aristotle and others presumably believed that the deaf were incapable of instructions. The Roman law classified the deaf and dumb with the mentally incompetent. The Justinian Code denied the right to primogeniture. The Church shared the prevailing notions of the times and looked with disdain on the intellectual capabilities of the deaf. It was not until the middle of the sixteenth century that the mists began to lift. Some individuals emphasized that the ears are equal in the faculties of apprehension, memory and could be taught even in early childhood and pleaded what we now call early detection and identification. Thanks to the indefatigable

effects of a few pioneers, the great vision of universality of educational opportunity for the deaf has been transformed into reality.

The problems of the hearing Impaired is as old as human race. A child is either a born disabled or he acquires some disabilities in course of life. Such a child may be partially or totally hearing impaired or otherwise challenged. Survey recently undertaken by the United Nations Organization reveal that disabled population constitute about 10% of the total population of a country. This is very substantial number when expressed in absolute terms say in case of our country which has already crossed the billion mark in population grown. The hearing Impaired are a weaker and special group of people in the society. They are physically weak because some of their vital organs are either not functional at all or functioning partially which made them weaker compared to a normal human being. They are special group of people because they can utilize their inborn gifted talent with the help of special aids or equipments (hearing aids). For this they are dependent either on their family members or in the society. Although the problems of the hearing impaired is as old as the human origin, yet it could only be attended in true sense about 250-300 years back with the progress made in all branches of science, including medical science and that of designing of the hearing aid system for the person with hearing impairment. With these it could be proved that the hearing Impaired are capable to do any works like any normal person in the society depending on their education and pre-vocational training in the area of special education. The reason, why the cause of hearing impaired people was neglected during the greater part of human civilization was due to the apathy shown by the people and society towards them. The people also no means for the treatment, education and pre-vocational training of the hearing impaired children which otherwise is comparatively costly.

The primitive man, perhaps know only one occupation and that was hunting. He developed the techniques of hunting and taught it to younger generation and this was pre-vocational education and training of that time. With the passage of time, the struggle for existence compelled the human beings to conquer their physical environments which were full of danger, though there was no scarcity of resources. The society at that time was rather static and funds of knowledge rather limited. With the social, intellectual and cultural developments in society, the civilization process expanded that knowledge. This gave birth to incredible number of occupations for which manpower was to be developed. This gave birth to early pre-vocational training centres which perhaps were not of the kind we find now in our society.

In India in olden times, the individuals who were divided into four castes either learnt about their occupation from the elder

members of the family, who taught them or form members of a particular group, which was mostly by way of shrewd observation of the art and practices. This was quite sufficient to most the needs of those days or at that time the industry was not so developed and did not need such a multiplication of occupational set up. Now the society has so developed that the stages of technological developments have crossed the boundaries of industrialization automation and has entered the world of cybernetics.

In developing countries like India, it is essential that wealth should be produced at a very rapid speed. This again can be possible by way of conversation of human and natural resources. For this purpose, special educators will have to organize their educational and pre-vocational training system for the hearing impaired students in such an effective way so that it should pick up our economy. It needs to be classified but that pre-vocational training is a special type of training which helps to develop the material assets of a country. Pre-Vocational Training helps to the students with hearing impairment in so many ways in the process of conservation of human and natural resources of any country. It helps to conserve human resources through actual teaching and instruction which promotes the moral and other human capacities. Conservation of material resources are performed through discrimination and transmission of skills, knowledge, results of invention and several other monumental works done by the human efforts. In present day Indian society, vocational selection has become a complex and challenging task. There is various reason. They are difference among the planning and implementation aspects of national development plans. It has direct bearing on the vocational oriented education. New education policy is a significant step towards the introduction of systematic, well planned and rigorously implemented programs of Pre-vocational training. Today's Indian society is witnessing rapid acceleration in the pace of industrial development. Average people are getting more vocational and occupational opportunities. With reference to the prevailing conditions in India attempt has been made to discuss vocational selection and difficulties faced in its practical implementation.

There has been no mention or record of the status and role of hearing Impaired in society in the early period of European civilization. In those days, the persons with hearing impairment were clubbed with the mentally retarded. In the pre-Christian era, Aristotle observed that there was some relationship between congenital deafness and muteness. Socrates felt that the only way that the mute could Express or communicate was by means of gestures or pantomime. The idea that persons with hearing impairment were poor educational and pre-vocational prospects persisted through medieval times. The Romans also gave no status or

recognition to the hearing impaired in their society. During Justine reign (525-565 A.D.) Justine Code excluded persons with hearing impairment and other disabled from rights and obligations of citizenship. Prior to 16th century, only fragmentary bits of information are available about any attempts made to train the deaf in any skills. One such suitable example is Quintaspecluis, son of Counsel of Caesar August's, who was given painting as pre-vocational lesson. The education and pre-vocational training for the students with hearing impairment till 17th century was mostly confined to the rich and elite persons of the society. By the end of 18th century the social attitudes changed and it was convincingly shown that the deaf were capable of instructions. The moral and intellectual advancement of the social attitudes towards deafness in Europe and the Milan Conference (1880) had its influence on the education and pre-vocational training of the hearing impaired in USA. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Alexander Graham Bell recommended for introducing pre-vocational training with regular School activities. Hellen Keller became world famous for the determination with which she conquered her deaf-blindness. She awoke public concern and awareness of education, pre-vocational training for all persons with disabilities.

In Indian society, education has always been accorded an honoured place. But the awareness and thrust of education and pre-vocational training for the hearing impaired students started at the end of 19th century. The first Institute for the Deaf Mute in Bombay now Mumbai was set up by Christian Missionaries in 1884 with only five students. The school authority also took interest for implementation of pre-vocational training program before independence. Traditionally children with hearing impairment were admitted in special Schools, but the development of special education and pre-vocational training in the country was slow. The British Government ruling in India was not keen on pre-vocational training. In May, 1893, the second school named Calcutta Deaf & Dumb School was established. Srinath Sinha was the first teacher of the hearing impaired students in West Bengal who took interest on education and pre-vocational training before 1910. Jamininath Banerjee, the first principal of Calcutta Deaf & Dumb School felt the importance of pre-vocational training for the students with hearing impairment.

By 1930s a few schools had started teaching proper language to the hearing impaired with pre-vocational training. But children acquired just mechanical skills. Till 2000, there was 550 schools for the hearing impaired in India. With pre-vocational training facilities in our country. But lack of appropriate manpower has been one of the major constrains in the expansion of the pre-vocational training programs in West Bengal as well as in India. Standard Syllabus for pre-vocational training was approved and implemented by the

state in 1994-95 to prepare the hearing impaired students for selection of right vocation in future. The Government and Local Authorities shall endeavour to equip the special schools for students with hearing impairment along with pre-vocational training in pursuant with P.W.D.Act, 1995.

The special schools for the hearing impaired in Kolkata which are entrusted/adopted as industrial sections/pre-vocational sections may be considered for sanction of a special financial support by the state government to meet the expenditure involved. No positive action is taken by the concerned department regarding productivity of pre-vocational training for hearing impaired students of special schools in Kolkata till date.

IV. METHODOLOGY

It gave an accurate and detailed description of the execution of the study which includes population, sample, sources of data, research tools and methods of data collection, the size of the sample. Sampling procedure employed reliability of the tools, statistical procedures used by the researcher were critically and carefully described.

A. Sampling & Sampling Procedure

The study was conducted on a sample of 120 students with hearing impairment, in which 100 from present students and 20 from ex-students of last 10 years drawn from the three special schools for the hearing impaired in Kolkata on the basis of sample random, sampling which was adequate, reliable and free from error due to bias. Members of the population)1026 were mentioned and numbered from 1-1,026 accordingly and a series of random was drawn as every second, fourth, sixth, eighth.... and prepared for the sampling was used in practice by the researcher which saves time and reduces cost and may enable more accurate measurement due to its limited area of operation. It usually enabled to estimate the sampling error.

B. Tools & Data Collection

For the purpose of collecting new relevant data for the study, Questionnaire, Check List, Organizational Profile, Skill Test Instruments, Observation and interview were selected to serve the purpose.

C. Tools & Techniques for Data Collection

Questionnaire was in accordance with the objectives and had proper direction. Check List was used by the researcher to record the presence or absence of the phenomena under study. Observation done by the researcher served as a tool of the study which dealt with the overt behaviour of students in controlled or uncontrolled situation. The observer worked in the workshop under observation as a regular member.

Sometimes he also remained aloof from the workshop room but kept his observations incaspicious as possible. Interview arranged by the researcher is an oral type questionnaire. It was applied for interaction between the researcher and interviewer in a face to face situation which was helpful in diagnosis. The researcher also used skill test instruments among the hearing impaired students in the workshop to observe the actual situation and applicability. Sign and gestures, finger spelling were also used to motivate the hearing impaired students during interview and used in mode of communication. Organizational Profile was also helpful to understand the detail information of the special schools including pre-vocational training programs. Questionnaire was administered properly among the 100 students with hearing impairment of three schools in Kolkata as per distribution with the help of respective class teachers and systematically collected the same after completion of the duration. A check list was also used among the 20 ex- students with hearing impairment same schools of last 10 years. After proper administration of the same, these were collected by the researcher and also arranged systematically to serve the purpose. Observation of the students with hearing impairment at working situation in the workshop of the special schools in Kolkata done by the researcher properly.

D. Data Processing

The data collected from the hearing impaired students both present an ex-student of three special schools in Kolkata (namely Calcutta Deaf & Dumb School, Hellen Keller Bodhir Vidyalaya and Ideal School for the Deaf) properly arranged and processed with the help of statistical representation by the researcher.

- Information collected through questionnaire and check list from 120 students with hearing impairment arranged serially and processed to serve the purpose smoothly.
- Information collected from head of the three Institutions through face to face interview using institutional profiles also arranged and processed sequentially to serve the purpose.
- Information gathered from workshop superintendent through face to face interview also arranged and processed.
- Records maintained by the researcher through an open discussion with a group of special educators arranged and processed properly.
- Information collected from vocational /craft instructors through employment profile and other related tools also processed properly.

- Necessary information collected from guardians to identify the practical skills and efficiencies at home and processed properly.
- Information also collected from employed persons with hearing impairment through face to face interview arranging properly and processed accordingly.
- All other important documents and related matters regarding pre-vocational training observed by the researcher processed properly and critically arranged the same as far as possible to serve the purpose.

V. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Generally, there was an equal line indication among the students with hearing impairment of special schools in Kolkata in positive sense. More emphasis gave on theoretical information than practical. But there is rapid tendency to develop pre, -vocational skills through practices. Skills were expressed by them through their creativity and productivity if any at initial stages. Effectiveness of pre-vocational training was increased through their active participation in the programmes utilizing skills and abilities within students with hearing impairment of special schools in Kolkata. The average percentage of responses related to pre-vocational training were represented through integration which indicates the various items representing maximum theoretical information among the learners with hearing impairment and minimum enhancement of sense of dignity of labour to such Students through pre-vocational training. Maximum percentage of ex-hearing impaired students involved under self-employment and minimum percentage of outgoing students are unemployed till date. A tendency to work in the private sectors than government departments was there. Employers of private agencies extended their hands to recruit hearing impaired students under P.H. category as per PWD Act,1995. Twenty percent of outgoing Students had been working in other professions which was more than percentage of unemployment. Average percentage of self-employment was fifty which is maximum including ex-hearing impaired students and only six percent was unemployed till date which was minimum. An increasing rate of employment was there in government sector due to implementation of the PWD Act,1995.

- The result can be interpreted by the researcher through critical investigation of the problem as per information collected from various sources of special schools with hearing impairment in Kolkata through systematic approach.
- All the industrial sections of special schools for the hearing impaired in Kolkata have structured programme on pre-vocational training.
- Most of the pre-vocational trades have aimed at keeping students with hearing impairment more self-dependent with fostering their creativity. There is no regular production target but have pressure to create work culture in the discipline of work efficiency and quality output.
- There is a lot of scopes for pre-vocational guidance to the students by the craft instructors of special schools with hearing impairment in Kolkata. Therefore, efforts are made from both sides to ensure efficiency and finally helpful for selection of vocation under vocational rehabilitation centres / industrial trainings centres of the state.
- Common vocation like tailoring, embroidery, stitching, book binding trades are available in all the Institutions and after completing the courses most of the students with hearing impairment are benefited in real life situation with permanent rehabilitation.
- There is a large scope to show the abilities of the hearing impaired through proper guidance by the craft instructor's / craft teachers giving him/her chance to understand himself/herself as independent and contributory member of the community.
- The professional skills and efficiencies of the craft instructors are reflected in most cases through the activities of the students with hearing impairment. In few cases they are facing problems when deal with hearing impaired.
- There is a separate industrial section and workshop room in all special schools for the hearing impaired in Kolkata.
- Students with hearing impairment have larger scope to practice more with knowledge of instruments in protected environment but no quality production. As a result, there are limited opportunity for replication in industrial sectors after completion of the course.
- Students with hearing impairment are motivated. by the active guidance of the craft instructors which create their service motive mind through pre-vocational training.
- There is a large scope to practice pre-vocational trades accompany with academic activities of the

students with hearing impairment of special schools in Kolkata. It is noted that job-oriented trades/subjects not included or introduced till date except terracotta and soft toys making.

- The individual student with hearing impairment become expertise according to their abilities for a particular trade or vocation through pre-vocational training provided by special schools in Kolkata. As a result, maximum of them are able to engage in life situation.
- During the pre -vocational session there are two main examinations and regular assessment of students with hearing impairment are taken in time as per academic calendar of the special schools in Kolkata. Regular meeting with parents of hearing Impaired studying special schools conducted by the concerned section to make contact., coordinate good relation among themselves and to practice the same in leisure time at home.
- It can be stated that the pre- vocational training provided to the students with hearing impairment of special schools in Kolkata as per their actual needs. Therefore, they are employed in various government and private sectors like MMC, GKW, Organon Ltd, BG Press, Indian Railways, Airports, SOEL, Metal Box, Dunlop etc. Maximum number of outgoing trained persons with hearing impairment are under self-employment in their community like establishing tailoring shops, book stalls, clay modelling centres etc. Also a minimum number of ex-students of these three special schools are unemployed till date. There is a tendency to work in other professions due to lack of active implementation of the disability Act.
- It can be further interpreted by the researcher through critical investigation that the pre-vocational training plays vital role along with academic activities in special schools-system through which Students with hearing impairment are motivated fully with active participation creating cooperative mind among the peer groups for fostering capabilities by active participation in the society.

VI. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

After doing careful critical analysis and interpretation on pre vocational training for which information collected from different source of special schools for the hearing impaired in Kolkata indicates the following consolidated findings with conclusions has been indicated by the researcher.

- Enhancement of ability is possible through pre-vocational training which is helpful for selection of vocation after completion of the prescribed course.
- Hearing Impaired students are self-aware to the maximum extent possible regarding their potentialities and efficiencies through pre-vocational training.
- Self-dependent mentality grown among the hearing impaired students which helps them to adjust in community with their creative and productive mind.

Finally, it can be concluded that hearing impaired students are abled in the society through pre-vocational training in spite of their disabilities. But it is noted that no regular productivity is during such training and financial obstruction is there for inclusion and permanent rehabilitation.

Further intensive and extensive study is necessary regarding the problem for qualitative improvement of information in this particular area at higher level, for example at doctoral level.

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