CHAPTER V

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND CONCLUSIONS

* CAUSATIVE FACTORS OF MENTAL RETARDATION
* GENERAL PROBLEMS OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN
* EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-EAST
* EDUCATIONAL PROVISIONS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-EAST
* EXISTING REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES
* PROBLEMS RELATED TO REHABILITATION OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN
* A COMPARISON BETWEEN PRESENT STUDY FINDINGS AND PAST FINDINGS
* CONCLUSION
CHAPTER - V

FINDING OF THE STUDY AND CONCLUSIONS

• CAUSATIVE FACTORS OF MENTAL RETARDATION IN THE NORTH-EAST

The analysis and interpretation of twenty seven cases studies conducted in the North-East confirmed the following causes of mental retardation.

— Pre-natal causes of mental retardation comprised of 51.85%. The Pre-natal causes were chromosomal abnormalities, over aged Pregnancy, Consanguine marriage and Pre-natal mental shock.

— Chromosomal abnormalities for the causes of mental retardation comprised of 22% in the present study.

— Mental retardation in the North-East due to over aged pregnancy of the mother was found to be 11%. It was also observed that age level of the expectant mother of M. R. Children ranges from 34-38 years.

— Consanguine marriage constituted 11% of the causes of mental retardation in the North-East.

— Pre-natal mental shock and tension among expectant mother caused mental retardation among their children to the extent 7.41% in the North-East.

— Neo-natal causes of mental retardation comprised of 22% of the cases in the North-East. Pre-natal causes of mental retardation were deprivation
of oxygen during birth (including breathing difficulty and absence of birth cry) and Pre-matured birth.

— 14.81% of the mental retardation of the North-East were caused by deprivation of oxygen during birth of the babies. It was also found that the mentally retarded babies were born and the absence of birth cry.

— 7.41% cases of mental retardation were found in the North-East which were caused by Pre-matured birth.

— Post-natal causes of mental retardation comprised of 25.93% in the North-East. The observed Post-natal causes of mental retardation were infectious diseases like para-typhoid and jaundice, brain disorder (epilepsy), Accident (Fall into hot water), and deprivation of breast milk.

— 7.41% cases of mental retardation were found in the North-East which were caused by infections diseases (Jaundice and Para-typhoid) in infancy and early childhood.

— 3.70% of mental retardation was caused by brain disorder i.e. epilepsy. The study indicated that a five year old child started epileptic fits 1-2 episodes per year. He gradually started showing the features of mental retardation.

— Mental retardation was caused by accident of fall into hot water during early infancy. It was found that a two years old child developed mental retardation when hot water entered into brain and his head began to enlarged. It comprised 3.70% of mental retardation in the North-east.

— Mental retardation was accured among children who were deprived of breast milk and were bottle fedded. It constituted 11% of the mental retardation in the North-East.

— The present study result confirmed that mental retardation occured among people of any socio-economic status. The case study results indicated
that 21% of mentally retarded children came from upper income group, 42% of them came from middle income group and 37% came from low income group in the North-East.

The study confirmed that M.R. children have low I.Q. than the normal children. Highest level of I.Q. among M.R. Children studied in the North-East was 71 and lowest I.Q. was 12.50. The study also indicated that 30%of M.R. Students were educable, 50% of them were trainable and 20% were custodial.

**GENERAL PROBLEMS OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-EAST**

— The study result revealed that in the North-East 51.85% of M.R children had poor adjustment with their Peer groups due to the lack of proper expression and communication.

— 77.78% of the mentally retarded children had behavioural complain in the North-East.

— 55.55%of the mentally retarded children were found having inferiority complex in their behaviour.

— It was found that 40.63% of the M.R.Children were aggressive in the North-East.

— The study revealed that 81.48% cases of mentally retarded children were hyperactive in the North-East.

— It was found that 28.57% of the Children had self injurious attitude.

— Physicalproblems constituted 70.79% among mentally retarded children in the region.
— The study indicated that 29.41% of the neighbours were indifferent towards M.R. Children. 17.65% were found unfavourable and 52.94% had favourable attitude to M.R. Children. It was also revealed that 75% of the neighbours had favourable attitude to the parents of M.R. Children, 18.75% were indifferent and 6.25% were unfavourable.

— 91.30% of M.R. Children were found having eating problem in the North-East.

— Research finding indicated that habit disorder constituted 96.97% in the North-East among the mentally retarded children.

• EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-EAST

— The study result indicated that 77.78% of the special schools in the North-East had no residencial facility.

— It was found that 33% of the special school in the North-East had no permanent site and own building.

— 11% of the special schools for M.R. Children in the North-East had no good sanitation facilities and water supply.

— The present study indicated that 66.64% of the special schools had no students common room and library facilities.

— The study indicated that there was no problem of wastage in the special schools of the North-East. But stagnation was found as a major problem which represented 87.50% of M.R. Student in the region.

— It was found that 22% of the institutes were unable to pay the salary of the teachers regularly which affected the smooth functioning of the schools.
The research data revealed that age criteria of admission was different from one school to another school and from one group to another group. In 77.78% of the institutes, admission criteria was 3 years for Pre primary or nursery classes and 22% of the institutes had 6 years age criteria for the same class. It was 78% of the institutes that had 3 years age criteria for Pre primary or nursery classes and 22% of the institutes had 6 years age criteria for the same class. It was found that number of classes in the institutes were adequate but the quality of education in them was very poor. 

— Parent teacher Association was found very significant for functional growth as a Supporting service of the institute. But 44.44% of the special institute had no Parent-teacher Association in the region.

— It was found that 100% of the institutes for M.R. Children in the North-East had no permanent health service. Only 33% institutes had part time service from the medical visiting team.

— The present study result confirmed that M.R. Children had low span of attention and poor comprehensive power. 59.09% of M.R. Children had no interest in studies. 71.43% of M.R. Children in the North-East comprehended simple and easy talk of their parents and teachers. 28.57% of the M.R. Children did not understand even simple talk.

— The study result indicated that 66.67% of the institutes of the North-East had no grant in Aid from the respective state government. 22% of the special school for M.R. Children in the North-East had no grant in aid from the central government. 33% of the special schools had no financial assistance from the voluntary organisation. 44.44% of the special schools had been deprived of the donation from the local bodies.

— The research study indicated that 44.44% of the institutes in the North-East had no playground of their own.

EDUCATIONAL PROVISIONS FOR M.R. CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-EAST

— The research data revealed that age criteria of admission was different from one school to another school and from one group to another group. In 77.78% of the institutes, admission criteria was 3 years for Pre primary or nursery classes and 22% of the institutes had 6 years age criteria for the same class. It was
followed individualised institution, repetition method, reward and punishment, learning by doing method, music and songs. It was indicated that both rewarded

It was found that 77.78% of the special schools of the North-East were purely under private management and they are day care centres. 22% of the institutes were residential and government aided. The study also revealed that number of classes in the institutes were adequate but the qualities were very poor.

The number of teacher enrolled in the special schools of the North-East were 83. The male teacher comprised of 24.10% and Female teacher comprised of 75.90%. It indicated that service given by the female teacher for the education of M.R. Children were more appreciating than that of the male teacher in the North-East.

The study revealed that 575 M.R. Children are enrolled in the special schools of the North-East out of which 58.78% were male student and 41.22% of the students were female.

The study indicated that the teacher student ratio in the special schools of M.R. Children in the North-East was 1:7. Out of nine special schools of the North-East three had optimum teacher-student ratio which comprised of 33%.

It was found that special school of the North-East followed the following classes in the institutes for the mentally retarded children. The classes were nursery, preprimary, play group, primary group, educable, functional and vocational group, academic and secondary classes.

Regarding method it was found that lecture method is not suitable for the M.R. Children. 100% of the special institutes of the North-East followed individualised institution, repetition method, reward and punishment, learning by doing method, music and songs. It was indicated that both rewarded
and punishment had positive impact in behaviour modification of M.R. Children in the North-East. It was also found that learning by doing method developed self help skills among M.R. Children in daily living activities and group song developed we feeling and confidence among M.R. Children.

- Special schools of the North-East followed several curriculum like modified normal curriculum, curriculum of the National Institute for Mentally Handicapped Individualised Training programme, Madras Developmental Programme Scheme, Spastics Society of Eastern India, Institute of Cerebral Palsy curriculum.

- The study indicated that 100% of the special institutes of the North-East had light facilities and 55.56% of the institutes had play ground of their own. It was also found that co-curricular programmes for M.R. Children included indoor and outdoor games in addition to cultural programmes. These programmes developed communication power and socialisation of the M.R. Children.

- The present study indicated that 66.67% of the institutes for M.R. Children in the North-East had guidance service and 100% of the special institutes had parents counselling.
EXISTING REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES IN THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS OF THE NORTH-EAST

- 33% of special institutes in the North-East had sheltered workshop. Different vocational training programmes are exercised in sheltered workshop like weaving, knitting, tailoring and carpentry. Sahayika, Chunkhum Ibohal institute for mentally retarded and Mon Vikash Kendra had the sheltered workshop.

- The study indicated that 77.78% of the institutes had no loan facilities for self-help employment for M.R. Children. The institutes were Sahayika and Mon Vikash Kendra.

- The present study result indicated that 55.56% of the special institutes had special training facilities for female mentally retarded students.

- 33% of the special institute had special training facilities. The institute were Chunkhum Ibohal institutes, B.B. Paul Mental Development Home and Mon Vikash Kendra.

PROBLEMS RELATED TO REHABILITATION OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-EAST

- Regarding rehabilitation problem it was found that 66.67% of the special institutes for M.R. Children in the North-East had no sheltered workshop.

- The study indicated that 77.78% of the institutes had no loan facilities for self-help employment for M.R. Children.

- It was found that 44.44% of the special institutes in the North-East had no special facilities for M.R. girl students.

- The present study indicated that 66.67% of the special institutes in the region had no scholarship facilities for M.R. Students.
Mysore study Conducted by kupuswamy (1961, 1968)
Ahmedabad study of Ramajujam (1966). Lucknow university study by Ishtiaq (1973), and status of the family of M.R. Children. All study findings indicated that a relatively higher incidence of mental retardation occurred among the lower socio economic group. The present study result indicated that only 37% of M. R. children come from lower income group, 42% come from middle income group and 21% come from upper come group.

- Grahame et al (1963) found that children with a history of breathing difficulty showed more neurological abnormalities and intellectual disorder among children. The present study result revealed the similar indication of brain demaged due to the history of breathing difficulty during birth.

- White and watt (1973) observed that in lower and lower middle socio economic groups both parents used to go out to earn their living and the responsibility of the child falls either on the servant or other relative. As a result
There are a large number of causes of mental retardation. In the present study thirteen causes of mental retardation was found where 51.85% comprised of pre-natal causes, 22% comprised of neo-natal cause and 25.93% comprised of post-natal cause. M. R. Children had behavioural problems. Poor adjustment, inferiority complex. Self-injurious, agressive, hyperactive and eating problem were found among them. Play ground health care and stagnation was some of the major problem. The mental retarded Children was less interested, less attentive and had poor comprehensive power. The teacher student ratio in the special schools of the North-East was 1:7. Basically academic and vocational education was provided in the special schools. The items of academic classes was 3 Rs- reading, writing and arithmetic. Education was also provided to form the concept of M.R. Children. Weaving, Knitting & tailoring were some of the important items of vocational programmes to make them self dependent. Individualised instruction, repetition, reward and punishment, learning by doing were some of the important method of instruction. Loan facilities, Scholarship, special training for
girls and sheltered workshop in the special schools were not satisfactory. Rehabilitation facilities were insufficient. Services provided by various voluntary organisations and the NGO’s in different states were really significant for the cause of M.R. Children. Gauhati Mental Welfare society (GMWS), The society for the welfare of the Disabled (Shillong), All Tripura SC/ST and Minority Upliftment council (Agartala) Lions club of Guwahati and Manipur, Rotary club of Manipur, Inner wheel club of Guwahati, Ladies club of N. F. Railway (Guwahati), Youth club of Imphal and some Public undertakings like Indian Oxygen limited, oil India limited and OXFAM (India) Trust assisted the Special schools. State and central government are almost indifferent towards the problems of M. R. Children. Ministry of Social welfare (govt. of India), National Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Spastics Society of Eastern India (SSEI) Calcutta also assisted the special schools by providing funds, aids and equipments for the education and rehabilitation of M.R. Children. Their assistance was irregular and inadequate. Necessary educational and vocational programme may be taken in joint responsibility of the government and the NGO’s for the North-Eastern region.