THE PROBLEM

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Needless to state that from time immemorable material resources had been enjoying the super status followed by finance as resources. A paradigm shift took place after Karl Marx’s theory of Labour as Capital. Having realized the importance of human resources, who could invent and discover the nourishment of human capital started assuming significance that which paved ways for scientific and technological revolutions. The parlance of medicine cannot be claimed to be an exemption. Man started employing the nature for his convenience, comfort, pleasure and all kinds of benefits and profits. It is a sad truism that environmental nourishment got turned to be destruction due to the ill use of technology. This has led to human pathology in the forms of disproportionate genetic combinations, distortion in biological systems and emergence of innumerable as well as un-curable diseases. One such consequence is the incidence of people with mental challenges at different levels. These human beings also should be made taking care of themselves, besides the fostering of vocational skills for them to stand proudly and happily. In this context, the establishment of rehabilitation centres for mentally challenged became a necessity as well as reality. Though there are about 100 centres in the State of Tamil Nadu, no systematic and scientific attempt has been made to assess their efficacy by anyone till date. Hence the present study.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

The present investigator who preferred spiritual life and had undergone undergraduate programme in Rehabilitation Science as well as B. Ed special in Mental Retardation, besides the postgraduate degree in psychology, has been serving as psychologist in a centre being managed by the Congregation to which she belongs to. The personal experiences had with these children in every day functions about a decade thought of the present study which is entitled “FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY OF REHABILITATION CENTRES FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED IN TAMILNADU”.

1
TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY - refers to the extent of fulfilment of the goal of the system.

REHABILITATION CENTRES FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED - refers to the institutions established and being operated for the betterment of the lives of people with mild, moderate, severe and profound levels of mental retardation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To measure and find out whether there is a significant difference in each of the 42 functions of the rehabilitation centres for mentally challenged as assessed by the principals in terms of the seven institutional variables involved in this study.

2. To measure and find out whether there is a significant difference in each of the 38 functions of the rehabilitation centres for mentally challenged as assessed by the teachers in terms of the seven institutional variables involved in this study.

3. To measure and find out whether there is a significant difference in each of the 38 functions of the rehabilitation centres for mentally challenged as assessed by the parents in terms of the seven institutional variables involved in this study.

METHODOLOGY–IN BRIEF

DESIGN : Descriptive

METHOD OF RESEARCH : Normative

TECHNIQUE EMPLOYED : Survey

TOOLS USED : Scales of functional efficiency of rehabilitation centres and general information sheet.
SAMPLES: 41 principals, 283 teachers and 471 parents of select 41 Rehabilitation Centres.

STATISTICAL TREATMENTS: ‘t’ tests for significance of differences between the means of large independent samples and small independent samples.

DELIMITATION AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study has included the three vital kinds of personnel involved in the system, viz. Principals, Teachers and Parents only. It has not involved either the professionals like general physicians, psychiatrists and clinical psychologists or the external administrators of these centres. This is a delimitation of the study. Hence the assessment of functions of these centres need not necessarily be applicable to the population of professionals and external administrators.

The study has thrown light on the fairly well agreement among the three kinds of personnel in their assessment of functions. It is also revealed that no function is found to be either highly satisfactory or highly unsatisfactory. The illuminations on the relationships between functions and the seven institutional variables would be of immense use for policy makers and practitioners in this field.