ABSTRACT

This study investigated the motor abilities and functional academic skills of children with cerebral palsy. The sample consisted of 100 children with cerebral palsy attending special schools. The tools used for collecting the data included Gross Motor Function Measure – 88 (GMFM-88), Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS), Manual Ability Classification System (MACS) and Behavioural Assessment Scales for Indian Children with Mental Retardation Part A (BASIC- MR). The study design used was survey method. The data collected were analyzed using t test, analysis of variance, Bonferroni test, Spearman’s rank correlation and stepwise multiple regression. The findings of the study revealed that children with cerebral palsy showed only ‘poor’ level of functional academic skills. Among the different academic skills, the writing skill was most affected in these children. The study also revealed that the gross motor and fine motor abilities are correlated with the functional academic skills. Child related variables such as age, level of retardation, presence of visual, speech, hearing impairments, occurrence of epileptic attacks, and behavioral problems are found to have significant effect on functional academic skills of children with cerebral palsy. The results are discussed in detail and the implications and suggestions for future research are also given.

Key words :- Cerebral palsy, Gross motor abilities, Fine motor abilities, Functional academic skills.