Abstract

A Comparative study of the Education of the Blind in India and Japan

The system of educating the Blind in India and Japan was compared through this research work. The system of education included the nature of the Special Institutions for the Blind, extent of enrolment of blind children, curriculum, nature of teaching method, system of examination, teaching equipments used and the system of Inclusion. The study was delimited with only blind children, Special Institutions for the Blind, and Kolkata in India and Tokyo in Japan. Purposive Sampling Technique was used. 6 Special Institutions for the Blind, 50 teachers from these institutions and 100 blind children were chosen from both Kolkata and Tokyo. Regarding nature of the institutions, it was seen that the institutions in Tokyo provided almost similar and uniform facilities but in Kolkata the institutions did not provide the facilities uniformly. The system of enrolment was quite different in the institutions of Kolkata and Tokyo. The difference was mainly because of differences in the rules and regulations laid down by the respective Governments. Regarding certain subjects like Science, Mathematics, Music, etc the nature of the course content was quite similar. Some of the subjects like Home Economics which was taught only in the institutions of Tokyo could also be introduced in the institutions of Kolkata. The duration of training in the subjects of Plus Curriculum/Independent Activity was much more in the institutions of Tokyo than in the institutions of Kolkata. In both Kolkata and Tokyo, the method used for teaching the blind children was called Audio–Tactile Method. Regarding the system of examination, the study revealed that all the 3 institutions in Kolkata followed their own systems of examining the blind children. However, in Tokyo all the institutions followed a uniform system of examination. Some of the teaching equipments used in Tokyo could also be introduced in the institutions of Kolkata. While in Kolkata there existed a policy which had the provision of reserving seats for blind/visually impaired children in general schools, but on the other hand there was no such provision in Tokyo. The Government, however, took an active part in providing assistance to the blind children in both Kolkata and Tokyo.