DEFINITIONS OF MENTAL RETARDATION:

1) Mental retardation is a condition in which there is an arrest in the development of the brain before the age of 18 years either congenitally or due to disease or injury.
   -Mental Deficiency Act 1927 (England).

2) Mental retardation is a condition which originates during the developmental period and is characterised by markedly subaverage intellectual functioning, resulting to some degree insocial inadequacy.
   -Dybwad G.Challenges in Mental Retardation

3) Mental retardation is a descriptive term used for impairments of learning which limit a person's rate and extent of learning, with a resulting need for special assistance in the areas of the person's difficulties.
   -New Zealand Society for the Intellectually Handicapped Mental Retardation and Medical Education in New Zealand Federation for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded (India) Newsletter, 12(6 & 7) 1986.

4) Mental retardation is a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind so severe that the patient is incapable of leading an independent life or of guarding himself against serious exploitation in the case of a child, that he will be so incapable when an adult.
   -Tredgold R.F. Mental Retardation (11th Ed.)

5) Feeblemindedness is defined psychologically as intellectual retardation of two years at an age below nine or three years at an age above nine. (Stated in 1910)

6) Mental deficiency is a state of social incompetence.
   -Doll E.A. The Essentials of an Inclusive Concept of Mental Deficiency, American Journal Mental Deficiency, 45-217, 1941.*
7) Mentally retarded individual is one who is incapable of performing at the level required for acceptable adjustment within his cultural environment.

8) Mentally retarded individuals are those who are significantly impaired in their ability to learn and adapt to the demands of society.

9) Mental retardation is diminished efficiency of the Central Nervous System thus entailing a lessened general capacity for growth in perceptual and conceptual integration.
   -Benoit E.F. Toward a New Definition of Mental Retardation American Journal of Mental Deficiency 63-56, 1956.*

10) Mental retardation is a condition of intellectual arrest at some level below Piaget's level of formal thought.

* These are reproduced from.
Appendix 1(b)

CLASSIFICATIONS OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

   I.Q. below 70 Mental Defectives.
   I.Q. below 70-75 Borderline or Feeble-minded.
   I.Q. below 75-90 Dull and backward.

2) Generally accepted classification based on I.Q.
   I.Q. 0-25 Idiots OR Custodial OR Profound/Severe.
   I.Q. 25-50 Imbeciles OR Trainable OR Moderate.
   I.Q. 50-75 Moron/Feeble-minded OR Educable OR Mild
   I.Q. 75-90 Borderline/Dull.

3) Kirk
   Totally dependent-unable to be trained in total self-care,socialization,or economic usefulness and requires almost complete care and supervision throughout life.

   Trainable Mentally Retarded-not educable in the traditional sense but has potentialities for training in (1)Self-help skills (2)Social adjustment in the family,and(3)economic usefulness.

   Educable Mentally Retarded-unable to profit sufficiently from a regular programme but has potentialities in (1)academic subjects (2)Social adjustments,and (3)minimal occupational adequacies.

4) Levels on Adaptive Behaviour Scale Assessment.
   Level V -Individuals are described as those who are grossly physically handicapped,essentially non-ambulatory,or function in that manner and who require continuous medical nursing for their survival.

   Level IV -Individuals are described as those who are capable of responding to the simplest of environmental stimuli and interpersonal relationships,but who will be dependent upon nursing supervision for their maintenance and on help in following the routines of daily living.

   Level III -Individuals are described as those who are capable of limited social and economic functioning,but who will be dependent upon environmental control and support.

   Level II -Individuals are described as those who are capable of effective social and economic functioning in a non-competitive environment, but who will need some continuing of support and supervision in the management of their personal affairs.
Level I - Individuals are those capable of effective social and economic functioning in a low demand competitive environment but who will need some support and supervision in the management of their personal affairs.

5) World Health Organisation.

- Profound mental retardation (I.Q. under 20)
  - Individuals who may respond to skill-training in the use of legs, hands and jaws.

- Severe mental retardation (I.Q. 20-34)
  - Individuals who can profit from systematic habit training.

- Moderate mental retardation (I.Q. 35-49)
  - Individuals who can learn simple communication, elementary health and safety habits, and simple manual skills, but do not progress in functional reading or arithmetic.

- Other mental retardation.

- Mild mental retardation (I.Q. 50-70)
  - Individuals who can acquire practical skills and functional reading and arithmetic abilities with special education, and who can be guided towards social conformity.

- Other

- Unspecified

The above classifications are reproduced from


Appendix 1(c)

CLASSIFICATION OF ETIOLOGICAL FACTORS OF MENTAL RETARDATION (OUTLINE)*

1. Infections and intoxications
   a. Prenatal infection.
   b. Postnatal cerebral infection.
   c. Intoxication.

2. Trauma or Physical agents.

3. Metabolism and nutrition.
   a. Neuronal lipid storage diseases.
   b. Carbohydrate disorders.
   c. Amino acid disorders.
   d. Nucleotide disorders.
   e. Mineral disorders.
   f. Endocrine disorders.
   g. Nutritional disorders.
   h. Others.

4. Gross brain disease (postnatal)
   a. Neurocutaneous dysplasia.
   b. Tumors.
   c. Cerebral white matter, degenerative.
   d. Specific fiber tracts, degenerative.
   e. Cerebrovascular system.
   f. Other.

5. Unknown prenatal influence.
   a. Cerebral malformation.
   b. Craniofacial anomaly.
   c. Status dysraphicus.
   d. Hydrocephalus.
   e. Hydranencephaly.
   f. Multiple malformation.
   g. Single umbilical artery.
   h. Other.
   a. A group - chromosomes 1, 2, 3
   b. B group - chromosomes 4, 5
   c. C group - chromosomes 6, 12
   d. D group - chromosomes 13, 15
   e. E group - chromosomes 16-18
   f. F group - chromosomes 19-20
   g. G group - chromosomes 21-22
   h. Chromosomal abnormality, X chromosome
   i. Chromosomal abnormality, Y chromosome.

7. Gestational disorders.
   a. Prematurity.
   b. Small for date.
   c. Postmaturity.
   d. Other.

8. Following Psychiatric disorder.

   a. Severe due to severe deficit of special senses
   b. Sensory deprivation.
   c. Severe stimulus deprivation.
   d. Other.

10. Other conditions.

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For details of the outline refer:

