DISCUSSION OF RESULTS
CHAPTER VI

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The results obtained are manifold and varied. Some of the hypotheses framed earlier have been supported while others have failed to find support in the present results. The main variables have been discussed below under different headings. The discussion for each variable takes into account both the analysis of variance and the correlational analysis.

Adjustment*

The results (Tables - 3, 5 A, B, C) show that the health adjustment and adjustment (total) of the siblings of handicapped children to be significant as compared to the siblings of normal children. Other adjustments such as home adjustment, submissiveness, emotionality, hostility have not been found to be significant. The results do not totally support the hypotheses that adjustment (total) and health and home adjustment will be lower for the siblings of handicapped children & the adjustment for other subvariables

* Lower score of adjustment (total) and its subvariables are indicative of better adjustment in comparison to higher score.
namely submissiveness, emotionality, hostility will be higher as compared to the siblings of normal children. The results show that the health adjustment of the siblings of handicapped children is better than siblings of normal children irrespective of their sex. However, the previous findings indicate poor health for the female siblings, because of the burden caused due to caregiving responsibilities to the handicapped child (Cleveland & Miller, 1977; Gath, 1974; Graliker et al, 1962; Grossman, 1972; Mc Hale et al, 1984). The results are however supported by the finding of Wilson et. al. (1989) that recent shifts in the definition of sex roles may help to evenly distribute caregiving responsibilities among male and female siblings alike.

The results can be explained on the basis that the sample was collected mostly from the subjects based in an educated region. It seems that the general level of education and socioeconomic status of the parents are good. After the incidence of a handicapped child in the family, the parents become very conscious in their rearing of their other normal siblings. They take no chance with regard to the health of the normal sibling and provide them with all the facilities for a satisfactory health irrespective of the sex of the normal sibling. The availability of health services in this region is also quite good and easy, which helps the parents look after their
children well. Since the health adjustment of siblings of handicapped children has been found to be better as compared to the siblings of normal children, the same is reflected in score of adjustment (total). Thus, adjustment (total) has also been found to be better for the siblings of handicapped children.

The results show (Table - 4,6,7,8 A,B) that there is no difference between the home adjustment, submissiveness, emotionality and hostility in the siblings of handicapped and normal children. The present results do not support the hypotheses that siblings of handicapped children will be having lower home adjustment and higher feeling of submissiveness, emotionality and hostility as compared to the siblings of normal children. The findings of the studies by Schipper (1959) and lloyd-Bostock (1976) support the present results that siblings of handicapped children were happy and well adjusted and handicapped child was generally loved and accepted by the other siblings in the family. On the contrary the results of the studies by Breslau, Weitzman and Messenger (1981), Grossman (1972) do not support the results obtained.

The present results may once again be explained on the basis that the level of education of the parents being higher, they are very conscious about their duties and proper development of their children. This leads to congenial home environment and prevents high feeling of
submissiveness, emotionality and hostility between the siblings of handicapped and normal children.

A look at the results of correlation (Table - 17) suggests that the adjustment (total) of siblings of mentally handicapped children is negatively correlated to alienation (total) and its subvariables. However, the adjustment (total) of siblings of physically handicapped children is negatively correlated only with self estrangement a subvariable of alienation. The results do not totally support the hypotheses that adjustment (total) is expected to be negatively related with alienation (total).

The results can be explained on the basis that physically handicapped children though may have physical disabilities can indulge and relate with their normal sibling because of having normal mental faculties. The modern medical science has also developed gadgets which make the functioning and behaviour of a physically handicapped child less dependent on their family members. The same is however not true in the case of mentally handicapped child. A mentally handicapped child continues to remain a liability on the family members for its entire life and puts a severe drain on financial resources. The parents remain highly concerned in making the life of their mentally handicapped child, secured. It is the normal sibling only who will have to look after their mentally handicapped brother or sister after their parents. Such feelings are inculcated in the normal sibling by their parents from
childhood. Under such circumstances when the adjustment (total) of siblings of mentally handicapped children is lowered the normal sibling may develop increased feeling of alienation.

Self concept

The results show (Table - 9 A,B,C) that the self concept have been found to be significant in siblings of handicapped children. The siblings of handicapped children have higher self concept than the siblings of normal children. The results are contrary to the hypotheses that siblings of the handicapped children will have lower self concept as compared to the siblings of the normal children. The findings of the studies by Lobato et. al. (1987), Dyson and Fewell (1989) do not support present results. Both these studies suggest that there is no difference in the levels of self concept between the siblings of handicapped and normal children. The results are however supported by the finding of Mates (1982) that normal siblings of autism children displayed higher than average levels of self concept.

The results can be explained on the basis that since normal siblings can not expect any help and support from their handicapped siblings as such they have a high concern with regard to their feelings, abilities and life goals. Parents also rest their hopes on their normal siblings to do well in the life and support the handicapped child after
them. They motivate the normal siblings in this endeavour. Such aspirations generate a higher self concept in the siblings of handicapped children.

A look at the results of correlation (table 19) shows that the self concept of siblings of mentally handicapped children is negatively correlated to their alienation (total) and positively correlated to their altruism at the different levels of significance. No significant correlation has been observed between self concept and other main variables in the siblings of physically handicapped children. The results partially support the hypotheses that self concept is expected to be positively related with altruism and negatively related with alienation (total).

The present results can be explained on the basis that siblings of mentally handicapped children being part of a special circumstances of the family. They have strong motives to succeed in life so that they don’t lag behind as compared to their peer group. In the quest of achieving success for their self they interact with the surroundings in the best possible way leading to lower alienation in their behaviour. In this endeavour they seek cooperation and give help to the concerned members of the society and thus show a higher level of altruism. This explains the higher feeling of altruism reflected by the siblings of mentally handicapped children when their self concept is high.
Alienation

The results of analysis of variance indicate (table-15 A,B,C) that the siblings of handicapped children have been found to be significant in the subvariable of alienation normlessness. Siblings of physically handicapped children scores higher as compared to the siblings of mentally handicapped children. The results do not totally support the hypotheses that siblings of handicapped children will be higher on alienation (total) and its subvariables powerlessness, self estrangement, meaninglessness, normlessness, isolation as compared to the siblings of normal children. The results agree with the previous finding of the study by Breslau et. al. (1981) in which they also concluded no psychological impairment of the normal siblings. Although they found lower alienation score of siblings of handicapped children yet higher self structure of mental problems were also observed. However, the results are contrary to the studies by Meyer, Vadasy, and Fewell (1985).

The present results can be explained on the basis that since physically handicapped child has a normal mental intellect has achievements and successes are acclaimed and regarded high as compared to the achievements, success and traits of the normal sibling by the parents. This may lead to a state of where parents may praise the efforts made by their handicapped sibling even in front of outsiders. The
early childhood. As a result even after higher alienation they continued to provide caregiving responsibilities to the siblings of handicapped children as earlier.

Altruism

The results of analysis of variance indicate (Table 16 A, B) that the siblings of handicapped children have not been found to be significant in altruism as compared to the siblings of normal children. The results do not support the hypotheses that siblings of handicapped children will be more altruistic as compared to the siblings of normal children. The results are supported by the previous studies by Israelite (1985) and Laureys (1984) that career goals are not affected by the presence of a handicapped child in the family. However the results are not supported the findings of the studies by Grossman (1972), Begun(1989), Zatlow (1982), cleveland and Miller (1977) Ills (1979), Indeed et. al.(1984).

The results can be explained on the basis that on the incidence of a handicapped child in the family it is the parents who largely look after the needs of handicapped children. Normal siblings of handicapped child though do share these responsibilities but are not burdened heavily. India being a highly populated country, there is an increasing competition in getting a job or career. Since most of the parents are well educated have a high concern regarding the career of the normal sibling of the
normal sibling then develops a feeling of outperforming his handicapped sibling by any means. Hence a higher feeling of normlessness may creep in his behaviour. On the other hand there is absolutely no comparison of normal sibling with the mentally handicapped child because there is a lot of difference in the mental level of normal sibling and mentally handicapped child.

The hypotheses that alienation (total) is expected to be negatively related with altruism does not find favour with the results obtained. It can be observed (table 18) that there is no correlation between altruism and alienation (total) as well as its subvariables. The results can be explained on the basis that in our Indian society helping norms towards the handicapped children are developed in their normal siblings right from beginning by their parents. Normal child is expected to help the handicapped sibling in general household chores. The feeling of alienation which may be caused by the failures siblings meet in life do not alter the altruistic norms which had been inculcated since

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handicapped child. The parents therefore do not burden the normal siblings with caregiving responsibilities. It may also be seen from the table 2 that time spent by the normal siblings both in the case of handicapped and normal groups is nearly same. They further aspire normal child to achieve a worth while career so as to sustain the handicapped child after them. Thus the altruism of siblings of handicapped children is not more from that of siblings of normal children.

Results of correlation values show (Table 20) that altruism of siblings of mentally handicapped children is negatively correlated to adjustment (total). Since a higher score of adjustment reflects poor adjustment. The results do not support the hypotheses that altruism is expected to be positively related with adjustment (total). The results can be explained on the basis that when mentally handicapped child who is rather highly dependent on the family members seeks increased caregiving responsibilities from their normal siblings the adjustment of normal siblings with their surroundings diminishes. The reason being that with increased caregiving responsibilities normal sibling has less time and energy for himself and as such is not able to cope with his surroundings.