CHAPTER - VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
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The present research is an attempt to determine the effect of reinforcement, punishment and both techniques in the management of temper tantrums in mentally retarded children.

The main objectives of the present investigation were to

1. Find out if there is any significant difference between the pre-, post- and follow-up ratings of temper tantrums using reinforcement, punishment and both.

2. To find out if there is any significant difference between mildly mentally retarded and profoundly mentally retarded in temper tantrum.

3. To find whether there is any significant difference between mildly mentally retarded and profoundly mentally retarded using reinforcement, punishment and both techniques.
6.1 SAMPLE

The main study was conducted among mentally retarded children those who satisfied the selection criterion. The sample initially consisted of 60 subjects and after computation the final sample size was 48. This sample of 48 were categorised under three groups namely Reinforcement, Punishment, both reinforcement and punishment. Each group comprised of equal number of subjects that is 16. Each group comprised of all four levels of mental retardation of mild, moderate, severe and profound of 4 each drawn randomly to serve our purpose of investigation. Based on the experiences gained in the pilot study. The main study was conducted.

6.2 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The data collected from 48 subjects were computer analysed by using the SPSS/PC + Package

The following statistical methods were used in analysing the data collected:

1. 3 x 4 x 3 Factorial Anova
2. Chi square
3. Duncan's multiple range test
4. 't' test
5. Paired 't'-test
3 x 4 x 3 Factorial Anova

3 x 4 x 3 factorial anova was used to find the interactions of the variables and how they affect the results.

Chi square

This was used for the demographic variables.

Duncan's Multiple range test

Duncan's multiple range test was done to find the significant difference among the three groups.

't' test

't' test was done to find the significant level between the three groups.

Paired 't' test

Paired 't' test was used for the level of significance between the paired groups.
CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions have been drawn based on the results of the present investigation.

1. The means for pre, post and follow-up ratings are 13.52; 6.35; and 2.18 respectively. This shows that there is a definite decrease in the frequency of temper tantrums.

2. There is a significant difference in the pre, post and follow-up ratings of temper tantrums using reinforcement.

3. Reinforcement treatment group showed the maximum decrease in the frequency of temper tantrum for both post and follow-up ratings.

4. There is a significant difference in the pre, post and follow-up ratings of temper tantrums using punishment.

5. There is a significant difference in the pre, post and follow-up ratings of temper tantrums using both techniques.

6. All four levels of mental retardation showed a significant difference in the frequency of temper tantrum.

7. A significant difference was seen between mildly and profoundly retarded during the pre rating.

8. Mildly retarded showed the highest frequency of temper tantrum during the pre rating.
9. Maximum decrease in temper tantrum was seen in mildly mentally retarded after treatment.

10. Least decrease in temper tantrum was seen in profoundly retarded.

11. Reinforcement group differed significantly in temper tantrum when compared to the punishment group.

12. Both treatment group was found to be the most effective.

13. A significant difference is seen between the groups that used only reinforcement, only punishment and both technique.

14. The least effective is the punishment group.

15. Mildly mentally retarded showed a significant change over a month period (follow up) due to higher intelligence whereas the other three levels required a longer time to show significant change.

16. Both techniques - reinforcement and punishment is necessary for the mildly retarded to bring about significant change.

17. For the other three levels only reinforcement technique will be sufficient.

Suggestions for further research

In the study reported, only one problem behaviour - temper tantrum and few demographic variables were selected and were grouped under
reinforcement, punishment and both techniques. But there are many other problem behaviours and skill behaviours that can be considered.

In the present research the investigator feels that the main limitation of this study is the small sample size; there were only sixteen patients in each category. The small sample size was due to the stringent inclusion and exclusion criteria applied in the study. Moreover the sample was selected only from one centre.

Samples from various centres and a longer follow up period might have brought more change in behaviour but this could not be carried out, because of practical constraints.

In the present research the investigator made use of more indirect approach (that is parents were asked to record the behaviour) to arrive at these conclusions. But if a phenomenological approach was made (that is direct and investigator would record) it would yield more better results.

In spite of the hardwork put into the study by the researcher and the significant results obtained, the researcher feels that future studies with a larger sample size and a longer follow up may be worthwhile.