

## **Perception of Visually Impaired adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support.**

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### **Abstract**

The present study was an endeavour to explore the perception of visually impaired adolescent girls about the co-operation of peer group and support of the society. A questionnaire consisting of 36 items was developed through standardized procedure and used for data collection. The sample of the study was consisted of 120 students ages ranged from 15 to 22 years. The respondents belong to different socioeconomic status, locality etc. The present study unfolds various aspects of the co-operation of peer group and society support to visually impaired female students. This study indicates that lack of social support by society to visually impaired students especially those students who stay longer hours in hostel, experience most of the problems.

### **Introduction**

Peers and society are pervasive aspect of our social life. They entail a broad range of people who surround us in our everyday life from early childhood until old age. Considering the omnipresence of peers and society in our lives, it is likely that they influence who we are. The peer group and society becomes an agency of enculturation and learning. Their dynamic interplay has been considered to play a key role in personality maturation, because identities are not construed by individuals alone but negotiated in social interaction processes between individuals (Hogan & Roberts, 2004; Swann, 1987). Socioeconomic status, ethnic identity, and parents' occupations affect how families view themselves and the process by which they socialize their children (Bornstein, 2002). Later, as children leave the home setting, their self-perception and socializing skills become influenced by how their peers and society view them. Blind and visually impaired children may find it difficult to identify with or develop an allegiance to a social group because of physical limitation and emotional constraints. Society often perceives visually impaired people as being dependent, societal expectations for them may be less stringent.

In the present study the perceptions of visually challenged adolescent girls on peer group and society is analysed. The important parameters such as moral, psychological, emotional, physical, educational, equality, empathy etc support to them are studied based on locality they belong (rural and urban area), with regard to annual income of parents, their social background, the educational status of parents and with regard to the size of the family has been done.

1.1 To understand the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support provided with respect to locality (rural, urban)

1.2 To understand the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support provided with regard to social background.

1.3 To understand the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support provided with regard to educational status of parents.

1.4 To understand the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support provided with regard to annual income of parents.

1.5 To understand the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support provided with regard to size of the family

### Procedure

A random sample selection of 120 visually challenged adolescent girls is selected from the government hostels located in the twin cities of (Hyderabad & Secndrarbad) Telangana, state, India.

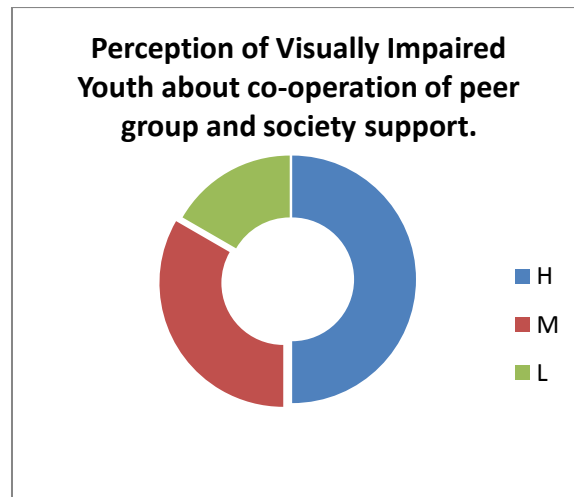
The data was collected with the help of questionnaire tool. A questionnaire consisting of 36 items was developed through standardized procedure and used for data collection. The tool comprises of two parts which contain. 20 questions on personal data which gives the information regarding their locality (urban or rural area), family income range, social background and family size etc. The second part of questionnaire include questions regarding on peer group and society, on moral, psychological, emotional, physical, educational, equality, empathy etc support to them. The sample of the study was consisted of 120 students ages ranged from 15 to 22 years.

The respondent's results were recorded on a three point measuring scale which comprises low satisfactory L, medium satisfactory M, and high satisfactory H. The data collected in the study is analyzed and interpreted by statistically by using percentages and Chi-square test.

### Opinion of respondents

Per group and society	HIGHLY SATISFIED	MEDIUM SATISFIED	LOW SATISFIED	TOTAL
moral	50(41.66%)	30(25%)	40(33.33%)	120
emotional	60(50%)	30(25%)	30(25%)	120
educational	60(50%)	40(33.33%)	20(16.66%)	120
physical	80(66.66%)	30(25%)	10(8.33%)	120
psychological	70(58.33%)	40(33.33%)	10(8.33%)	120
equality	60(50%)	45(37.5%)	15(12.5%)	120
empathy	40(33.33%)	75(62.5%)	15(12.5%)	120
Average	420(50%)	280 (33.33%)	140(16.66%)	840

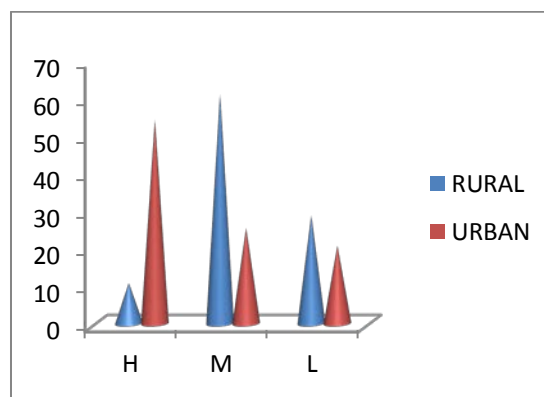
The above table indicates that there 50% respondents are highly satisfied, 33.33% are medium satisfied and 20% are with low satisfaction with regard to peer group and society support



**1.1The perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support provided with respect to locality (rural, urban)**

In order to understand above objective, the interview schedule has been adopted and the collected data has been analysed and interpreted as follows

		Respondent responses with regard co-operation of peer group and society support.			
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	Total
Locality	RURAL	49(50%)	31(31.63%)	18(18.36)	98
	URBAN	9(40.9%)	10(45.45%)	3(13.66)	22
Total		58	41	21	120



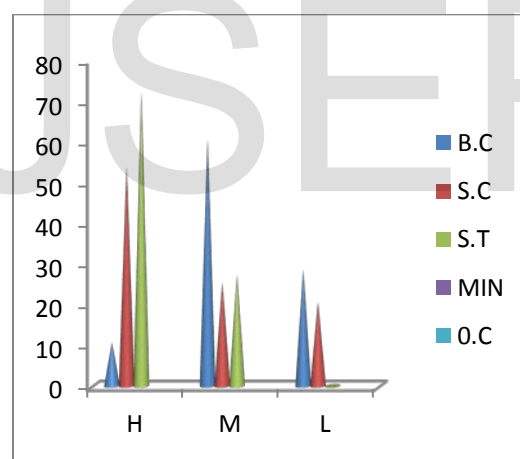
Further to understand the relationship between co-operation of peer group and society support and locality of respondents, the following null hypothesis has been formulated. There is no association between the co-operation of peer group and society support and locality of respondents. For testing above null hypothesis, Chi-square test has been administered .The calculated value of chi square (1.542) is less than the table value (5.99) at 2 degree of

freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. The perception of visually challenged adolescent girls with respect to co-operation of peer group and society support is independent of their locality they belong.

**1.2 The perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about the co-operation of peer group and society support with regard to social background.**

In order to understand above objective, the interview schedule has been adopted and the collected data has been analysed and interpreted as follows

Social back ground	Respondent responses with regard to co-operation of peer group and society support			Total
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	
Backward class(B.C)	19 (52.77%)	11(30.55%)	6(16.66%)	36
Schedule caste(S.C)	30(71.42%)	6(14.28%)	6(14.28%)	42
Schedule tribes(S.T)	2(16.66%)	6(50%)	4(33.33%)	12
Minorities	2(16.66%)	8(66.66%)	2(16.66%)	12
Other category(O.C)	5(27.77%)	10(55.55%)	3(37.5%)	18
Total	58	41	21	120

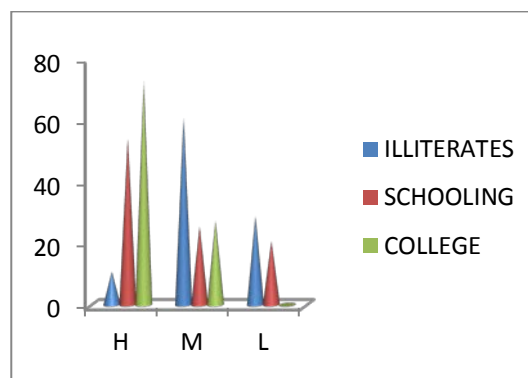


Further to understand the relationship between co-operation of peer group and society support and social background of respondents, the following null hypothesis has been formulated. There is no association between the perception of respondents social back ground and the co-operation of peer group and society support. For testing above null hypothesis, Chi-square test has been administered .The calculated value of chi square (25.325) is more than the table value (15.51) at 8 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls with respect to co-operation of peer group and society support is dependent on their social back ground.

**1.3The perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about the co-operation of peer group and society support provided with regard to educational status of parents.**

In order to understand above objective, the interview schedule has been adopted and the collected data has been analysed and interpreted as follows

Educational status of parents		Respondent responses with regard to co-operation of peer group and society support			Total
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	
	ILLITERATES	56(54.36%)	32(31.06%)	15(14.56%)	103
	SCHOOLING	1(6.66%)	9(60%)	5(33.33%)	15
	COLLEGE	1(50%)	0(0%)	1(50%)	2
Total		58	41	21	120

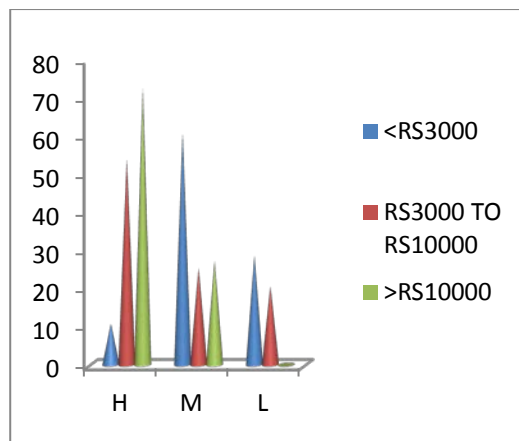


Further to understand the relationship between co-operation of peer group and society support and social background of respondents, the following null hypothesis has been formulated. There is no association between the perception of respondents social back ground and the co-operation of peer group and society support. For testing above null hypothesis, Chi-square test has been administered. The calculated value of chi square (13.932) is more than the table value (9.49) at 4 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls with respect to co-operation of peer group and society support is dependent on their educational status of parents.

**1.4 To understand the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about co-operation of peer group and society support with regard to annual income of parents.**

In order to understand above objective, the interview schedule has been adopted and the collected data has been analysed and interpreted as follows

Annual income of parents per month		Respondent responses with regard to co-operation of peer group and society support			Total
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	
	<Rs3000	3(10%)	13(43.33%)	14(46.66%)	30
	3000to 10,000	55(65.47%)	25(29.76%)	4(4.76%)	84
	>10,000	0(0%)	3(50%)	3(50%)	6
Total		58	41	21	120

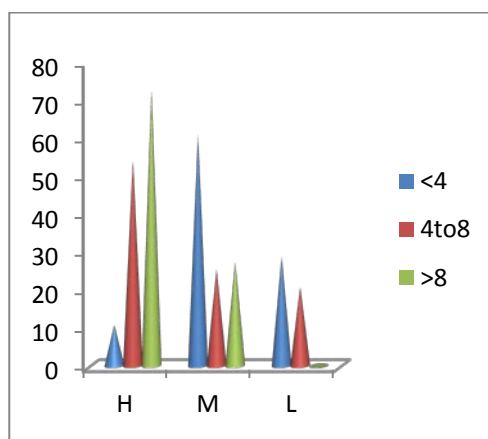


Further to understand the relationship between co-operation of peer group and society support and annual income of parents of respondents, the following null hypothesis has been formulated. There is no association between the perception of respondent's annual income of parents and co-operation of peer group and society support. For testing above null hypothesis, Chi-square test has been administered. The calculated value of chi square (44.776) is more than the table value (9.49) at 4 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls with respect to government facilities is dependent on their annual income of parents.

### 1.5 The perception of visually challenged adolescent girls about the government provisions provided with regard to size of the family.

In order to understand above objective, the interview schedule has been adopted and the collected data has been analysed and interpreted as follows

Size of the family		Respondent responses with regard to co-operation of peer group and society support			Total
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	
<4		3(10.71%)	17(60.71%)	8(28.71%)	28
4 to 8		34(53.96%)	16(25.39%)	13(4.76%)	63
>8		21(72.41%)	8(27.28%)	0(0%)	29
		58	41	21	120



Further to understand the relationship between co-operation of peer group and society support and size of the family of respondents, the following null hypothesis has been formulated. There is no association between the perception of respondent's size of the family and the co-operation of peer group and society support. For testing above null hypothesis, Chi-square test has been administered. The calculated value of chi square (27.043) is more than the table value (9.49) at 4 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, the perception of visually challenged adolescent girls with respect to government facilities is dependent on their size of the family

### **Conclusion**

The statistical data indicate that more than fifty percent of visually challenged children are highly satisfied with regard to the co-operation of peer group and society support. There is no difference in perception of visually challenged girls with locality (Urban and rural). The girls with educated parents background and low income background felt they need more constructive cooperation from peer group and support from society. Families with more members are mostly from low socio economic state wanted more empathy and economical support from peer and society.

It is important for blind adolescents to have positive peer relationships. A positive peer relationship helps to improve a blind adolescent's self-image and self-esteem. Peers also give them a sense of being a "normal" adolescent. Many blind adolescents find it difficult to socialize with their sighted peers because they are not always accepted among sighted peer. This study shows that adolescents with visual impairment experience less support. At the same time peer group support seems to affect well being of adolescents with visual impairment. It is found that visually impaired children have a small number of friends and there is a need to expand their social network to increase social skills and self confidence to play an active role in the society.

'Light' is the most essential thing next to 'air', 'water', 'food' and 'shelter'. 'Eyesight' is the power to experience it, which is a 'blessing' and not an 'achievement'. Eyesight is "granted" and not "acquired". How is a person born blind responsible for being so? It could have happened to us or our dearest. Even a sighted could turn blind out of an accident or an illness. If we can realize this truth, reaching out to the Visually Challenged is not an act of 'charity'. Hence it is our moral obligation, social responsibility and our duty not to turn a BLIND EYE to this reality.

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