



Issues And Challenges Of Gifted Child During Covid – Case Study

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ABSTRACT

This case study is about the impact of Corona Virus outbreak on school aged children in detail with special needs. The study revolves around two children each different from one another in their characteristic traits such as the gifted or genius and a creative child. The purpose of the study is to understand the identification of special abilities of the children and a need to provide an appropriate environment for the effective inculcation of education. Children grow at varying rates and have various personalities, skills, and interests. However, many children hit those milestones between the ages of 6years and12years. Children skills and comprehension of concepts continue to evolve as they reach school. Learning to communicate and socialize with others is an integral aspect of growing up. He or she can grow from playing alone to having several social groups and acquaintances. Since a pandemic is an infectious epidemic in which severe and continuing person-to-person transmission occurs simultaneously in many countries around the world the impact of new normal on young school goers has been greatly influenced. This study has its very own significance as humans are social creatures that are hard-wired to want to be touched and communicate with others. As caution fatigue sets in and social-distancing rules in many ways are extended into the far future, it is only natural that children look for openings that will allow them to reunite with friends and loved ones. The project is focused primarily on the effect of pandemic on school aged special children such as gifted and creative, educational implications, the issues, and challenges to impart effective education during pandemic and to resolve a coherent solution.

KEYWORDS: Pandemic, gifted child, creative child, issues and challenges.

INTRODUCTION

Education provides us with a broad understanding of the universe. Education plays an explicative part in one's life. It is the secret to future prosperity and a plethora of possibilities in our lives. The school is one such social agency that was established to aid in socialization and education. The age at which a child is considered suitable to attend school is a school-aged child appropriately 6 years to 12 years. The years during which school attendance is required or customary. School as a social agency allows children to

interact, break cultural barriers, make more friends, and learn while playing. The widespread closure of primary, secondary, and tertiary schooling in over 100 countries has resulted from efforts to delay the spread of COVID-19 through non-pharmaceutical approaches and preventive measures such as social distancing and self-isolation has caused an emotional havoc among special children. Parents and guardians are placed under pressure to provide childcare and handle distance learning while their children are out of school due to school closures especially for special children.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on the impact of the pandemic among school-aged children with special needs such as creative and a gifted child. During this period, the child's physical, emotional, cognitive, and psychosocial development takes a new dimension into growth and development. Approximately 3–5% (a percentage that National Association for Gifted Children refers to as gifted) of India's population of children and youth. Creativity is a vital skilled student need to be successful in school and life. It helps with problem-solving, contributes to our satisfaction in life, and gives us a sense of purpose. Being creative helps us relax and brings enjoyment to our lives. This earth needs creative individuals who can make this world a better place with better ideas by emphasizing the creativity of a creative child. Data from, while we all have certain facets of creativity, it is not distributed uniformly or universally, and some people have greater creative ability than others. In this regard, studies have shown that imagination is not always followed by a high degree of intellect.

The in-depth study on the issues and challenges of these special needs children face during covid throws insight into the educational implications to understand their needs and bring in required changes to make them inclusive by cherishing their unique traits.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Meherali, S. (2021) has conducted a study on "Mental Health of Children and Adolescents Amidst COVID-19 and Past Pandemics: A Rapid Systematic Review". Joshep, et al. (2020) has conducted a study on "Croatia school closures and mental health concerns for children and adolescents during the covid-19 pandemic". In spring 2020, the first Covid-19-related lockdown included the closing of kindergartens and schools. Thakur, A (2020) has written an article "Mental Health in High School Students at the Time of COVID-19: A Student's Perspective". The global impact of 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is unprecedented and has left countries grappling with uncertainties. Miranda et al, (2020) has conducted a study on "How is COVID-19 pandemic impacting mental health of children and adolescents?" The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) affected virtually all countries. Fegert, J.M., et al., (2020) has conducted a study on "Challenges and burden of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic for child and adolescent mental health: a narrative review to highlight clinical and research needs in the acute phase and the long return to normality".

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Case Studies : By definition, a case study is an idiographic work, and it is typically interpretive. These types of studies are focused on the evaluation of single settings or events. In comparison to survey research, they treat each case as empirically distinct and do not immediately conclude that separate instances can be thrown together to form a homogeneous aggregate " (Halmilton, 1980).

EDUCATION FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN GIFTED CHILDREN

Today's child is the future of the nation. So, there is a need to identification of intelligence and creativity in the new generation and efforts for its all-round development. In every aspect of working field like administration, Management, Mechanical, Scientist, Academic and Artistic there is a vacancy and new talents are needs to fill the vacancy. If the needs are not full field the development of the country in the field stops. In fact, only that society, country or nation can be called ideal in which maximum number of a person gets maximum opportunity for progress. This requires identification of talented and creative children. However, Psychologists have developed some techniques to identify a child, a person, a family, a place, or an institution with special characteristics.

Gifted or talented child are those who are gifted according to some scale of measurements. This term refers to a child of high intelligence quotient, more than 130 or 140 IQ. The National Association for Gifted Children in Washington, D.C., asserts that though 27 there are many definitions of giftedness, they all include a common element, that is "A gifted person is someone who shows, or has the potential for showing, an exceptional level of performance in one or more areas of expression".

CHARACTERISTIC TRAITS OF GIFTED CHILDREN

Learns more rapidly and easily. Unusual alertness even in infancy Uses a great deal of common sense and application of practical knowledge. Excellent memory Knowing about many things to which most students are unaware. Has a large vocabulary.Can read more books at a faster speed. Perform many difficult tasks. The child does some academic works faster as compared to others. Is original in thinking. Fonder of questioning High achievements in class.

THE GIFTED CHILD MUST BE IDENTIFIED DUE TO THE FOLLOWING REASON

Since society is rapidly evolving and becoming more complex, this is a period of population and knowledge explosion. As a result, qualified students and educational and technical leaders are required to fill key roles. The gifted children may be able to steer the country's development in a new direction. They could discover or invent new things that benefit humanity. They are the promising future of our country, so they deserve special attention. For the development of the gifted child, a suitable environment is needed. The child may become active in antisocial behaviours if she does not receive a suitable and appropriate environmental setting to forecast their talents. In conclusion, it is necessary to research and classify a gifted child in order to have a suitable setting.

CREATIVE CHILDREN:

In the most basic sense, creativity refers to a child's ability or capacity to develop or generate something. In this sense, each of us can be considered a creator in one or more ways if we continue to create or produce something in our daily lives. To suggest that one's own design or output should look a little different. However, this is a subjective matter dependent on one's perception. Many parents may see a lot of ingenuity in their children & otherwise boring or bizarre actions. Talking about their children's imaginative sparks has become trendy for many parents. When it comes to coping with our children's imagination, there is a sense of chaos and perplexity. It must be addressed right away.

Wilson, Guilford, and Christensen (Wilson, Guilford, and Christensen): Any process that results in the creation of something new, such as an idea or an object with a new type or arrangement of old elements, is known as the creative process. The new development must aid in the resolution of a few issues. (Dutt, 1974)

Skinner (1968): Skinner (1968) was a psychologist who lived in the predictions and/or inferences for the person are new, original, ingenious, and special, according to creative thinking. A creative thinker is someone who ventures into new territories and makes new discoveries, forecasts, and inferences & Creativity, according to Papalia and Olds (1993), is the ability to see things in new ways, to see problems that no one else has seen, and to come up with new, special, and useful solutions to these problems. Intelligence assessments are used to measure intelligence. Convergent thinking is the ability to come up with a single correct answer, while imagination is the ability to come up with fresh and unusual solutions.

OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID- 19)

It just took a few months for the novel coronavirus to spread across the world. Million's people have died around the world. How many more will live, how will the world recover- the answer remains elusive as the disease spreads its extremity with a raging speed. The disease caused by a new human coronavirus Since the 1918 flu pandemic, COVID-19 has been the fifth known pandemic. COVID-19 was first discovered in Wuhan, China, and then spread throughout the world. Based on phylogenetic review, the coronavirus was officially designated serious acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. SARS-CoV-2 is thought to have originated as a spill over from an animal coronavirus and then developed into a human-to- human transmission virus. Since the virus is highly infectious, it spreads easily and develops over time among humans.

People all over the world are now infected with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the fifth pandemic since the 1918 influenza pandemic. Since late December 2019, we can track the first warning and subsequent outbreak from a cluster of novel human pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China. The earliest symptom onset date was December 1, 2019. Because of the location and pneumonia symptoms, the disease was initially dubbed Wuhan pneumonia by the media. The causative agent is a novel coronavirus, according to whole- genome sequencing results. As a result, this virus is the coronavirus family seventh to infect humans.

On 12 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) dubbed the new virus 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), before renaming the infectious disease coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 12 February 2020. Based on phylogeny, taxonomy, and existing practice, the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) officially named the virus as SARS-CoV-2.

On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic, following the 1918 Spanish flu (H1N1), 1957 Asian flu (H2N2), 1968 Hong Kong flu (H3N2), and 2009 Pandemic flu (H1N1) pandemics, which killed an estimated 50 million, 1.5 million, 1 million, and 300,000 people, respectively.

Coronaviruses infect humans and normally cause minor upper respiratory infections. SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV, two coronaviruses spread by animals, have caused extreme pneumonia and death in humans in the last two decades. Furthermore, as of 23 March, 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic had spread worldwide since late December 2019, resulting in at least 2.72 million deaths approximately.

CASE STUDY – 1 (THE GIFTED OR THE GENIUS CHILD)

NAME: Carres Angel. E

AGE: 6 years

GRADE: 1

SCHOOL: Sam Academy

FATHER: Mr. Edwin

MOTHER: Mrs. Ruby

SIBLINGS: No siblings

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Today's child is the future of the nation. So, there is a need to identification of intelligence and creativity in the new generation and efforts for its all-round development. In every aspect of working field like administration, Management, Mechanical, Scientist, Academic and Artistic there is a vacancy and new talents are needs to fill the vacancy. If the needs are not full field the development of the country in the field stops. In fact, only that society, country or nation can be called ideal in which maximum number of a person gets maximum opportunity for progress. This requires identification of talented and creative children. However, Psychologists have developed some techniques to identify a child, a person, a family, a place, or an institution with special characteristics.

There is always a valid reason behind each study which shows the importance of the research being done. The child Carres Angel is a talented child of our society and an intelligence study has been already conducted on the child by the child's school psychologist. Selection of Carres Angel as a gifted child is based on the academic Records, the scoring of the intelligent test, her unique individual traits. And, she has also achieved various prizes in drawing and in sports. Due to this reason, she is selected for this study. Gifted or talented child are those who are gifted according to some scale of measurements. This term refers to a child of high intelligence quotient, more than 130 or 140 IQ. The National Association for Gifted Children in Washington, D.C., asserts that

though there are many definitions of giftedness, they all include a common element, that is “A gifted person is someone who shows, or has the potential for showing, an exceptional level of performance in one or more areas of expression”.

Since society is rapidly evolving and becoming more complex, this is a period of population and knowledge explosion. As a result, qualified students and educational and technical leaders are required to fill key roles. The gifted children may be able to steer the country’s development in a new direction. They could discover or invent new things that benefit humanity. They are the promising future of our country, so they deserve special attention. For the development of the gifted child, a suitable environment is needed. The child may become active in antisocial behaviours if she does not receive a suitable and appropriate environmental setting to forecast their talents. In conclusion, it is necessary to research and classify a gifted child in order to have a suitable setting.

Carris Angel is a 6-year-old healthy child of weight 16 kg and height 115cm with normal vision and hearing status. She belongs to a highly educated and well to do family. Mother Ruby is a Biotechnologist and father is an IT professional. Mrs Ruby gave Carris in her late 30s. The first child is a gift, being educated and in full bloom the mother noticed a sign of giftedness a unique trait when Carris was 10 days old. The child was so unusually alert that her granddad said the way the child was looking at him was “too attentive”. At six months old she very clearly said “Hi papa”. At the age of 2 ½ years she was able to write the letters of alphabets. At the age of 4 years Carris could easily pronounce and read high vocabulary words.

By 5 years she became fonder of nature and existence of living things around her, she started asking question which sometimes left the parents astonished and dumb struck left them searching for answers. Once she asked her mother “How do flowers have different colours? and who paints them?”. And she also learnt to ride a cycle on her own. Such unique traits triggered the keenness of the parents which induced them to perform an intelligent test with the school psychologist. Carris is the only daughter for the couples, and she has a healthy environment at home. Her grandparents took care of her when her parents left for work. She is studying in an international school with adequate facilities needed for Carris Angel to flourish in her life with beautiful colours. The personality test shows that she loves to socialize, an extrovert, caring and an empath. Everybody’s response was positive. They said that she is obedient, co-operative, disciplined, helpful, attentive, and sincere.

RESULT AND INTERPRETATION

PHYSICAL:

That children with the highest intelligence are active, social, and mentally healthy, the effect of pandemic had a huge impact on their physical health. Due to social isolation the active and social butterfly child Carres became extremely conscious about the situation around. This situation made her anxious and stressed which in turn had an impact on her health, Recently Carris Angel is also suffering from a fungal skin disease which is adding pain to the agony. Change in appetite, interest, energy level has added to physical changes.

Sometimes she denies eating food, constantly witnessing the havoc around her living in her imaginary world which has made her to shed down her weight adding extra pain to the parents. The child feels sleepy always and denies being physically active. She likes to daydream and mostly spends her time watching cartoon because of the fear of facing reality. The quality of sleep at night is not so good as the child spends most her timing sleeping during day.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP:

As the parents of Carres are professionals working online, the work from home scenario has kept them occupied all day. The child is mostly taken care by her grandparents. Being with the parents but not gaining attention is making her adamant, attention seeker and extremely naughty. She has become so authoritative, denying taking medicines to gain more attention and extra care. The impact of pandemic is harsh and even harsher on the gifted children.

EMOTIONAL:

Nobody else seems to feel like Emotionally intense gifted people often experience intense inner conflict, self-criticism, anxiety, and feelings of inferiority. Also, sensitivity to social conflict and isolation can lead many emotionally intense gifted children to feel despair and cynicism at very young ages. The child says the pandemic is harsh on everyone, witnessing the sickness, pain and trouble of others is making her extremely sad. She feels lonely as there are no friends or siblings of her age to talk and share her pain. Anxiety related emotional issues such as Carris Angel is a child who loves to socialize and an extrovert. Being a nature lover, she enjoys going for a walk in the evening with her granddad and playing with her friends enriched her uniqueness. The sudden change in the environmental status, lock down and the school closure gave an immense shock to her. Overreacting to the situation, constant state of fear of losing her loved ones, feeling of sadness made her sick emotionally. Constant state of fear of the disease, the empathy and compassion toward others, the desire to solve the problem has caused a great havoc on the child's emotions making her numb and silent. The worst experience according to Carres during pandemic is staying at home all time and missing her music teacher. When the emotional need of the child is not met, she becomes extremely adamant and aggressive. The emotions of Carres must be validated and accepted. A constant reconfirmation of being present with the child makes her feel confident and safe.

COGNITIVE:

Carres Angel has a unique talent of origami she was able to follow directions to make any form and originated forms. When asked how she thought of the designs, she explained that first she had the feeling inside herself which translated into visual/ kinaesthetic form which was a part of herself. She understood how to make the form because she was the form. This process is called projective identification. Normal children never describe this process of projective identification. Typically, they will just say as "I just felt it" or "it is happening to me naturally" possibly they could experience the same process but do not

have the cognition to explain or put into words as the gifted child. The gifted children show direct empathy for others, it is more difficult for them to determine the internal processes of thoughts to discern projective identification with animals, ideas, and nature in general, the effect of personal empathy can be seen in the child's concern for others.

The pandemic has a great impact on the life of the gifted child physically, mentally, psychologically, and emotionally. Due to always staying at home she became easily bored with the routines and assignment thereby losing focus and attentiveness in the online classes. As gifted children can perceive things far easier and faster than others the sad stories heard about covid- 19 in the news is also creating havoc in her emotions which has made her irritable and appears to be daydreaming as she resists to face the reality.

The online classes do not trigger their creativity and they do not feel motivated. The missing physical touch and eye contact of the teacher. If Carres do not get the chance to answer during her online class, she extremely sad and ignored. The sense of self-doubt and inferiority complex has been built in gradually which has her made her silent and passive during online classes.

There were no extracurricular activities which took part during covid due to which Carres Angel has stopped doing things like drawing, signing, origami and reading books which she loved to do before the pandemic. The parents of Carres Angel feels that apart from online classes the child should be engaged with some recreational activities to keep the child motivated, reduce anxiety related issues and trigger the cognition. The suggestions recommended is a play way method, to inculcate plays as a method of learning in family time.

PSYCHOSOCIAL:

Psychosocial aspects, which lay the foundation of child's personality traits. In other words, the early year of life is critical for shaping an individual's characteristics in the rest of the life. Several research findings have revealed that quality early childhood care is positively effects children's development in cognitive, language and social domains. The psychosocial impact of the child Carres is due to social isolation the child has become less productive. She stopped doing things like reading story books, signing choruses and her favourite origami which she loved to do. Looking at the world of sadness and disappointments she is constantly worried about others but the feel of not being able to help them making her extremely anxious. One of her fear of getting back to school is being avoided and ignored by her friends, so she feels like she does not want to get back to school and stay at home. The fun loving and an extroverted child has typically become isolated.

School aged period is characterized by remarkable, intense growth in physical, cognitive, language and psychosocial development areas not only for normally developing children but also for gifted children as well. The first important point for the gifted children in preschool period is identification, because an appropriate approach begins with identifying gifted children. Even though early identification is one of the basic principles of special education, it requires a comprehensive evaluation. Although there

are early signs of giftedness in preschool period, it is not an easy process to identify gifted children.

Parents and teachers should be aware of the distinctive characteristics of gifted children such as curiosity, divergent thinking, gross and fine motor skills, early reading skills, having high math skills, perfectionism, focused attention, highly developed sense of humour, creativity, high-verbal ability, early literacy skills, determination and making abstract connections in the learning process. Gifted school agers need parents and teachers who are aware of asynchronous development of gifted child. Gifted school agers need parents and teachers who are aware of asynchronous development of gifted children. Accepting and respecting approaches from parents and teachers are crucial for psychological well-being of gifted children. A good combination of independence, discipline, opportunities, and guidance will lead to a self-confident, creative, and satisfied child. Appropriate learning environments that foster social skills, teamwork and leadership are also necessary for young, gifted children.

Parents and teachers have responsibility to give information about social skills, to guide them to foster positive relationship with others and create environments that gifted children can utilize their talents in a friendly way. This kind of approach leads to develop not only the empathy skills that mean understanding of others' feelings, but also self-esteem of gifted children.

Appropriate Learning Environments for Young Gifted Child. First, teachers are recommended to create a learning environment using a wide range of materials within a thematic instruction to connect content areas, to provide activity centres for self-initiated projects that invites inquiry. It is also important to offer lesson-related activity options for the gifted children in case they finish work early. Another que is providing opportunities for creative movements, such as mime, dance, and singing. Flexible grouping is necessary for children to give them chance to interact with peers they like. Teachers should provide variety and offer choices to children choosing topics.

It is better for teachers of gifted children to create ground rules and then assist in designing projects and their formats. Another important point is evaluating students individually. Informal interviews, tests, observations, consultations with parents, class assignments, and portfolios can be used by teachers in this process, to evaluate children's performance. Finally, teachers should compact the curriculum according to the unique needs of gifted children to incorporate creative thinking.

In that sense, creating learning opportunities and online interaction forum that provide effective leadership and moral leadership is also crucial. Giving responsibility to gifted children in teamwork and including them in some group organizations are some examples for improving effective, moral leadership and psychosocial skills of gifted children.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION

Educational implication is as follows. For teachers- knowing the fact that if a proper attention is not given to the children with special needs, they can get turned towards the wrong path and may get involved in antisocial activity, so they must provide the kids with

special need due attention and care. For librarian –Librarian should provide study material according to their demand and choice.

Principal – Principal should award them for their good performance and motivate them.

Care should be taken to give special attention to the first-generation learners and the kids from low or poor socio-economic background.

Frequent desirable training for the students and teachers should be given.

Parents -Parents must care for their various types of needs including their emotional needs.

Curricular constructor – Curricular constructor must take care of needs of these children regarding their academic and co-curricular activities while making the curriculum.

Subject book writer – They should raise the level of question paper for the children to avoid boredom for gifted and creative child. The dyslexic children must be dealt with empathy while framing a question paper. For the backward and slow learners MLL could be the best option.

CONCLUSION

In this case, the brilliant kids gifted, often experience intense inner conflict, self-criticism, anxiety, and inferiority feelings. The children in this study showed a considerable dent in their physical, emotional, cognitive, and psychosocial needs.

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