# Mentally Retarded Children: their Identification and Classification

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## Who are CWSNs?

- The term "Children with Special Needs" (CWSNs) is for children who may have challenges which are more severe than the typical child and could possibly last for a lifetime.
- Children who have a disability or a combination of disabilities that makes learning or other activities difficult are known as CWSNs.

- CWSNs means children who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments
- which may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

- CWSNs means children with developmental disabilities, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, sensory or motor impairment, or significant chronic illness
- who require special health surveillance or specialized programs, interventions, technologies, or facilities.

## Who is Mentally Retarded and What is Mental Retardation?

- A Mentally Retarded is one who is below average in intelligence, and who displays poor adaptive behaviour and all these are seen in the first 18 years of life.
- Mental retardation or mental deficiency is a condition of sub normal mental development, present at birth or early childhood and characterized mainly by limited intelligence and social inadequacy (Page, 1976).

- Six prominent characteristics of mental retardation (
   Doll, 1941)
- Social incompetency
- Mental subnormality
- Deficiency is developmentally linked
- Retardation finally onsets on maturity
- Retardation is of constitutional origin
- Essentially incurable

## Identification of MR Children

- I.Q (Intelligence Quotient) continues to be a criterion for identification of retardation and their classification (well known tests are Stanford-Binet Intelligence test, Wechsler Intelligence test, Seguin Form Board test etc.))
- ▶ MR children have below 70 I.Q.
- Certain Behavioural Signs which might give an indication of presence of mental retardation among children.

## Behavioural Signs

- Slow rate of learning
- Poor problem solving skills
- Slow reaction to the environmental demands
- Poor memory ability
- Inability to retain things for a longer period
- Difficulty in developing concepts
- Inability to arrive at generalisation
- Slow language development
- Below average in imagination and creative thinking

- Limited play and social interests
- Lack of concentration
- Short attention span
- Heightened distractibility
- Lack of coordination in self-help skills (sucking, eating, use of hands, fingers etc.)
- Some have physical features like small or large head, small eyes, straight hair, fissured tongue, physical deformities etc.
- Repeated failures in academic aspects.

### Classification of MR children

- On the basis of Intelligence tests
- 1. Morons ((I.Q.50-70)
- 2. Imbecile (I.Q.30-50)
- 3. Idiots (below 25 I.Q.)
- On the basis of Educational viewpoint
- 1. Educable (I.Q. 50-75)
- 2. Trainable (I.Q. 25-50)
- 3. Custodial (below 25 I.Q.)

- On the basis of adaptive behaviour
- 1. Mild (I.Q. 55-69)
- 2. Moderate (I.Q. 40-54)
- 3. Severe (I.Q. 25-39)
- 4. Profound (below 25 I.Q.)

## THANK YOU