Challenges and Coping Strategies of Visual Impaired Children of The Salvation Army School (Integrated) during Performing Classroom Activities: An Exploratory Study

Rabeya Ferdous

4th year, B. Sc. in Occupational Therapy

The University of Dhaka

BANGLADESH HEALTH PROFESSIONS INSTITUTE (BHPI)

(The Academic Institute of CRP)

Savar, Dhaka-1343, Bangladesh

March, 2011

In Bangladesh, there are 40000 children visually impaired. Some of them study in different schools, and they face different challenges. This study aimed to explore the challenges and coping strategy of children with visual impairment during classroom activities. The objectives were to find out different challenges that influence classroom activities and create information about Occupational Therapy service for children with visual impairment. A qualitative phenomenological research design was chosen. Participants were selected from The Salvation Army School by using purposive sampling method. Data were collected by open ended and face to face semi structured interview. Finally, data were analyzed by content analysis. From the content analysis to data found type of challenges and supporting person within the classroom to overcome those challenges. Visual impaired children face different challenges such as difficulty to understand Brail method, problem in organization, pain in hand during writing, listening bad comments from the sighted peers etc. They use different coping strategy to solve the problem.

Visual impaired children get help from their school teachers and their classmates to perform classroom activities. At first they face challenges more and slowly they cope with those challenges by getting help from the peers support and teachers and also by practicing. The study also discloses some recommendations for the visual impaired student.

Key words: Visual impaired, Classroom activities