

Research Article

SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE SOCIAL POSITION OF EMPLOYED WOMAN IN GOVERNMENT SECTOR OF YASUJ CITY AND ITS EFFECTIVE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS

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ABSTRACT

Goal of this research is to compare social factors affecting social status of the families with mentally retarded children with normal families in Deh Sheikh and Bahram Beigi Villages in 2006. The research method in this research is survey and statistical population includes families of mentally retarded and normal children. Sample size includes 160 persons. The research instrument is questionnaire and the collected information was analyzed with SPSS software and T test. In final analysis of comparing two groups, the descriptive variables were measured with the highest frequency. Families with mentally retarded and normal children were as follows: gender of respondents: 51 samples (63.7%) were women and 58 samples (72.5%) were male. Education: 24 samples (30%) and 4 samples (5%) were illiterate and 17 samples (21.3%) and 42 samples (52.5%) held senior high school degree and 23 samples (28.8%) and 17 samples (21.2%). Income: 49 samples (61.2%) and 38 samples (47.5%) had Tomans 100,000-150,000 and employment: 39 samples (49.4%) and 47 samples (58.8%) were unemployed. House stuff: such as telephone, 65 samples (81.3%) and the number of mentally retarded children: 21 samples (52.5%) and gender of the mentally retarded children (27 samples, 67.5%) is male. Type of retardation: 26 samples (65%) are isolated. The measured variables with the highest frequency among the families with mentally retarded and normal children are as follows: the presence of female mentally retarded child : 49 samples (60%) and 51 samples (63.7), the presence of male mentally retarded child : 46 samples (58%) , the presence of isolated metally retarded children : 59 samples (73.8%) and 53 samples(66.3%), the number of mentally retarded children: 68 samples (84.6%) and 62 samples (77.6%) agreed and fully agreed on effect of the presence of mentally retarded children on social status of family ($P<0/001$). The presence of trainable mentally retarded children: 47 samples(58.7%) and 50 samples (62.5%), the presence of trainable mentally retarded children: 37 samples(46.2%) and 40 samples (50%) disagreed and fully disagreed on effect of the presence of mentally retarded children on social status of family. It is predicted that the governmental organizations particularly Welfare Organization can provide better condition for ascending mobility of social status of these families with results of this research and public assistances.

Keywords: *mentally retardation, social status, family*

INTRODUCTION

Mentally retarded people are of the small classes of society who face many mental, physical and motor disorders and have considerable effect on mental, economic and social condition of family and society despite their small size.

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(According to definition, mental retardation relates to action lower than the general average intelligence which appears in stream of strings and is accompanied by some disorders in adaptive behavior (Hashemi, 32-1975).

The presence of disorder in behavior of one of the family's members has considerable effect on social, cultural and economic mobility of families of these mentally retarded people based on its intensity and weakness in traditional society of this province particularly in rural society.

To conduct this research, the researcher intends to measure effect of the presence of mentally retarded child on reduction of social status in Deh Shaiekh and Bahram Beigi Villages in 200 in terms of gender of the mentally retarded child (male and female) and type of retardation (educable , trainable and isolated).

Criteria for social status can include economic status, literacy, job, income, place of residence and possessing some welfare equipment necessary for a modern ordinary life considering social structure and economic condition of the research site.

Readers of this research can include all classes of society particularly authorities of the Welfare Organization, Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and all benevolent and benefactors of society to be aware of these difficulties, cooperate with these families and solve their problems.

Since this problem is considerable in Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages relative to the total population, it was necessary to conduct this research in these two villages because no research has been conducted in this regard so far.

According to our studies 1427 people live in Deh Shaikh village among whom 18 people were mentally retarded and 20 people were physically handicapped and 1198 people lived in Bahram Beigi village among whom 22 people were mentally retarded and 20 people were physically handicapped (Health Center of Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages).

We hope to utilize the obtained results to help this poor class and revive their social status in these villages.

THEORETICAL AND EXPLANATION

Experts and in charge people experiences indicates that existence of a child with mental deficiency often causes irreparable calamity in family to the extent that causes isolationism, distress and emotive disorders till severe paroxysm along with disputes and sometimes even family breakup to happen.

Existence of such effect and sorrow have caused that in most of texts relating to mental deficiency , a special part be dedicated to the effect of such phenomenon on family. In such a manner that almost in most of Books written about mental deficiency a considerable part of them is dedicated to the subject related to the effects of a child mental deficiency in family, and also a high percentage of the researches done about mental deficiency phenomenon is dedicated to the effects of existence of such children in family.

In this subject it has been tried to introduce a compact of some references and researches used and done in this field.

In IRAN, regarding to the short time that passes from mental deficiency phenomenon , researches in this field are very restricted.

The most important researches in this field are:

An article the heading " outlook of fathers of children with mental deficiency on their children deficiency and composition of them in different cultural levels that was authored as thesis in M.A , in educative psychology in Tehran educative science faculty. In this research , attitude of the father of 50 children with mental deficiency to the educable extent was studied and summary of the most important results have been mentioned as following:

About interest to child with mental deficiency , %64 of fathers expressed interest to their children with mental deficiency , %30 expressed interest together with empathy and pity , and just %6 expressed exhaustion and hatred about their diseased children.

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In 55 percent of higheducated and % 52 of the educated group existence of a child with mental deficiency have had effect on parrents' married life , though in uneducated group this number becomes % 33. % 76 of all sample group have expressed interest about taking the children with mental deficiency out of their lives.

also , about tension of existence of child with mental deficiency in family , in research that (Win Gold) (and Harmous) did under heading (group guidance of parents with children with mental deficiency) , arrived at this conclusion that tension and chaeacteristic problems is due the reaction that others show toward child. Meaning, their child becomes excluded from other different grays* . groups' presswre , even real or not , often makes parents to abandon their social, usual relations. Family becomes undeliberate and becauls of increase of this social exclusion and isolation, parrents become interested in extra and continuous focous on child activities. This increasement of attention and focous on child disabilities causes parents and child itself more characteristie disorders. At the area of effectiveness of child with mental deficiency on family condition , a research was done nuder heading (Characters of family environment in families of children with mental deficiency with a comporision between the levels of mental deficiency) in 1987 , at califorraia university. In this research , 53 families with child with sever mental deficiency , 5 family with deseased child at educatable level , and 50 familied with deseased child at educable level werw studied.

In all this familes the deseased children lived in family environment. Data of this research were analyzed using different statistic examinations.and results were:

- NO difference was observed in amaint * of parrents' matrinrmy agreement in different groups of children with mental deficiency
- in families with children with severe mental deficiency, the first consequences of child mental deficiency effects in family is very severe and stable whereas in edcatables group this effect decreases with increase in desesed child age.

In family with child with severe mental deficiency , in all considered cases, negafiuie effects of deseased child on family was more severe.

METHOLOGY

Statistical population:

Statistical population of this research includes all families of mentally retarded children in Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages and both male and female genders.

Specifications of statistical population:

In this research which is conducted comparatively, two groups were used as main group and control group. Main group includes families with mentally retarded children in Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages and the control group includes the same number of families in this village who don't have mentally retarded children. Attempt is made to select neighbors of the main group's families as the control group who are similar to the main group in terms of social, economic and cultural characteristics or some characteristics. These characteristics can include economic welfare, number of children, health of family's members, income of family and job of the ir heads.

Sample size:

Sample size of this research was 160 members of families with mentally retarded children and families without mentally retarded children who are selected from two gender groups of male and female. Since the statistical population of this research is small, the entire statistical population is considered in this research.

Sampling method:

Since the questionnaire was distributed in agricultural season and some members of the families went out of home, the questionnaire was distributed among those who were at home. It means 80 members of the

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families with mentally retarded children and 80 members of the normal families who were their neighbors.

Research instruments:

To do any work, there is need for a series of instruments and it is not possible to do that work until the instruments are provided. Therefore, test, interview, observation, questionnaire etc. are necessary for any special research.

In this research, questionnaire and Liker scale were used and the number of questions is 28.

Information collection method:

Information required in this research was collected by referring to Welfare Organization in Tehran and province, Dena Health Center and health center of Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages to receive information inserted in file of the mentally retarded people and information about their family as far as possible and referring to address of families and obtaining information from them by distributing information among them. It is necessary to note that the researcher has collected necessary information by visiting the families and asking any number of the family’s members who were present at home.

Research Findings:

Inferential statistics focuses on inference of the population’s parameter values from the data which is obtained from a sample group. Inferential statistics follows two goals: first, estimation and second, hypothesis test.

Table 1: Comparing statistical indices of the studied hypotheses about social status of families with mentally retarded children in Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages in 2006

P (P-value)	Degree of freedom	t	Mean deviation	Standrad deviation	Mean	Number	Name of variable
0/001	159	5/593	11502	1/44121	3/6433	160	The presence of female mentally retarded child lowers social status.
0/001	159	3/534	10145	1/27926	3/3585	160	The presence of male mentally retarded child lowers social status.
0/005	159	5/594	10230	1/28998	2/4277	160	The presence of educable mentally retarded child lowers social status.
0/005	159	1/192	10548	1/33000	2/8742	160	The presence of trainable mentally retarded child lowers social status.
0/001	159	8/199	10652	1/32895	3/8734	160	The presence of isolated mentally retarded child lowers social status.
/001	159	12/498	9863	1/24369	4/2327	160	The higher the number of mentally retarded child, the lower the social status will be.

First Hypothesis: Relationship between the presence of male mentally retarded child and reduction of social status.

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Among the studied families, 46 samples of the families with mentally retarded child (57.5%) agreed and fully agreed and 46 samples of the normal families (57.6%) agreed and fully agreed on effect of the presence of male mentally retarded child on reduction of social status of the family.

The researcher infers that according to native and rural culture of the region and families, the presence of male child is symbol of pride of the family in addition that he is regarded as prop of the father during his old age and an economic financier.

Now, if this male child or the person who should be pride and hope of this rural traditional family is retarded, he will be labeled by others with retardation in addition to his disease, complications and its different consequences for the family and according to attitude of Becker in Symbolic Interaction Theory, labeling or regarding a person different from other people has serious consequences for his personality identity and create deviant behaviors which will entangle the family due to dependency and relation of family's members.

Therefore, there is relationship between the presence of male mentally retarded child and reduction of social status ($P < 0/001$).

Second hypothesis: Relationship between the presence of female mentally retarded child and reduction of social status.

Among the studied families, 48 samples of the families with mentally retarded child (60%) and 51 samples of the normal families (67.7%) agreed and fully agreed on effect of the presence of female mentally retarded child on reduction of social status of the family.

The researcher infers that female child is symbol of dignity and honor of each family in native culture of the studied region. It is evident that the prejudiced people of this region are sensitive to their daughters and if their daughter has problem, they will be disgraced. Hovers and Lovaglia believe that feeling and status are two important elements in interactions among humans and this negative feeling originates from having a handicapped child with all complications resulting from his/her handicap is very bothering for the family and affects their social relations. Therefore, there is significant relationship between the presence of female mentally retarded child and reduction of social status ($P < 0/001$).

Third hypothesis: Relationship between the number of mentally retarded child in family and reduction of social status.

Among the studied families, 68 samples of the families with mentally retarded child (84.6%) and 62 samples of the normal families (77.6%) agreed and fully agreed on effect of the number of mentally retarded child in family on reduction of social status of the family.

The researcher infers that the more the number of mentally retarded child in the family, the higher expenses the family will pay. From viewpoint of social relations, each one of them will cause problems in terms of retardation rate and minimize the number of social communications. Considering relative poverty of families of this village particularly families of the mentally retarded children who were almost populous, the number of rooms relative to size of family will have negative effect on educational progress of other children.

Therefore, the presence of more mentally retarded children in family will affect almost all specifications of social status. Therefore, there is significant relationship between the number of mentally retarded child in family and reduction of social status ($P < 0/001$).

Fourth hypothesis: Relationship between the presence of educable mentally retarded child and reduction of social status.

Among the studied families, 20 samples of the families with mentally retarded child (25%) and 25 samples of the normal families (31.2%) agreed and fully agreed on effect of presence of educable mentally retarded child on reduction of social status of the family.

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The researcher infers that the educable mentally retarded children are like the normal people and can perform simple practical works while continuing studies up to the end of high school level. These people are not different from normal people particularly in villages and they perform farming and even marry and manage their family.

Hence, there is no significant relationship between the presence of educable mentally retarded child and reduction of social status ($P > 0/005$).

Fifth hypothesis: Relationship between the presence of trainable mentally retarded child and reduction of social status.

Among the studied families, 33 samples of the families with mentally retarded child (41.3%) and 35 samples of the normal families (43.8%) agreed and fully agreed on effect of presence of trainable mentally retarded child on reduction of social status of the family.

The researcher infers that since the trainable mentally retarded children can live like others among the family members and are also able to take care of themselves and perform their personal affairs, their effect on social status of family is not significant.

Therefore, there is no significant relationship between the presence of trainable mentally retarded child and reduction of social status ($P > 0/005$).

Sixth hypothesis: Relationship between the presence of isolated mentally retarded child and reduction of social status.

Among the studied families, 59 samples of the families with mentally retarded child (73.8 %) and 53 samples of the normal families (66.3%) agreed and fully agreed on effect of presence of isolated mentally retarded child on reduction of social status of the family.

The researcher infers that since most of these people are hemiplegic or cannot talk and don't understand why others say and cannot control their urine and feces, when they grow up, they cause more problems for family such as mental, economic, transportation and hygienic problems.

Therefore, major part of the time and cost of family is spent for the mentally retarded child. In most cases, not only these families refuse to establish social communication with others but also relatives, friends and neighbors don't like to have family communication with these families and this problem is a barrier for mobility of the family.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

According to discussion and conclusion of this research, theoretical and experimental attempt was made to study social position of families with mentally retarded child in Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages. On this basis, some theoretical discussions are mentioned and finally theories of Durkheim, social Darwinism of Herbert Spencer and Sumner, functionalists and theory of social stratification of Max Weber were selected for theoretical analysis and justification of the desired problem and some hypotheses were formulated and tested using them and some other theories. Results indicated confirmation of relationship between the presence of male mentally retarded child, female mentally retarded child, isolated mentally retarded child in family and social status of family with mentally retarded child and the hypotheses of relationship between the presence of educable and trainable mentally retarded child and social status of family with mentally retarded child were rejected.

Since relationship between the mentioned variables and social status of family with mentally retarded child has not been studied in the previous researches, it is not possible to compare their results. For this reason, agreement or disagreement of findings of this research with findings of the previous researches hasn't been studied and compared. It seems that there are many social and cultural similarities between families with mentally retarded child in Deh Shaikh and Bahram Beigi Villages due to traditional texture of the studied population and these similarities prevent different effect of these variables on social status of the families with mentally retarded child.

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It can be inferred from the results that social phenomena are dependent on different factors and there is a special complexity in social factors. Results of each research change based on time and place. What can be mentioned finally is that social status of the families with mentally retarded child can be explained well considering other social factors beside the studied components and experimental findings of this research confirm the studied theoretical literature.

Recommendations

Recommending some strategies for improving social status of the family with mentally retarded child considering findings of this research.

- 1- It is recommended to establish small institute in one of two villages so that the families can take their mentally retarded child there if necessary.
- 2- By establishing consultation centers and justifying the families, families should believe that children of any gender are not different from each other and many problems will be solved realistically and through proper training and treatment of these children because if images and feelings of families about them are positive, this feeling and belief will be gradually created among people of society.
- 3- Intensity of negative effects of these children on the family can be minimized by establishing institute in one of these two villages and instructing the handicaps who are able to learn to do simple practical works.
- 4- Many problems caused by them can be solved by providing necessary tools and equipment for taking care of the retarded people and supervising family's care for these retarded people and also insuring them through social security or therapeutic services.
- 5- The researcher recommends that intensity of this negative attitude can be reduced by strengthening economic ability of these families and dealing with health condition of the retarded people and their families, developing service to these families and establishing institute for the retarded people.
- 6- It is recommended that these families should know the effect on the present and future condition of the female mentally retarded people through regular consultations with them and by suggesting solution to these families.
- 7- The government and Welfare Organization should pay special attention to the families who have more than one mentally retarded child at home. In addition to economic contributions of the children whose retardation is high, the families should take their retarded children to institute or prepare a separate room at home not to prevent educational progress and welfare of other family's members.
- 8- In summary, the researcher believes that the best solution for problems of the families with mentally-retarded children is:
 - 1- Increase of economic ability of such families with governmental and also public assistances.
 - 2- Establishment of a consultation center for justifying and guiding families to be realistic and training children property.
 - 3- Establishing a small institute considering number of these retarded people in these two villages so that the families take them to institute and not deprive them of social activities.
 - 4- Establishing a group consisting of physician and nurse to regularly check health condition of the retarded children and their families.
 - 5- Assuring the families that their pension will be paid in case the mentally retarded people perform agricultural and animal husbandry not to waste his labor force and to prevent his wandering.

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