8.3.3 Principles of Education for Exceptional Children

There are certain principles of the education for exceptional children which are given below:

- Curriculum should include different types of subjects which may cater to the need of the different children.
- Goals to be achieved by the children must be clearly defined.
- Evaluation and re-evaluation of the children's progress must be done from time to time.
- Team of trained personnel like teachers, doctors, psychiatrists and social workers must work together to develop the exceptional children.
- Even after leaving school, the progress and development of the children must be looked into and assistance provided whenever needed.
- The society and state should organize programmes for the development of exceptional children and also provide job opportunities to them.



LET US KNOW

Exceptional children are those children who deviate from the 'average' or 'normal' children to such a degree that they need special attention. There children need special education services with trained professional personnel. It should include teachers, administrators, consultants, psychiatrists, psychotherapists physiotherapists etc. Special courses of study suiting different areas of exceptionality should be prepared by experts. They should be educated in such a manner that they gain self-confidence and become self-reliant. Even after leaving school, the progress and development of the children must be looked into and assistance be provided whenever needed.



7.5 LET US SUM UP

- **Delinquency is**
  - A kind of abnormal behaviour pattern
  - Abnormal behaviour by non-adults
  - Norm violating behaviour pattern
  - Breaking rules and regulation of society
  - An anti-social behaviour
  - A failure in social adaptation
  - A form of social disorganisation
- **Juvenile Delinquency-**
  - A child below 18 years of age becomes the subject of official action is termed as a Juvenile Delinquent.
  - The Indian Penal Code uses the term 'Juvenile Delinquency'.
  - Juvenile delinquency is a Social problem.
  - It indicates mal-adjustment of children and their disordered activities in the society.
  - It is a violative conduct of children which is prohibited by law.
  - It is a deviant and inappropriate conduct of children of children below 18 years.
  - It refers to behaviour patterns which are termed as violation of criminal code.
- A delinquent is mainly characterised by emotional immaturity, instability, abnormal sensitivity to emotional tensions; social but against the law and accepted social norms, aggressive, hostile, suspicions , jealous and quarrelsome nature and so on.
- Delinquency is the result of a number of causes. Broadly speaking, these may be categorised under the following heads-

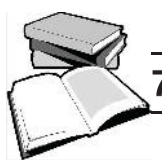
  A) Heredity or Genetic factors

  B) Environmental factors

  C) Personal factors

  D) Existential factors

- Delinquency is hard to cure. Delinquent children do not feel themselves to be abnormal and mentally diseased for any treatment. The problem of delinquency is one that has drawn the attention of the society. It is known that a delinquent child of today may turn out to be a chronic criminal tomorrow. As such the parents, teachers and society should play an important role in preventing delinquency.



7.6 FURTHER READING

1) Aggarwal,J.C., : Essentials of Educational Psychology, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

2) Mangal, Dr. S.K.,:Psychological Foundations of Education, Prakash Brothers, Ludhiana.

3) Bhatia and Bhatia: A Textbook of Educational Psychology. Doaba House. Delhi.

4) Safaya R.N., Shukla C.S., Bhatia B.D.: Educational Psychology, Dhanpat Rai Publishing Company, New Delhi.



7.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q. No. 1: (i) It is a kind of abnormal behaviour pattern.
(ii) Abnormal behaviour by non- adults.
(iii) Norm violating behaviour pattern.
(iv) Breaking rules and regulation of society.

Ans to Q. No. 2: (i) A child below 18 years of age when becomes the subject of official action is termed a Juvenile Delinquent.

children'. Before starting a training, it is however very important to identify the needs of these children which may vary from child to child. So, great significance must be laid on the objectives of the special education for the exceptional children. The UNO Declaration on the Rights of the Child (1959) stated, "The child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his particular condition". India's National Policy for Children (1974) observes, "Children who are socially handicapped, who have become delinquent or have been forced to take to begging or are otherwise in distress, shall be provided facilities for education, training and rehabilitation and will be helped to become useful citizens." Further it states, "special programmes shall be formulated to spot, encourage and assist gifted children, particularly those belonging to the weaker sections of society."

8.3.2 Objectives of Special Education for Exceptional Children

The objectives of special education for exceptional children are-

- All children must be treated as equal; no discrimination should be made between a gifted child and a backward child or normal child or handicapped child.
- Needs of exceptional children must be identified.
- These children must be properly motivated to learn.
- These children must be encouraged to participate in activities in school so that they do not feel neglected.
- Educate them in such a manner that they gain self confidence and become self reliant.
- Proper teaching procedures, effective curriculum and equipment to be provided to make the education of the exceptional children effective.

- Kirk has given a comprehensive definition of an exceptional child which is as 'An Exceptional child' is he who deviates from the normal or average child in mental, physical and social characteristics to such an extent that he requires a modification of school practices or special educational services or supplementary instruction in order to develop to his maximum capacity.''
- According to W.M. Cruickshank "An exceptional child is he who deviates physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially so marked from normal growth and development that he cannot be benefited from a regular classroom programme and needs special treatment in school".
- Crow and Crow defined: "the term, 'typical or exceptional' is applied to a trait or to a person possessing the trait if the extent of deviation from normal possession of that trait is so great that because of it the individual warrants and receives special attention from his fellows and his behaviour responses and activities are thereby affected".

An analysis of the above definitions reveals that the term 'exceptional children' represents children who deviate from the normal growth in different dimensions of development. These children are far enough below or far enough above the average range. They need specialised attention which is not provided in regular classrooms.

8.3.1 Needs of Exceptional Children

Now, we know that- 'exceptional children' are called so because they deviate from normal ones with regard to physical, intellectual and emotional capabilities. Hence they have such needs which are different from normal children. Some may have very high I.Q while others may have very low intelligence and some others may be even emotionally disturbed. Therefore, their development depends on the educational programmes designed for them, for example, special facilities must be provided to meet their physical, emotional and intellectual needs. Moreover, the content of the curriculum must be suitable, and specially qualified personnel must take the responsibility of educating and developing the 'exceptional

(ii) The Indian Penal Code uses the term 'Juvenile Delinquency'.

(iii) Juvenile Delinquency is a social problem.

(iv) It indicates mal-adjustment of children and their disordered activities in society.

(v) It is violative conduct of children which is prohibited by law.

Ans to Q. No.3: (i) T (ii) F (iii) T (iv) F

Ans to Q. No. 4: Delinquent is a child below 18 years who deviates seriously from the norms of his society and commits social offences.

Ans to Q. No. 5: (i) a) Defective mentality of family members, b) Bad family stock.

(ii) a) Rejection of the child by the parents, b) Broken home

7.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions: (Answer each question in about 50 words)

Q.1. What do you mean by the term 'Delinquency'?

Q.2. What is Juvenile Delinquency?

Q.3. Mention the causes of Juvenile Delinquency forwarded by Ideal and Bronner.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q.1. Mention the characteristics of a delinquent adolescent.

Q.2. ' State the role of parents and teachers in preventing juvenile delinquency.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q.1. "Delinquents are born."- Discuss this statement.

Q.2. "Delinquents are made."- Discuss this statement.

Q.3. State the causes of Delinquency and suggest some remedial measures.

UNIT 8: EDUCATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

UNIT STRUCTURE

8.1 Learning objectives

8.2 Introduction

8.3 Meaning and Definition of Exceptional Children

- 8.3.1 Needs of Exceptional Children
- 8.3.2 Objectives of Special Education for Exceptional Children
- 8.3.3 Principles of Education for Exceptional Children

8.4 Classification of Exceptional Children

8.5 Intellectually Exceptional Children

- 8.5.1 Gifted Children and Educational Programme
- 8.5.2 Backward Children and Educational Programme
- 8.5.3 Slow Learner and Educational Programme

8.6 Physically Exceptional Children

- 8.6.1 Visually Impaired Children
- 8.6.2 Children with Speech Impairment
- 8.6.3 Crippled or Orthopaedically Mandicapped Children

8.7 Emotionally and Socially Exceptional Children

8.8 Let Us Sum Up

8.9 Further Reading

8.10 Answers to Check Your Progress

8.11 Model Questions

8.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVE

After going through this unit, you will be able to

- define the meaning of the term 'exceptional children'
- classify the different types of exceptional children
- identify the educational programme for the exceptional children
- design the special programmes of education for these children

8.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous Block i.e. Block 1 of this course ,we have discussed the developmental process of normal children and its related aspects. This unit will introduce you to a special category of children-the 'exceptional Children'. Till a few decades ago, much attention was not paid to these children especially in countries like ours. But every child, so to say, has the right to be educated like any other normal children.

Education is a process which develops the dormant qualities of an individual to the maximum possible extent. Today, education has become child-centric unlike earlier times when it was curriculum centric. As each child is different from another physically, mentally, intellectually and socially, it is the function of education to develop the child in the best possible manner. This unit deals with the meaning of the term 'exceptional children', their types, their needs, and the most suitable educational programmes for their development.

8.3 MEANING AND DEFINITION OF EXCEPTION CHILDREN

It is not easy to define the term 'exceptional children' because we know that each child is unique or exceptional and is different from the other. They differ from each other physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Generally such differences are of little importance. When a child grows and develops according to certain yardsticks of medical and psychological experts, they are classified as 'normal'. But when there is deviation, in degree with regard to their physical, intellectual and emotional aspects, these children are classified as 'exceptional children'. Psychologists have made some attempts to define the term "exceptional children" but no single definition has been agreed upon by them.