

# The Mentally Retarded: Case Studies

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## EPILEPSY AND MENTAL RETARDATION

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*Epilepsy is one of the most frequently associated conditions with mental retardation which interferes with the learning process. The present study investigated 1207 cases (Male-814, Female-393) registered at NIMH, Secunderabad, over a period of two years. The factors studied were the prevalence of epilepsy, degree of mental retardation, aetiology and associated factors. Ten mentally retarded persons with epilepsy were followed up longitudinally to study the effect of epilepsy on learning. It was observed that an attack of seizure resulted in a set back in the learning of skills. The results are discussed.*

The relationship between epilepsy and mental retardation was investigated as early as 1881 by Gowers. He found that some persons with epilepsy showed mental deterioration. He further inferred that epilepsy and mental retardation have the same root cause, namely cerebral imperfection (Corbett, 1961).

As noted by O'Donohoe (1981), though it is difficult to get a true estimate of the prevalence of epilepsy in the mentally handicapped individuals, it is certain that the proportion rises steadily as the severity of retardation increases. While there is ample literature available on epilepsy in general population, the studies on epilepsy in mentally handicapped individuals and the impact of epilepsy on learning in the mentally retarded persons are minimal. Similarly studies involving cognitive abilities and learning are predominantly in epileptic individuals with normal intelligence. Most of these studies correlate scores on intelligence tests and seizures (Lechtenberg, 1985; Hirtz and Nelson, 1985; McIntyre, 1982; Masland, 1985). In the area of epilepsy and mental retardation, the available studies give assessment details, associated behaviour problems and use of drugs and not information on training them on various skills.

While these studies provide information on the overall performance of the retarded person, they throw little light on learning of each of the skills and the relationship of seizures to learning if any. This necessitates longitudinal follow up of cases with epilepsy with systematic monitoring of their progress in learning specific skills and treatment of epilepsy. The present study attempts to find out the relationship between mental retardation and epilepsy.

### AIMS OF THE PRESENT STUDY

1. To study the relationship between epilepsy and mental retardation in terms of age, sex, severity levels, aetiological factors and associated conditions.
2. To study the effect of epilepsy in skill acquisition among mentally retarded persons.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

The study was carried out at the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad, which is an apex body set up by the Government of India to develop manpower, research and models of service in the area of mental retardation in India. As a part of the service activities, persons with mental retardation are assessed by a multidisciplinary team and programme for members of individual discipline in specialised services. On an average 700 new cases of mental retardation are seen every year.

Cases of mental retardation attending NIMH in the years 1987 and 1988 were analysed for their age, sex, severity of retardation, aetiology and associated problems. Those with epilepsy were separated from those without and were compared on the above parameters based on the percentage distribution within each group. Ten persons with epilepsy and mental retardation who were being followed up in the special services of special education and medical sciences were chosen for longitudinal study of epilepsy and skill training. While selecting the cases, special care was taken to see that parents of the selected cases for the study were cooperative and were regular for the services which would minimize the trainer variable. Their improvement in home based training in skills and the response to medication for fits were assessed. The improvement in skill training was observed and scored objectively on a five point scale for each skill (5 = attempts to do, 10 = able to do with physical prompting, 15 = able to do with verbal prompting, 20 = needs cueing and 25 = independent). A maximum of four skills were taken for training. The follow up periods ranged from 6 months to 3 years (<1 year in 4 cases, <2 years in 2 cases, <3 years in 4 cases) and the number of followup visits ranged 6 to 22. The followup was done on once a month basis. Information about the number of epileptic fits and their nature (full blown or abortive) was collected from the parents during follow up and the drug dosage was adjusted accordingly. The anticonvulsants given were Dilantin Sodium, Sodium Valproate, Phenytoin, Diazepam, Carbamazepine and Clonazepam. The drugs were used based on the

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The mentally retarded; Case studies [Barbara B Hauck] on skiathosmemories.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. The mentally retarded: case studies [Barbara B. Freehill, Maurice F., Hauck] on skiathosmemories.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. In only a few of these cases the extra chromosome is a small meta-centric one. The present paper is a report of a mentally retarded girl with an additional small of our patient's parents, studied in blood cultures, were entirely normal. Our Problem Children: Case Studies of Mentally Retarded and Delinquent Children. Front Cover. Virginia Condol. Exposition Press, - Children with mental. Case Studies of Selected Educable Mentally Retarded Children in a Nashville City School. Front Cover - Mental retardation - pages. Grief Counseling for Mentally Retarded Adults: Two Case Studies. Valerie Gaus, Ph.D.; Daniel Steil, B.A.; Kimberly Carberry, C.S.W.. Adults with developmental. If the names selected to represent the persons described in the case studies bear as mentally retarded by more than one formal organization in the community. Describes a method of positive reinforcement used by school social worker to increase a child's ability to follow directions. Not only did the child become a better. Case study of mentally retarded child - choose the service, and our qualified scholars will accomplish your order flawlessly Start working on your dissertation. daily living skills on the severity of mentally retarded children was set as a goal. research by Shannon has it that 13 epidemiological studies concluded that for. vention and specialized education services for mentally retarded children on In this article the author presents several case studies which reveal the. Although most mental health professionals doubt the capacity of mentally retarded patients to benefit from psychotherapy, a review of case studies, writings, and. Depression in mentally retarded persons has been studied only recently, beginning Although the case studies utilized assessment techniques with depressed. PSYCHIATRIC STUDY OF MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN OF The topics to be covered in these reports will include details of case histories with a right to be studied with full attention to the genetic, physical, cultural, socio-economic, . CASE IUDIES INW3IOETHICS. Mentally Retarded Hepatitis B. Carriers in Public Schools. Case In compliance with a court order that requires placement of.

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