

Dealing With Slow Learners – Role of Community Counselors in Delivering Healthy Learning Relationship

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the issues of slow learners & the role of student counselors in bringing the slow learners to academic mainstream. All students are not equal in learning. There are slow learners who are slow in grasping content & sluggish in delivering. As a direct impact of their sluggish behaviour, their educational outcomes are also very slow which puts the parents & teachers to a tight corner. Sometimes the management implements stringent regulations. But rustication from college, cancellation of admission, exorbitant fines or such severe punishments are there but this does not explain the problems of slow learners. Even if they are dismissed from college they will stay at home or become burdensome to the family as well as to the society. But these days' governments have found simple solutions to bring slow learners to the main stream. Government through MHRD & UGC has constituted students student counseling cell. The trained community counselor will talk to the slow learner through personalized sittings & share his short comings in learning, health aspects, sports, mental support system etc. All colleges have constituted such counseling cells. But the challenge is how to make students take the assistance of this cell & get their problems solved. Counselors find it difficult to make students come voluntarily.

Key words: Slow learners, Higher education Institutions, counseling, challenges,

I. Introduction

Higher education sector is recording a forwards growth

Problems with student's psychological issues-

A slow learner is defined as as Slow learners are those pupils who have limited ability due to different reason in the education process. Slow learner is advance word for “backward” or “mentally retarded” and “Educationally subnormal” “Slow learners are children who are doing poorly in school, yet are not eligible for special education; their intelligence test scores are too high for consideration as a child with mental retardation”

Slow learners- concepts -All students are not equal in their physical & mental wellbeing. Research study by Sultan Mohammad Khan Education of Slow Learners 2014, Rashmi rekha Borah -Slow learners Role of teachers & guardians 2014 have shown that slow learners can be streamlined through early identification &

2.	Speech defect
3.	Language development problem (broken sentences)
4.	poor level of vocabulary
5.	poor verbal abilities
6.	Short sentences, grammatically incorrect sentences
7.	Childish Behaviour
8.	Spelling Mistakes
9.	poor Interaction with other children
10.	poor involvement in Class room Discussion
11.	poor reading room activity
12.	poor concentration / Interest
13.	Slow response / delayed response
13	poor decision making quality

responsive stimulation.

The category of students in a classroom can be divided as

1. Average or weak learners
2. Rapid learners
3. Leisurely learners
4. Medium learners
5. Slow learners,

The slow learner students are often found suffering from several psychological problems which can be listed as Some of the student's attitudes are easily discernible as they exhibit behavioral change such as

1.	sudden variations in academic performances
2.	mood of depression,
3.	negative to change their attitude
4.	Constantly feeling a sense of desperation inside classrooms.
5.	Look stressful & regretful.
6.	Their pessimistic physical presence in the classroom
7.	disturbed concentration level
8	variation in food intake

Work of a counselor

1. Counselors provide professional networks,
2. Outlets for frustration ,
3. Academic and career counseling ,
4. General life advice,

A counselor always advises a student that they are smart enough and capable enough to reach the aspired academic goals with little modifications in their learning approach . A counselor faces challenge of counseling the students who often are negative minded & are very slow to grasp the situational demands. . Counselors need to enquire whether the students often

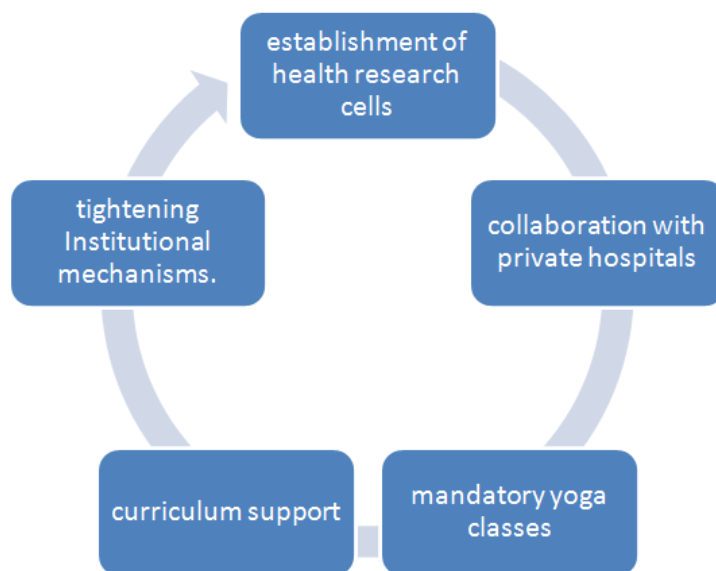
1.	talk of suicide or creating harm to one self
2.	desire to die or end his life sooner
3.	exhibiting sudden calmness or avoids friends circle
4.	exhibits his desire to be alone
5.	cries silently or draws disturbing pictures
6.	suddenly shifts his eating habits / eating time / sleeping time /
7.	unexpected change in friend's circle

Certain schools in western countries have come up with innovative ideas to cope up with slow learners.

1.	Individuals intelligence test
2.	Group test
3.	Attainment test
4.	Vocabulary test
5.	Test of Visual perception
6.	Spelling test
7.	Personality test
8.	Children Behaviour questionnaire
9.	Diagnostic test in reading and arithmetic
10.	Assessments of level of vocabulary, verbal abilities
11.	Attitude and interest test
12.	Intelligence test

But these tests add further pressure on slow learners. The schools & colleges struggle to cope with slow learners.

Considerations- UGC has come up with several suggestions to Higher education Institutions towards early identifications of the problems of the slow learners. As shown in this diagram



1. **Health research cells :-** Several colleges are forerunner as they have set up health system research cells to monitor the behaviour of students inside campus.
2. **Collaboration with Private hospitals :-** Several of them have been tied up with private hospitals to get a regular check up for all students. Majority of them have regular resident psycho therapists / mental doctors inside the campus.
3. **Yoga classes :-** Colleges can start mandatory yoga classes for all students . In house Yoga mediation centre can be supportive to all students. Irrespective of slow / average / fast learners Yoga helps the youth to face the challenges of life dauntingly. Youth get confidence , self motivation & self belief with the support of regular yoga practice. The curriculum needs to include specified hours for yoga practice.
4. **Curriculum support :-** The students curriculum do not support them in facing the severe challenges of life as they are prepared by a four walled narrow content. The support from curriculum towards self motivation is very less. The students are made to study limited content but the content needs to include syllabus dealing with motivating student towards self confidence & self belief.
5. **Tightening Institutional mechanism :-** Besides , an institutions needs to set up regular health checkup camps this will help inmates to know about their basic health.

II. Conclusion

But there is a need for developing frameworks to assess equity & empowerment of Health mechanisms through development of holistic health counseling units. But the need of the hour is that student needs curriculum backed guidelines on mental health management. The therapy of yoga , meditation & spirituality will help them to reboot their confidence , hence higher education Institutions can think of setting up yoga therapy for all students& faculty. An institution needs to set up regular health checkup camps this will help inmates to know about their basic health. The support from curriculum towards self motivation is very less as educationists have pointed out. The students are made to study limited content, but the contented syllabi needs to comprise syllabus dealing with motivating student towards personality development & self confidence building. This is key to academic success.

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