

Exceptional Children : Personality and Academics

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Preface

Suffering and joy teach us, if we allow them, how to make the leap of empathy, which transports us into the soul and heart of another -Fritz Williams

This book is the beginning of my journey into the lives of special children- their personality, self-esteem, study habits and academic achievement. This text is about children with different needs, characteristics and challenges-children who for one or the other reason are considered special or disabled. I believe that the study of children with disabilities is actually a study of being human. Empathising with them and understanding their perspective would create an out of world feeling. Comprehending this creation perhaps makes it possible to understand ourselves better.

Working with school going special children helped me to gain insight into the world of disabilities. Based on the observations and evaluation of the scales used in the investigation, these children attained low grades on all variables .This finding was sufficient to get the reflection of the unsupportive environment these children are growing in. Even the able bodied people may consider themselves unfortunate when the environmental barriers serve as an obstacle in the way of success and prosperity. Although school going children with disabilities accept themselves as they are and are thankful to the

creator for what they can do but all they need is the appropriate guidance, cooperation and encouragement to show their abilities and potential. Despite their aspirations and potential efforts they become hapless in the hands of environmental barriers. Accessible environment which promotes independence, exploration and prosperity remains a point of focus of defence by and for people with disabilities. Although a shift in the attitude of people towards disability is contributing significantly to alleviate some kinds of environmental barriers but still disability is reflecting a gap between a person's capacities and the demands of the society.

Dr. Shafia Nazir

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