



## **CAREER ASPIRATIONS OF THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED IN THE NORTH COASTAL DISTRICTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

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Most schools for blind in India continue to teach traditional subjects like Chair Caning, Weaving, Chalk Making, etc., along with normal school subjects. These are sheltered trades and cannot make the blind students independent after leaving the school. Therefore, there is an imperative need to identify areas of vocational training for visually impaired people. The situation is partially remedied by the fact that much larger number of students retains some vision. Therefore, the capacity of blind students to participate in engineering trade is greatly increased. A strong technological base is absolutely necessary for developing wider vocational opportunities for the visually impaired persons. For example, the Indian institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi, has developed a Gadget, which enables a blind, person to successfully operate the central lathe, which is a highly versatile machine widely used in industries. Similarly, technological development also should be made in regard to other machines to promote absorption of trained blind people in light industries.

Computer operation is becoming very popular. A talk software has been developed by Indian institute of Science, Bangalore. This software has made it easier for blind people to undertake wide range of operations on computer. A course for instructor in helping blind people to take a diploma in computer operations is under preparation by the experts of the Rehabilitation Council of India.

Although, at present the opportunities are limited, they are steadily increasing. But much greater work needs to be done to promote self – employment visually impaired people. It is not only necessary to develop high technology that will be needed for this purpose. In addition, middle level or low – level technology may need to be developed for promoting self – employment of visually impaired people.

The Central Government has set up a National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFD), which offers loans to the blind people for developing self – employment ventures. Some of the State Governments like in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have also set up their own Finance Corporations. Nationalized Banks also offer loans to visually impaired people at preferential rates of interest in order to enable them to engage in self – employment.



This has become necessary since the organized sector is shrinking. More and more opportunities have to be sought in the unorganized sectors as well as in self – employment. The thrust of rehabilitation and development of new vocational opportunities needs a fresh look especially in the backdrop of India’s present technological might. In the country at present, needs can be effectively met by the technological base that has been built over these years. The vision of wide use of technology for social welfare is gradually spreading in many sectors (Kalam, 1995).

### **Need of the Study**

To open new vistas towards the career of the visually challenged, as the researcher observed that there is scope for indepth research in this area. The aim is to explore the possibilities in wide ranging fields, which are hitherto not encouraging for the visually challenged in the era of globalization. The researcher also feels that the morale of the visually challenged should be bolstered to the extent that he or she should be able to plan their career confidently in order to lead a happy and dignified life in the society.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To study the career awareness levels of the visually challenged.
2. To study their career planning.
3. To study the difference between the scope of their existing opportunities and the extent of their awareness levels to utilize the opportunities.
4. To study the role of government in their emancipation.
5. To study the new opportunities and adverse effects in the wake of liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation.
6. To study the role of technology to mitigate their career problems.
7. To study the role of vocational rehabilitation centers regarding their career development.

### **Hypotheses**

The following were some of the main hypotheses tested apart from the several postulations in each chapter.

1. The career awareness levels of the visually challenged are very low.
2. Most of the visually challenged hardly plan, and accept whatever comes their way.
3. Government should explore further opportunities for the visually challenged.



4. To explore the career prospects of Visually Challenged people against the background and emergence of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG).
5. To question and find out as to what extent the Visually Challenged feel confident of their own abilities to successfully perform new jobs provided they are redesign to accommodate their condition.

### **Tool of the investigation**

The investigator felt that the questionnaire and interview are the best tools in collecting the most appropriate and accurate information from the students, parents and teachers with regard to this research problem. Keeping this concept in view the researcher prepared questionnaires and also planned the interview schedules.

As it was survey study, the purpose was to identify the career aspirations of the visually challenged the questionnaire was used to collect the necessary data. The questionnaires administered to the parents, teachers and students to collect the career aspirations, career awareness, career planning of visually challenged. Majority of the questions in the questionnaire were prepared by the investigator himself and were based upon the observation about the career aspirations and career awareness of the visually challenged. Attempts were made to make the statements clear, relevant, simple and free from ambiguity.

### **Questionnaire**

For a systematic and scientific study, the following tools were developed.

- a. Questionnaire was prepared to elicit information regarding career aspirations of visually impaired children in various schools located in north coastal Andhra.
- b. The questionnaire was designed in consultation with persons having wide experience in related fields. Personal observation of the investigator was also utilized in the preparation of questionnaire.
- c. Questionnaire was designed for parents of the visually challenged children to study the reality of personal experience with their children.
- d. Questionnaire was designed for teachers of the visually challenged students for the experiences with interaction with the children at the time of study.

### **Interview**

One of the steps taken by the researcher to make the study as comprehensive as possible was to interview several eminent personalities in the fields of general and special education and also from the field of vocational education of the person with disabilities. The personalities interviewed included policy makers, planners, experienced

special educators and eminent social workers. The object was to gather and present relevant information, which is not normally available in published documents. The discussions with such personalities were open-ended and no structured or determined formula was followed. This has helped the researcher to gain vital insights regarding intricate details of this vast area of knowledge and particularly the subject under study.

### Sample of the Study

The size of the sample is 82 teachers, 276 parents and 307 students has been selected from 9 schools. The sample of the school was taken from the selected three districts on the random sample basis. These sample districts are selected from the north coastal area of Andhra Pradesh State. These sample districts are selected randomly in three socio-economic zones in the coastal area namely Srikakulam (backward), Vizianagaram (underdeveloped) and Visakhapatnam (developed)

#### Analysis And Interpretation

Table – 1

Parents' Response Towards their Wards

S.No.	Parental Awareness	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	Vizianagaram	Total
1	Knowledge about the career prospects of their wards	15(57.7)	63(45.0)	65(59.1)	143 (51.8)
2	Whether aware of existing career facilities	15(57.7)	62(44.3)	65(59.1)	142 (51.4)
3	Whether educational and career matters discussed with the wards	14(53.8)	57(40.7)	66(60.0)	137 (49.6)
4	Whether career of the ward planned	14(53.8)	58(41.4)	65(59.1)	137 (49.6)
5	Whether confident of the calibre of the ward to withstand the rigours of competition	15(57.7)	87(62.1)	67(60.9)	169 (61.2)
6	Whether visual impairment of the child considered a curse or is taken as a challenge			5(4.5)	5(1.8)
7	Whether interested in promoting the education of the child towards, his/her career	15(57.7)	115(82.1)	77(70.0)	207 (75.0)
8	Whether inclined to promote the attitude of hard work	15(57.7)	117(83.6)	77(70.0)	209 (75.7)
9	Whether in touch with the schemes provided by the Govt. from time to time	13(50.0)	50(35.7)	49(44.5)	112 (40.6)
10	Whether confident of the settlement of the child in the face of LPG	3(11.5)	32(22.9)	24(21.8)	59(21.4)
11	Whether aware of the new developments in science and technology to mitigate their hardships of their wards	3(11.5)	33(23.6)	23(20.9)	59(21.4)
12	Whether aware of the role of the VRC	3(11.5)	32(22.9)	23(20.9)	58(21.0)
13	Whether facilities provided by VRCare sufficient	4(15.4)	32(22.9)	24(21.8)	60(21.7)
14	Whether confident of their children fitting into normal positions	11(42.3)	90(64.3)	64(58.2)	165 (59.8)
15	Whether their wards are treated on par with others in public places like Govt. offices, Transport stations, hotels, telephone booths etc.	15(57.7)	95(67.9)	69(64.7)	179 (64.9)
16	Whether confident of his/her ward keeping pace with modernity	159 (57.7)	95 (67.9)	71 (64.5)	181 (65.6)
17	Whether the process of socialization taking place at home and outside without hindrances	15 (57.7)	97 (69.3)	63 (57.3)	175 (63.4)



The table 1 above analyses about the response of the parents towards their wards' activities in their general and study performance. Regarding the knowledge about the career prospects of their wards, out of the total parents in the sample study 51.8 per cent said 'yes', - 57.7 per cent from Srikakulam district, 59.1 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 45.0 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. About the existing career facilities of their wards, out of the total parents in the sample study, 51.4 per cent said 'yes', - 57.7 per cent from Srikakulam district, 59.1 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 44.3 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. Regarding the discussion with their wards on educational and career matters, out of the total parents in the sample study 49.6 per cent said 'yes' - 53.8 per cent from Srikakulam district, 60.0 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 40.7 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. About the career planning regarding their wards, out of the total parents in the sample study, 49.6 per cent said 'yes' - 53.8 per cent from Srikakulam district, 59.1 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 41.4 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. Regarding the confidence of the calibre of the ward to withstand the rigours of competition, out of the total parents in the sample study, 61.2 per cent said 'yes' - 57.7 per cent from Srikakulam district, 60.9 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 62.1 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. The response of the parents for the statement 'whether visual impairment of the child is considered a curse or is taken as a challenge', out of the total parents in the sample study only five members responded 'yes' and the remaining said 'no' - all these five members belong to Vizianagaram district. Towards the statement 'whether interested in promoting the education of the child towards, his/her career', 75.0 per cent agreed, - 57.7 per cent from Srikakulam district, 70.0 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 82.1 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. Regarding the statement 'whether inclined to promote the attitude of hard work', 75.7 per cent of the parents said 'yes' and the remaining said 'no', - 57.7 per cent from Srikakulam district, 70.0 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 83.6 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. Towards the statement 'whether in touch with the schemes provided by the Government from time to time', 40.6 per cent agreed, - 50.0 per cent from Srikakulam district, 44.5 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 35.7 per cent from Visakhapatnam district

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from their respected total samples. In respect to the statement ‘whether confident of the settlement of the child in the face of LPG’, very few said ‘yes’, - 11.5 per cent from Srikakulam district, 22.8 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 20.0 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. Regarding the statement ‘whether aware of the new developments in science and technology to mitigate the hardships of their wards’, 21.4 per cent were agreed, - 11.5 per cent from Srikakulam district, 20.9 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 22.9 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. Regarding the awareness of the role of the VRC, out of the total parents in the sample study 21.0 per cent said ‘yes’ – 11.5 per cent from Srikakulam district, 20.9 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 22.9 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. With regard to the sufficient facilities provided by VRC, 21.7 per cent of the parents said ‘yes’ – 15.4 per cent from Srikakulam district, 21.8 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 20.0 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. Regarding the confidence about their children in fitting into normal position, out of the total parents in the sample study 59.8 per cent said ‘yes’ – 42.3 per cent from Srikakulam district, 58.2 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 64.3 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. Regarding the statement ‘whether their wards are treated on par with others in public places like Govt. offices, Transport stations, hotels, telephone booths etc’, out of the total parents in the sample study, 64.9 per cent said ‘yes’ – 57.7 per cent from Srikakulam district, 62.7 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 67.9 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. In reply to the statement ‘whether confident of his/her ward keeping pace with modernity’, out of the total parents in the sample study 65.6 per cent said ‘yes’ – 57.7 per cent from Srikakulam district, 64.5 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 67.9 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. And about the statement ‘whether the process of socialization taking place at home and outside without hindrances’, out of the total parents in the sample study 57.7 per cent said ‘yes’ - 63.4 per cent from Srikakulam district, 57.3 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 69.3 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples.

=405.976, DF=30, p-value = 0.000

Since the p-value is less than 0.05 i.e., the level of significance, we therefore conclude that there is a significant evidence of association between the parental

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awareness and the area, which means parental awareness is dependent on area.

## TABLES INDICATING THE RESPONSE OF THE TEACHERS

Table – 2

### Traditional Occupations Taught in your School

S. No.	Occupation	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	Vizianagaram	Total
1	Chair caning	17(100.0)	28(100.0)	37(100.0)	82(100.0)
2	Weaving	17(100.0)	28(100.0)	37(100.0)	82(100.0)
3	Chalk making	17(100.0)	28(100.0)	37(100.0)	80(100.0)
4	Candle making	17(100.0)	28(100.0)	37(100.0)	82(100.0)
5	Light engineering	-	-	1(2.7)	1(1.2)
6	Bag making	-	-	1(2.7)	1(1.2)

(Figures in the parentheses indicates percentages of the totals)

The table 2 above analyses the response of the teachers from the selected schools among the sample three districts regarding the occupations taught to the children in their schools. This shows that all the teachers agreed that chair caning, weaving, chalk making and candle making are taught to the visually challenged students in their schools. But no children were taught light engineering and bag making in their schools except only one teacher from Vizianagaram district.

Table – 3

### Newer Occupations Taught in your School

S. No.	Newer Occupations	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	Vizianagaram	Total
1	Agarbati Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
2	Phenol Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
3	Soap Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
4	Detergent Powder Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
5	Card Box Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
6	Basket Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
7	Broom Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
8	Rope Making	-	-	22(59.5)	22(26.8)
9	Weaving (Duster, Towel, Coir Mattress)	-	-	22 (59.5)	22(26.8)
10	Telephone Booth Operating	-	-	21(56.8)	21(25.6)

(Figures in the parentheses indicates percentages of the totals)

The table 3 above analyses the response of the teachers from the selected schools among the sample three districts regarding the vocational training given to the children in their schools. This shows that 26.8 per cent of the teachers agreed from the total sample teachers that agarbathi making, phenol making, soap making, detergent powder making, card box making, basket making, broom making, rope making, weaving (duster, towel, coir mattress) and telephone booth operating were taught to the children in their schools as vocational/occupation. And all these activities are present in Vizianagaram district only.





Table – 4

Whether the Inmates are Sent to Vocational Rehabilitation Centers After the Completion of their Studies

S. No.	Status After Studies	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	Vizianagaram	Total
1	Are you sending inmates to vocational rehabilitation centers after the completion of their studies	17(100.0)	26(92.9)	15(40.5)	58 (70)
2	Are you encouraging inmates regarding registration of their names in special employment exchanges	17(100.0)	26(92.9)	15(40.5)	58 (70)
3	Is there any provision for vocational training in school	17(100.0)	26(92.9)	21(56.8)	64 (78)
4	Are you providing for any placement	17(100.0)	26(92.9)	17(45.9)	60 (73)

The above table 4 above analyses the response of the teachers regarding the different activities performed by the students who were studying in their respective schools. Out of the total sample teachers 70.7 per cent said that they are sending the inmates to vocational rehabilitation centers after the completion of their studies, where the response is hundred per cent in Srikakulam, 40.5 per cent in Vizianagaram and 92.9 per cent in Visakhapatnam districts. Among the total sample teachers, 70.7 per cent said that they are encouraging the inmates regarding registration of their names in special employment exchange., where this response is cent per hundred in Srikakulam, 40.5 per cent in Vizianagaram and 92.9 per cent in Visakhapatnam districts. From the total sample teachers, 78.0 per cent said that there is a provision for vocational training in their schools, where this response is hundred per cent in Srikakulam, 56.8 per cent in Vizianagaram and 92.9 per cent in Visakhapatnam districts. Out of the total sample teachers, 73.2 per cent said that they are providing placement to their students, where this response is hundred per cent in Srikakulam, 45.9 per cent in Vizianagaram and 92.9 per cent in Visakhapatnam districts.

=0.981, DF=6, p-value = 0.986

Since the p-value is greater than 0.05 i.e., the level of significance, we therefore conclude that there is no significant evidence of association between status after studies and the area, which means status after studies is independent of area.



**Table – 5**

**Awareness on their Career Prospects**

S.No.	Career Prospects	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	Vizianagaram	Total
1	Do you have any Aim / Ambition in life	25(89.3)	138(80.2)	106(99.1)	269 (87.6)
2	Whether Career Planning necessary for future	19(67.9)	130(75.6)	88(82.2)	237 (77.2)
3	Whether career planning is in tune with the time	15(53.6)	106(61.6)	53(49.5)	174 (56.7)
4	Are you satisfied with existing facilities	22(78.6)	154(89.5)	90(84.1)	266(86.6)
5	Whether they consider the opportunities to be on par with those of others	21(75.0)	114(66.3)	79(73.8)	214 (69.7)
6	Do you threatened by sweeping cultural changes (Material and non-material)	18(64.3)	26(15.1)	31(29.0)	75 (24.4)
7	Are you suffering from inferiority complex when compared with the other normal children	21(75.0)	96(55.8)	62(57.9)	179 (58.3)
8	Do you aware about the facilities provided by the Government	22(78.6)	154(89.5)	86(80.4)	262 (85.3)
9	Level of interaction with others	16(57.1)	107(62.2)	59(55.1)	182 (59.3)
10	Participation in co-curricular activities	15(53.6)	99(57.6)	44(44.9)	162 (52.8)
11	Whether career oriented programmes conducted in the school	14(50.0)	18(10.5)	40(37.4)	72 (23.5)
12	Whether vocational training imparted in the schools	26(92.6)	166(96.5)	104(97.2)	296 (96.4)

(Figures in the parentheses indicates percentages of the totals)

The table 5 above analyses the response of the sample of visually challenged students towards awareness on their career prospects. Regarding the aim/ ambition in life, out of the total students in the sample study, 87.6 per cent said ‘yes’ where, 89.3 per cent from Srikakulam district, 99.1 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 80.2 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respected total samples. About the necessity of career planning for future, out of the total student in the sample study, 77.2 per cent said ‘yes’ where, 67.9 per cent from Srikakulam district, 82.2 per cent



from Vizianagaram district and 75.6 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. Regarding the tuning of career planning with the time, out of the total students in the sample study 56.7 per cent said 'yes' where, 53.6 per cent from Srikakulam district, 49.6 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 61.6 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. About the satisfaction with the existing facilities, out of the total in the sample study 86.6 per cent said that they are satisfied with the present facilities, where 78.6 per cent from Srikakulam district, 84.1 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 89.5 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. Regarding the opinion on consideration of opportunities to be on par with those of others, out of the total students in the sample study, 69.7 per cent said 'yes' where, 75.0 per cent from Srikakulam district, 73.8 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 66.3 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. The response of the students about their threatening by sweeping cultural changes (Material and non-material)', out of the total students in the sample study 24.4 per cent responded 'yes' and the remaining said 'no'. Among them 64.3 per cent from Srikakulam, 29.0 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 15.1 per cent from Visakhapatnam district. Response towards their suffering from inferiority complex when compared with the other normal children, 58.3 per cent said yes from the total sample, where 75.0 per cent from Srikakulam district, 57.9 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 55.8 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. Regarding the awareness about the facilities provided by the Government, the response of the sample children is 85.3 per cent of the students said 'yes' and the remaining said 'no', Where 78.6 per cent from Srikakulam district, 80.4 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 89.5 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. Towards the level of interaction with others by the sample visually challenged students, 59.3 per cent positively responded, where 57.1 per cent from Srikakulam district, 55.1 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 62.2 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their total samples. In respect to participation in co-curricular activities, 52.8 per cent positively responded, 53.6 per cent from Srikakulam district, 44.9 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 57.6 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their total samples. Regarding the conducting of career oriented programs in schools, 23.5 per cent said 'yes', 50.0 per cent from Srikakulam district, 37.4 per cent from Vizianagaram district and 10.5 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples. In relation to vocational training imparted in the schools, 96.4 per cent of the students out of the total sample study said 'yes' - 92.6 per cent from Srikakulam district, 96.5 per cent from Vizianagaram district and

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97.2 per cent from Visakhapatnam district from their respective total samples.

=63.912, DF=22, p-value = 0.000

Since the p-value is less than 0.05 i.e., the level of significance, we therefore conclude that there is a significant evidence of association between awareness on their career prospects and the area, which means area impacts career prospects.

**Table – 6**

**Responses in Vocational / Career Interests**

S. No.	Career interests	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	Vizianagaram	Total
1	Teacher	27(96.4)	150(87.2)	104(97.2)	281(91.5)
2	Telephone Operator	27(94.4)	152(88.4)	103(95.3)	281(91.5)
3	Announcers	6(21.4)	83(48.3)	29(27.1)	118(38.4)
4	Technician	23(82.1)	109(63.4)	86(80.4)	218(71.0)
5	Clerical	23(62.1)	114(66.3)	81(75.7)	218(71.0)
6	Musician	22(78.0)	100(58.1)	85(79.4)	207(67.4)
7	Typist	20(71.4)	72(41.9)	59(55.1)	151(49.2)
8	Lawyer	11(39.3)	66(38.4)	37(34.6)	114(37.1)
9	Accountant	12(42.9)	64(37.2)	42(39.3)	118(38.4)
10	Medical Practitioner	16(57.1)	71(41.3)	41(38.3)	128(41.7)
11	Attendees	11(39.3)	66(38.4)	37(34.6)	114(37.1)
12	Any other information	12(42.9)	64(37.2)	42(39.3)	118(38.4)

(Figures in the parentheses indicates percentages of the totals)

The table 6 above analyses about the response in vocational/career interest among the visually challenged students from the selected areas. Out of the total sample students towards teacher, 96.4 per cent from Srikakulam, 87.2 percent from Visakhapatnam and 97.2 percent from Vizianagaram district showed their interest. Towards telephone operator, 94.4 per cent from Srikakulam, 88.4 percent from Visakhapatnam and 95.3 percent from Vizianagaram district, showed their interest. In respect to announcer very few were responded positively, where 21.4 per cent from Srikakulam, 48.3 percent from Visakhapatnam and 27.1 percent from Vizianagaram district were showed their interest. Among the total sample students towards technician, 82.1 per cent from Srikakulam, 63.4 percent from Visakhapatnam and 80.4 percent from Vizianagaram district were presented their interest. Towards clerical job, 62.1 per cent from Srikakulam, 66.3 percent from Visakhapatnam and 75.7 percent from Vizianagaram district were showed their interest.

=23.506, DF=22, p-value = 0.374



Since the p-value is greater than 0.05 i.e., the level of significance, we therefore conclude that there is no significant evidence of association between career interests and the area, which means area does not impact career interests.

## **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **Major findings**

1. The study shows that all the teachers agreed that chair caning, weaving, chalk making and candle making are taught to the visually challenged students in their schools. But no children were taught light engineering and bag making in their schools except only one teacher from Vizianagaram district. This is because of lack of trained instructors.
2. This shows that 26.8 per cent of the teachers agreed from the total sample teachers that agarbathi making, phenol making, soap making, detergent powder making, card box making, basket making, broom making, rope making, weaving (duster, towel, coir mattress) and telephone booth operating were taught to the children in their schools as occupation. And all these activities are present in Vizianagaram district only.
3. Majority teachers from all district said that their children were average and below average in Science.
4. This shows that majority of the teachers feel that means of rehabilitation of the blind can be possible through integration with normal children from all the selected three districts.
5. From the study it is Clearly evident that most of the visually impaired come from poor socio-economic background with almost illiterate parents and a good number from rural areas. Parents are not in a position to identify the initial stages of the problem and even to search for appropriate remedies. This lack of awareness is really playing havoc in a majority of the cases. So it is essential to create awareness in the parents to identify the visually handicap of the children at the earliest. It is also found that malnutrition is one of the crucial reasons for blindness.
6. It is interesting to observe that the visually challenged are quite confident about facing life inspite of their handicap and do not like to depend on other including their family members to the extent possible for them. That reveals their spirit of independence and also their willingness to face life challenges inspite of serious handicap. Educational and rehabilitation institutes should properly channelise this



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spirit of independence.

7. As far as choice of vocation is concerned it is interesting to observe that a good number of respondents preferred the job of teacher due to various reasons like security, steadiness, less burdensome and also interest in teaching the visually challenged. This does not mean that they shy away from teaching in a normal school along with normal sighted teachers and students. Others preferred jobs like announcers, operators, typists and clerical cadre. An important observation is that all these jobs do not demand complex mental activities and more or less suitable for visually impaired.

## **Conclusions**

At present, only about fifty per cent of the blind read to any extent. This is not surprising considering that even a smaller percentage of sighted people do so, and reading is much more difficult for the blind. For the blind as for the sighted, reading is a function of age and education; and, for the blind particularly, of visual acuity and age at onset of blindness.

Problem resulting from losses in the performances of functional skills offer more promise for solution. Many of these skills suffer because of the inability of the blind to use devices or techniques which require sight. While sight per se may not be restorable, it may be possible to adapt these devices and techniques so that they can be used by the blind. Or new devices and techniques might be designed which would enable the blind to perform tasks which ordinarily require vision by utilizing their remaining senses.

People with severe physical disabilities are one resource that can be used in job situations. Just because people are handicapped does not mean that they do not have the mental capacity to work; all that might be needed is support to guide them and open doors. With today's technology, many adjustments can be made to work on sites to make it feasible for anyone be become a productive person.

Many newer occupations like plastics, electronics, cosmetry, bag making, chalk making, soap making, file cover making, envelop making and hast of other consumer products could be made by people with any disability. So the institutions should show their interest in these fields. The blind could engage in a variety of occupations including injection moulding in plastic, electronic assembling, manufacture of gas lighter, fan regulators, T.V. antenna, chalk making, and a whole range of other products of daily use.



One important aspect which has come out of the study is, if blind students are properly trained from the initial stages to the final stage of the school system by involving different individuals from various professions be it planners, vocational workers, community functionaries or the visually handicapped students themselves and representatives of industries, they can become successful in the life. The role of these personal should be coherent in planning the vocational education of visually impaired child with an aim to provide him /her proper knowledge and skills to face the life in the prevailing societal environment for all practical purposes.

### **Suggestions**

The Direct Translation machine employs a linear row of photo sensors, or a flying spot scanner, to probe the area containing the print. The printed area is investigated by a succession of narrow slits and the device converts the optically sensed information to auditory or tactile data. When there is sufficient blank in the slit being investigated, the blind person hears a tone or feels a poke probe on the surface of his finger.

Most schools for blind in India continue to teach traditional subjects like Chair Caning, Weaving, Chalk Making, etc., along with normal school subjects. These are sheltered trades and cannot make the blind students independent after leaving the school. Therefore, there is an imperative need to identify areas of vocational training for visually impaired people. The situation is partially remedied by the fact that much larger number of students retains some vision. Therefore, the capacity of blind students to participate in engineering trade is greatly increased. A strong technological base is absolutely necessary for developing wider vocational opportunities for the visually impaired persons. For example, the Indian institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi, has developed a Gadget, which enables a blind, person to successfully operate the central lathe, which is a highly versatile machine widely used in industries. Similarly, technological development also should be made in regard to other machines to promote absorption of trained blind people in light industries.

Computer operation is becoming very popular. A talk software has been developed by Indian institute of Science, Bangalore. This software has made it easier for blind people to undertake wide range of operations on computer. A course for instructor in helping blind people to take a diploma in computer operations is under preparation by the experts of the Rehabilitation Council of India.

The thrust of rehabilitation and development of new vocational opportunities needs a fresh look especially in the backdrop of India's present technological might. In the country at present, needs can be effectively met by the technological base that has been built over these years. The vision of wide use of technology for social welfare is gradually spreading in many sectors.

Modern information processing systems may prove to be benefit to the blind individuals, but only if efficient and effective means can be developed to allow them to have an interface with these new electronic information systems. It suggests that the staff of institutions and implementing bodies will receive preand in-service training



and the Voluntary Organizations to be assisted to undertake projects for welfare and development of children in especially difficult circumstances.

The goal which has been set by the national Plan of Action is to assist children affected by one or more disabilities, having no access to proper rehabilitative services and especially to lift up the status of those most marginalized.

The Government should ensure that every child with a disability has access to free education in an appropriate environment till she / he attains the age of eighteen years will endeavour to equip the special schools for children with disabilities with vocational training facilities, providing every child with disability free of cost special books and equipment needed for his education. And also by notification formulate schemes for ensuring employment of persons with disabilities, and such schemes may provide for the training and welfare of persons with disabilities, regulating employment, health and safety measures and creation of a non-handicapped environment in places where persons with disabilities are employed.

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