

Perinatal Causes

- ◆ Difficult delivery
- ◆ Premature or post mature births
- ◆ Low birth weight
- ◆ Neonatal jaundice and other infections

Postnatal Causes

- ◆ Accidents - head injury
- ◆ Infections- Encephalitis, meningitis
- ◆ Convulsions (high grade fever)
- ◆ Environmental pollution
- ◆ Substance abuse- Alcohol, drugs

Socio-cultural Causes

- ◆ Poverty
- ◆ Incompetent parents
- ◆ Lack of or little stimulation
- ◆ Family customs and traditions
- ◆ Violence in family
- ◆ Child Abuse

Tips for proper management

Parents and professionals must be encouraged to work together in serving children with disabilities by combining parental concerns, professional objectivity and their children's specific and individualized needs, keeping in mind short term and long term goals. Some of them are given below

- ◆ Early detection, proper timely care and treatment. A stitch in time saves nine
- ◆ Disabled children have the same basic needs like that of normal children. Their most important need is to feel loved and accepted by their families and society. So love them indiscriminately
- ◆ Children need to be provided with opportunities and encouraged to compensate for their disabilities

- ◆ Create an affectionate and conducive learning environment at home and school
- ◆ Seeking help and guidance from Doctors, Child Developmentalists, Special Educators, Psychologists etc. as and when required
- ◆ Monitor health and nutritional requirements of children and take suitable measures.
- ◆ Encourage children to become independent in performing day to day activities
- ◆ Provide enough freedom without over protecting the child
- ◆ Have reasonable expectations from these children
- ◆ Appreciate these children's small achievements too
- ◆ Do regular and periodical assessment of their growth and development, analyse it, accept it and take necessary action for improvement (4 As)
- ◆ Provide appropriate multisensorial & stimulatory educational play materials which are need based and functional oriented
- ◆ Keep and maintenance of disabled children's biography with necessary photos and anecdotes

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Glimpse At Childhood Disabilities, Causes and Management



**Disabled Are
Differently Aabled**

*Just Because Something Is Difficult
Doesn't Mean You Shouldn't Try
It Means You Should Try Harder*



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Children constitute about 40 percent of country's population. Children differ in their overall development by virtue of various biological and environmental factors. According to WHO, children with disabilities constitute about 10 percent in the school going population. The current estimate is that one child in every 10, is either born with or acquires a physical, sensorimotor or mental impairment in the first year of life. Disability refers to any restriction on or lack of ability (resulting from impairment) to perform the activity, within the manner considered normal, for an individual. The effects of disability generally extends beyond a particular pathological condition and embraces the psychological, educational and vocational aspects as well. Children with physical, mental, socio-emotional disabilities or any combination of these present special problems for children, parents and educators / trainers. Therefore, there is a great need to create awareness about the probable causes responsible for having children with disabilities, so that one can try to prevent giving birth to such kind of children and also can try to plan effective remedial measures for such children in order to make them become productive and happy citizens. Research studies indicated that about 70 percent of disabilities are preventable. The world population of disabled children is about 150 million, of which about 27 million are in India. Three percent of India's children are estimated to be mentally challenged. Of these 15 million

children are below the age of 10 years. Twenty percent disabled children are in urban areas while remaining 80 percent are in rural areas. The life of a disabled persons is a burden to themselves, to their families and to the society at large. About 90 percent of the disabled children in the developing countries are without any form of proper rehabilitation and educational facilities. The idea that a disabled child is a result of god / ancestors, the embodiment of sin in the family or sin of itself. If the family keeps the disabled children fed and loved, their is only a little chance that they receive proper rehabilitation and a very high chance that they die of secondary medical problems

Three major categories of disabilities have been considered namely

1 Physically disabled

- ◆ Blind
- ◆ Deaf
- ◆ Sensory integration dysfunction
- ◆ Speech defects
- ◆ Loco-motor disability - Cerebral palsy, Epilepsy, Spina bifida, Poliomyelitis etc.

2 Mentally disabled

- ◆ Delayed milestones
- ◆ Sensory integration dysfunction

3 Socio- emotionally disabled

- ◆ Autism
- ◆ Schizophrenia
- ◆ Attention deficit disorder (ADD)

- ◆ Hyperactive
- ◆ Learning disabilities
- ◆ Delinquent
- ◆ Low self esteem
- ◆ Behavioural disorder

As all the categories of disabilities are interrelated, occurrence of one disability may invite associated problems of other categories of disabilities and hampers their overall development .

General Causes

A wide range of causative factors enlisted below are responsible for developmental disabilities in children

Prenatal Causes

- ◆ Genetic origin - genetic mutations or chromosomal abnormalities
- ◆ Maternal infections or acute illnesses - Rubella, Influenza, Sexually transmitted diseases
- ◆ Nutritional deficiencies
- ◆ Metabolic disorders- Diabetes mellitus, PKU
- ◆ Teritogens / toxins - mercury, lead, heroine, tobacco, alcohol, caffeine and food additives
- ◆ Repeated abortions
- ◆ Radiation
- ◆ Excessive use of drugs
- ◆ Blood incompatibility
- ◆ Consanguineous marriages
- ◆ Maternal age at the time of delivery (below 18 yrs, above 35yrs)
- ◆ Emotional stress
- ◆ Physical stress