

A comparative study of comprehension by blind Students at the age of 5 to 14 years, the material is presented through the Braille and on Cassettes.

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OBJECTIVE

The present study attempts to identify suitable mode of presentation of learning. One of its major objectives is, to study the comprehension level among visually impaired children in different subjects through two modes of learning i.e. Tactile & Auditory.

BACKGROUND

Rapidly changing and IT driven world, communication needs to be faster. Braille reading speed of the visually handicapped children is not up to the mark as against their normal peers.

Various studies abroad in this field, reveal overwhelmingly that the auditory presentation is more quickly received and comprehended than that in Braille script.

Therefore auditory channel is an exclusive alternative for a visually impaired student to improve the potential for coping with the speed and scope of present educational program.

OBSERVATION

When we compare two facilities, we find that both have their own specific advantages: Auditory facility has an edge over the Braille system, in terms of comfort & speed. Thus Listening helps in speedy reception of communication.

Braille reading helps in its more consummate comprehension.

OUTCOMES OF THE STUDY

1. Higher Grades – IVth to VIII (10 to 14 years)

The improvement in comprehension of visually impaired students is significantly better through auditory mode as compared to tactile mode in – subjects – Hindi, Maths, Social Study, and General Science.

Thus listening through the audio cassettes would be better medium of learning at higher grades.

2. Lower Grades – Ist to IIIrd (5 to 9 years)

Learning through recorded material would increase potentiality of comprehension in subjects – Social study, General Science.

Due to lack of concentration in this age group, Learning through Braille would be more comprehensible in subjects – Hindi, Arithmetic than listening.

Braille is the exclusive modality of effective & constructive learning for Spelling & Punctuation.

CONCLUSION

In comparing both the modes of learning (i.e. Auditory & Tactile) for education of visually handicapped children; For optimizing comprehension in different subjects, judicious use of proper media i.e. Braille or Cassette, essentially depends upon the demands of Subject & Grade.