

Perceptions of Disability, Expectations and Aspirations about the Disabled Children, and the Problems faced by the Family and Siblings of Mentally Retarded Children residing in Karachi

By:

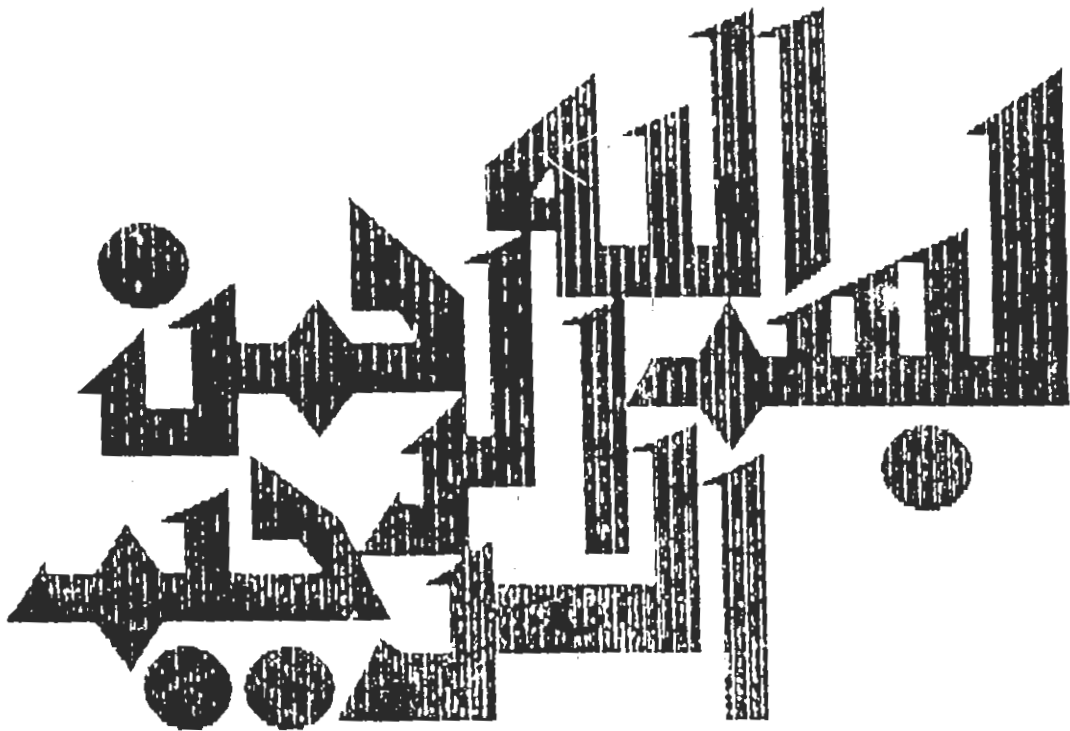
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**A Dissertation submitted by the Department of Special Education,
to the University of Karachi,
in Fulfil ment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
1990-1992**

Corrected copy



"In the name of ALLAH the Beneficent, the Merciful"

*In The Name Of
My Father
Who Was So Fond Of The Old Adage
"Light A Candle
Instead Of
Cursing The Dark"*

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the present research entitled 'Perception, Aspiration, Expectation and Problems of Parents of Siblings of Disabled Children', is an original work carried out by Ms. Shagufta Shahzadi (Enrollment No. KU - 049830) as the course requirement of Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education.

I further certify that the researcher has collected the data by herself and this dissertation is the outcome of her personal efforts, diligence and devotion to her work.



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ABSTRACT

The investigation was designed to study the influences of family attitudes toward the education and handling of disabled child as well as perception, aspiration, expectation and problems of parents and siblings of disabled children. The main theme of the study revealed that parents and siblings are the main contributors in the life of the handicapped child. Structured interview questionnaires were constructed and pretesting was made to assess the validity of the instrument. The sample of the study was selected using the purposive sampling method i.e., the children already diagnosed as disabled were approached and the parents and siblings were interviewed. The findings suggest that majority of the children were identified earlier but the provision for schooling was made a little later. Parents' reaction towards disability was that of anger, denial and guilt but most of them passed through the mourning process leading to a state of constructive acceptance. Regarding the treatment of the child, majority of the parents rushed to doctors as they discovered the presence of abnormality in the child. Majority of the parents perceived the child's disability as pertaining to mental backwardness and delayed development while the siblings enlightened learning disorder, communication disorder and apparent differences from normal children. Regarding future plans for the child, largest number of parents plan either to provide medical treatment to the child or settle him in residential care centre. The highest number of siblings on the other hand presented the provision of special education or skill oriented education for the child. Expectations attached with the child revealed that majority of parents and siblings feel that the child can not live independently but will need continuous supervision. Major problems enlightened by the parents and siblings included increase in responsibility, emotional pressures on parents and stigmatization.

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