Topic: "A Study to Develop a Program for Improving Braille Reading Behavior of Visually Impaired Children—Testing its Efficacy"

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Summary:

Braille is the script used by visually impaired persons to read the text material through touch. There were many scripts and modes of reading for visually impaired persons before dawn of Braille. But this script was found the best suitable to perceive by visually impaired persons. The script was developed by a French citizen named Louis Braille in 18th century by getting the idea of dot system of Charles Barbier. Till February 1951 there were many scripts in use depending on the regional difference and their developer in India. Braille created its own stand as prime reading medium not only in India but also in the world. Realizing Braille's classical, literal and educational values, many researches were drawn to study different aspects of this reading system in detail. In spite of different studies, reading speed of Braille in this country as well as in the world was coming down drastically. Unfortunately there were no studies conducted in this country to suggest the measures of enhancing the reading speed of Braille.

One common fallacy was found that Braille training should be given to only poor Braille readers. But on the contrary such type of training should be given at a beginning level of Braille readers so that the Braille readers perform better in their Braille reading and desired outcome can be obtained through proper training of Braille reading at elementary level. In the present study some measures were suggested to prepare Braille learning material for young visually impaired children. These methods and techniques suggested in the study can provide help in preparing Braille learning material and thus Braille reading speed can be improved.

A number of new programs for instruction in reading Braille can be developed such as the Initial Teaching Alphabet. Such initial teaching alphabet can be very useful to begin the teaching of reading Braille to visually impaired children during elementary stage of schooling.

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