

# PREFACE

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In the face of the deep cultural changes and the differences made in living ways, today it is essential for every human being irrespective of gender, age, disability are being faced the life's challenges and problems, and their inability in confronting daily problems has made them vulnerable. The ever-increasing social changes and complexities and the expansion of social relations makes it necessary to prepare people to face difficult situations. To prevent psychological problems and social dysfunctions, philosophers and Psychologists have suggested life skills training to the school going children. Life skills may be viewed as a range of psycho-social and cognitive abilities that equip children to make informed decisions and choices manage their emotional well-being and communicate effectively. Life skills are the capabilities that pave the way for positive and useful behaviour, and these capabilities enable the person to assume his/her social responsibilities, and cope with daily problems and interpersonal relations without hurting himself/herself and the others. Typically developed children are finding difficult to cope up with the problematic situations, decision making in the day to day life, being hearing impaired the students encounter with different problems in the classroom, school and in the society. They required some sort of training such as social skills, life skills to adjust with the environment and lead a successful life in the society.

Hearing loss refers to a diminished ability to hear sounds like other people do, while deafness refers to the inability to understand speech through hearing even when sound is amplified. Hearing loss comes in many forms. Hearing loss, also known as hearing impairment, is a partial or total inability to hear. In children hearing problems can affect the ability to learn language and in adults it can cause work related difficulties. Social consequences which occur as a

result of untreated hearing impairment, for example isolation and communication problems. While we might think of the above impacts as “surface-deep,” in that they affect how hearing loss might change a teen’s world on the outside, the following psychological impacts attempt to shine light on how hearing loss changes the internal environment.

Life skills include psychosocial competencies and interpersonal skills that help people make informed decisions, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships, empathize with others, and cope with managing their lives in a healthy and productive manner. Life skills are the skills we need to deal effectively with the challenges in everyday life, whether at school, at work or in our personal lives. Facilitating the learning of life skills is to promote healthy behaviour and mental well-being. To be effective, the teaching of life skills should lead to the promotion of positive attitudes and values. The development of life skills requires modelling of life skills by school staff and a “safe”, supportive classroom environment that is conducive to the practice and reinforcement of skills. Furthermore, life skills education needs to be developed as part of a whole school initiative designed to support the healthy psychosocial development of children and adolescents.

The book entitled "Life Skills among Students with Hearing Impairment" is designed with the intention to address some of the basic issues related to psycho social issues related to children and students with hearing impairment. This will benefits the of prospective teachers of special education, and which can also be used as reference book for special educators, parents and rehabilitation professionals. It is prepared to have an insight on Life skills in connection with hearing impairment. This book outlines the essentiality of life skills training in relation to the psycho-social development of the hearing impaired in every sphere of life.

This book has five Chapters and the prospective teachers in special education and general education, special educators and parents will be able to understand the basic needs and psychosocial issues of children/persons with hearing impairment. Chapter I of this book introduces the basic of Hearing Impairment, effect of hearing impairment on the developmental issues, life skills in general and nature of skills and the need of Life skills training for students with hearing impairment. Chapter II focuses on the Review of related literature about the studies related to typically developed children, students with other hearing impairment and other disabilities. Chapter III discusses about the Methodology of the study. Sampling procedure, Research design, tools used in the study, development and implementation procedures of life skills training module, interpretation of the scores etc., Chapter IV concentrates on Analysis and Interpretation of the collected data. Different Statistical Test based on the sample size and probability have been explained in this chapter. Chapter V has explained about the Summary, conclusion and Discussion.

I hope this book will be of immense help to all those involved in the field of special education, inclusive education, teacher education and other associated in the rehabilitation of the hearing impaired. This book also will be helpful to the professional and parents dealing with the children and students with hearing impairment.

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*- Author*