

# DEPARTEMNT OF EDUCATION

*by*

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## **3rd YEAR (PAPER VIII):**

**AREA: EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

### **UNIT II: VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

- **DEFINATION**
- **CAUSES**
- **CHARACTERISTICS**
- **EDUCATIONAL PROVISION**

**DEFINATION:** It is an umbrella term, which includes all levels of vision loss. It is a functional limitation of the vision system. Around 37 million people around the world are blind.

let us have a close look at the definition of visual impairment.

According to **American Medical Association:** " Blindness is central visual acuity for distance of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction or, if greater than 20/200, a field of vision not greater than 20 degree at the widest diameter" (Hatfield,1975, pp.3-20, as cited in Mangal 2014,p.179).

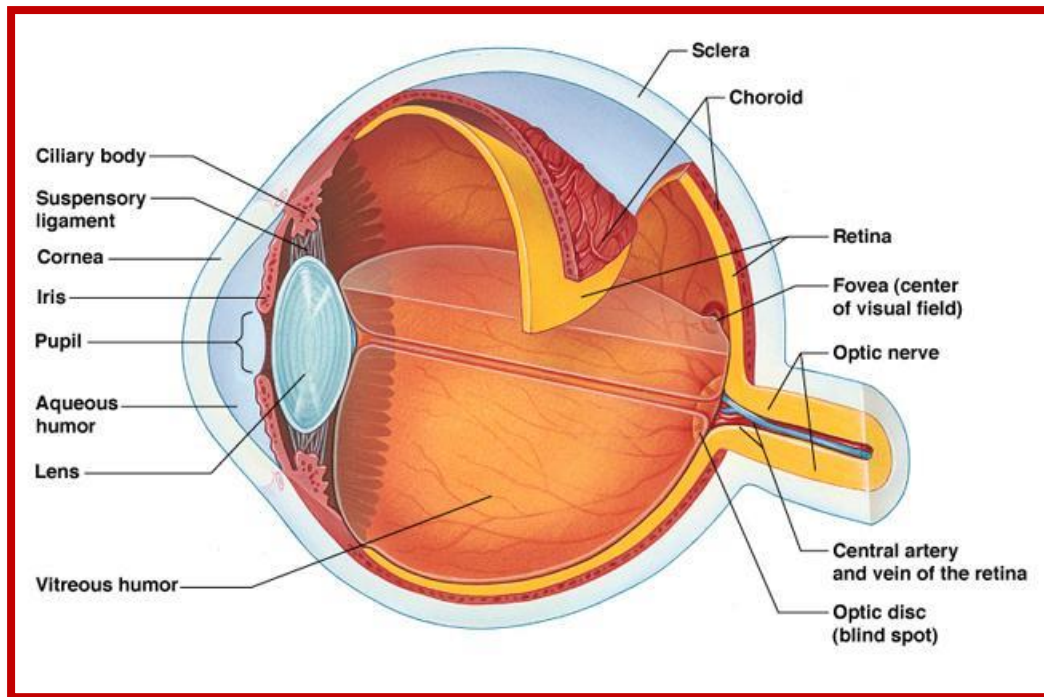
From the **Educational perspective,** "A completely visual impaired person is one whose vision is so limited or defective that he cannot be educated through visual methods".( Debnath & Debnath,2010,p.105).

So, all this definitions try to define visual impairment in reference to visual acuity, field of vision and residual visual power.

Based on these definitions we can classify the visually impaired persons under these categories:

- A. Visually Impaired
- B. Low vision
- C. Blind

### **STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE HUMAN EYE:**



**Source: Google Image.**

**CAUSES:** The main causes underlying this impairment are as follows:

1. The transfer of defective genes.
2. Malnutrition, use of strong drugs, Serious accidents and other carelessness during pregnancy.
3. The ill effects of the infectious diseases.
4. The diseases of the eye.
5. Injury and infection of the eyes.
6. The ill effects of the external objects like: dust, smoke and pollution etc.
7. Lack of vitamin and mineral supplementation
8. Diabetic Retinopathy
9. Trachoma
10. Glaucoma

**CHARACTERISTICS:**

1. Rubbing eyes excessively.
2. Difficulties to perform visual activities.
3. Unusual blinking of the eyes.
4. Severe eye pain.
5. Blurred vision.
6. Feel difficulty in reading and writing.

7. Eye infection.
8. Experience dual image of a single object.
9. Eyes get hurt in bright light.
10. Feel difficulty in identifying colours.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROVISION FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN:**

### **1. Decision regarding Educational Placement**

- a) Regular Class Placement
- b) Provision of Itinerant Teacher Programme
- c) Resource room
- d) Full time special class
- e) Normal school setting
- f) Residential setting for severe cases.

### **2. Decision regarding Curriculum**

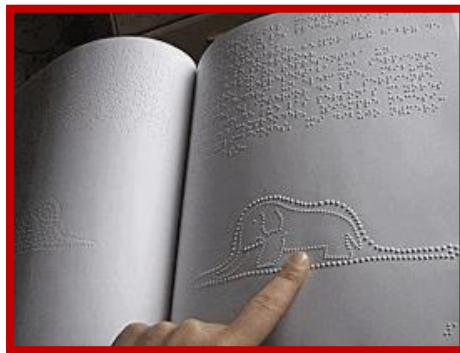
- a) Plus curriculum
- b) Visual stimulation
- c) Orientation and mobility training.
- d) Vocational guidance and counselling.
- e) Self-help skills.
- f) Language development and Communication skills
- g) Sensory training
- h) Training in Braille reading and writing.

### **3. ROLE OF THE TEACHER**

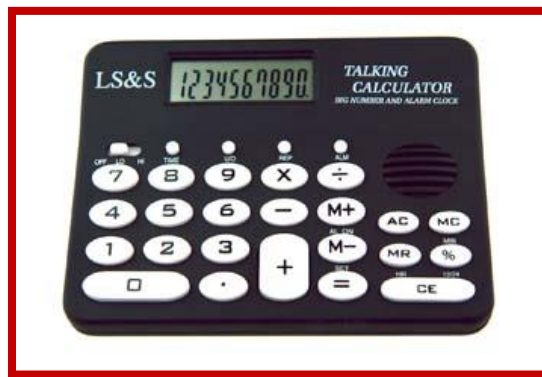
- a) Create a classroom environment where all children can thrive and learn together.
- b) Conducting various assessments to determine his needs and abilities.
- c) Preparing learning materials according to the needs of the students.
- d) Meeting with the family members and resource persons.

- e) Teaching those specific skills which are essential for visually impaired children. Such as: orientation and mobility training, functional and communication skills etc.
- f) Address all students by name.
- g) Maximum use of oral instruction during teaching.
- h) Teachers should treat the visually impaired children equally with the other students.
- i) Encourage them to display their skills.
- j) Effective classroom modification is required for visually impaired children.

**PICTURE OF SOME ASSISTIVE EDUCATIONAL DEVICE:**



**( Braille Books)**



**(Talking Calculator)**

Finally, educating students with visual impairment is essential for an inclusive society. To fulfil this dream we need to be more liberal regarding the educational opportunities of the visually impaired students

**REFERENCES:**

**Debnath & Debnath (2011). Batikromdharmi Shishu o tar Shiksha: Visual Handicap. West Bengal: Rita Publisher.**

**Mangal,S.K(2014).Educating Exceptional Children. An Introduction to Special Education: Visually Impaired Children.Delhi:PHI Learning Private Limited.**

**SUGGESTED READINGS:**

- 1. Mangal,S.K.- Educating Exceptional Children. An Introduction to Special Education.**
- 2. Dash,N.- Inclusive Education For Children With Special Needs.**