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Abstract

The aim of this study was to develop a curriculum in rehabilitation for parents of the preschool children with intellectual disabilities. Three phases of the study were conducted.

In the first phase, the researcher investigated documents, research studies in related topics and surveyed the essential need from the parents background of the 160 special children by using questionnaires interviewing the 15 experts in various related fields and 16 parents from all over the country about the needs in training the parents including the basic data in curriculum construction.

In the second phase, after the curriculum had been designed based on the information from preliminary study and evaluated by 12 experts in various related fields, the curriculum was improved. The curriculum consisted of the curriculum document, the manual and the curriculum package which had 13 CD-ROM and 4 forms : Evaluation Form, Attitude Form, Interview Form and Behavior Observation Form. The curriculum package yielded 95.43/94.50 effectiveness. The one group pretest-posttest design was used for testing the effectiveness of curriculum. Ten parents of the preschool children with intellectual disabilities from special education centers in region 10 were used as a sample group and Wilcoxon Matched Pairs Signed Ranks Test was used in the data analysis.

In the final phase, the one group pretest-posttest design was used for practice the competency of curriculum. Ten parents of the preschool children with intellectual disabilities from special education centers in region 9 were used as a sample group the Wilcoxon Matched Pairs Signed Ranks Test was employed in the data analysis.

The product of this study was a training curriculum for parents for the rehabilitation of children with intellectual disabilities. It was developed in accordance with curriculum development principles. The training package has an efficiency ratio of 95.43/94.50 and effectiveness index of 0.853. The significant features of the curriculum had been recorded in CD-ROM. Results of the study showed that both the curriculum and training package had significantly bettered the parents' knowledge and attitude towards the rehabilitation of children with intellectual disabilities at the .05 level of significance. The parents also had developed activity organizing skills for the rehabilitation of large and small muscles, the ability to understand and to use language, as well as social skills and better self - help.