

The Quality of Life for Persons with Visual Impairment in the Society

**Mr. Avinash Vitthalrao Aneraye¹, Shri. Sunil Kumar Shirpurkar²,
Shankar Shesherao Warle³, Shri. Prashant Yadav⁴**

¹(PG Research Scholar), M.Ed. Spl. Edu. (VI) 2nd Year, NIEPVD

²Assistant Professor, DSER, NIEPVD – Dehradun

³Orientation & Mobility instructor, CRC- Nellore (AP)

⁴Lecturer DSER, NIEPVD- Dehradun

Abstract

Numerous facts of our lives can have an impact on our quality of life. The idea of health-related quality of life, which is a multidimensional and subjective construct defined as the perceived impact of health status on quality of life, encompassing physical, psychological, and social functioning, is particularly significant in the field of health research. It is complicated how health, disability, and quality of life are related. According to research, impairments have a wide range of effects on a person's life and can have a negative impact on their quality of life and psychological health. Even Nevertheless, when appropriate adaptations are available, people with long-term disabilities may not always think that their impairments significantly influence their quality of life. People with congenital disabilities have higher levels of life satisfaction, self-identity, and self-efficacy than people who have had to adjust to an acquired handicap, suggesting that the onset of disability may be important. Even though a lot of studies have been done to clarify how to define and gauge the quality of life in connection to impairment and disability, there is still a lot to be discovered and discovered.

Keywords: Quality of life, Persons with Disability, Visual impairment, Inclusiveness, Society.

Introduction:

Blindness and visual defects lead to a variety of public health, social, and economic problems, especially in developing countries. The World Health Organization has declared that blindness and visual impairment affect 37 million and 124 million individuals worldwide, respectively. Over 90% of individuals with blindness and low vision live in developing countries. In the past decade, evaluations of health and eye care have increasingly focused on health-related quality of life (QOL) as a criterion for treatment. Recent studies have shown that visual disability affects a person's QOL by limiting social interactions and independence. Thus, evaluation of the influence of visual impairment on daily activities, emotional state, social participation, and mobility is very valuable. Research on this will facilitate the better provision of services for individuals with blindness and impaired vision. The mobility domain of QOL is reduced in patients with low vision or blindness when compared to normal individuals.

There is a monotonic relationship between changes in visual function and those in QOL. Social and economic conditions, personal characteristics, and the values and norms of indigenous and local populations are all factors affecting the impact of disease and health problems on a person's daily activities and his or her QOL. Determining the influence of various factors associated with impaired vision on the QOL of patients with low vision or blindness in different countries and different cultures is thus necessary and very important. The scale of the low vision problems is considerable. Most elderly people who experience visual impairment do so due to age-related macular degeneration, cataract, and glaucoma. A study in Devon concluded that an integrated approach to low vision rehabilitation can, as measured by patient satisfaction and low vision aids usage rate, result in a more successful service than traditional dispensing services.

Review Of literature

1. Health, physical ability, life satisfaction, enjoyment, and other characteristics are connected to quality of life (QOL). When it comes to disabled people, quality of life (QOL) is given far more consideration than just the rehabilitation of physiological characteristics. Physical activity (PA) was found to have a positive impact on a group of blind and visually impaired individuals' ability to explore their own personalities, develop their inventiveness, and feel more motivated to face the challenges brought on by their visual impairment.
2. Particularly in developing nations, blindness, and visual impairments contribute to a number of public health, social, and economic issues. According to the Globe Health Organisation, there are 37 million and 124 million blind people in the globe, respectively. The majority of people who are blind or have limited vision reside in developing nations. Health-related quality of life (QOL) has received more attention as a treatment criterion over the past ten years in evaluations of eye and general health care.
3. Recent research has demonstrated that visual impairment reduces a person's independence and social contact, which has an impact on their quality of life. Consequently, assessment of the impact of visual impairment on everyday tasks, emotional state, social interaction, and Mobility has several benefits. Research in this area will enable better service delivery to those who are blind or have low eyesight. When compared to healthy people, patients with low vision or blindness have lower mobility QOL scores. In actuality, changes in visual function and those in QOL have a monotonic relationship.
4. The effects of illness and health issues on a person's daily activities and QOL are influenced by a person's social and economic circumstances, personal traits, and the values and conventions of indigenous and local populations. Therefore, it is important to determine how different visual impairment-related factors affect patients' quality of life (QOL) in various cultures and countries.
5. The purpose of this study was to investigate how the kind of impairment, the length of the impairment, and participation in psychosocial rehabilitation affected the subjective quality of life in blind and partially sighted adults. The Personal Wellbeing Index for Adults and a sociodemographic and health questionnaire were used in the study to assess participant satisfaction with various life domains. According to the findings, blind and partially sighted people's subjective quality of life falls within the theoretically predicted normative range for the world's population, which is at most 60 to 80%. The findings also revealed that engagement in psychosocial rehabilitation and the kind and length of impairment are important predictors of the subjective quality of life for those who are blind or partially sighted.

Need of Study

In a synthetic expression, the area of the quality of life is defined as the value for a man of his life, the extent to which living conditions give man the possibility of meeting his multiple needs, the degree to which his life is satisfactory to man. Visual function is important for optimal orientation in functional and social life and affects physical and emotional well-being. Visual impairment, therefore, leads to restrictions in all aspects of daily living and is related to the quality of life. Thus, it is important to highlight how the QOL can affect the life of a person with visual impairment as it will further enhance their lifestyle as well as education. Therefore, special emphasis should be given to enhancing their QOL to further empower and enable them to live independently in an inclusive society. This study will focus on finding out the effect of visual impairment has on an individual's QoL and how the QOL of sighted people differs from the QOL of a visually impaired person. It is also find out from the different researches that visual disability affects a person's QoL by limited social interactions and independence. The researcher wishes to know the influence of daily living activities, emotional state, social participation and mobility on the quality of life of persons with visual impairment in the inclusive society.

Statement of Problem

- a. Quality of Life for Persons with Visual Impairment in the society

Operational Definition

Visual Impairment

Blindness- means a condition where a person has any of the following conditions, after the best correction

- i. Total absence of sight; or
- ii. Visual acuity less than 3/60 or less than 10/200 (Snellen) in the better eye with the best possible correction; or
- iii. Limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of less than 10 degree

“Low vision” means a condition where a person has any of the following conditions, namely: — Visual acuity not exceeding 6/18 or less than 20/60 upto 3/60 or up to 10/200 (Snellen) in the better eye with the best possible corrections, or limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of fewer than 40 degrees up to 10 degrees. (“As per the Rights Of Persons With Disabilities Act-2016”)

Quality of Life: - Quality of life QOL is a term that refers to the well-being of a population or an individual, including both good and negative aspects of their existence at a certain period.

Society: - “A society is a collection of individuals united by certain relations or modes of behavior which mark them off from others who do not enter into these relations or who differ from them in behavior.”- M. Ginsberg

Objectives

The objectives of this study are to:

- a) To study the QoL of persons with disabilities and non-disabled persons in respect of social interactions.
- b) To study the QoL of persons with disabilities and non-disabled persons in respect of independent mobility.
- c) To study the QoL of persons with disabilities and non-disabled persons in respect of education.

- d) To study the QoL of persons with disabilities and non-disabled persons in respect standard living.
- e) To study the QoL of persons with disabilities and non-disabled persons in respect of physical and demographic factors.
- f) To study the QoL of persons with disabilities and non-disabled persons in respect of social economic status.

Hypotheses

There will be no significant difference in QoL between persons with visual impairment and non-disabled persons in respect of their social interaction.

Methodology

An institution-based cross-sectional study was carried out from April 24 to May 12, 2017. The study was carried out at the University of Gondar Tertiary Eye Care and Training Centre. This eye care center acts as a significant referral hub for 14 million residents of Northwest Ethiopia and offers comprehensive clinical and community eye health services for eight zones. For the people of Northwest Ethiopia, it serves as the only tertiary eye care facility. It has five specialized clinics: refraction, glaucoma, vitreoretinal, paediatric and strabismus, and anterior segment. Since there is no information on the percentage of patients with visual impairment who have a poor quality of life, the sample size, which included a total of 489 patients, was calculated using the Open Epi computer program using a single population proportion formula and a margin of error of 4%. It was discovered that the generated sample size was $n = 444$. The overall sample size was 489 when the nonresponse rate of 10% was taken into account. The University of Gondar Tertiary Eye Care and Training Centre received all consecutive patients (both new and patients on follow-up) who were 18 years of age or older during the study period. The University of Gondar Ethical Review Board approved the study, which was carried out in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The University of Gondar's College of Medicine and Health Science's School of Medicine Ethical Review Committee granted approval for the study. Each responder provided informed verbal consent. Since the data were gathered through the use of an interview-administered structured questionnaire and since there was no intrusive examination procedure carried out on the patients for the purpose of this research, oral informed permission was taken into consideration. No identification was used to collect patient information, and confidentiality was upheld.

Universe

The researcher intends to use a random selection technique to compile a sample of 100 students from Maharashtra for this investigation.

Tool

A self-designed questionnaire was developed, also by the researcher and the validity and reliability were also checked by the researcher of the self-designed questioner the data was collated through Google form.

Analysis of data

The detailed qualitative analysis enabled the researcher to identify the core challenges associated with the quality of life for persons with visual disabilities in society.

Study Design

A detailed, critical in-depth analysis of the answers was carried out by the researcher to uncover the unique perspective of society toward the quality of life for the persons with visual disabilities.

Research design

The descriptive method will be used by the researcher for the study.

Population

For This research, the researcher will take all the special schools of Maharashtra as the population of this study

Sampling

The researcher intends to use a random selection technique to compile a sample of 100 students from Maharashtra for this investigation.

Data Collection

The researcher will go to Maharashtra's special schools for this study to gather data.

Statistical Analysis

Data that has been coded will be examined, purified, entered into EPI-INFO 3.5.1, and then exported into SPSS version 20 for evaluation. Calculations will be made for descriptive statistics including proportion, frequency, ratios, and summary statistics (mean, standard deviation, and range). The factors linked to low VRQOL will be identified using binary logistic regression. Statistics will be applied to variables in multivariable regression with a value of 0.05. The strength of the link will be evaluated using an adjusted odds ratio (AOR) with a 95% confidence interval.

Finding's

The corrected data and the statics Represented by mean standard deviation and t test indicate that.

1. there is a significant difference difference between disabled and non-disabled persons as per as the QoL this concern in respect of social interaction. Data indicates that the social interaction of non-disabled persons or higher than the social interactions of a disabled person may be because of the whereas aspect of life.
2. Statices show that independent mobility of persons with disabled matters with their QoL due to unavailability of opportunities and appreciation along with dependence and others affects the QoL persons with disabilities however data shows that non-disabled persons are more independent as camper to persons with disabilities.
3. Study indicates that the standard of living of persons with disabilities effectively impacts the QoL of persons with disabilities as they can higher are borrowed the services they needed to mention the QoL as the standard of living of the non-disabled person also affect the QoL of non-disabled person
4. The study indicates that the education of non-disabled and disabled persons also matters to maintain QoL Higher educated people maintain their QoL there is a significant between disabled and non-disabled as per as education is concerned.

Conclusion:

The QoL really matters when we talk for any human being the significance and the need for study really matters if we find out the reality of QoL for persons with disabled and non-disabled the researcher collected more than 120 disabled and non-disabled persons between the age group of 20-30 who are working or taking education different education institute the data was collected purpose fully and purpose sampling they were adopted to collect the data after statistical analysis the researcher finds that the QoL of non-disabled persons is very high in respect of social interaction, independent mobility and standard of living. At the same time education matters and indicates that there is no significant difference in QoL between disabled and non-disabled persons however past studies also indicate that education and QoL correlated positively and if we provide quality education to persons with disabilities then they can also maintain their QoL and establish them self as an equal contributors of society.

Delimitations

This study is limited to the state of Maharashtra.

This study is limited to special school students only.

References: -

1. Kamleska-Sadowska, A. M. (2015). The assessment of the quality of life in visually people with a different level of physical activity. *Research Gate*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/pccsr-2015-0001>
2. Khorrami NEJAD, M., Saraband, A., Reza Akbari, M., & Askarizadeh, F. (2016). The Impact of Visual Impairment on Quality of Life. *Research Gate*. <https://doi.org/mehdiophth-5-096>
3. Finkova, D., & Joklikova, H. (2014). Information and the Quality of Life of Visually Impaired Individuals. *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.01.1275>
4. Bambara, J. K., Wadley, V., & Owsley, C. (2009). Family Functioning and Low Vision: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, [https://doi.org/103\(3\)](https://doi.org/103(3)) : 137–149.
5. (n.d.). *The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016*. DEPwD. <https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/content/page/acts.php>