Health Conditions and Behavioural Characteristics of Dyslexic Students

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According to the world declaration of "Education for all", children, including children with Dyslexia have a right to Education. In alignment with this, studies offering different perspectives on the education of Dyslexic students have been carried out in many countries. However, only a very few research studies have been conducted in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate the health states and behavioural characteristics of Dyslexic students in Sri Lanka. The study developed a qualitative research paradigm, adopting a multiple case study method and selecting a purposive sample of 10 Dyslexic students. In- depth Interviews, observations, medical reports of the Dyslexic students were used as data collection methods. The generated data and information were analysed and interpreted thematically, using a qualitative comparative analysis. Finding revealed that general appearance and physical fitness of the Dyslexic students was in a considerable level; daily routine activities were carried out independently; though there were no good relationships were made with teachers and peer groups, good relationship were maintained with family members; bedwetting; differences in walking style; difficulties in managing fine motor skills; use different defence mechanisms to hide failures on self and carelessness. These findings were informative to identify the basic health conditions and behavioural characteristics amongst the Dyslexics in Sri Lanka and use relevant intervention methods to overcome failures of behavioural characteristics of Dyslexics.

Key words: Dyslexia, Health, Behavioural characteristics, Multiple case study method