

GROUP 9

PDE 701: EDUCATING THE SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL

Characteristics of Learners with Physical and Health Impairments

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• CATEGORIES AND CAUSES OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

- Sensory and Physical needs

- Physical and Health Impairment



Figure 1: Physical Impairment 1



Figure 2: Health Impairment 1

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

- Involves limitations in movement, coordination, or physical stamina, making it challenging for learners to navigate their environment or perform tasks that require motor skills.

TYPES OF PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS (PI)

1. Muscular or Skeletal Conditions

- These involve the muscles, bones, or joints and often affect movement, flexibility, or endurance.
- Amputation or limb deficiency
- Muscular dystrophy
- Juvenile arthritis
- Congenital bone malformations
- Fractures (from accidents) affecting long-term mobility

TYPES OF PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS cont'd

2. Neuromotor Impairments

These involve the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord), resulting in impaired motor control or coordination.

- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- Spinal cord injuries
- Poliomyelitis
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI)



Figure 3: Physical Impairment 2



Figure 4: Neuromotor Impairment 1



Figure 5: Neuromotor Impairment 2



Figure 6: Physical Impairment 3

HEALTH IMPAIRMENT (HI)

Refers to chronic or acute medical conditions (like asthma, epilepsy, or diabetes) that affect a student's alertness, energy levels, or strength, often interfering with consistent classroom participation. (IDEA, 2004)

CATEGORIES OF HEALTH IMPAIRMENT

- **Chronic Medical Conditions:**

Long-term illnesses that affect daily functioning, such as asthma, diabetes, sickle cell anaemia, epilepsy, and congenital heart disease.

- **Infectious or Acute Illnesses:**

Short-term or recurring conditions like tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, and lead poisoning may cause frequent school absences.

- **Medication and Treatment-Related Conditions:**

Health issues requiring ongoing treatment or strong medication, including leukaemia, haemophilia, and conditions needing post-surgical care or therapy.



Figure 7: Health Impairment 3



Figure 8: Health Impairment 4



Figure 9: Health Impairment 5



Figure 10: Health Impairment 6

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNERS WITH PHYSICAL (PI) AND HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS (HI)

•Difficulty with Motor Coordination (PI)

Learners with conditions like cerebral palsy often struggle with fine and gross motor tasks such as walking, holding a pencil, or maintaining balance. They may require physical aids or one-on-one support during activities such as writing or physical education.

•**Muscle Weakness and Fatigue (HI)**

Chronic conditions such as sickle cell anaemia or heart disease can leave students with low stamina. These learners often need frequent breaks and may not participate fully in physical activities, affecting their engagement and endurance.

- Poor School Attendance
(Both PI & HI)**

Learners with ongoing medical conditions may miss school frequently for treatments, therapy, or recovery. This absenteeism disrupts their academic progress, social connections, and emotional well-being.

• **Inconsistent Academic Focus (HI)**

Due to medication side effects, fatigue, or pain, these learners might struggle with maintaining attention in class. Teachers may observe fluctuating performance levels and engagement throughout the day.

•**Social-Emotional Challenges (PI)**

Learners with visible physical impairments might face stigma, bullying, or exclusion. They may develop low self-esteem or feel isolated from peers, affecting participation and classroom confidence.

CONCLUSION

Physical and Health Impairments present unique challenges in the classroom, often affecting mobility, stamina, and participation.

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THANK YOU