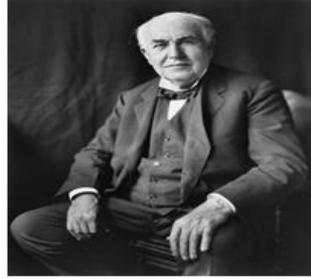


Specific Learning Disorder (SLD)

Famous People with Learning Disabilities



Leonardo Da Vinci (Dyslexia)



Thomas Edison (Dysgraphia)



Albert Einstein (Dyslexia)

According to DSM-5, Specific Learning Disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by failure to learn process or accurately perceive information, particularly academic information. Such problems usually appear in the early school age and the first symptoms involve difficulties or even inability in the learning or processing of simple educational skills like reading, writing, and/or mathematics.

Learning Disabilities refers to the disorders that affect acquisition, retention, understanding and use of verbal and non-verbal information.

In many cases, the child suffering from this disorder is usually considered quite intelligent and the problem is diagnosed only when the learning skills are hindered and cannot be overcome by the person's innate intelligence and compensatory strategies. Learning disabilities is also found to be related with poor academic achievements, high dropout rates, psychological stress, low self-esteem, and even troubles in employment or even un-employment.

Difficulties faced by Children with Learning Disabilities

SLD is diagnosed if the person is facing difficulties for at least six months in:

- Reading
- Pronunciation
- Sounding words
- Spellings
- Expressing ideas in written form
- Lacking clarity in written material
- Difficulty understanding numbers and/or mathematical concepts
- Inability in calculations, especially in solving quantitative problems

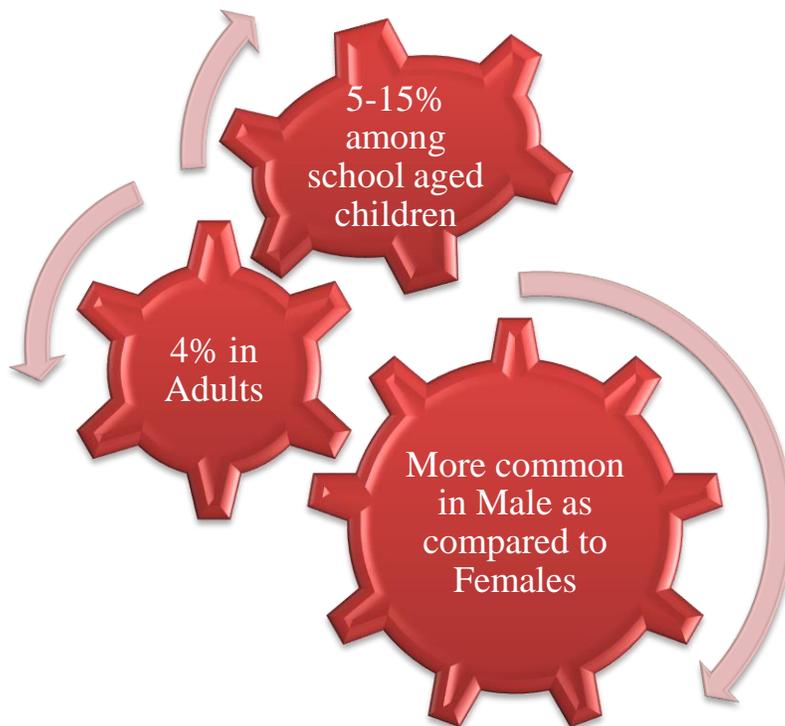


Also, SLD can only be ascertained if the problems being faced are those considered lower for his/her age level.

The person making the diagnosis (psychologist/psychiatrist) should first consider the child's psychiatric & medical histories, school reports, and psycho-educational analysis must be made while also considering if the problems can be explained by:

- Intellectual disability or other mental or neurological disorder
- Environmental factors like economic or family issues
- Biological and other neurological challenges like vision or hearing problems, paediatric stroke, or motor disorders

Prevalence of Learning Disabilities (DSM-V)



Types of Specific Learning Disorder

The three types of specific learning disorders (SLD) include:

- 1. Impairment in Reading (Dyslexia):** It includes difficulties in
 - i) Reading speed and accuracy
 - ii) Low comprehension of what is read.
- 2. Impairment in Written Expression (Dysgraphia):** It includes difficulties in
 - i) Spellings
 - ii) Proper use of grammar and punctuation
 - iii) Clarity of written expression.
- 3. Impairment in Mathematics (Dyscalculia):** It includes difficulties in
 - i) Obtaining the basic comprehension of numbers
 - ii) Fundamental arithmetic,
 - iii) Calculation in the mind and/or math reasoning.

Myths

1. **Messy handwriting is a sure sign of dysgraphia.**
2. **People with LDs cannot learn.**
3. **People with LDs are just lazy.**

Identification & Treatment

Though learning disabilities are a lifelong problem, they are manageable with therapy and specialised educational services that can help children with learning disorders improve their academic skills (reading, writing, and mathematical computing) and go to any level of education they desire.

Effective therapeutic intervention includes:

1. Early identification
2. Individualized systematic and intensive tutoring

Areas of Management

- ❖ Information Processing
- ❖ Memory
- ❖ Communication skills
- ❖ Literacy
- ❖ Sequencing, organization and time management
- ❖ Concentration



LEARNING DISABILITIES
CAN ONLY BE IDENTIFIED
THROUGH PROPER
ASSESSMENT.

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