Prevalence of Learning Disabilities in (Reading and Mathematics) Subjects Among Students of the Fourth Grade of the Basi

c Education

(A survey study in a number of Damascus Governorate schools)

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to identify prevalence rate of learning disabilities in reading and mathematics in the (fourth grade), which represents the end of the first cycle of basic education, among males and females in Damascus Governorate Schools. School records of reading and mathematics subjects in the fourth grade of the second semester of the school year (2010-2011) were used in order to achieve this goal, as well as Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices Test in the Syrian environment. In addition, Learning Disabilities Diagnostic Rating Scales (LDDRS) were also used which measure five dimensions of developmental learning disabilities (attention disabilities, audio

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perception disabilities, visual perception disabilities, motor perception disabilities, and memory disabilities) after checking their validity and reliability. Moreover, the research sample was composed of (1563) students (829 males and 734 females) from the fourth grade who were representing (5%) of the original community of the fourth grade students who amount to (31257) students, who were randomly chosen from (17) schools, The findings showed that reading learning disabilities were the most prevalent where the percentage was (6.3%) in general (males and females), and it was (7.4%) among males only and (5%) among females only. As for mathematics learning disabilities, they came in the second place with a percentage of (4.5%) in general (males and females), and it was (5.4%) among males only and (3.55%) among females only. Furthermore learning disabilities of both (reading and mathematics) together came in the third place with a percentage of (3.4%) in general (males and females), and it was (3.7%) among males only and (3%) among females only. Besides, the research showed that learning disabilities were more prevalent among males than females, Moreover, the research findings were discussed in the light of the local environment data of Damascus basic education schools as well as previous studies, and it was concluded with some suggestions and recommendations.

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