

Abstract

Tam and Watkins (1995) found the able-bodied had significantly more positive total, material and physical self concepts than people with accidentally caused disabilities. Yet, this study did not find such difference in self concept among the able-bodied and the people with congenital visual impairment from a self help organization. The visually impaired even had a significantly higher general self esteem, though their daily living skills self concept was less positive than that of the able-bodied. It indicated that joining self-help groups may help individuals with congenital deficiency to find mutual support and accept their limitations, thereby establishing a more positive self concept. Individuals with self-determined motivation also had more positive self concept in several dimensions, particularly in family and social self concept compared with those with introjected motivation. Physical impairment is not the determinant factor in self concept whereas motivation counts more.