

SPECIAL NEEDS CATEGORIES

Special Needs	Description
Emotional and Behavioral disorders	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) defines emotional and behavioral disorders as a range of mental health conditions that manifest as significant disturbances in an individual’s emotions and behaviors. These disorders can affect a person’s ability to function effectively in daily life, including in school, work, social interactions, and family settings.</p> <p><u>Characteristics</u></p> <p><i>Emotional Disorders:</i> These disorders involve disturbances in a person’s mood or emotional state. Common emotional disorders include depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorders, and mood disorders. Symptoms may include persistent sadness, excessive fear or worry, mood swings, and difficulty in managing emotions.</p> <p><i>Behavioral Disorders:</i> These involve patterns of disruptive or inappropriate behavior that are not typical for the person’s age and cultural background. Examples include attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), conduct disorder, and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). Symptoms may include hyperactivity, impulsiveness, aggression, defiance, and difficulty following rules. –</p>
Mental Health disorders	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health disorders as a wide range of conditions that affect an individual’s thinking, mood, behavior, or a combination of these. These disorders can significantly impact a person’s ability to function in daily life and can cause distress or impairment in their learning, social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.</p> <p><u>Characteristics</u></p> <p>Cognitive, Emotional, and Behavioral Symptoms: Mental health disorders can manifest in various ways, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive Symptoms: Issues with thinking, perception, and decision-making. Examples include hallucinations and delusions in schizophrenia, and disorganized thinking. • Emotional Symptoms: Disturbances in mood or feelings, such as persistent sadness in depression or extreme mood swings in bipolar disorder. • Behavioral Symptoms: Changes in behavior, such as social withdrawal, aggression, or compulsive actions. <p><u>Types of Mental Health Disorders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety Disorders: Including generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, and specific phobias. • Mood Disorders: Such as depression, bipolar disorder, and cyclothymic disorder. • Psychotic Disorders: Including schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, characterized by altered thinking and perception. • Personality Disorders: Including borderline personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, and others. • Substance Use Disorders: Involving the misuse of drugs or alcohol. • Eating Disorders: Such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder.

Chronic health conditions

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines chronic health conditions as long-lasting health conditions that persist over a significant period and generally cannot be cured completely. These conditions often require ongoing management to control symptoms and improve quality of life. Chronic health conditions can affect learning, and the children will require special education.

Common Chronic Health Conditions

- Asthma
- Hemophilia
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Cancer

Gifted and Talented

Giftedness refers to exceptional abilities or potential in one or more areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacities. Talented individuals often demonstrate high levels of performance in specific domains like music, sports, or academic subjects.

Characteristics

- **Exceptional Abilities:** Gifted individuals typically exhibit higher-than average intellectual abilities, creativity, or proficiency in specific areas compared to their peers.
- **Advanced Learning Capabilities:** They often learn more quickly, understand complex concepts, and exhibit advanced problem-solving skills.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Many gifted individuals show a high level of creativity and originality in their thinking and problem-solving.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines children in need of protection and care as those who require special safeguarding and support due to circumstances that compromise their health, safety, or development. This includes a range of situations where children are at risk or have experienced harm, and it encompasses various forms of vulnerability and maltreatment.

Characteristics

- **Abuse and Neglect:** Children who have been victims of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or neglect, which includes failure to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, medical care, or emotional support.
- **Exposure to Violence:** Children who are exposed to domestic violence, armed conflict, or other forms of violence that impact their well-being and safety.
- **Displacement and Exploitation:** Children who are displaced due to natural disasters, conflict, or other crises, including those who are at risk of exploitation, trafficking, or forced labor.
- **Health and Developmental Needs:** Children with severe health conditions or disabilities who require specialized medical care and support that they are not receiving.
- **Family and Social Issues:** Children who are living in environments where their basic needs are not being met due to socioeconomic factors, substance abuse, and mental health issues in the family, or other social determinants.