

4. A Study of Effect of Aural Reading (ICT based) on Language Comprehension of Students with Visual Impairments in Primary Schools of Delhi

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3	Topic of Research:	A Study of Effect of Aural Reading (ICT based) on Language Comprehension of Students with Visual Impairments in Primary Schools of Delhi
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5	Institution where the Research was Conducted:	Department of Education of Groups with special Needs (DEGSN), NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi
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ABSTRACT

For Children with Visual Impairments (CWVI), reading is either a tactile experience or aural experience. The objective of this study was to explore the effect of "aural reading" on reading comprehension in Hindi and English, through interactive customized ICT based textbooks that convert print into audio. This allows the students with and without Visual Impairments (VI) to study from the same printed textbook. The text for customization that is ICT based printing with tactile touch points, for easy interaction by students with VI was selected from NCERT class 5 textbooks for Hindi (5 lessons) and English (4 lessons). The lessons were chosen, in accordance with the prescribed syllabus for estimated time (month and school term) for data collection. During pilot phase, data was gathered in inclusive education (31 sighted students and 3 students with VI) as well as special education settings (25 students with VI). The pre-post test research design was adopted and it was found that majority of the responding sighted students (77%), preferred reading with the Smart Speak. 100 percent of the participating students with VI preferred to read with Smart Speak and their reasons for this preference include effortless reading (8%), no other means of accessing the printed text (40%), enjoyable reading (16%), description of images (16%) and help in correct pronunciation (8%). 100% of the responding students with VI found speed of audio output to be convenient. 100% of the responding students with VI reported sufficiency of the tactile touch points provided in the customized textbooks.