ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS AND SEVERE VISUAL IMPAIRMENT--A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY.
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DESCRIPTORS- *EXCEPTIONAL CHILD RESEARCH, *ADJUSTMENT (TO ENVIRONMENT), *VISUALLY HANDICAPPED, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS, ADULTS, BLIND, CHILDREN, PARTIALLY SIGHTED,

THE BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND ESSAYS CITED IN THIS BIBLIOGRAPHY ON ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS WERE EXTRACTED FROM THREE PRIMARY SOURCES--(1) THE MAJOR REFERENCE DOCUMENTS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES FOR THE YEARS 1955 THROUGH 1966, (2) LITERATURE FROM THE FIELD OF WORK FOR THE BLIND, AND (3) STANDARD BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON THE SUBJECT OF ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS. SECTION ONE OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTS 21 SELECTED REFERENCES FROM SOCIOLOGICAL LITERATURE, SECTION TWO LISTS 39 SELECTIONS ON ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS IN CHILDREN, AND SECTION THREE LISTS 160 ITEMS ON ADJUSTMENT AMONG ADULTS.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The following pages contain another in the series of provisional bibliographies which we are privileged to issue in the field of sensory research related to blindness and severe visual impairment.

The bibliography was prepared for us by Dr. Robert A. Scott, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. Readers may be interested to know that Dr. Scott is now preparing a book based on his study of the field of work for the blind, to be completed this summer, and to be published, it is hoped, next fall. A number of papers based on the study have already appeared, the most extensive of which is that in the journal Social Problems, Volume 14, No. 3 (Winter, 1967), and entitled, "The Selection of Clients by Social Welfare Agencies: The Case of the Blind."

On behalf both of Dr. Scott and of the Department of Research, we invite criticism from the reader of the content and scope of this bibliography. Our aim is to make it as useful to the researcher as we can, and your comments regarding its utility would be welcome.
This bibliography contains a selected list of articles, books, and essays concerning adjustment to blindness and severe visual impairment. The materials of which it consists have been extracted from three primary sources. First, extensive use was made of major reference documents of the social sciences. Many such documents were examined; the two from which a majority of materials were drawn are Psychology Abstracts and Sociology Abstracts. By and large, these standard reference sources were consulted for the years 1955 through 1966.

Second, I have recently completed a study of the entire field of work for the blind. In order to gain some appreciation for the nature of theory and practice in this field it was necessary to study its vast literature in some detail. I have selected for inclusion in this bibliography a number of the better essays, books, and articles on the subject of adjustment to blindness. By and large, these materials have been selected because of the major contributions they make toward conceptualizing the nature of the problem and/or because they contain important empirical data on the subject.

Third, there are a number of standard bibliographies on the subject of adjustment to blindness, the most widely known of which are The Emotional and Social Adjustment of Blind Children by M. L. Kellman Pringle; Blindiana, a project supported by the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, which is a bibliography of all aspects of blindness and work for the blind; and Social Research on Blindness by Milton D. Graham. I have drawn from these various sources the papers and research reports that have made the most important contributions toward understanding the phenomena of adjustment.

Finally, the concept of adjustment generally has been a concern of many social scientists, who have produced a large literature about it. It is beyond the scope of this document to include all such materials which have relevance for blindness and severe visual impairment, or even to include a representative sample of them. I have incorporated into the bibliography a few references from this literature which represent a point of view on adjustment that is distinctly sociological. These references are but a sample of the very rich sociological literature on the subject, and they are intended only to provide the interested reader with an entree into this field.

The key issue raised by the materials in this document, and indeed the key problem encountered in amassing it, is the exact meaning of the phrase "adjustment to blindness." It is a striking fact that while most of the authors whose works I have cited in Sections 2 and 3 explicitly address themselves to some aspect of the general question of adjustment, only a few of them attempt to define the term itself, or otherwise indicate what they have in mind when they use this concept. One is left to infer the meaning of the term from the manner in which it is used, and the worst fears of a rigorous thinker are confirmed by the inferences that are drawn thereby. Some authors use "adjustment" to refer to anything and everything that happens to a blind person
following the onset or identification of his condition; others limit it to the psychological and physical consequences that can be specifically related to the complete absence of vision. There are some who limit its use to physical restoration of persons who cannot see, while others think of it solely in terms of the psychological impact that the condition of blindness can have on a person. A number of writers—most of them—take for their primary focus the individual who cannot see; a very few take as their point of departure reactions of significant others to the blind person. Some think of adjustment as a short term matter, while others think of it as a more enduring process. Clearly, the most important task which now faces workers for the blind who are concerned with this subject is to formulate a commonly acceptable definition of the concept of adjustment to blindness which can serve as an effective guide to empirical research on the subject.

The fact that there is no agreed-upon definition of adjustment to blindness raises the question as to how it is possible to construct a bibliography on the subject. Specifically, what criteria of relevance could be used in order to compile it? I could find no easy or satisfactory rule of thumb to follow in deciding whether a particular publication should or should not be included in this bibliography. The guideline which I finally adopted was as follows: if the author explicitly stated or implied that his purpose for writing the paper, book, or report was to address himself to the matter of adjustment to blindness, it was included in the bibliography. It is recognized that this is a very poor criterion; yet, in the absence of any consensus about which of the symptoms and behaviors of blind persons are indicative of adjustment to that condition, we are left with no alternative. It is my hope that the reader who masters the literature cited in this document will then be in a position to make the conceptual distinctions that will result in a clearer differentiation between questions of adjustment and other questions about blindness.

Finally, the bibliography itself is divided into three sections. Section 1 contains the selected references from the sociological literature to which I have already made reference. Section 2 contains materials on the subject of adjustment to blindness in children. Section 3 contains materials relating to adjustment to blindness among adults.

—R. A. Scott
SECTION 1: SELECTED REFERENCES FROM SOCIOLOGICAL LITERATURE ON ADJUSTMENT


SECTION 2: CHILDREN


Caplan, Gerald, M.D. "A Study of the Reactions of Families Facing Certain 
Categories of Crises, e.g., Tuberculosis, Birth of Premature 
Baby, Birth of Baby with Congenital Anomaly, and the Birth of 
Twins with Reference to the Future Mental Health of Family 
Members." Harvard School of Public Health, Family Guidance 

Carr, L. B. "Preschool Blind Children and Their Parents," Children, 

Center For Blind Children. Problems of Adjustment of Handicapped Children. 

Cole, N. J., and Tarbaroff, L. H. "The Psychological Problems of the Con- 

Cowen; E. L. Adjustment Factors in Residential Blind Adolescents. Public 
Health Service, U.S. Department of HEW, Research Relating to 
Children, Bulletin No. 7, p. 86.

Cowen, E. L. Adjustment to Visual Disability in Adolescence. New York: 


New York; London: Appleton, 1933. New edition with additional 

Dennis, F. E. An Investigation of the Mental Ability, Educational Achieve- 
ment and Neurotic Tendencies of a Group of Partially Seeing 
Pupils, 1939. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Colorado, 
1939.

Eisenstadt, A. A. "Psychological Problems of the Parents of a Blind Child," 

Feuer, S. G. "Rehabilitation Problems of the Handicapped Child," Cerebral 

Figueroa, R. M. "El Niño Minorado y la Organización Familiar" (The 
Handicapped Child and the Organization of the Family) Acta neuro- 


SECTION 3: ADULTS


Correlates of Adjustment to Vision Loss. A Symposium under the sponsorship of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.


