

# [Example of research paper on abnormal behavior](https://assignbuster.com/example-of-research-paper-on-abnormal-behavior/)

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Worldwide mental retardation (MR) is one of the most common conditions affecting 1 to 3% of the general population. Clinically the symptoms differ from one individual to the other as it depends on the severity of the condition (Mental Retardation, 2010; Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation), 2011; Intellectual disability, 2013). However, few common symptoms associated with MR are as follows:   
- The intellectual developing milestones are not meet as expected.   
- Common features shown by the individuals with MR includes unable to do the routine activities independently, impetuous, passive, causing injury to self, inconvincible, rude behavior, frustrated and suffering from low self confidence.   
- The intelligence level is always below 70 which cause decrease in the learning capabilities.   
- Clinically the individuals with MR are found to be short when compared to normal individuals and also show some facial abnormalities.   
Mental retardation is a multifactorial condition which does not have a particular cause. However, the cause can be elucidated in only a small percent of the cases (Mental Retardation, 2010; Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation), 2011; Intellectual disability, 2013). Some of the causative factors identified so far are as follows:   
- Malnutrition suffered by the mothers during pregnancy.   
- Infections suffered by the mother during pregnancy or after birth.   
- Genetic chromosomal malformations or metabolic abnormalities in the child.   
- If the child during birth or soon after birth is deprived of oxygen or suffered from any kind of prenatal or postnatal trauma.   
- Exposed to toxic chemical poisons like mercury.

## Feedback

The diagnosis is made based on the characteristics features during infancy or before the age of 18 years, when the child is not developing motor skills, ability to talk and is unable to carry out routine activities. However, if the onset of the condition is found after 18 years of age, then the condition is termed as dementia. Both MR and dementia are usually found to exist together in an individual (Mental Retardation, 2010; Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation), 2011; Intellectual disability, 2013).   
After a complete diagnosis has been made and the scale at which the child is developing is determined, a proper treatment plan can be made. The first step is always to develop the child potential to the maximum by providing specific training and education. As there are always associated clinical symptoms with MR, by providing specific medications and care to manage the conditions, the child with MR can be treated efficiently (Mental Retardation, 2010; Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation), 2011; Intellectual disability, 2013).

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Learning Disorder   
Learning disorder is one of the common disorders associated with the nervous system. In this condition the nervous system which controls the learning capabilities to understand new information or using a particular language to speak or write. In the United States of America, about 7. 66% of the population is affected with learning disorder. Although many a times, children with average or above average intelligence also have difficulties in learning some basic skills academically. This could be mainly because of learning disorder. It is also commonly known as “ hidden disorder” as the diagnosis cannot be made easily. Some of the other common disorders which are confused with learning disorders are mental retardation, blindness, deafness, autism, behavioral disorders, attention deficit syndromes and attention deficit hyperactive disorders (What Causes Learning Disabilities, 2010; Learning disabilities, 2011; Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Learning Disorders, 2012).   
The symptoms manifest itself differently in different individuals depending on the severity of the disorder (What Causes Learning Disabilities, 2010; Learning disabilities, 2011; Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Learning Disorders, 2012). The most common symptoms are:   
- Difficulty in reading and writing (commonly known as dyslexia).   
- Difficulty in remembering things, unable to pay attention and unable to stay organized.   
There are several factors which might contribute to the development of learning disorder. Some of them are injury to the brain during birth or after birth, abnormalities in the process of brain development, disruption in the neuro-chemical balance and/or genetic factors (hereditary) (What Causes Learning Disabilities, 2010; Learning disabilities, 2011; Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Learning Disorders, 2012).   
Feedback   
The disorder manifests itself early in childhood; however the condition cannot be identified until the child starts attending school. Majority of the children with learning disorder have attention deficit hyperactive syndrome (ADHD) as well which adds to the challenge in order to focus on learning (What Causes Learning Disabilities, 2010; Learning disabilities, 2011; Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Learning Disorders, 2012).   
So far there is no treatment to cure the condition. However, by providing special attention, appropriate care and timely intervention children with learning disorder are able to attend school and can carry out routine activities without much difficulty (What Causes Learning Disabilities, 2010; Learning disabilities, 2011; Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Learning Disorders, 2012).   
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Autism   
Autism is a complex disorder caused by the abnormalities in the neurological system. It is a combination of 5 different conditions which includes Autistic disorder, Childhood Disintegrative disorder (CDD), Retts disorder, Pervasive developmental disorder – not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Aspergers disorder. In the United States of America alone the prevalence of autism has been found to be 0. 47% in the population. It has been found that males are more affected than the females and the disorder can affect anyone irrespective of the race or lifestyle (Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Ruggles, 2012; Autism, 2013).   
The symptoms of autism vary from child to child, however it could be mild or severe depending on the severity of the condition. For example, one child might be active, talkative, intelligent and engaged whereas another child might not be talkative, challenged intellectually and might keep to oneself (Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Ruggles, 2012; Autism, 2013). Some of the symptoms of autism are as follows:   
- Children talk unusually long sentences which may not be in conversations with others.   
- They are active moving continuously doing things the same way every time.   
- They are also very emotional, frustrated, cause self injury and throw tantrums for no particular reasons.   
- They might also be prefer to be alone, inactive and not wish to socialize.   
- In some severe cases children also develop seizures and epilepsy.   
The cause of autism has not been clearly understood so far. However, it has been hypothesized that abnormalities during brain development which affects the functions and or structure could cause autism. To support this hypothesis, comparative studies carried out on the brain between autistic and non autistic children have shown that the structure of the brain is different between the two groups. Researchers have also come up with several other causative factors contributing to the cause of autism which includes environmental factors, genetic factors and developmental abnormalities. There is also a theory which indicates that the vaccines given to children might be the primary cause for autism (Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Ruggles, 2012; Autism, 2013).   
Feedback   
Autism may or may not be evident in children until the ages of 2 to 6 years, but the characteristics can be noticed as early as infancy. The diagnosis is usually made based on the behavior, communication skills and overall development. However, there are no specific tests to diagnose autism (Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Ruggles, 2012; Autism, 2013).   
So far there is no cure for autism. The only way to manage the condition is through special therapy, special attention and care. The treatment plan should include developing the social skills and addressing both verbal and nonverbal communication (Developmental Disabilities Increasing in US, 2011; Ruggles, 2012; Autism, 2013).   
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Psychosis   
Psychosis is a common mental problem which is defined as the abnormality of the mind wherein the individuals suffering from this condition are unable to distinguish between reality and imagination. Psychotic is the general term used to describe individual suffering from such conditions. Worldwide, it has been found that 1 in every 100 individuals are affected by this condition. The condition manifests itself after the age of 15 years or above (Psychosis, 2012).   
There are two main symptoms associated with this condition, (Psychosis, 2012) they are:   
- Hallucinations: Individuals suffering from this condition tend to imagine things which are not there like hearing voices, seeing things and smelling things.   
- Delusions: Individuals will formulate things which are non existing like believing that someone in the family or a neighbor or a friend is planning to hurt them.   
In many cases both the symptoms are found to coexist which can severely upset the rational thinking and behavior of an individual (Psychosis, 2012).   
This particular condition is not a condition by itself; however several factors (neurological disorders) act like a trigger to activate the condition. Some conditions which have been found to trigger the manifestation of the condition are schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, parkinson disease, brain tumor, drug or alcohol abuse. However, time frame for the psychotic episodes triggered by different conditions is different. Some might last for few days and in some cases it might last for a long time until proper treatment is not given (Psychosis, 2012).   
Feedback   
Diagnosis of the condition is usually done by psychiatric evaluation and some blood tests. Although, blood tests are not required, in many cases they help to confirm the diagnosis. The common tests that are carried out are electrolyte and hormone level check in the blood; detection of infections like syphilis; screening for drugs and a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of the brain (Psychosis, 2012).   
The treatment plan involves various methods in order to effectively treat psychosis (Psychosis, 2012). Some of the methods used are as follows:   
- Medications: Antipsychotic medications are commonly used in order to ease the symptoms of the condition.   
- Therapy: Psychological therapies are used in order to understand the cause of the condition.   
- Support and care: As individuals who are suffering from psychosis are unaware of their condition, by providing proper support and care one can help manage the condition effectively.   
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Mood Disorder   
Mood Disorder is one of the most common psychological conditions. Mood is defined as an emotional state of mind which is displayed externally in the form of feelings. Mood disorder is found to affect all age groups among which females are more affected than the males. It has been found that about 15 to 20% of the individuals suffer from mood disorder at some time point or the other in their lifetime (Hon; Mood disorder, 2006; Mood disorder, 2013).   
Irrespective of the age at which the condition manifests itself, the symptoms are found to be similar. The common symptoms are depression or unhappy mood which could last for a long time; lack of energy; abnormal eating and sleeping habits; irritability and frustrated; feeling of helplessness and hopelessness and many a times suicidal. (Hon; Mood disorder, 2006; Mood disorder, 2013).   
Based on the symptoms, mood disorders can be classified into different types (Hon; Mood disorder, 2006; Mood disorder, 2013). They are:   
- Major Depression: Individuals feel unhappy along with lack of energy, tiredness, unable to concentrate on things, changes in eating habits and sleeping pattern and suicidal.   
- Dysthymia: This is a milder form of major depression with milder symptoms.   
- Seasonal affective disorder: This type of mood disorder is usually associated with the season like winter.   
- Postpartum Depression: This type of disorder is found in women after delivering a child. However, this condition resolves by itself but in some rare cases it results in psychosis.   
- Bipolar Disorder: This is commonly known are manic depression which is found to manifest by severe mood swings from depression to mania.   
- Mood disorder not otherwise specified (NOS): Individuals suffering from such type of mood disorder show mild depression which is similar to bipolar disorder.   
There is no particular cause for mood disorder, however, there are reports supporting the genetic link to the condition. There are also reports of environmental factors and stress contributing to the manifestation of the condition (Hon; Mood disorder, 2006; Mood disorder, 2013).   
Feedback   
The treatment options are different for different types of mood disorders. However, the effective treatment is achieved using a combination of psychotherapy and specific medications. The duration of the treatment can last for a few weeks in some cases and in some severe cases might last for years as well (Hon; Mood disorder, 2006; Mood disorder, 2013).   
- Psychotherapy: This is one of the most effective methods which are used to treat the condition. There are 3 different types of psychotherapy, they are :   
- Cognitive behavioral therapy: This kind of therapy helps individuals to recognize the abnormal behaviors like negative thinking, anger, irritability etc. which could lead them to depression and helps them to change the same. This type of treatment has been found to be effective for mood disorders like major depression, mood disorder NOS, seasonal affective disorder and dysthymia.   
- Interpersonal therapy: In many cases of mood disorders, troubled interpersonal relationship are the main causative factors. In such cases, therapy to develop interpersonal relationships is given to individuals with mood disorders. This kind of therapy has been found to be effective in individuals suffering from major depression, mood disorder NOS and dysthymia.   
- Social rhythm therapy: Stress has been found to be one of the causative factors for mood disorder. In such cases therapy to balance work and personal life is given to manage the mood disorder. This kind of therapy is found to be effective in individuals suffering from postpartum disorder, bipolar disorder, mood disorder NOS and seasonal affective disorder.   
- Medication: In many cases different kinds of psychotherapy does not yield good results. In such cases, specific medications are required to treat the mood disorders like anti-depressants (SSRIs). Medications which stabilize the mood are also required in many cases. The course of the treatment can last for few weeks or might also take several months until the condition improves.   
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Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)   
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common behavioral disorder found in children and adults. Initially ADHD was known as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Individuals with this condition have difficulty in focusing on a particular task, are usually impulsive and are constantly in motion as they are unable to sit in one place. If timely treatment is not provided, the condition can cause issues at the personal level, at school or at work (Rabiner, 2006; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), 2010; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)-Topic Overview, 2011).   
- The symptoms differ from one individual to the other based on the severity of the disorder. However, the most common symptoms of ADHD are as follows (Rabiner, 2006; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), 2010; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)-Topic Overview, 2011):   
- Individuals have difficulty in focusing on a particular task as they are distracted very easily.   
- Individuals with ADHD are unable to be in one place for a long time as they are hyperactive.   
- Individuals are also impulsive, as they act before actually thinking a situation through.   
So far the possible cause of ADHD has not been elucidated; however, there is evidence which supports genetic factors as a possible cause for the condition. It is believed that these factors affect the normal functioning of the brain in the region which is responsible for behavior. However, in many cases the condition is found to be inherited in families (Rabiner, 2006; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), 2010; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)-Topic Overview, 2011).   
Feedback   
The condition is diagnosed usually when a child is between the age group of 6 to 12 years. Based on a complete physical examination of the child which includes symptoms of learning disorder, signs of depression or anxiety disorder the diagnosis of the condition can be made (Rabiner, 2006; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), 2010; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)-Topic Overview, 2011).   
So far there is no cure found to treat ADHD. However, there are two treatment options which can be utilized in order to manage the symptoms. They are (Rabiner, 2006; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), 2010; Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)-Topic Overview, 2011):   
- Medications: By using specific medication the symptoms of ADHD can be controlled. However, the medications tend to have serious side effects like headache, gastric problems, loss of appetite, loss of sleep etc. Care should be taken when such medicines are prescribed.   
- Psychological behavior therapy: This kind of therapy concentrates on making specific changes around the child which would in turn aid in the improvement of the behavior.   
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Personality Disorder   
Personality disorder is an abnormal mental condition in which affected individual think and feel differently; perceive things and related to others in a different manner when compared to an average individual. The causative factor for personality disorder has been found to be mainly genetic factors. However, if during childhood, any kind of abuse or neglect is experienced; it has also been found to contribute to the cause (Personality disorder, 2010; Personality disorder: Overview, 2010; Treating a Personality disorder, 2012).   
Although the symptoms are different between individuals, some of the most common symptoms seen are as follows (Personality disorder, 2010; Personality disorder: Overview, 2010; Treating a Personality disorder, 2012):   
- Individuals are distressed and angry; suffer from anxiety and mood swings and feel worthless.   
- Depressed, emotionally disconnected and withdrawn from individuals around them.   
- Depend on drugs and alcohol in order to manage their abnormal behavior.   
Based on the characteristic symptoms, there are several types of personality disorders. The three common personality disorders are as follows (Personality disorder, 2010; Personality disorder: Overview, 2010; Treating a Personality disorder, 2012):   
- Paranoid personality disorder: Individuals are unable to trust anyone, are withdrawn and in some cases hostile.   
- Schizoid personality disorder: Unable to show interest to be social and are not emotional.   
- Schizotypal personality disorder: Individuals are different from the normal individual in the way of dressing, behavior, thoughts and beliefs. They are unable to have normal relationships with people around them and do not show normal emotional responses depending on the situations.   
Feedback   
Personality disorder is usually made based on a complete physical exam, followed by laboratory tests which includes total blood cell count, tests for drugs, tests for thyroid and liver function and finally by psychological evaluation (Personality disorder, 2010; Personality disorder: Overview, 2010; Treating a Personality disorder, 2012).   
The most common treatment options available for this condition are psychological therapies like psychotherapy, psychodynamic therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and interpersonal therapy. So far there is no medicine which has been approved to be used to treat this condition, however, medications to control other associated symptoms like anxiety, depression and psychotic behavior is usually prescribed (Personality disorder, 2010; Personality disorder: Overview, 2010; Treating a Personality disorder, 2012).   
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Depression   
Depression is a kind of mood disorder wherein the individual suffering from the disorder are unhappy and feel miserable. Although, this condition is experienced by an individual at one point or the other during once lifetime, it usually last for a short time. However, clinical depression is a chronic condition that lasts for very long time (Grohol, 2007; Depression, 2012; Depression (Major depression), 2012).   
The symptoms of the condition manifest itself differently in different individuals. Some of the common symptoms are as follows (Grohol, 2007; Depression, 2012; Depression (Major depression), 2012):   
- Feeling unhappy and sad for no particular reason.   
- Frustrated, irritated, agitated and restless on trivial issues.   
- Unable to take part in the routine activities due to lack of interest.   
- Suffering from lack of sleep or sleeping excessively followed by lack of sex drive.   
- Loss of appetite which cause weight loss whereas in some could increase the appetite which cause the weight to increase.   
- Unable to process information, make decisions and remember things.   
- Suffer from lack of energy to carry out routine activities.   
- Feeling guilty for things happened in the past, emotional and suicidal.   
- Some of the physical abnormalities associated with depression are frequent headaches and back pain.   
Like all other behavioral disorders, depression also does not have a definite cause. However, there are reports of biological factors like genetics and chemical imbalances; psychological conditions and social conditions contributing to the cause of depression. Depression can also be caused by conditions like mental disorder, stress, depression history in the family or chronic illness (Grohol, 2007; Depression, 2012; Depression (Major depression), 2012).   
Feedback   
There are no specific blood tests to diagnose depression. Only by a complete physical and psychological examination by an expert one can diagnose the condition (Grohol, 2007; Depression, 2012; Depression (Major depression), 2012).   
Depression can be treated using specific medications like antidepressants and psychotherapy which includes cognitive behavioral and interpersonal therapy. With timely treatment and care depression can be treated and prevented from reoccurring again at a later stage (Grohol, 2007; Depression, 2012; Depression (Major depression), 2012).   
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Dementia   
Dementia is not an abnormal condition by itself whereas it is a collection of symptoms caused by different kinds of disorders associated with loss of memory and the ability to think. This is a progressive disorder which manifests itself after 65 years of age (About dementia, 2012; What is dementia? 2013; Dementia, 2013).   
The symptoms vary depending on the area of the brain which is affected and also differs between individuals. Some of the common symptoms are as follows (About dementia, 2012; What is dementia? 2013; Dementia, 2013):   
- Loss of memory.   
- Loss of the ability to communicate and socialize.   
- Loss of the ability to concentrate and focus on a particular task.   
- Unable to reason and judge a particular situation.   
- Lack of interest in carrying out routine activities.   
- Loss of control over emotions.   
Based on the symptoms, dementia can be classified into two types namely, Alzheimer’s disease which is about 60 to 80% of the total cases and vascular dementia which is found to occur after suffering from stoke. However, other conditions like abnormal thyroid conditions and vitamin deficiencies have also been found to cause dementia (About dementia, 2012; What is dementia? 2013; Dementia, 2013).   
The damage to the nerve cells in the brain in areas which control behavior and reasoning capabilities causes dementia. Some of the factors which could cause damage to the brain are side effects from medications, drug or alcohol abuse, abnormal thyroid functions, vitamin deficiencies and depression (About dementia, 2012; What is dementia? 2013; Dementia, 2013).   
Feedback   
There is no specific test to diagnose dementia, however by performing a complete physical examination, performing specific blood tests to check for hormonal levels and deficiencies and by taking a complete medical history of the individuals one can diagnose dementia (About dementia, 2012; What is dementia? 2013; Dementia, 2013).   
There is no cure for dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease, however proper care and medications to improve the conditions are prescribed in order to manage the condition. There are treatment options available to treat dementia caused by hormonal imbalances and vitamin deficiencies. In such cases, by taking specific supplements one can treat dementia effectively (About dementia, 2012; What is dementia? 2013; Dementia, 2013).   
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Cognitive Disorders   
Cognitive disorder is a mental illness which affects the normal thinking capabilities which is caused by damage to the brain. The symptoms vary depending on the severity of the condition as well as between two individuals. Some of the common symptoms are loss of memory (short term or long term), reasoning capabilities, perception, process information, judgment, inability to recognize a particular language and unorganized thinking (Cognitive Disorders, 2012; Cognitive Disorders, 2013; Steckl, 2013).   
Based on the symptoms cognitive disorders can be grouped into four groups namely (Cognitive Disorders, 2012; Cognitive Disorders, 2013; Steckl, 2013):   
- Dementia: In this condition, individuals lose their memory, are unable to concentrate on a particular task and take decisions. Dementia is a progressive disorder which worsens over time found commonly among elderly people.   
- Delirium: This condition is caused by illness affecting both mental and physical well being. The brain function is disrupted causing memory loss and confusions. This condition is usually found secondary to dementia occurring in individuals above the age of 65 years. This condition can be reversed with proper treatment and care.   
- Amnesia: In this condition only the memory is lost although the individuals have normal behavior.   
There are several factors which could cause cognitive disorder. Factors like age, injury to the head causing brain damage, abnormal medical conditions, infections, chemical imbalance or drug abuse (Cognitive Disorders, 2012; Cognitive Disorders, 2013; Steckl, 2013).   
Feedback   
The diagnosis is made based of a complete physical examination followed by neurological examination. In many cases imagining test like MRI, laboratory blood tests which includes thyroid levels and liver function tests are also performed (Cognitive Disorders, 2012; Cognitive Disorders, 2013; Steckl, 2013).   
The options available to treat these conditions include medications and psychotherapy. Psychotherapy helps the individuals to manage the emotional aspects associated with the disorder. Whereas, medications to prevent, control and reduce the symptom along with associated conditions are also prescribed (Cognitive Disorders, 2012; Cognitive Disorders, 2013; Steckl, 2013).   
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