

CC 11 Module II Unit I  
Sem III (M.A Education)

# Definition, Concept and Types of Exceptional Children

# Concept

The quality of being exceptional is known as exceptionality.

The question, thus, lies w.r.t

*What is meant by being exceptional?*

In the most basic sense, exceptional children are

- the ones who appear to differ greatly or show certain degree of variation in their mental, physical, social and emotional facets from other typical kids of their *age* and *grade* because of their exceptionality.
- they may be characterized as having a special *quality* or *attribute* or *personality trait* that may be of a *positive*, *negative*, or *mixed* nature in one or more areas.

Such a deviation, whether *positive* or *negative*, has the potential to affect them *negatively* or *positively* in terms of their *adjustment* and *developmental issues*. For this reason, special education and rehabilitation measures are necessary to ensure their proper welfare, at large.

# Definitions

□ **Crow & Crow (1973)** has pointed that “The term ‘atypical’ or ‘exceptional’ is applied to a trait or to a person possessing the trait up to the extent of deviation from normal, possession of the trait is so great that because of it the individual warrants or receives special attention from his fellows and his behavior responses and activities are there by affected”

□ According to **W.M. Cruickshank (1974)** “An exceptional child is he who deviates, physically, intellectually and socially so marked by from normal growth and development that he cannot be benefited from regular classroom programme and needs special treatment in school.”

□ In the words of **Telford & Swarey (1977)** ‘The term exceptional children refer to those children who deviates from the normal in physical, mental, emotional or social characteristics to such a degree that they require special social and educational services to develop their maximum capacity’

❑ In the words of **Heward, (2012)** “Exceptional children differ from the norm, either above or below, in physical attributes or learning ability to such an extent that they need specialized educational services or physical accommodations to benefit fully from schooling.”

## Summarization:

**Exceptional children** as a connotation, is an inclusive term encompassing children with learning and/or behaviour problems, children with physical disabilities or sensory impairments, and children who are intellectually gifted or have a special talent.

Thus, as a concept, includes not only those children who experience difficulties in learning but also those children whose performance is so superior that modifications in curriculum, teaching methodology and instructions are necessary to help them fulfill their potential.

# Characteristics

1. Children who are believed to be exceptional are deviant, distinct, and different from other kids their age, especially those considered as normal kids and can easily be distinguished from other children because of their differences.
2. Owing to vast deviations on both sides of their exceptionality, they either outperform the norm in one or more parts of their personality.
3. This deviation incorporates children who may fall on any side either excelling or failing in any or all dimensions of growth and development - social, emotional, physical and mental.
4. Due to their exceptionality, these kids need specialised care and education because they could have trouble adjusting to both their surroundings and themselves.

# Types

