

Self-esteem of people with visual impairment

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This chapter will begin with definition of self-esteem. However, to understand self-esteem, it is essential to clearly distinguish between self-concept and self-esteem. After that, I will critically discuss the notion of a self-esteem construct. It seems impossible to understand the meaning of self-esteem and how it develops and functions unless addressing different self domains.

Therefore, a multidimensional hierarchical concept of self-esteem will be presented. Within this topic, I shall discuss how different domains may (or may not) impact global self-esteem. This will introduce us to the importance self-esteem; we need to know whether, as believed by many people, high self-esteem is good and does low self-esteem leave undesired consequences on human health. Following this, I will present up-to-date studies that have addressed self-esteem of children, adolescents and young adults with visual impairment (VI). As will be made clear in the chapter, there still appears to be a contradiction as to whether this population have lower self-esteem than their sighted peers. Importantly, reasons for believing that people with VI have relatively low self-esteem will be identified and discussed. At the end of this chapter, I will present the strategies for self-esteem improvement of the general population followed by my view, based on the recent findings, regarding self-esteem improvement of people with VI.

Cite chapter

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