



Early childhood developmental problems in India

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Abstract

India is a poor country with second largest population of the world. Every child before birth has long chain of problems that affect his development after birth. Child care and appropriate facilities are primary concern of state and national govt. There are various schemes of funding and promoting child health and education sponsored by govt. Present study is focused on finding of problems of early childhood development.

Keywords: childhood development, health, education

Introduction

More than 200 million children under the age of five in the developing countries are at risk because of poverty, nutritional deficiencies and inadequate learning opportunities. In addition, 165 million children are stunted, with 90 percent of those children living in Africa and Asia. Child death is a tragedy for humanity. At 6 million deaths a year, far too many children perish before reaching the age of five. These children get benefit from early childhood development programs of govt., WHO for fighting poverty and reducing inequality.

Maternal under nutrition affects 10 to 19 percent of women in developing countries and 16 percent of births are low birth weight. Malnutrition during pregnancy is linked to low birth weight and impaired physical development in children, with possible links also to the development of their social and cognitive skills. The home environment, including parent-child interactions and exposure to stressful experiences, influences the cognitive and socio-emotional development of children.

Healthy and well-nourished children are more likely to develop to their full physical, cognitive and socio-emotional potential than children who are frequently ill, suffer from vitamins, minerals, proteins or other deficiencies and are stunted or underweight. Early childhood education is also important for their development. Aangan wadis are established by govt. in every village and ward in city to take care of health and education of children.

Objective

- Finding of developmental problems of children of age 1 day-1 year
- Finding of developmental problems of children of age 1-2 year

- Finding of developmental problems of children of age 2-3 year

Hypothesis

1. There are no significant developmental problems of children of age 1 day-1 year.
2. There are no significant developmental problems of children of age 1-2 years.
3. There are no significant developmental problems of children of age 2-3 years.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was used for present study. 300 children of age of 1 day to 3 years were selected randomly as sample for study. They were categorized according to age. Their parents were interviewed regarding problems of child care using self-prepared questionnaire. Collected data was tabulated and comparatively analyzed using mean value and standard deviation as statistical tools.

Finding and analysis

Table 1: Status of Early Childhood Development Problems

Problems	No. of Child Affected %		
	0-1 Year	1-2 Year	2-3 Year
Poverty	38	36	33
Illiterate Parents	24	23	22
Lack of Hygiene	31	28	26
Weak Social Structure	18	16	16
Lack of Nutritious Food	29	27	24
Lack of Primary Health Care Centers	22	19	18
Lack of Immunization	27	24	22

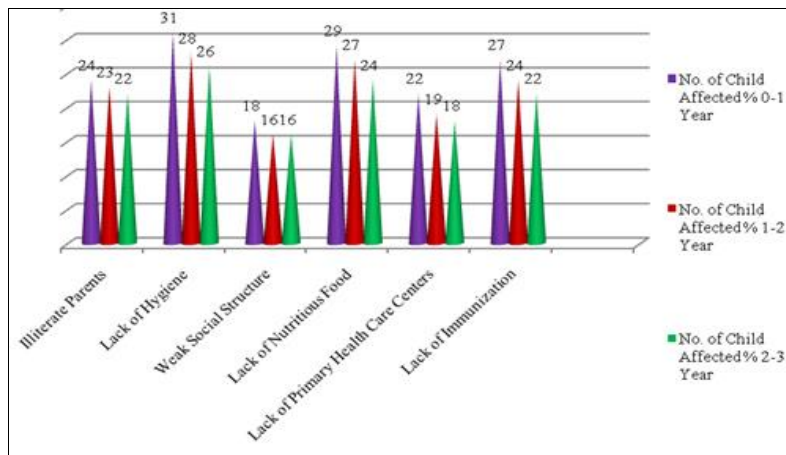


Fig 1: Status of Early Childhood Development Problems

Data table shows that poverty is biggest problem for all categories child. It affects 38% less than 1 yr child, 24% children are affected due to illiteracy of parents, lack of hygiene become problem for 31%, week social infra influence 18%, lack of nutritious food become problem for 29%, lack of primary health care centers is problematic for 22% and lack of immunization affects 27% children. Hence hypothesis 1, there are no significant developmental problems of children of age 1day-1 year is rejected.

Among kids of 1-2 year, 36% are affected due to poverty, 28% lack of hygiene, 27% lack of nutritious foods, 24% lack of immunization and 23% due to illiterate parents. Thus hypothesis 2, there are no significant developmental problems of children of age 1-2 years is rejected.

Data related to 2-3 yr kids indicate that 33% are affected due to poverty, 26% because of lack of hygiene, 24% lack of nutritious food, 22% lack of immunization and illiterate parents. Therefore hypothesis 3, there are no significant developmental problems of children of age 2-3 years is rejected.

Conclusion

Despite recent advances in the area, World Bank funding, WHO active participation there is still insufficient awareness of the importance of development in the early years of life on future well-being. More social awareness is required to save children. Child health related basic aspects may include in basic education. Knowledge and easy availability of balanced and nutritious diet may help children to save from neurological and cognitive diseases.

References

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