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Short Note

Impact of intervention on female infant's temperament in Palam valley of Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

An intervention for a period of six months regarding temperament was imparted to the experimental group mothers and their infants with proper stimulation. Both the groups (Experimental and control) were post tested after six months. The control group showed less change in comparison to experiment group with regards to temperament. The intervention had a significant effect on the rural female temperament in the experimental group.

Keywords: Female infants, temperament, impact, intervention.

Children are the basis of any society and must have top priority on societies commitment at all points of time. They are the eternal source of inspiration and hope. The potentialities of children are to be brought out to the maximum and their innate qualities of hand, head and heart need to be properly nourished and developed, because all educability is dependent upon innate capacities of growth. The first year of the life is formative and impressionable. Infancy is a period of prodigious growth and learning. Not only physical structures and functions develop, but personality characteristics also become well defined and patterned. Girl child occupies a prominent place in the demography of any country. Female children form 20 per cent of the country's population and their welfare and development should be a matter of a national priority. They are the future human resources of a nation; therefore, it is impaperative to promote their health and to protect them from diseases because only a healthy body has healthy mind.

Temperament of the child can be moulded right after the birth. It is easy to change the temperament of a child rather than to change as adult's temperament. Temperament of a child includes parameters such as emotional sensitivity of the child, adjustability of the child, less strange anxiety and different aspects of personality. Temperament of a person can be defined as stable individual differences in quality and intensity of emotional reaction.

The word intervention means mediation and it has been derived from the word intervene which means to modify existing skills, practices and to prevent the undesirable actions and to bring out desirable changes. Intervention programme is the programme, which is based on preplanned activities using in indigenously available and low cost materials to enhance the physical, motor, and cognitive development of the children.

A total of 60 female infants' belonging to the age group of seven to twelve months' were selected from two clusters of villages in the Panchrukhi Block of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, one experimental and other control group. An equal number of infants (n= 30 each) were selected from experimental and control group. After six months of intervention, these sub-groups came in the category of 13-14 months, 15-16 months and 17-18 months, respectively. The temperament was also to be controlled, in other words both the controlled and experimental group had to be similar on these parameters. So there was need to assess the temperament. Child's temperament scale was used during intervention. The inventory to know child's temperament consisted of 20 items on temper tantrums of the infants, react strongly or not, happy and satisfied shy, friendly, active and responsive nature, etc.

It is clear from the table 1 that majority of the infants i.e. 53.4 per cent had better temperament and 46.6 per cent had average temperament during pre and post testing in experimental group while in control group 56.6 percent had better temperament and 43.4 percent

had average temperament . After post testing 83.4 percent infants had better temperament whereas in control group no change was observed in infant's temperament. From the table 2 it is observed that the infants in experimental group of 7-8 months had mean scores of child's temperament as 76.0, 9-10 months infants had a mean score as 73.4 and 11-12 months infants had a mean score as 77.5 during pre testing. While in the control group the infants had a mean score of 75 (age of 7-8 months), 72.3 (age of 9-10 months) and 74.5 (age of 11-12 months). After post testing infants had an increase in their mean scores which were 79.3 for infants of age 13-14 months, 77.3 for infants of age 15-16 months and 80 .0 for infants of age 17-18 months. No change in the mean scores of control group was observed after post testing but an increase in mean scores was observed.

Table 1. Distribution of scores regarding child's temperament

Scores	Pre Test		Post Test	
	Experimental group	Control group	Experimental group	Control group
20-46	-	-	-	-
47-73	14(46.6)	13(43.4)	5 (16.6)	14(46.6)
74-100	16(53.4)	17(56.6)	25 (83.4)	16 (53.4)

Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage

Table 2. Mean and Standard deviation of Child's temperament

Age in months	Groups	Pre test Mean	SD	t-value
7-8	Experimental Group	76	4.7	0.19
	Control group	75	13.9	
9-10	Experimental Group	73.4	3.0	0.79
	Control group	72.3	3.4	
11-12	Experimental Group	77.5	6.1	1.31
	Control group	74.5	3.2	
		Post test		
13-14	Experimental Group	79.3	3.7	1.85
	Control group	75.5	4.4	
15-16	Experimental Group	77.3	6.3	2.27*
	Control group	72.5	2.6	
17-18	Experimental Group	80	4.7	3.18**
	Control group	74.5	3.2	

* Significant at 5% level of significance
** Significant of 1% level of significance

The results of the study revealed significant effect of intervention as adjudged from the increase in scores of experimental group after intervention. The results are in line with those reported by Verma *et al.* (2001) and Khadi *et al.* (2002) who also observed that educational intervention had a significant impact on enhancing the infant's temperament.

References

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