

A Study on the Development of Tribal Children of Mysore District, Karnataka

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Abstract

The present study was carried out to evaluate the developmental levels of the pre-school children. The all round development of the child has long since received global recognition. Experts in the field of education and child development emphasize the need to provide the proper environment for the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of the child during the first six years of its life. The data collected using the development tools and collected data were then scored and statistically analyzed.

Keywords: Physical development; Personal-Social; Mental growth.

Introduction

The period between 3-6 years is the most impressionable and educationally potent period of the child life. During this period rapid physical and mental growth takes place in the child, language develops from the initial birth cry to a large vocabulary of words. The importance of the early years of life in the personality development has been emphasized by Freud as according to him "child is the father of man". The bare structure of personality is formed by the age of five years. Rousseau (1972) in his book "Emile" is credited with identifying the period of childhood as important. He described that a child is just not a small or young adult, but in fact going through a unique period in his life. Childhood -a time when, like a flower the child is "unfolding and growing". Bloom (1964) in his book "Stability and Change in Human Characteristic"

has argued that major changes in the personality characteristic are not possible after the child has reached a high level of stability.

Physical development refers to a progress, which brings about bodily and physiological changes internal as well as external in an organism from conception till death. The Childs physical development has a marked influence on the quality and quantity of his behavior. Height and weight are frequently used criteria for judging physical status and progress. Physical development is the most obvious aspect of development and has an important bearing on the Children's total development. "Emotions are pointed out as not fixed entities. They change with age throughout infancy, childhood and youth. The difference in health and environment produce individual variations in the frequency, intensity and duration of the different emotion. Emotions are one of the

most important aspects of behavior at all ages. They are important determinants of beliefs, attitudes, interest and adjustment to the social world. The form of expression that child uses will depend on what it has learned in socially approved in its cultural group. Language is very important in the process of child development, because the child learns many things from others with the help of language. Language is a means of use of intelligence and reasoning, without language, the child cannot express feelings and ideas. Personal and social development are usually associated with the development of power of self-expression, which enables the child to be independent, socialization as the process by which the child learns to interact with the expectations and obligations of various group.

The Population

Hakkipikki

The Hakkipikkis, a tribal population of Mysore district are known by different names in different regions; in their own dialect the Hakkipikkis call themselves as Raj Pardhi. In Kannada speaking areas of Mysore they are named as Hakkipikkis, people in Nilgiris call them Guddi Bethe. In the Hindi speaking regions this tribe is known as Mel Shikari. They speak a dialect known as Vaghri, which is a mixture of Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi and Rajasthani languages (Mann, 1980). It is originated from Indo-Aryan languages. They are multi-occupational. The main occupation of the Hakkipikki is flower making, doll making, those owing lands as well as bullocks, switch on to agriculture in the season and then primarily may appeal to an outsider only as cultivators.

Iruliga

The Iruligas are a Jungle tribe, speaking a mixture of Kannada and Tamil. They are found in the districts of Mysore and Bangalore as also on the slopes of the Mysore side of the Nilgiris. The Irulas, as their name indicates (Irul-black) is the darkest of the hill tribes of southern India. They possess the Negroid traits (short stature, flat nose, and prominent cheekbones, curly or wavy hair, and narrow foreheads). In some localities their marriage ceremonies are simple. Where they live in contact with the lower castes of the plains, they have imbibed their customs. The primary occupations are hunting, collection of honey, cultivation, basket making and agricultural labourers.

Jenu Kuruba

The Jenukuruba is one of the major tribal groups of Karnataka. The prefix Jenu means "honey", Kuruba indicates their caste name. The Kuruba is the name of a large shepherd community of Karnataka Plateau (Aiyappan, 1948). As the name suggests Jenu Kurubas are honey gatherers. Jenu Kurubas main concentration is in Mysore and Kodagu districts. In Mysore district they are mainly concentrated in Hunsur, H.D. Kote and Periyapatna taluks. They have their own dialect known as "Jenuudi" and follow the Kannada script. They speak with outsiders in Kannada.

Kadu Kuruba

The Kadu Kuruba is one of the subgroups of the Kuruba, inhabiting the area of Wynad, Nilgiris and the Mysore district. Kadu Kuruba are also called Betta Kuruba. They are concentrated in the Mysore district and also in Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada and Hassan district within the Mysore district; they are settled in H.D. Kote, Hunsur, Periyapatna and Nanjangud taluks. They are dark or dark brown in colour, and a short stature with woolly hair, brownish black in complexion. They speak a dialect of their own among themselves, which is a mixture of Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada. They also speak Kannada among themselves and with outsiders. Most of them are illiterate, only a few are educated among them.

Methodology

The present study was carried out to evaluate the all round development of the tribal pre-school children, a purposive sampling technique was followed by keeping clearly defined objectives, the preschool children (400) of 3+ to 5+ years were subjected for the assessment of developmental levels. The observation checklist was used to assess the information regarding the physical, emotional, language and personal-social development of the pre-school children.

In physical and motor development questions regarding the muscle co-ordination skills, health and hygiene of the child were included. The questions in the area emotional development were regarding the frequency of expression of the various positive and negative emotions like joy, affection, anger, fear and jealousy by the child. In the area of language development, questions on oral expression, fluency clarity and correctness of speech were included. The various forms of

social and personal behavior of children, such as co-operation, friendliness and other behavior of children, which are common during the early years of life, were listed down in the checklist.

Results and Discussion

The mean and standard deviation of various developments among the tribal children is presented in the table 1, the table indicates that the mean scores of the children in Hakkipikkis are more than that of the Iruliga, Jenukuruba and Kadukuruba tribal children in all their developmental areas i.e., in physical (47.31%), emotional (15.10%) and language development (20.70%) except the personal social development (33.14%). Whereas the Iruliga children have the highest mean score in personal social development (33.53%) compared to all the tribal children. The standard deviation in physical motor and personal social development

of the children in Hakkipikkis is slightly more than that of the other children. Whereas, in Iruliga and Jenukuruba children, the value of standard deviation observed was more on emotional and language development.

The Percentage of Developmental Levels

In the area of Physical and Motor development, Most (49.00%) of Iruliga, Jenukuruba and Kadukuruba children and 36.50% of Hakkipikki children have attained an average level of development and 13.50% of Hakkipikki children have a good level of physical and motor development.

In the area of Emotional development, 17.00% of Hakkipikkis, 25.00% Iruligas, 40.00% Jenukurubas and 42.00% of the Kadukurubas children comes under average level of development. But more (33.00%) of the Hakkipikkis children have the good level of emotional development. (Table 2)

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation for various Developments of the Study Population

Developments	Hakkipikki			Iruliga			Jenu Kuruba			Kadu Kuruba		
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Physical and Motor	100	47.31	4.836	100	42.00	3.601	100	42.24	4.202	100	41.54	3.807
Emotional	100	15.10	1.283	100	14.33	1.415	100	13.83	1.045	100	13.77	1.325
Language	100	20.70	2.158	100	19.78	2.013	100	19.99	2.209	100	19.24	2.011
	100	33.14	3.679	100	33.53	2.181	100	32.11	2.141	100	30.23	3.244

Table 2: The Percentage of Developmental Levels

Developments	Developmental level	Hakkipikki	Iruliga	Jenu Kuruba	Kadu Kuruba	Total	
<i>Physical and Motor</i>	Good	Count	27	2	2	33	
		% within Tribe	13.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.10
		% of Total	3.40	0.30	0.30	0.30	4.10
	Average	Count	73	98	98	98	367
		% within Tribe	36.50	49.00	49.00	49.00	45.90
		% of Total	9.10	12.30	12.30	12.30	45.90
<i>Emotional</i>	Good	Count	66	50	20	16	152
		% within Tribe	33.00	25.00	10.00	8.00	19.00
		% of Total	8.30	6.30	2.50	2.00	19.00
	Average	Count	34	50	80	84	248
		% within Tribe	17.00	25.00	40.00	42.00	31.00
		% of Total	4.30	6.30	10.00	10.50	31.00
<i>Language</i>	Average	Count	98	93	87	83	361
		% within Tribe	49.00	46.50	43.50	41.50	45.10
		% of Total	12.30	11.60	10.90	10.40	45.10
	Poor	Count	2	7	13	17	39
		% within Tribe	1.00	3.50	6.50	8.50	4.90
		% of Total	0.30	0.90	1.60	2.10	4.90
<i>Personal-social</i>	Good	Count	86	98	88	34	306
		% within Tribe	43.00	49.00	44.00	17.00	38.30
		% of Total	10.80	12.30	11.00	4.30	38.30
	Average	Count	14	2	12	66	94
		% within Tribe	7.00	1.00	6.00	33.00	11.80
		% of Total	1.80	0.30	1.50	8.30	11.80

Table 3: F-values and Probability Level of Significance in all the Developmental Areas

Developments	F-value	p-value	Level of significance
Physical and motor	42.793	<0.001	Highly significant
Emotional	23.312	<0.001	Highly significant
Language	8.282	<0.001	Highly significant
Personal-social	26.071	<0.001	Highly significant

In the area of language development 49.00% of Hakkipikkis 46.50% Iruligas, 43.50% Jenukurubas and 41.50% of Kadukuruba children have an average level of development, whereas 1.00% of Hakkipikkis, 3.50% Iruligas, 6.50% Jenukurubas and 8.50% of Kadukurubas children have attained a poor level of development.

In the area of personal social development, 43.00% of Hakkipikki, 49.00% of Iruligas, 44.00% Jenukurubas and 17.00% of Kadukuruba children have a good level of development, and 7.00% of the children of Hakkipikkis, only 1.00% of Iruligas, 6.00% of Jenukurubas and 33.00% of Kadukuruba children constitute average level of personal social development. This variation is observed due to lack of activities and outdoor play equipments in tribal children.

Table 3 shows that there is a highly significant difference between Hakkipikki, Iruliga, Jenukurubas and Kadukuruba children in the areas of physical, motor, emotional, language and personal-social development i.e. $p < 0.001$.

Conclusion

The mean scores of the children in Hakkipikkis are more than that of the Iruliga, Jenukuruba and Kadukuruba tribal children in all their developmental areas except the personal social development. Whereas the Iruliga children have the highest mean score in personal social development compared to all the tribal children. The standard deviation in physical motor and personal social development of the children in Hakkipikkis is

slightly more than that of the other children and there is a highly significant difference between Hakkipikki, Iruliga, Jenukurubas and Kadukuruba children in the areas of physical, motor, emotional, language and personal-social development i.e. $p < 0.001$.

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