IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS, NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS OF MOTHERS AND NUTRITIONAL STATUS ON THE COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

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Abstract

The alarming figure of Global Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for India is 48 in 2010 and 40 in 2013 (SRS, RGI 2013). In West Bengal (eastern part of India) IMR is 31 in 2007-2009 and 32 in 2013 (SRS, RGI 2013). The slow reduction in infant mortality and little increase in IMR in West Bengal is a major concern for India. Unawareness of mother and poverty has been documented in the existing literature as one of the main reason behind the deaths in India in this respect.

The present study is intended to examine the Impact of Socio Economic Status, Nutritional Awareness of Mothers and Nutritional Status on the Cognitive Development of the Pre-school children. The sample is 300 children of 3-4 years old of kindergarten and preprimary schools of Kolkata. The tools used are NAM (nutritional awareness of mother) questionnaire and Nutritional Status of children by measuring age, height and weight of children, Cognitive Development of child by adapted Hema Pandey cognitive development test and General Information Schedule with Socio Economic Status (SES) of the family. The statistical analysis used is Descriptive statistics, Chi-square test, Correlation and Multiple Regression and Multiple logistic analyses. The result shows positive significant relationship between Nutritional Awareness of Mother and Socioeconomic status with all dimensions. Nutritional Awareness of Mother significantly influence Nutritional Status of child. Highly significant relationship between Nutritional Awareness and Cognitive Development along with all dimensions, Nutritional Status and Cognitive development of child varies with respect to Habitat and gender, the boys are dominant over girls in cognitive development and also dominant in Normal and Above normal category of NS(HFA),(WFH), and (WFA) than girls, Urban children shows upper hand in both Nutritional Status and Cognitive development than suburban children. The models developed are adequate fit for predicting Cognitive development and Nutritional Status. The study has various practical approaches for educators, health experts, stakeholders, government and common masses for the welfare of the society.

Keywords- Nutritional Awareness of Mother, Cognitive Development, Nutritional Status, Pre-Schoolers, Socio Economic Status

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