8. Conclusions

The factors influencing child development can be categorized into family factors such as home environment, parenting style and practices, type of family, family’s economical status, and maternal employment; child related factors such as order of birth and number of siblings; and other covariates such as parental education and locality of residence. The present study examined the various domains of psychosocial development of children aged between one and three years old reared by literate and illiterate parents residing in rural and urban areas of Bangalore selected from 100 households by a cluster random sampling. A cross-sectional study design was adapted to find the influence of the various family and child related factors in the development of children aged between one and three years old. The univariate analysis confirmed that the above mentioned factors influenced all the domains of psychosocial development of children aged between one and three years in a varying magnitude. From the multivariate analysis it is understood that a stimulating home environment and authoritative parenting style are major correlates of gross motor development, and hearing, language, and concept development, whereas vision, and fine motor development and self-help skills are considerably influenced by a stimulating home environment alone and low family income contributes for the better development of social skills compared to that of high family income. Only a few valid tools are available that focusing on the motor development of toddlers and have limited pertinent for the Indian context. Hence, an attempt was made to develop a tool for assessing the gross and fine motor skills of toddlers by considering our cultural context. The “Motor Skills Assessment Tool for Toddlers” (MSATT) developed as a part of this study has excellent test – retest and inter-observer reliability and also has excellent criterion validity for both gross and fine motor skills domains.
8.1 Implications for Practice:

The clinicians especially Pediatricians, Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists, Clinical Psychologists and Social workers who are involved in the developmental evaluation and intervention should consider the family factors (i.e., social aspects) such as home environment, parenting style, economic status of the family, birth order of the family, number of siblings, maternal employment, parental literacy status, and locality of residence along with the physical and mental aspects, as these family factors play an important role in the development of children especially during the toddlerhood.

8.2 Implications for Research:

A multicentre cross-sectional study by including the other parts of the state and country is warranted with the objectives of the present study.

A prospective longitudinal study is warranted to determine how these family factors exposed by the children during their toddlerhood create an impact in their developmental domains during their early childhood, late childhood, and adolescent periods.

Further validation of MSATT is recommended with larger sample size by using Factor (Exploratory and Confirmatory) and Rasch analysis and among the children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, Minimum brain damage, Developmental coordination disorder, and Down’s syndrome and also against other measures used for evaluating the motor development of toddlers.