PREFACE

“Children, I think, all over India should have the first claim on us, because they represent the India of tomorrow.”

- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

Child-rearing is the process of taking care of and raising children. Proper child-rearing is very important since it influences the development and behavior of children. If it is not done properly due to ignorance and poverty, it may result into innumerable problems for the family and society. It is important for every parent to give proper attention to children since it affects their growth and development. Improper diet, unsanitary or poorly ventilated house, inadequate sleep, unguided or badly planned play activities, lack of medical care, etc. may become hindrance in their natural growth and progress.

The first group in the experience of a child is his mother. The mother represents the whole world to her infant. She has a major role in rearing children. She along with other family members has to provide proper environment so that it acts as a stimulant for the proper growth and development of children. Environment here includes nutrition, sanitation, health etc.. Mother is sensitive and responsive to the needs of the child and organizes the environment for the child. Mother’s sensitivity and responsivities are the key factors that determine further growth and development of child. She needs to properly organize physical and temporal environment for child’s social and emotional well being. Mother is the most important person in a baby’s life for both its physical as well as its psychological care and growth. The mother-infant relationship is the most vital relationship for the child. From the very first moment of life, a child begins interacting with its mother. Thus, mother’s health, education, profession, beliefs and attitudes regarding child-rearing are important, since it also affects child’s growth and development. She is required to play main role in promoting and supporting physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child.

This study focuses on child-rearing practices adopted by farm women mothers living in tribal as well as in non-tribal areas of Chhattisgarh. One of the major problems is to improve the existing level of child-rearing practices being followed in tribal and non-tribal areas in Chhattisgarh. There are a number of child-care and
health-services programmes, schemes, provided by the government and non-government agencies for rural women and children. Yet, we observe that the majority of rural women are still left behind in utilizing the services. Many farm-women are still lagging behind because they work hard in the fields. Those women who are living in tribal areas may not be following the recommended child-rearing practices as compared with women living in non-tribal areas. Therefore, we need to conduct researches first, to identify the child-rearing practices being followed by the tribal and non-tribal rural mothers, second, to provide the explanation for such difference and third, to set forth what could be done to help to minimize the gap, if exists, and to help them in adoption of proper child-rearing practices.

Proper child-rearing includes proper mother-care during pregnancy period, breast-feeding, weaning, health care and hygiene, toilet training, clothing, education etc.. It is expected that the majority of women whether living in tribal or in non-tribal areas should follow the proper child-rearing practices. It is assumed that there might be some difference in the child-rearing practices among women living in tribal areas as compared to non-tribal areas. If the difference is identified, it will be useful in formulating a better strategy for such areas specifically in identified child-rearing practices.

Chapter One of Introduction highlights on various issues related to child-rearing practices, child care, child discipline, general child-rearing attitude, different child-rearing practices, age of child, and gender discrimination in child-rearing practices. Chapter Two of ‘Review of Literature’ deals with several studies done by researchers in the field of interest. Chapter Three elaborates the problems and relevant hypotheses undertaken for investigation in the present research. Chapter Four deals with ‘Methodology’ followed in the present investigation. Analysis of the obtained data has been described in Chapter Five, and Chapter Six deals with the discussion of the findings. Chapter Seven of Summary has also been provided to present the whole work in short.

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