

THE IMPACT OF CASTE ON CHILDREN'S ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOUR

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ABSTRACT

Caste plays an important role in children's adaptive behaviour development. The present investigation was carried out in Hisar district of Haryana state. From Hisar district two areas were selected i.e, urban and rural. The sample consist 100 girls between the age group of 7-8 years and their parents (both mother and father). 50 girls and their parents were selected randomly from Hisar city and 50 girls and their parents were selected randomly from rural area. A total of 50 boys between the age group of 7 to 8 years with both of their parents were selected randomly from each location. Hence, the total sample was 300 including (100 children and 200 their parents). Caste was taken as independent variable and adaptive behaviour was taken as dependent variable. Vineland adaptive behaviour scale by Sparrow *et al.*, 1984 used to measure the adaptive behaviour of children. Result revealed that caste is significantly associated with communication domain, social skills domain and adaptive behaviour of the children's adaptive behaviour.

KEYWORDS: Adaptive Behaviour, Caste, Communication, Daily Living Skills, Social Skills

INTRODUCTION

Caste, a proxy of socioeconomic position, can influence the development of children through several pathways. Caste is represented by prevailing caste groups and people are highly exposed to toxic elements can provide useful insights into the mechanisms of developmental inequities among children.

Adaptive skills are the skills needed for daily life and include the ability to produce and understand language (communication); home-living skills; use of community resources; health, safety, leisure, self-care, and social skills; self-direction; functional academic skills (reading, writing, and arithmetic); and work skills. (AAMR, 2002). Pushpalata et al. (2009) revealed that social skills of children were influenced by variables such as family income, mother education, father education, father occupation and family size.

Behaviour is the action or reaction of a person in response to external or internal stimuli; conduct; manners or deportment, especially good manners; general course of life; treatment of others; manner of action; the activity of an organism, especially as measurable for its effects; response to stimulus; the functioning, response or activity of an object or substance (Roger 2005). It includes the age-appropriate behaviors necessary for people to live independently and to function safely and appropriately in daily life.

Adaptive behaviors include real life skills such as grooming, dressing, safety, safe food handling, school rules, ability to work, money management, cleaning, making friends, social skills, and personal responsibility. Children from dual parent family backgrounds have significantly fewer behavior problems than their counterpart from single parent households. The greatest disadvantage appears to be for children hailing from single parent homes headed by fathers than

even mothers alone (Ganesha and S. Venkatesan 2012). Internalizing behaviors are behaviors such as anxiety, psychosomatic complaints, shyness, social regression, withdrawal, low self-worth, irritability, and depression. Externalizing behaviors are behaviors related to conflict with the environment including antisocial conduct, delinquency, aggression, and hyperactivity (Yahav, 2006).

Behaviour of children depends upon the income of the family. The income of parents is one of the important factor which play an important role in constructing the children's personality, because the well-educated parents can develop a social intelligence in their children better than uneducated parents, which further helps them in the build-up of their carriers. Adaptive behaviour also depends upon the behaviour of parents, style of upbringing parents-child relationship, emotion of parents, time devotion for children etc.

Objectives

- To assess the adaptive behaviour of the children.
- To assess the impact of caste on the children's adaptive behaviour.

METHODOLOGY

Hisar district of Haryana state was selected purposively for the present study due to easy accessibility. From Hisar district two areas were selected i.e., urban and rural. The sample consist 50 girls and 50 boys between the age group of 7-8 years and their parents (both mother and father). Hence, the total sample for the study was 300 (100 children and 200 their parents) from both location. Caste was taken as independent variable and adaptive behaviour was taken as dependent variable. Vineland adaptive behaviour scale by Sparrow *et al.*, 1984 used to measure the adaptive behaviour of children.

RESULTS

Adaptive behaviour is a very crucial aspect of development and refers to mental processes and the function involved in understanding and dealing with the surroundings. Adaptive behaviour involves the skills like communication skill, daily living skill, social skill, and motor skill. Data showed that majority of the respondents were getting high score in all aspect of adaptive behaviour except daily living skill in urban areas but in rural areas children were not get appropriate behaviour for their proper development.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents According to Adaptive Behaviour

Sr. No.	Sub Scale	Rural (n=50)	Urban (n=50)	Total n=(100)
1.	Communication domain			
	Low(29-54)	26(52.00)	6(12.00)	32(64.00)
	High (55-79)	24(48.00)	44(88.00)	68(68.00)
2.	Daily living skill domain			
	Low(17-33)	31(62.00)	16(32.00)	47(47.00)
	High(34-50)	19(38.00)	34(68.00)	53(53.00)
3.	Social domain			
	Low (15-24)	23(46.00)	31(62.00)	54(54.00)
	High (25-33)	27(54.00)	19(38.00)	46(46.00)
4.	Motor skill domain			
	Low (30-43)	14(28.00)	6(12.00)	20(20.00)
	High(44-56)	36(72.00)	44(88.00)	80(80.00)
5.	Composite adaptive behaviour			

	Low (89-151)	25(50.00)	7(14.00)	32(32.00)
	High(152-214)	25(50.00)	43(86.00)	68(68.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table 2: Association of Adaptive Behavior with Caste

Variable	Caste			χ^2
	Lower	Upper	Total	
Communication Domain				6.22*
Low	28	4	32	
High	43	25	68	
Total	71	29	100	
Daily Living Skill Domain				2.56
Low	37	10	47	
High	34	19	53	
Total	71	29	100	
Social Domain				5.35*
Low	35	7	42	
High	36	22	58	
Total	71	29	100	
Motor Skill Domain				0.19
Low	15	5	20	
High	56	24	80	
Total	71	29	100	
Adaptive Behavior				6.22*
Low	28	4	32	
High	43	25	68	
Total	71	29	100	

Table depicts that caste is significantly associated with communication domain, social skills domain and adaptive behaviour of the children's adaptive behaviour.

DISCUSSIONS

Caste is significantly associated with communication domain, social skills domain and adaptive behaviour of the children's adaptive behaviour. Shanwal et al. (2007) indicated that motor skills were highly positive significant relationship with mother's education followed by significant relationship with age, no. of siblings, mother's occupation, father's education, family income and size, caste and land holding.

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