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A Descriptive Comparative Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Play Home Environment among Mothers of Preschool Children at Selected Ruraland Urban Areas of Puducherry

Rajalakshmi R[1], Sharanabasappa S.D. [2]

[1] M.Sc.(N), M.H.Sc. CCD, [2]M.Sc.(N)

ABSTRACT

A descriptive comparative study was undertaken to assess the knowledge regarding play home environment among mothers of preschool children at selected rural and urban areas of Puducherry. A sample of 140 mothers (70 from urban & 70 from rural) with children in the age group of 3 to 6 years was selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique. Home observational visit and interview technique was employed to assess the knowledge of the mothers of Preschoolers regarding play home environment. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive comparative statistics. The findings of the descriptive and comparative study revealed the following findings:

- The association of Knowledge of 140 samples were considered, **overall stimulation (Total Percentile Range)** given by the mothers to their children showed **majority** of the mother's stands on **Middle half with 60.7%**&**minor** mother's stands on **Upper fourth with 15%.**
- Comparison of mother's knowledge on urban & rural data shows that the **Knowledge on overall stimulation (Total Percentile Range)** given by the mothers to their children showed **majority** of the mother's stands on **Middle half with 60.7%**&**minor** mother's stands on **Upper fourth with 15%** and **p value is 0.000.**
- The finding of the study showed that the demographic variables such as Locality (**nuclear family)**, Birth order of the child (**birth order of 1)**, Age of the child (**4 – 4.11 age group)**, Educational qualification of partner (educational status of **class XII & Graduate)**, Employment of mother **(not employed)**, Employment of father **(employed),** Religion (**Hindu)**, Type of family (**nuclear family)**, Sex of the child (**male children's > female)** influence the knowledge of mother regarding play home environment whereas Educational qualification of mother (educational status of **no & elementary education**) doesn't influence the knowledge.

The study concluded that in the assessment of findings of knowledge of mothers of preschoolers on play home environment on urban and rural mothers, urban mother's got satisfactory knowledge on overall play & its environment with most of them in middle half percentile compared to rural mothers.

INTRODUCTION

It was believed for generations play is fun, also waste of time as it could spent on doing things profitably. Play act as children's natural medium to express themselves and it act as an important language for several reasons. Since children were expected in learn things which could prepare them for their life. So, play is strictly restricted to day end or holidays.

Play bridges gap between concrete experience and abstract thought developmentally. It helps to organize real-life experiences opportunities which are abstract and complicated in nature. Play helps in learning coping skills and gains sense of control. It creates therapeutic environment foe children through play therapy. Children engage in different forms of play, like dolls, balls, homemade materials or maybe with

only their imagination all over the world. It also helps to use their creativity thereby helps to develop imagination, dexterity, physical, emotional, and cognitive strength. Play has great impact on Childs brain development. Through play children engage and interact in the environment around them at very early age, therefore allowing child in creating and exploring the world which they can master which leads to develop new competencies, enhance confidence, and remain resilient to face future challenges. For academic growth and environment, play is integral part.

Family gives Most significant attachment, care and required simulation needed for child's growth and development, in early childhood. Home interior and immediate surroundings act as first environment for most children in their early years to experience. Researches has shown that home environment is a major factor in influencing the child's overall development as young children's majority of time is being spent in home. Availability and resource quality to learn and play widely determine the interactions among family members within home. Within the home, availability of stimulating materials, play objects and books act as critical indicators for overall home environment quality.

Research in the past on homes and community's physical environment focused on environmental hazards, poverty impact and environmental stress. Research strongly indicates that cleanliness, water, noise, and pollution i.e.., physical environment influences children's overall development and health (Evans, 2003; Guo & Harris, 2000). Among researchers there has been recently, increasing interest on the home environment quality and their child's development impact (Ansell & Van Blerk 2005; Evans, 2006; Flores, 2004; Leventhal, 2004; Rodrigues, Saraiva & Gabbard, 2005).

Axline (1969) and Landreth (2002) identified basic principles while building on a children's developmental understanding which guides play therapist, which are in consistent with child-centered philosophy of working with children. The basic principles not limited to, but includes,

- Play is natural language of children's and is developmentally appropriate way of expressing themselves.
- Children are capable on positive self-direction and to act responsibly by themselves
- Children have an inherent tendency to growth and maturity.

NEED FOR THE STUDY/RATIONALE

Play contributes to physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being and is essential for growth and development. It also gives the parents ideal opportunity to engage fully with children. Time given for play is markedly reduced, despite of all benefits for both parents and their children's due to various reasons like,

- poor knowledge about play, play materials and its use among parents
- urbanization and life style changes
- family structure changes
- importance/more attention for academics.

The researchers taking into the account that play and play home environment is very important in all aspects of children's growth and development especially in young children. Also, to find out the urban and rural home environment stimulation differences, the researcher has planned to undertake the study to assess the knowledge level in mothers living in urban and rural setting regarding play using HOME Inventory for families of Preschoolers tool.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

1. **Assess:** It refers to identification of difference between knowledge regarding play home environment in rural and urban mothers.

2. **Knowledge:** It refers to awareness of mothers regarding play home environment as revealed by HOME Inventory for Families of Preschoolers (3 to 6 years) through home observational visit and interview method.

3. **Play home environment:** It refers to activities of the mother related to home environmental facilities available for the child as revealed by self-reported data and home observation.

4. **Rural mothers:** It refers to mothers having children of 3 to 6 years residing in selected rural communities of Puducherry and following inclusion and exclusion criterion.

5. **Urban mothers:** It refers to mothers residing having children of 3 to 6 years in selected urban communities of Puducherry and fulfilling inclusion and exclusion criterion.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. The mothers may have some knowledge regarding play home environment.

2. The rural and urban mothers may have some knowledge regarding play home environment.

3. **HOME Inventory for Families of Preschoolers (3 to 6 years) can measure the knowledge regarding play home environment of mothers of 3 to 6 years children.**

HYPOTHESIS

H1: The mother's will have significant knowledge on the play home environment of the child.

H2: There will be significant difference between knowledge scores on play home environment of rural and urban mothers of 3 to 6 years old children.

H3: There will be significant association between knowledge scores on play home environment of rural mothers of 3 to 6 years old children.

H4: There will be significant difference between knowledge scores on play home environment of urban and rural mothers with demographic variables.

SAMPLING CRITERIA

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Those who are willing to participate in the study.

2. Those who are available at the time of data collection.

3. Those who can understand Tamil & English.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Those who are not available at the time of data collection.

2. Those who are severally ill at the time of data collection.

3. Children are severally ill at the time of data collection.

DELIMITATION

1. Study is limited to only mothers of 3 to 6 year old children of selected rural and urban communities of Puducherry.

2. Study is limited only for 140 (70 from Rural & 70 from Urban) subjects.

3. Data collection period is delimited to 3 – 4 months

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

"A descriptive comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding play home environment among mothers of preschool children at selected rural and urban areas of Puducherry"

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding play home environment in Puducherry.

2. To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding play home environment in urban and rural communities, Puducherry.

3. To identify the association between knowledge scores on play home environment or urban and rural mothers, Puducherry

4. To compare the difference between knowledge of rural and urban mother regarding play home environment with socio demographic variable.

METHODOLOGY

SOURCE OF DATA:

Data was collected from mothers having 3 to 6 years old children in selected rural and urban communities of Puducherry.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION:

- **Research Approach:** Non experimental study
- **Research Design:** Descriptive & Comparative design
- **Setting:** Selected urban and rural Communities of Puducherry
- **Reference population:** All mothers of Children with 3 to 6 years of age in selected rural and urban communities, Puducherry
- **Study population:** All mothers of Children with 3 to 6 years of age in selected rural and urban communities, Puducherry

- **Study Sample :** Mothers of children with 3 to 6 years of age fulfilling the inclusion and exclusion criterion

- **Sample size :**

Needed -- 183 with confidence level of 95% and confidence interval of 5%

Taken -- 70 rural and 70 urban mothers of Children with 3 to 6 years of age

Sampling technique: Non-Probability (Purposive) sampling technique

- **Method of data collection:** Home observational visit & interview method
- **Tool for data collection:** HOME Inventory for Families of Preschoolers (3 to 6 years) [Bettye M.Caldwell&RobertH.Bradley]

PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION:

Data collection is the gathering of information needed to address a research problem. Families who agreed to participate were visited in their homes by the principal investigator. The permission was obtained from the concerned authorities and family before the data collection.

The Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment Inventory for Families of Preschoolers(3 to 6 years) [Bettye M.Caldwell& Robert H.Bradley] questionnaire was used. This is a 55-item questionnaire about the home environment and involves interview and observational techniques.

Four basic areas are covered in the interview: trips out of the home and visits into the home, toys that are available to the child, the way the family arranges the daily routine, and discipline. There are also some items covered by observation of the physical environment in which the family lives.

The items are combined into eight subscale scores identified by Caldwell and Bradley: stimulation through toys, games, and reading materials; language stimulation; physical environment; pride, affection, and warmth; stimulation of academic behavior; modeling and encouraging of social maturity; variety of stimulation; and (avoidance of) physical punishment. The inventory takes between 45 minutes and an hour to complete and is administered to the mother when the child is present and awake.

An undergraduate student assistant also attended for visits by assisting and scoring the parents' questionnaires. The scores obtained on the HOME Inventory questionnaires for families of Preschoolers that was administered were to be used to monitor reliability of the observations made by the principal investigators. However, it quickly became apparent that having both investigators observing and taking notes on the home was very disconcerting to both the parent and child. Therefore, the procedure was modified, such that the principal investigators sat apart from the assistant, parent, and child, and observed without scoring or taking notes. After the session, the assistant's scores were reviewed and disagreements were resolved through discussion. Children who participated received a small toy for their time and effort.

OUTCOME VARIABLE

Proportion of preschool children mothers knowledge about play home environment as measured by HOME inventory.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS:

Data analysis will be carried out through appropriate Descriptive and Inferential characteristics.

1. Graphical and Diagrammatic representations was used.
2. Inferential statistics like chi-square test was used.

VARIABLES:

1. **Research variables:**

Knowledge and play home environment among rural and urban mothers

2. **Demographic variables: includes**

- Locality
- Birth order of the child
- Age of the child
- Sex of the child
- Educational qualification (Illiterate, primary, middle, high school, higher secondary, diploma, under graduate & post graduate) of mother
- Educational qualification (Illiterate, primary, middle, high school, higher secondary, diploma, under graduate & post graduate) father
- Employment of mother
- Employment of father
- Religion(Hindu, Muslim and Christian)
- Type of family (joint/nuclear)

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBJECTS BASED ON SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

N=140

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age of the child	3.0 – 3.11	43	30.7
	3.12 – 4.11	60	42.9
	4.11 – 5.11	23	16.4
	5.12 (=6.0)	14	10
Education status of the mother	No education	20	14.3
	elementary	19	13.6
	high school	22	15.7
	h.sc.	37	26.4
	diploma	7	5.0
	graduate	29	20.7
	post graduate	06	4.3
Education status of the father	No education	28	20.0
	elementary	22	15.7
	high school	30	21.4
	h.sc.	21	15.0
	diploma	4	2.9

	graduate	27	19.3
	post graduate	08	5.7
Religion	Hindu	130	92.9
	Muslim	02	1.4
	Christian	8	5.7
Family	Nuclear	100	71.4
	Joint	40	28.6
Employment status of the partner	Yes	140	100
	No	0	0
Employment status of the partner	Yes	50	35.7
	No	90	64.3
Residence	Urban	70	50
	Rural	70	50
Gender of the child	Male	77	55
	Female	63	45
Birth order	1	71	50.7
	2	53	37.9
	3	16	11.4
	4 and above	0	0

TABLE1 reveals that the

- Demographic variable of the mother's locality where the entire mother's were in the urban & rural locality of 50% equally
- Majority 61 of mothers about 42.9% has children's with age group of 4 – 4.11 years and only 13 ie., 10% of mother's had children with the age group of 5.12 (=6.0 years)
- Majority of mothers' children were male with the frequency of 77 and percentage of 55% and other 45% samples has female children
- Majority of mother's were Hindu with the frequency of 130 and percentage of 92.9% and minority of samples were Muslim with the frequency of 2 ie., 1.4%
- Education status of the partner, where frequency of 37ie.,26.4%of them fall under higher secondary school and only 06 ie., 4.3% of them were Post graduate
- Majority of mother's has frequency of 30 ie.,21.4% completed their high school and only 04 ie., 2.9% of them completed diploma
- Employment status of the partner's where all the partner's (140) 100% were employed
- Employment status of the mother where majority of the mother's falls under the frequency of non-employed category (90) ie., 64.3% and 35.7% were employed.
- Birth order of their child where most of the samples have child ie., 50.7% with the birth order of 1st and the minimum samples (16) has child with the birth order of 3rdie., 11.4%.

TABLE – 2

Crosstabulation - Association of Overall Samples Of Urban And Rural [Subscale Range] Comparison of Urban And Rural Percentile Range

Subscale	Locality	Frequency			P Value
		Lower Fourth	Middle Half	Upper Forth	

Subscale – I Learning Stimulation	Urban	1 (1.4%)	50 (71.4%)	19 (27.1%)	0.00
	Rural	4 (5.7%)	64 (91.4%)	2 (2.86%)	
Subscale-Ii Language Stimulation	Urban	17 (24.29%)	37 (52.86%)	16 (22.86%)	0.00
	Rural	44 (62.86%)	22 (31.4%)	4 (5.7%)	
Subscale - Iii Physical Environment	Urban	12 (17.1%)	39 (55.7%)	19 (27.1%)	0.001
	Rural	31 (44.29%)	30 (42.86%)	9 (12.86%)	
Subscale - Iv Warmth And Affection	Urban	11 (15.7%)	31 (44.26%)	28 (40%)	0.003
	Rural	28 (40%)	27 (38.57%)	15 (21.4%)	
Subscale - V Academic Stimulation	Urban	4 (5.7%)	36 (51.4%)	30 (42.86%)	0.000
	Rural	25 (35.7%)	30 (42.86%)	15 (21.4%)	
Subscale - Vi Modeling	Urban	4 (5.7%)	31 (44.26%)	35 (50%)	0.003
	Rural	17 (24.26%)	32 (45.7%)	21 (30%)	
Subscale - Vii Variety In Experience	Urban	16 (22.86%)	44 (62.86%)	10 (14.26%)	0.007
	Rural	33 (47.1%)	33 (47.1%)	4 (5.7%)	
Subscale – Viii Acceptance	Urban	28 (40%)	18 (25.7%)	24 (34.29%)	0.087
	Rural	31 (44.29%)	26 (37.1%)	13 (18.57%)	

TABLE – 2 shows the comparison of *SUBSCALE OF HOME INVENTORY TOOL* BETWEEN urban and rural samples IN WHICH

- S I - Learning stimulation given to their children's where both urban & rural samples falls under middle half percentile range with the frequency of 50 & 64 respectively. Minimum urban samples falls on lowest fourth & rural samples falls under upper fourth with p value of 0.000.
- S II - Language stimulation given to their children's where urban samples falls under Middle Half percentile range with the frequency of 37 & rural frequency of 44 in Lowest Fourth. Minimum frequency of both urban & rural samples falls under upper fourth &p value is 0.000.
- S III -Physical Environment given to their children's where urban samples falls under Middle Half percentile range with the frequency of 39 & rural frequency of 31 in Lowest Fourth. Minimum frequency of urban & rural samples falls under Lowest fourth & upper fourth respectively with p value is 0.001.

- S IV -Warmth and Affection given to their children's where urban samples falls under Middle Half percentile range with the frequency of 31& rural frequency of 28 in Lowest Fourth. Minimum frequency of urban samples falls on lowest fourth & rural samples falls under upper fourth & p value is 0.003.
- S V - Academic Stimulation given to their children's where both urban & rural samples falls under middle half percentile range with the frequency of 36&30 respectively. Minimum frequency of urban samples falls on lowest fourth & rural samples falls under upper fourth. P value is 0.000.
- S VI - Modeling given to their children's where urban samples falls under Upper Fourth percentile range with the frequency of 35 & rural frequency of 32 in Middle Half. Minimum frequency of urban & rural samples falls on Lowest fourth range & p value is 0.003.
- S VII - Variety in Experience given to children's where urban samples falls under middlehalf percentile range with the frequency of 44& rural samples falls under both middle half as well as Lowest Fourth with the frequency of 33 each. Minimum urban& rural samples frequency falls on Upper fourth & p value is 0.007.
- S VIII - Acceptance given to their children's where both urban falls under & rural samples falls under Lowest Fourth percentile range with the frequency of 28& 31 respectively. Minimum frequency of urban samples fall on Middle Half& rural samples falls under upper fourth & p value is 0.087.

FIGURE : 01 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of learning stimulation given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

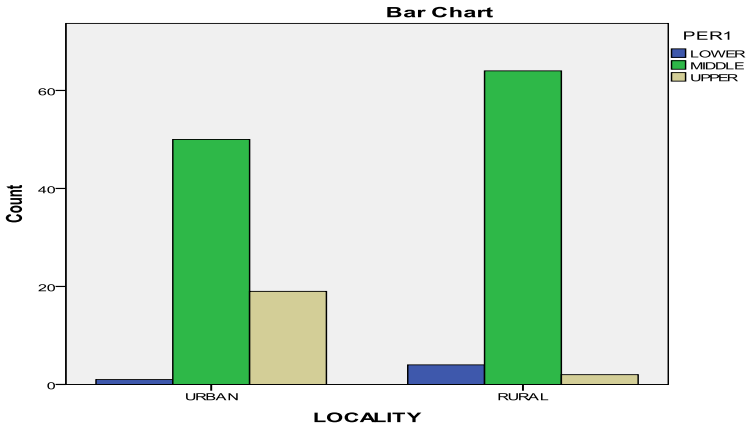

FIGURE : 02 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Language stimulation given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

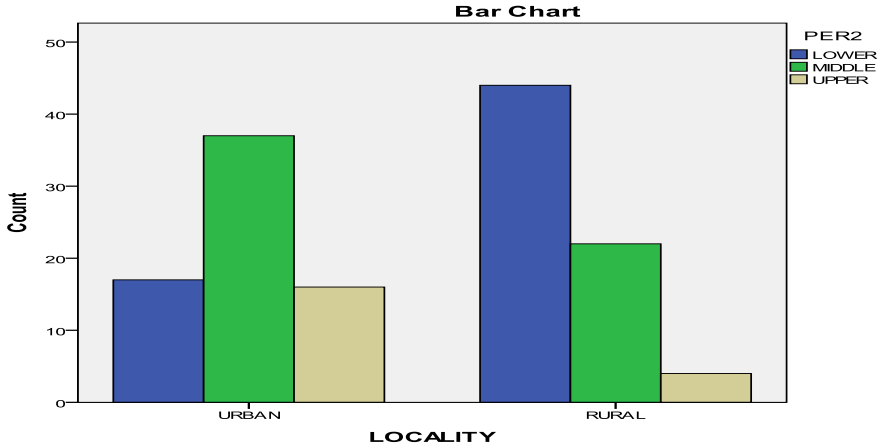

FIGURE : 03 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Physical Environment given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

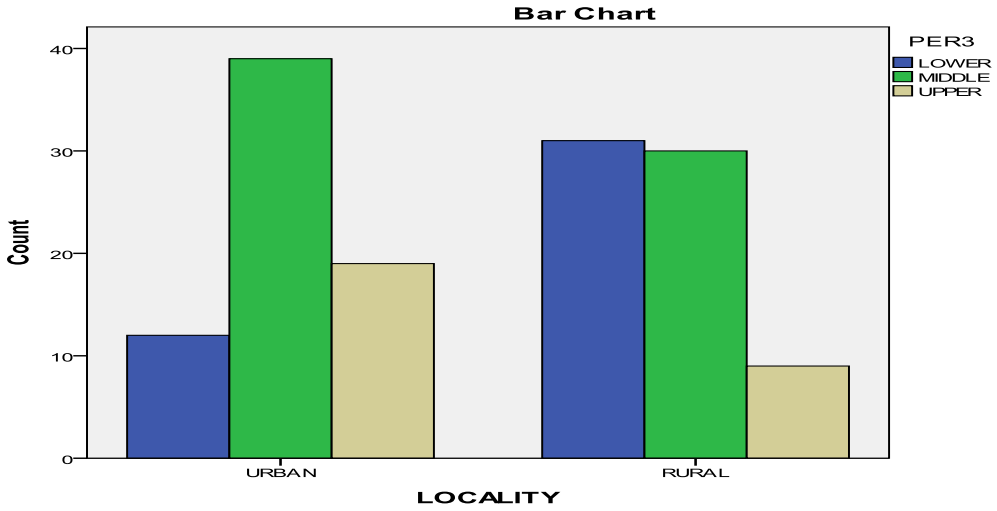

FIGURE : 04 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Warmth and Affection given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

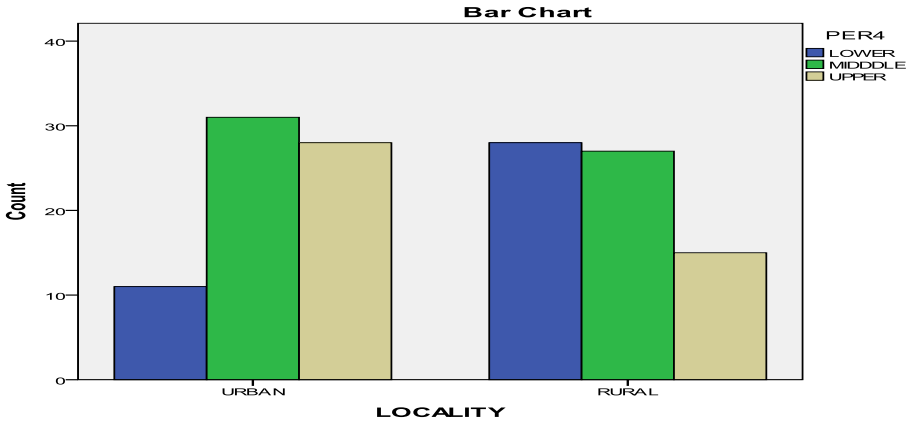

FIGURE : 05 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Academic Stimulation given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

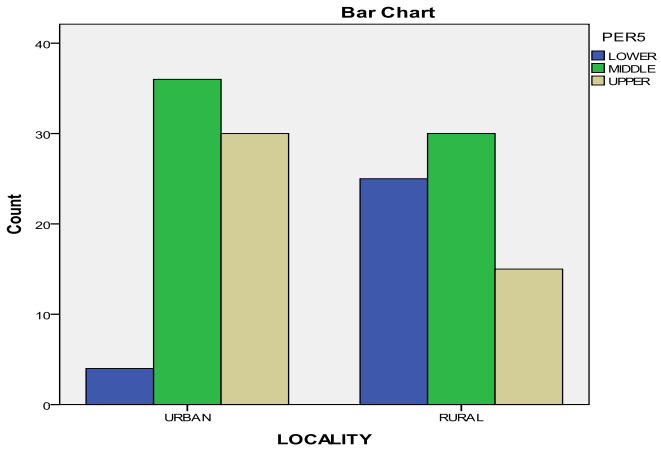

Figure no.: 06 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Modeling given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

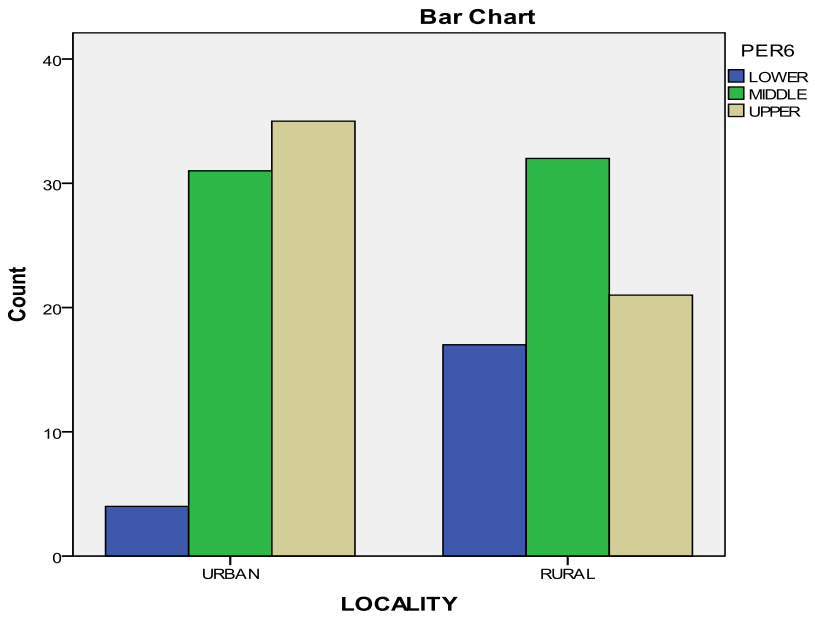

Figure no.: 07 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Variety in Experience given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

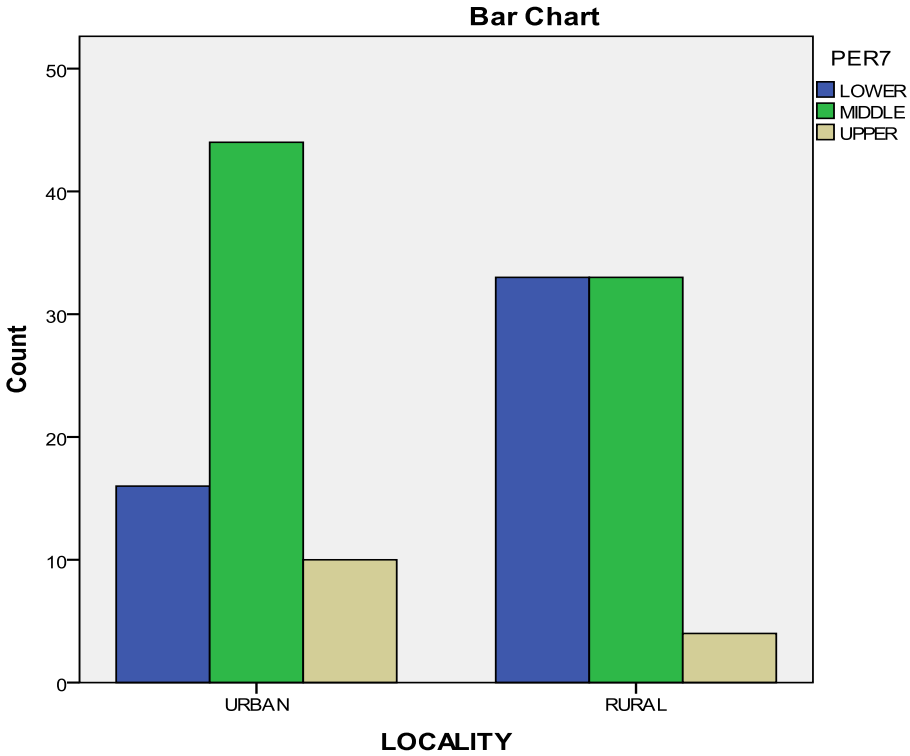

Figure: 08 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Acceptance given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

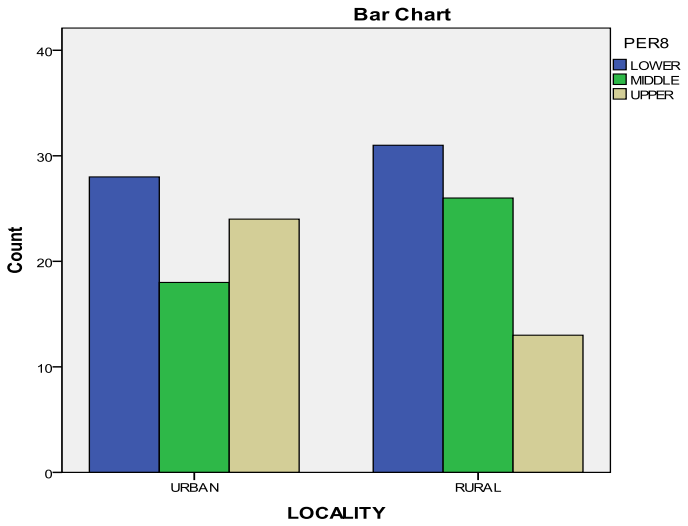

Table No. – 03 Association Of Knowledge Of Overall Samples

Total Percentile Range **N = 140**

S.NO.	Percentile Range	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Lowest Fourth	34	24.3	24.3	24.3
2	Middle Half	85	60.7	60.7	85.0
3	Upper Fourth	21	15.0	15.0	100.0
	Total	140	100.0	100.0	

TABLE NO. - 03 shows the association of overall samples Total stimulation in all aspects given to their children's where most of them falls under the middle-half percentile range of 60.7% with the frequency of 85 & minimum falls under upper fourth ie.,15.0% with frequency of 21.

FIGURE : 09 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of the total range of stimulation given to their children by the overall samples (both urban & rural).

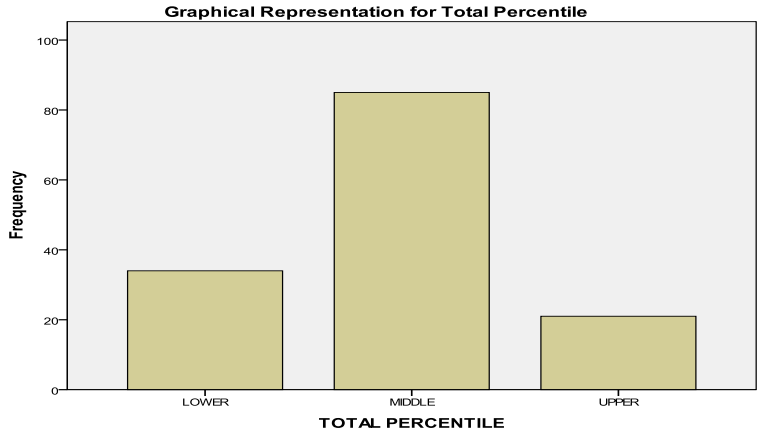

Table – 04 Comparison of Urban And Rural Percentile Range

Total Percentile Range

S.No.	LOCALITY	FREQUENCY			TOTAL
		Lowest Fourth	Middle Half	Upper Fourth	
1.	URBAN	6 (8.57%)	49 (70%)	15 (21.4%)	70
2.	RURAL	28 (40%)	36 (51.4%)	6 (8.57%)	70
Total		34	85	21	140

Chi-Square Tests			
Test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	20.081[a]	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	21.427	2	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	17.737	1	.000
No. of Valid Cases	140		

Table No.– 04 shows the comparison of urban and rural samples **Total Stimulation Percentile Range** given to their children's where both urban & rural samples falls under **middle half percentile range** with the frequency of 49 & 36 respectively. Minimum frequency of urban samples falls on lower fourth & rural samples falls under upper fourth **& p value is 0.000.**

Figure no.:10 Bar diagram showing the frequency of distribution of Total Stimulation Percentile Range given to their children by the urban & rural mothers.

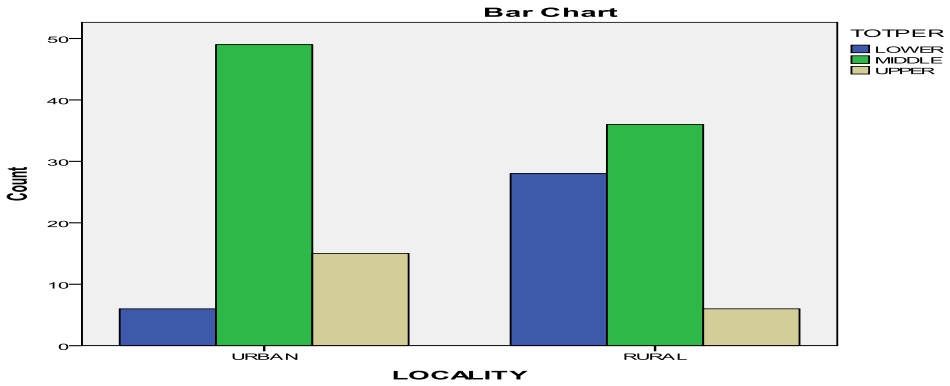

TABLE No. – 05 COMPARISON OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE OF URBAN & RURAL LOCALITY

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES		RURAL(N = 70)			URBAN (N = 70)		
		Lowest Fourth	Middle Half	Upper Fourth	Lowest Fourth	Middle Half	Upper Fourth
Age Group of the child	3.0 -3.11	9	11	2	3	14	4
	3.12-4.11	9	11	4	2	24	10
	4.11-5.11	6	7	0	1	8	1
	5.12(=6.0)	4	7	0	0	3	0
Sex of the child	Male	15	18	5	2	28	9
	Female	13	18	1	4	21	6
Religion of the child	Hindu	28	34	6	6	43	13
	Muslim	-	-	-	0	1	1

	Christian	0	2	0	0	5	1
Education of the partner	NO EDUCATION	9	4	2	0	5	0
	ELEMENTARY	0	5	1	0	11	2
	CLASS 10	3	9	2	1	4	3
	CLASS 12	14	6	1	2	12	2
	DIPLOMA	0	5	0	1	1	0
	GRADUATE	2	7	0	2	12	6
	POST GRADUATE	-	-	-	0	4	2
Education of the MOTHER	NO EDUCATION	11	5	0	0	12	0
	ELEMENTARY	2	4	0	0	13	3
	CLASS 10	7	12	2	1	7	1
	CLASS 12	3	9	3	0	2	4
	DIPLOMA	0	2	1	0	1	0
	GRADUATE	5	4	0	4	9	5
	POST GRADUATE	-	-	-	1	5	2
Employment of the partner	YES	28	36	6	6	49	15
	NO	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment of the mother	YES	14	8	0	1	20	7
	NO	14	28	6	5	29	8
Birth order of the child	1st child	14	21	2	3	22	9
	2nd child	8	13	3	3	20	6
	3rd child	6	2	1	0	7	0
Type of family	Joint	11	17	4	2	5	1
	Nuclear	17	19	2	4	44	14
LOCALITY		28	36	6	6	49	15

Table No. 05 shows the comparison of various demographic variables between urban and rural samples shows that

- Age Group of the childthe urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children with 4 – 4.11 age group
- Sex of the childshows that the urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children where male children's > female
- Religion of the child shows that urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children.
- Education of the partner shows that the urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children with educational status of class XII & Graduate.
- Education of the mothershows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children with educational status of no & elementary education.
- Employment of the partnershows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range who are employed.
- Employment of the mothershows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range who are not employed whereas overall stimulation shows rural mothers > urban mothers.
- Birth order of the childshows that the urban mothers with children in the birth order of 1 has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range.

- Type of familyshows that the urban mothers living in nuclear family has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range.
- Localityshows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range than rural mothers.

DISCUSSION

A comparative study to assess the knowledge regarding play home environment among mothers of preschool children at selected rural and urban areas of Puducherry was conducted and analyzed. There were about 140 samples (70 from urban & 70 from rural area) who are having children with the age group of 3 to 6 years are selected for this study.

Major findings of the study are as follows:

- Majority of the children's are in the age group of 4 – 4.11 years with 42.9% and minor samples were in the age group of 5.12 (=6) years with 10%.
- Majority of the samples are Hindu and minor were Muslim with 92.9% & 1.4% respectively.
- Major samples are having male children with 55%.
- Regarding the Educational status of partner, majority of the mother's partner completed their Higher Secondary education with 26.4%.
- Regarding the educational status of the mother, majority of the mother's completed their High School with 21.4%.
- All the partner's of samples were employed (100%).
- Regarding the employment status of the mother, majority of the mother's were not employed with 64.3%.
- Regarding the birth order of child, majority of the mothers were 1st child for the family with 50.7%.
- Majority of samples (ie., 71.4%) belongs to nuclear family.

OBJECTIVE: 01 - To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding play home environment, Puducherry.

When the association of Knowledge of 140 samples shows that on overall stimulation (Total Percentile Range) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 60.7%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 15%.

When the overall knowledge of urban and rural samples on various demographic variables were considered (the birth order of the child, age of the child, sex of the child, considering the religion, with respect to the educational status of the father, with respect to the employment status of the mother, with respect to the employment status of the father, considering the type of family) about majority of the mother were belongs to urban area when compared to the rural mothers whereas with respect to the educational status of the mother doesn't influence the knowledge.

OBJECTIVE: 02 - To assess the knowledge of mothers regarding play home environment in urban and rural communities, Puducherry.

Association of overall 140 samples of both urban & rural knowledge shows the following findings:

- Knowledge on Learning stimulation (Subscale – I) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 81.4%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 3.6%.

- Knowledge on Language stimulation (Subscale – II) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Lowest Fourth with 43.6%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 14.3%.
- Knowledge on Physical environment (Subscale – III) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 49.3%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 20.0%.
- Knowledge on Warmth and Affection (Subscale – IV) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 41.4%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 27.9%.
- Knowledge on Academic stimulation (Subscale – V) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 47.1%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 20.7%.
- Knowledge on Modeling (Subscale – VI) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 45%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 15%.
- Knowledge on Variety in experience (Subscale – VII) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 55%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 10%.
- Knowledge on Acceptance (Subscale – VIII) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 42.1%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 15%.
- Knowledge on overall stimulation (Total Percentile Range) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 60.7%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 15%.

OBJECTIVE: 03 - To identify the association between knowledge scores on play home environment or urban and rural mothers, Puducherry

Comparison of mother's knowledge on urban & rural shows the following findings:

- Knowledge on Learning stimulation (Subscale – I) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 81.4%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 3.6% and p value is 0.000.
- Knowledge on Language stimulation (Subscale – II) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Lowest Fourth with 43.6%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 14.3% and p value is 0.000.
- Knowledge on Physical environment (Subscale – III) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 49.3%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 20.0% and p value is 0.001.
- Knowledge on Warmth and Affection (Subscale – IV) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 41.4%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 27.9% and p value is 0.003.
- Knowledge on Academic stimulation (Subscale – V) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 47.1%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 20.7% and p value is 0.000.
- Knowledge on Modeling (Subscale – VI) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 45%&minor mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 15% and p value is 0.003.

- Knowledge on Variety in experience (Subscale – VII) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 55%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 10% and p value is 0.007.
- Knowledge on Acceptance (Subscale – VIII) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Lowest fourth with 42.1%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 15% and p value is 0.087.
- Knowledge on overall stimulation (Total Percentile Range) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 60.7%&minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 15% and p value is 0.000.

OBJECTIVE: 04 - To compare the difference between knowledge of rural and urban mother regarding play home environment with socio demographic variable.

Comparison of demographic variable vs total percentile range in regard to knowledge of urban & rural mothers shows the following findings.

- Age Group of the childthe urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children with 4 – 4.11 age group
- Sex of the childshows that the urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children where male children's > female
- Religion of the child shows that urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children.
- Education of the partner shows that the urban mothers have maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children with educational status of class XII & Graduate.
- Education of the mothershows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range in children with educational status of no & elementary education.
- Employment of the partnershows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range who are employed.
- Employment of the mothershows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range who are not employed whereas overall stimulation shows rural mothers > urban mothers.
- Birth order of the childshows that the urban mothers with children in the birth order of 1 has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range.
- Type of familyshows that the urban mothers living in nuclear family has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range.
- Localityshows that the urban mothers has maximal stimulation with middle half percentile range than rural mothers.

SUMMARY

The present study aimed primarily to assess and compare the knowledge regarding the play home environment among mothers of preschoolers in urban and rural areas of Puducherry.

With the assumption that the rural and urban mothers may have some knowledge regarding play home environment and HOME Inventory for Families of Preschoolers (3 to 6) can measure the knowledge regarding play home environment of mothers of 3 to 6 years children the study was undertaken.

Non-probability purposive sampling technique was adopted to obtain adequate sample size. HOME Inventory of Families of Preschoolers (3 to 6) [Bettye M.Caldwell and Robert H.Bradley] which is a Standardized Screening tool was administered by home observational and interview method.

The data was analyzed and interpreted in terms of objectives, descriptive and inferential statistics, as a result of this study the researcher reveals that the mothers of rural area are having low knowledge level regarding play home environment than urban mothers.

CONCLUSION

Parents' playing with their children is an important indicator for parental attitudes and behavior towards child development. The cross-country data on this issue is quite difficult to summarize. One of the problems arises from the definition of "play". The open-ended question "did you play with your child today?" can generate different responses from different caregivers, based on their understanding of what "play" is.

The conclusion drawn from the findings of the studies are:

- The association of Knowledge of 140 samples were considered, overall stimulation (Total Percentile Range) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 60.7% & minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 15%.
- Comparison of mother's knowledge on urban & rural data shows that the Knowledge on overall stimulation (Total Percentile Range) given by the mothers to their children showed majority of the mother's stands on Middle half with 60.7% & minor mother's stands on Upper fourth with 15% and p value is 0.000.
- The demographic variables such as Locality, Birth order of the child, Age of the child, Educational qualification of father, Employment of mother, Employment of father, Religion, Type of family, Sex of the child influence the knowledge of mother regarding play home environment whereas Educational qualification of mother doesn't influence the knowledge.
- The hypothesis of the study was proved and objectives of the study were fulfilled.

Hence being the health care professionals it is imperative that they can actively take part in the mother's education caring to childhood needs of play by assuring them with appropriate information.

POLICY IMPLICATION

The findings of the study have several implications in child developmental practice, general education, administration and research.

Child developmental practice

The child developmental personnel working in the clinical and community setting should stress on the importance of play and home environment in the overall development of children.

The role of play and the need for home environmental stimulation knowledge should be imparted to the caregivers and the community.

General education

The general curriculum needs to be strengthened to enable child development students the knowledge on play and environmental stimulation among mothers in thus promoting the overall development of

children in all aspects. The student should provided with adequate opportunity to educate mothers and public in both clinical and community settings.

The study stresses the significance of short-term courses, in-service education in child's developmental aspect to advance the knowledge in the field of preventive pediatric medicine.

Administration

Leaders in developmental pediatrics confronted to undertake the health needs of the vulnerable by effective organization and management.

The administrator should take active part in the health policy making developmental protocol, procedure and standing order related to mother's education.

The administrator should give special attention on the proper selection placement and effective utilization of the child developmental professionals in all areas within the available resources giving importance for their creativity interest and ability in educating the mother.

Research

Various Research study is needed to focus,

- To bring out the attitude of the people
- The existing knowledge at various settings
- How the selected indicators relate to each other and to additional variables that define patterns for family attitudes and behavior.

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