

Early Childhood Development among the Children of Domestic Workers in Chennai Corporation

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Abstract:

Background: *Children are the prime assets of any society and their integrated development in the early years is very crucial in determining their future life. The concept of Early Childhood Development involves holistic development involving physical, emotional, cognitive, and social dimensions. Society as a whole, and the family, community and the government in particular, have the responsibility to ensure that children grow and develop in a healthy manner. The researcher conducted the study on “Early Childhood Development among the Children of Domestic Workers in Chennai Corporation.*

Review of Studies: *The review of literature deals with the physical, psychological, linguistic, cognitive and emotional status of the children and problems of domestic workers.*

Objective: *The core objective of this study is to find out the status of Early Childhood Development among the children of domestic workers.*

Research Methods and Materials: *Descriptive Research design is used for the study. Using a Simple Random Sampling method, 100 respondents were selected through a structured interview*

schedule and the secondary source of data was collected from the review of literatures like Text Books, Journals, News Papers, Articles, Web Sites, etc.

Findings: *The vast majority of the respondents (86%) are from Tamil Nadu who speak only Tamil language. Most of the respondents (91%) were from Hindu community. Three fourth of respondents belonged to Scheduled Caste. About half of the respondents (47%) had a primary level education and 35 per cent were illiterate. Therefore the educational status of Women Domestic Workers was very low.*

Conclusion: *Domestic workers have become essential today because there has been a change in the economic and social functions of the home. The traditional role of women in India has been changing in the past two or three decades. More and more women are entering various areas of economy. Industrialization and its overall impact on the social fabric of society have led to three primary changes in India.*

Key words: Early Childhood Development, Children of Domestic Workers, Chennai Corporation, India

INTRODUCTION

Early Childhood Development is the all-round and balanced development of the child from birth to school age and it covers the rights of all children irrespective of class, caste, language, religion, culture, country and ethnic groups. Early childhood programmes are about addressing the child's rights now and not for future time. At present in Chennai there are 311 nursery and primary schools functioning with the approval of the Directorate of School Education. (TN-FORCES 2005). Early Childhood Development is the rights of all children irrespective of class, caste, language, religion, culture, country and ethnic groups.

Domestic workers perform a variety of household services for an individual or a family, from providing care for children and elderly dependents to cleaning and household maintenance, known as housekeeping. Some domestic workers

live within the household where they work. Traditionally women's role was confined to the household and was mainly responsible for attending to the needs of her husband and children. But today, due to economic pressure, a woman is forced to take up employment so as to support her family. Due to their poor socio-economic status women from economically backward groups are willing to work in unorganized sectors, unmindful of the exploitation and occupational risks that they face.

Due to globalization, for the vulnerable sections of women from poorer backgrounds and poorer economies domestic work seems to be the last resort, globally as well. This fact reinforces sexual division of labour within the world of work and of race, caste, class, poorer economies apart from gender. The domestic workers are the most neglected and vulnerable persons, as they come from very poor family backgrounds, often illiterate or semi-literate, mostly women or girls who have migrated into cities and townships, far away from their parents and relatives, with no legal protection and no trade unions to defend their rights.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The estimated number of domestic workers in India is 90 million and 15 lakh in Tamil Nadu. 90 per cent domestic workers in India are women, girls or children ranging from ages 12 to 75. But this is probably an underestimate as there has been no systematic study to document such workers throughout the country. The reason of work is the adverse conditions of poverty and the failure of the government to eradicate or make the situation better. Their social life is affected due to educational backwardness, poor housing, low health status and lack of social awareness. They have no benefits of social security, security of employment, wage raises, paid leave or medical facilities and they face problems like job insecurity,

poor working conditions, heavy work load, insufficient payment and exploitation. As a result many of the women are subjected to humiliation, abuse (physical, verbal and sexual) and exploitation. This situation has lowered the self-esteem of the women, making them insecure, submissive and remain as poor forever.

The condition of domestic worker in Chennai slum also is not different. So that the researcher willing to study how their children are due to above mentioned issues of their parents. Therefore the researcher is interested to analyze their children's Early Childhood Development which will highlight their social, economical and occupational life and family environment conditions.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The primary purpose of the future of children is to disseminate timely information on major issues related to children's well-being, with special emphasis on providing objective analysis and evaluation, translating existing knowledge into effective programs and policies, and promoting constructive institutional change. In attempting to achieve these objectives, we are targeting a multidisciplinary audience of national leaders, including policymakers, practitioners, legislators, executives, and professionals in the public and private sectors. The researcher is interested in understanding the Early Childhood Development of the children of domestic workers who belong to the weaker sections of the society. The researcher wants to know the Early Childhood Development such as cognitive development, linguistic development, physical growth, psychosocial and emotional development and demographic details of these people and disseminate the information in restructuring the ideology of domestic workers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- a) To know the Demographic details of the Respondents.
- b) To study the Process of Cognitive Development during Early Childhood
- c) To examine the Linguistic Development of the Children.
- d) To examine the Physical Growth and Development of the Children.
- e) To know the Psychosocial and Emotional Development during Early Childhood.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The Scope of early childhood development approaches based on preschool, kindergarten, childcare, or elementary school settings, and their parent's economic status.

Even though the main findings of the researcher can be made use by the ICDS, Tamil Nadu, National, Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers Welfare Board and other concerned departments to make necessary improvements of early childhood development and domestic work settings. ICDS and domestic workers organizations that are working for the upliftment of children and women also can use these findings to improve the status of early childhood development and domestic workers. The researchers' findings will be helpful for those who want to pursue further research on other areas related to early childhood development of domestic workers.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The main findings of the researcher can be made use by the ICDS, Tamil Nadu, National, Tamil Nadu Domestic Workers Welfare Board and other concerned departments to make necessary improvements of early childhood development and domestic work settings. ICDS and domestic workers

organizations that are working for the upliftment of children and women also can use these findings to improve the status of early childhood development and domestic workers. The researchers' findings will be helpful for those who want to pursue further research on other areas related to early childhood development of domestic workers.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Before initiating the research, the researcher met some difficulties to get approval from the NGOs to conduct the research because the target group being children were one of the major problems to initiate the research by the schedule in the beginning. The time constraints are one of the major limitations.

Chennai has over 1.5 million domestic workers. The universe selected for the study ie, 100 respondents from Chennai is much less compared to the whole population of women domestic workers available in Chennai. As a consequence there are limitations with regard to the generalization of certain findings about Early Childhood Development.

Sometime some of the respondents were very busy with their household works in the evening. So getting information from them was a difficult task. Some of the respondents were not able to give the exact answer about the status of their children.

BRIEF REVIEW OF STUDIES AND LITERATURES

Domestic Workers and Early Childhood: The increasing demand of domestic workers in Chennai has played a major role in migration of women from far flung rural areas. Most of the women who migrate to Chennai are from poor families and are illiterate. Their lack of education and skill make their

choice very limited and when they come to big cities such as Chennai they have to face number of problems and because of their inexperience and lack of skill they become easy victim of exploitation. India has 397 million workers out of which 123.9 million are women. 106 million of these workers are in the rural areas and the remaining 18 million work in urban areas. Only 7% of India's huge labor force is in the organized sector, which includes workers on regular salaries, in registered companies and firms. The rest of the workers – 93% work in the unorganized or informal sector.

The figures for women workers in India are even more dismal – almost 96% of the women workers are in the unorganized sector. The female work participation rate (WPR) has increased overall from 19.7% in 1981 to 25.7% in 2001. In the rural areas it has increased from 23.1 to 31% and in the urban areas it has risen from 8.3 to 11.6%. 'Participation', however, has been largely distress induced and has compelled women to take up jobs which offer very poor wages and no social security. There has been a significant increase in women employed in petty retail trade, hotels and restaurants in the last decade as part of survival strategy of poor urban households. Hotels and restaurants have shown an increase of 2, 78,000 women workers from 1994 to 2000. These are typically low paying jobs where women work for long hours without any benefits and face sexual harassment.

Classifications of Women Domestic Workers are three: 1. Live-in domestic workers 2. Part-time (Live-out) domestic workers. (They stay at their own house and go for work daily. 3. Migrant domestic workers: Those who are migrated from various places for the purpose of domestic works.

Women Domestic Workers in India: Domestic labor constitutes one of the country's largest job categories, behind farming and construction. The estimated number of domestic workers in India is 90 million, 50 times the number of people

working in the software industry. But this is probably an underestimate as there has been no systematic study to document such workers throughout the country. The overall claim to the reason of work is the adverse conditions of poverty and the failure of the government to eradicate or make the situation better. But whatever may be the factors that lead the women to the job, it is the age-old patriarchal and societal systems in India that regard the work as menial and downgrade. As a result of which, it draws the poorest of remuneration. These workers have no benefits of work contracts, social security, security of employment, wage raises, paid leave or medical facilities. As a result many of the women are subjected to humiliation, abuse (physical, verbal and sexual) and exploitation. This situation of work has lowered the self-esteem of the women, making them insecure and submissive

Problems Faced By Domestic Workers

Rural migrants who come to cities often work under unregulated and unprotected conditions, with most of them becoming easy victims of harassment and exploitation, especially women and children, who suffer maximum abuse at the hands of employers.

Sexual harassment is in the form of verbal sexual comments- gestures, unwanted physical contacts (touching, pushing and pinching) by the employer to molestation and rape. Most of the sexually harassed domestic workers do not protest due to the unequal power relationship. Protesting would amount to losing their job.

Domestic workers face occupational related health problems. These include back problems (related to posture at work), tiredness, problems with hands and feet as a result of them being constantly wet and because of the use of hazardous washing detergent.

A report by the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector noted: “Of all the services in India this is the most unrecognised and disorganized, and often the most denigrating and humiliating. These workers do the most menial and arduous tasks, have impossible long hours with no benefits of social security, security of employment, wage raises, paid leave or medical facilities.”

What is Early Childhood Development?

Early childhood is the most rapid period of development in a human life. Although individual children develop at their own pace, all children progress through an identifiable sequence of physical, cognitive, and emotional growth and change. The Early Child Development (ECD) approach is based on the proven fact that young children respond best when caregivers use specific techniques designed to encourage and stimulate progress to the next level of development.

The ultimate goal of Early Child Development (ECD) programs is to improve young children's capacity to develop and learn. A child who is ready for school has a combination of positive characteristics: he or she is socially and emotionally healthy, confident, and friendly; has good peer relationships; tackles challenging tasks and persists with them; has good language skills and communicates well; and listens to instructions and is attentive. The positive effects that ECD programs have can change the development trajectory of children by the time they enter school. A child who is ready for school has less chances of repeating a grade, being placed in special education, or being a school drop-out.

ECD interventions include educating and supporting parents, delivering services to children, developing capacities of caregivers and teachers, and using mass communications to enhance parents and caregiver's knowledge and practices. Programs for children can be center or home-based, formal or non-formal, and can include parent education.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Field of Study: The study is conducted in four areas namely Choolaimedu, Navachivayapuram, **KK Nagar and Choolaipallam** in Chennai Corporation.

Research Design: The descriptive research design enabled the researcher to describe /present the existing living and working conditions and problems faced by these domestic workers.

Sampling: Using the list as the universe, 100 samples was selected by adopting Simple Random Sampling through lottery method.

Sources of Data: The researcher collected information from primary and secondary sources. The primary source was from the actual respondents (Domestic Workers). The secondary data were from published and unpublished books, journals, articles and official websites.

Tools of Data Collection: The researcher used 'Interview Schedule' as the tool for data collection.

Pre Testing: The questions framed in the Interview Schedule were first tested with five respondents on 7th May 2013, and after hearing their responses, the researcher made some modifications in the questions. A few unwanted questions were removed.

DISCUSSION

Demography details

Substantial number of the respondents (37%) belongs to the age group of 21 to 30 years old. This is the most productive age of any human person. 76 per cent of the respondents were in the

age group of 21 to 31 years (Josephine p 26). Since the percentage is dissimilar, the age group is similar when this survey is compared with Josephine's result.

Reasonable numbers of children are female children belonging to 53%. Since the Chennai population is a little higher than the other big cities of India. When the population is comparing with other towns in Tamil Nadu, the female children ratio is high.

The vast majority of the respondents 86 per cent are from Tamil Nadu who speaks only Tamil language. Since many languages are spoken in Tamil Nadu, the majority of the people speak Tamil. Even if they are well verse in other languages, they are speaking in Tamil.

Most of the respondents were from Hindu Religion that was 91 per cent. India is a vast country, and there are many religions, but most of the people belong to Hindu religion. It shows the history, heritage, customs, and cultures of India.

Three fourth of respondents belonged to Scheduled Caste because they formed 75%. There was no one who belonged to the upper caste community. In India alone there is a culture of having many caste systems, and those are divided into many sub caste too. Among them the SC people alone face numerous problems in the society.

Most of the respondents (92%) were married. Still there is a custom of young marriage in India. Even if the men or women belong to very young age, they would get married.

Considerable percentage of respondents 47 per cent had a primary level education and 35 per cent were illiterate. Therefore the educational status of Women Domestic Workers was very low.

Nearly one third of the respondents (32%) earn Rs.3000/- per month. So many of them are facing a cruel financial problems since they are in job, it is because of odd job and getting meager wage.

One third of the respondents 67 per cent are from Nuclear Family. In the modern epoch most of the joint families are splited into many and thus the nuclear family system began, it is because of urbanization and industrialization. This reason paves the way to belong most of the families this crew

Cognitive Development

Substantial number of 37% of children imitative learning is good. Children are clearly interested in the results of demonstrations but if they are presented with results alone – with no demonstration of the actions needed to achieve these results – they often have difficulty reproducing the results (Bellagamba and Tomasello, 1999; Call et al., 2005; Huang et al., 2002). However, in some tasks they are able to do this, as early as 12 months of age (Tennie et al., 2006; Thompson and Russell, 2004).

Children's ability to copy others' actions is much easier to demonstrate. Young children often copy the particular way in which an adult achieved a result, even when that way was clearly not causally necessary. For example, Nagell and collaborators (1993) showed that 2-year-old children copied an adult's flipping or no-flipping actions with a rake, even when that resulted in less efficient performance on their part (see also, e.g., Call et al., 2005; Nielsen, 2006; Whiten et al., 1996). Again, there is evidence that sometimes children copy adults' actions by age 12 months (e.g., Carpenter et al., 2005; Nielsen, 2006; Schwier et al., 2006).

Substantial number of 36% of the children's listening capacity is excellent. Half of the students listening capacity fare there is a number of children score good mark by listening.

Good number of 4% of the children resolve inter personal problem are excellent. Others are not able to identify the problems and even they feel much hard to solve their problems themselves.

One third that is 30% of the children's ability to identify colors is fair. Excluding 30% of the children, belong to other group like good, poor etc.

Substantial number of 39% of children attention while yawning, coughing, sneering are good. On the basis of the children's mental power it is surveyed.

One third (33%) of the children remember and recall names and relationship is excellent. Substantial number of 36% of the children's memory power is good. As they are very strong in memory power, they are able to get back easily all things.

Substantial number of 37% of the children perception of height weight and depth is excellent. Substantial number of 35% of the children the details of the house, street is good. Since they are very young children, they are able to guess everything properly.

One third (33%) of the children's ability to adapt to new situation is excellent. Children are normally very hard to adapt in the new places, hence here researcher surveyed that some children are easily adapt in the novel places.

One third (33%) of the children academic performance in the pre-school /ICDS is good. Substantial number of 30% of the children's sequential thinking is fair. Children are able to recalls the events to customize their mulling capacity in a proper way.

Nearly one third 30 per cent of the children curiosity in learning is excellent. Since there are many variations found in education, hence good number of students is better in their academic vice.

Linguistic Development

Factors associated with individual variation in false belief understanding were examined. Sixty-eight 3- to 5-year-olds were tested on 4 standard false belief tasks. General language ability and verbal memory were found to be significant predictors of false belief understanding after the effects of age

were partialled out, but nonverbal memory was not. There was evidence for a threshold effect in that children did not pass false belief tasks before they reached a certain level of linguistic ability. False belief scores were higher in children from larger families, after the effect of age and language had been partialled out. Family size was more strongly associated with false belief understanding in children who were less competent linguistically, suggesting that the presence of siblings can compensate for slower language development in developing false belief understanding. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)

A solid number of 27% of children's pronunciation is good. Recent studies suggest that performance attendant on visual word perception is affected not only by feed forward inconsistency (i.e., multiple ways to pronounce a spelling) but also by feedback inconsistency (i.e., multiple ways to spell a pronunciation). In the present study, we provide a statistical analysis of these types of inconsistency for all monosyllabic English words. This database can be used as a tool for controlling, selecting, and constructing stimulus materials for psycholinguistic and neuropsychological research. Such large-scale statistical analyses are necessary devices for developing metrics of inconsistency, for generating hypotheses for psycholinguistic experiments, and for building models of word perception, speech perception and spelling.

We sought to determine what types of linguistic information children represent in their spelling by examining their performance on the flaps of words such as city and lady. In four experiments, children often misspelled flaps as d. This d bias was common until at least second grade, with few children showing a bias toward t. We found no evidence that children have an underlying representation of city as containing /t/, for children said such words with /d/ when speaking very slowly. Even kindergartners were more accurate at spelling the flaps of words such as dirty, which have a stem ending with /t/, than

the flaps of words such as city. Thus, children use meaning relations among words to aid their spelling before they have formally been taught to do so. The results show that young children are not purely phonetic spellers as they are often portrayed. The results further suggest that phonology and orthography are closely related systems that interact during development. (Rebecca Treiman, *Child Development*, Volume 65, October 1994)

The K Cain report data from a longitudinal study that addresses the relations between working memory capacity and reading comprehension skills in children aged 8, 9, and 11 years. At each time point, the K Cain assessed children's reading ability, vocabulary and verbal skills, performance on two working memory assessments (sentence-span and digit working memory), and component skills of comprehension. At each time point, working memory and component skills of comprehension (inference making, comprehension monitoring, story structure knowledge) predicted unique variance in reading comprehension after word reading ability and vocabulary and verbal ability controls. Further analyses revealed that the relations between reading comprehension and both inference making and comprehension monitoring were not wholly mediated by working memory. Rather, these component skills explained their own unique variance in reading comprehension. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (*Journal of Educational Psychology*, Vol 96(1), Mar 2004, 31-42.)

Physical Growth and Development

Considerable number (59%) of the children was born at Government Hospital. The researcher found that 56% of the children are average wait at the time of birth. A solid number of 32 per cent of the children reached the Average Height of 50 cm. Childhood growth was related to adult obesity—cohort members who achieved a greater percentage of their adult

height by age seven tended to be heavier rather than lighter at birth (data not shown) and had an increased risk of obesity at age 33 (fig 4). When we examined birth weight and subsequent childhood growth simultaneously, we found that the effect of childhood growth on adult obesity varied by birth weight in men, with a stronger effect seen in those with lower birth weights (fig 4). This pattern was less distinct in women. The interaction term for percentage of adult height achieved by age 7 with birth weight was significant in men ($P=0.003$) but not in women ($P=0.82$). In men, the relation between percentage adult height achieved by age 7 and adult obesity also varied by maternal weight or body mass index, with a stronger relation seen in cohort members with lighter or thinner mothers. The interaction term for childhood growth with maternal weight on obesity at age 33 was significant in men ($P=0.04$), but not in women ($P=0.26$). In analyses using body mass index as a continuous outcome, these relations for growth in childhood were also observed, but were less noticeable.

Considerable number of 69% of the children has got normal Health status. After adjusting for confounding variables, 6 to 11-year-old food-insufficient children had significantly lower arithmetic scores and were more likely to have repeated a grade, have seen a psychologist, and have had difficulty getting along with other children. Food-insufficient teenagers were more likely to have seen a psychologist, have been suspended from school, and have had difficulty getting along with other children. Further analyses divided children into lower-risk and higher-risk groups. The associations between food insufficiency and children's outcomes varied by level of risks (Katherine Alaimo, PhD)

One third of the respondents (33%) were gave breastfeeding to their children up to the age group of 7-12 Months. Observational studies suggest a longer duration of breastfeeding to be associated dose dependently with a decrease in risk of overweight in later life. The authors performed a

comprehensive meta-analysis of the existing studies on duration of breastfeeding and risk of overweight. Studies were included that reported the odds ratio and 95% confidence interval (or the data to calculate them) of overweight associated with breastfeeding and that reported the duration of breastfeeding and used exclusively formula-fed subjects as the referent. Seventeen studies met the inclusion criteria. By meta-regression, the duration of breastfeeding was inversely associated with the risk of overweight (regression coefficient = 0.94, 95% confidence interval (CI): 0.89, 0.98). Categorical analysis confirmed this dose-response association (<1 month of breastfeeding: odds ratio (OR) = 1.0, 95% CI: 0.65, 1.55; 1–3 months: OR = 0.81, 95% CI: 0.74, 0.88; 4–6 months: OR = 0.76, 95% CI: 0.67, 0.86; 7–9 months: OR = 0.67, 95% CI: 0.55, 0.82; >9 months: OR = 0.68, 95% CI: 0.50, 0.91). One month of breastfeeding was associated with a 4% decrease in risk (OR = 0.96/month of breastfeeding, 95% CI: 0.94, 0.98). The definitions of overweight and age had no influence. These findings strongly support a dose-dependent association between longer duration of breastfeeding and decrease in risk of overweight. (American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 162, Issue 5 Pp. 397-403.)

Good number of the respondents (43%) started to give Supplementary Food to their children during 6-9 months. Food taking system varies with another, however a good number of children take proper and necessary food during the growth month between 6 and 9.

Good number of 44% of the responses agrees that child is given immunization. To prevent the deceases they are given such needed immunization in their very beginning stage itself. So, most of the mothers are very care on their children's disease free life.

Six hundred thirty-six children in the lower (n = 313) and higher (n = 323) protein formula groups and 298 children in the breastfed group were followed until 24 mo. Length was not

different between randomized groups at any time. At 24 mo, the weight-for-length z score of infants in the lower protein formula group was 0.20 (0.06, 0.34) lower than that of the higher protein group and did not differ from that of the breastfed reference group.(the American journal of clinical nutrition, March 3, 2009.)

Good number (40%) of the children goes to bed on time is agreed by their parent. Many children will not be in time for their sleep, it may because of the dwelling place condition or the nature of the family custom or some other reason, and here a good number of children are very perfect for their sleep.

Substantial number of 34 per cent of the child knows the items (soap, towel, water, bucket, etc) are agreed by their parent. The children are able to classify the items which are used regularly in their home. By the way they are able to identify what is what.

Substantial number of 34% of the parent feed the child healthy food regularly is agreed by them and 27% of the parents agreed that their child takes food on time. The results demonstrate that negative academic and psychosocial outcomes are associated with family-level food insufficiency and provide support for public health efforts to increase the food security of American families and also Indian families. (Christine M. Olson, PhD,)

Psychosocial Development

Good number of 91% of children doesn't have any deformity. When children are very active and energetic, they do not have any draw back.

Age of initiation of toilet training correlated with age of completion of training ($r = 0.275$). The correlation between age at initiation of intensive training and age at completion was even stronger ($r = 0.459$). Younger age at initiation of intensive toilet training was not associated with constipation, stool withholding, or stool toileting refusal. However, age at

initiation of intensive toilet training was negatively correlated with duration of toilet training ($r = -0.481$), indicating that initiation of training at younger ages was associated with a longer duration of training. In addition, the correlation between age at initiation of intensive toilet training and age at completion of training was not significant for those who began intensive training before 27 months of age ($r = 0.107$).

Early initiation of intensive toilet training correlates with an earlier age at completion of toilet training but also a longer duration of toilet training. Although earlier toilet training is not associated with constipation, stool withholding, or stool toileting refusal, initiation of intensive training before 27 months does not correlate with earlier completion of toilet training, suggesting little benefit in beginning intensive training before 27 months of age in most children. (Nathan J. Blum).

The study included 126 girls and 141 boys; 88% were white. Parents submitted a total of 10 741 weekly surveys (range: 1–73; median: 49 per child). Girls demonstrated toilet-training skills at earlier ages than boys. The median ages for “staying dry during the day” were 32.5 months (95% confidence interval: 30.9–33.7) and 35.0 months (95% confidence interval: 33.3–36.7) for girls and boys, respectively. The median ages for readiness skills for girls and boys, respectively, were as follows: “showing an interest in using the potty,” 24 and 26 months; “staying dry for 2 hours,” 26 and 29 months; “indicating a need to go to the bathroom,” 26 and 29 months. There was a marked concordance in the sequences in which girls and boys achieve individual skills. In addition, the inter quartile ranges of the toileting skills varied from 6.9 to 11.4 months in girls and from 7.5 to 14.6 months in boys.

In this study population, girls achieve nearly all toilet-training skills earlier than boys, including successful completion. Most children do not master the readiness skills until after the second birthday. The range of normalcy for the

attainment of individual skills may vary by as much as a year. (Timothy R. Schum,)

Good number of 42% of the children not at all feels neglected. Since children are very innocent, they do not reject or neglect anything, they always accept all.

A solid number of 29% of the children rarely feel regret of its mistakes. Most of the children would not know what mistake they did. A very few children alone is able to realize the wrong doings.

Substantial number of 39% of the children maintaining the cleanliness rarely. Children are always doing things without knowing the factors, so it is very hard to maintain cleanliness.

A solid number of 30% of the children play and mingle always with other children. Most of the parents would not allow their children to play with other one. So, a very less children alone are allowed to play and mingle with others.

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between different settings for young children's play behaviors with peers. Forty-one children from 2 to 5 years of age (twenty-one 2- and 3-year-olds and twenty 4- and 5-year-olds) enrolled in three child care programs participated in this study. The children were videotaped for five minutes each on four different days, both indoors and outdoors (total of 40 minutes). The Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs described the quality of the child care program, and additional measures described the playground setting. Children's play behaviors were categorized using the Parten-Smilansky Scale, which combines social play categories and cognitive play categories into 16 categories of peer interaction. Results showed that the children were more likely to engage in the most complex form of peer play (i.e., interactive dramatic play) outdoors than indoors. In outdoor play, the older age group was more likely to interact with peers than was the younger age group. The outdoor playground offered older

preschoolers particular types of play experiences (i.e., functional play and dramatic play) more readily than the classroom. These findings reinforce the importance of both the indoor and the outdoor environments for promoting more complementary play behaviors and peer interactions. (Journal of Research in Childhood Education, Volume 15, Issue 2, 2001). One third of them said Sometimes 33% of the children take the right quantity of food in time. Children ever care about their food, they simply loiter and wander around the house or street, hence some children are very perfect to take their food in time.

Emotional Development

A substantial number of 31% of the children sometimes give appropriate facial expression for joy, fear, anger etc. The present research examines visual perception of emotion in both typical and atypical development. To examine the processes by which perceptual mechanisms become attuned to the contingencies of affective signals in the environment, the authors measured the sequential, content-based properties of feature detection in emotion recognition processes. To evaluate the role of experience, they compared typically developing children with physically abused children, who were presumed to have experienced high levels of threat and hostility. As predicted, physically abused children accurately identified facial displays of anger on the basis of less sensory input than did controls, which suggests that physically abused children have facilitated access to representations of anger. The findings are discussed in terms of experiential processes in perceptual learning. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (Developmental Psychology, Vol 38(5), Sep 2002, 784-791.)

One third (34%) of the children sometimes have empathic and sympathetic sensitivity to others' emotional experiences. In Roberts and Strayer (1996) we described how emotional factors were strongly related to children's empathy,

which in turn strongly predicted pro-social behavior. This paper focuses on how these child emotional factors, assessed across methods and sources, related to parental factors (empathy, emotional expressiveness, encouragement of children's emotional expressiveness, warmth and control) for a subset of 50 two-parent families from our earlier sample. Parents reported on their emotional characteristics and parenting; children (5 to 13 years old; 42% girls) also described parenting practices. Children's age and parenting factors accounted for an average of 32% of the variance in child emotional factors, which, with role-taking, strongly predicted children's empathy. In contrast to earlier, less comprehensive studies, we found important paths between parents' and children's empathy, mediated by children's anger. These countervailing pathways largely neutralized each other, resulting in the low correlations usually seen when parents' and children's empathy are examined in isolation. Thus our findings are an important confirmation and extension of the theoretically expected link between parents' and children's empathy. (Social Development, Volume 13, Issue 2, pages 229–254, May 2004).

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Domestic workers are a section of the working class. However, till today they are not considered to be workers. There is no recognition of the dignity of labor and domestic work has the lowest status value. However, whatever legislative measures are enacted in favor of domestic service, they should highlight social and humanitarian values in such a way as to recognize the domestic worker as a person.

The researcher produces the following suggestions based on the study conducted among the women domestic workers at Chennai. For the betterment of their babies early childhood development:

1. **Recognizing Domestic Work as a Profession:** Domestic Work is considered as a low graded job in society. This traditional preconceived idea needs to be wiped out. Therefore an awareness of the dignity of labor and appreciation of the usefulness of the domestic worker is essential. For any work to be called profession it requires a basic qualification, training, organization and practical experience. Therefore the following measures need to be taken to consider domestic work as a profession;
 - a. **Education:** A basic qualification of formal education should be fixed for this life-based profession. A minimum education of primary school level should be considered essential to those people who would take up domestic work. Illiterate domestic workers below the age of eighteen, who are presently in domestic service, should be given basic non-formal education through private or governmental agency.
 - b. **Vocational Course:** A short term vocational course on cooking, housekeeping, home management, shopping, home nursing, baby care, care of the aged, health and hygiene would be advantageous for the development of domestic work on professional line.
2. **Need of a Service Agency:** A well established voluntary agency to concentrate on their children development in all aspects has a vital role in implementing social measures in Slum.
 - a. The government and non government organization should focus their children for education and health support.
 - b. The agency should work as a mediator between government, employer and domestic worker and

- also as an implementing agent for statutory action when it comes into force.
- c. The agency should conduct night classes for the training of such domestic workers as needed.
 - d. Organize cultural and recreational program for domestic workers.
 - e. Establish a counseling bureau and crèche.
 - f. Negotiate and arbitrate the grievances of domestic workers and employers.
 - g. Facilitate some of the schemes like savings, co-operatives, family pension, domestic workers' welfare fund and loans.
3. The children have to learn through play and not being taught;
 4. The children have to receive information on important issues in a language they can easily understand;
 5. The adults must interact with them as equal partners;
 6. The programmes have to be developed together with parents and within the community, as these people remain the central social actors when it comes to child development, especially at that particular age.
 7. Ministry of Labor and Employment should take necessary steps to bring these unorganized sector workers under organized sector.
 8. Further researches can be conducted to study about early childhood development among the children of domestic worker and the problems of domestic workers in depth and to make necessary changes in their life and in policy.

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