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**“A Study to Evaluate the Knowledge and Attitudes of Parents  
from Different Economic Groups toward the Play Needs of  
Children”**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding Play Needs of Children among Parents of Various Economic Groups in Selected Areas of Turuvanur road Chitradurga Karnataka.*

*A survey approach with a descriptive exploratory research design was adopted for the study. Data were collected using a purposive sampling technique from 90 parents with children up to the age of 5 years. A structured interview schedule was employed to assess the parents' knowledge of the play needs of children, while a modified 5-point Likert scale was used to evaluate their attitudes toward these needs.*

*The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The results revealed that the majority of participants, 47 (52%), had inadequate knowledge regarding the play needs of children, with an overall mean knowledge score of 12.10. However, the majority, 55 (61.1%), demonstrated a favorable attitude toward the play needs of children, with an overall mean attitude score of 77.62.*

*The study found no significant association between the knowledge levels of the participants and their demographic variables at the  $p < 0.05$  level. Similarly, no significant association was observed between the attitude levels of the participants and their demographic variables at the  $p < 0.05$  level.*

*Overall, the analysis revealed that there was no significant association between knowledge and the selected variables, nor was there any significant association between attitude and the selected variables.*

**BACKGROUND OF STUDY:**

Play is essential for a child's growth, development, learning, and overall maturation. Parents serve as a child's first and most important playmates. Research suggests that the most creative children often have parents who are actively involved in their play. Hence, it is crucial for parents to possess adequate knowledge and a positive attitude toward their children's play needs.

This study aimed to assess and correlate parents' knowledge and attitudes regarding the play needs of children. Additionally, the study sought to examine the association between parents' knowledge and attitudes and selected demographic variables.

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### **NEED OF STUDY:**

Play is an essential part of every child's life, regardless of their age, culture, social background, or economic circumstances. Parents must understand the play needs of their children to support sound mental and physical health. Babies and toddlers, in particular, require a safe and healthy environment, along with warm, responsive caregivers, to stimulate their growth and development. It is the interplay of nature and nurture that fosters children's physical, social, emotional, cognitive, cultural, and creative growth.

This study aims to assess the knowledge and attitudes of parents from different economic groups regarding the play needs of children aged 0–3 years. Despite the importance of play, limitations and failures exist across all economic groups, which may lead to inadequate fulfillment of children's play needs. Such shortcomings can result in delayed or poor physical and intellectual development in children.

In India, there is limited research available on the play needs of children, highlighting the need for more studies in this area. As a nurse, the researcher plays a pivotal role in identifying these concerns and implementing strategies to help parents understand the value of play. This includes promoting the development of social play behaviors, understanding the characteristics of play, addressing sex-role behaviors in play, and guiding the selection and care of appropriate play materials. By addressing these issues, parents can be better equipped to support their children's holistic growth and development.

### **OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:**

1. To assess the knowledge and attitude of parents of various economic groups regarding the play needs of children.
2. To identify the correlation between the knowledge and attitude of parents of various economic group regarding the play needs of children.
3. To find out the association of knowledge and attitude of parents of various economic group towards the play needs of their children with selected demographic variables.

### **VARIABLES OF STUDY:**

**Research variables:** - Knowledge and attitude

**Demographic variables:-** Age, gender, type of the family, education, occupation, income, religion, no of children and age & sex of children.

**Conceptual framework:-** Conceptual Framework of knowledge and attitude of parents regarding play needs of children base on Barnard's parents-child interaction model.

**Method and Material: - Research approach: - Survey approach was adopted for this study**

**Research design: -** A descriptive research was found to be most appropriate for this study

**Research setting: -** The present study was undertaken in Turuvanur road Chitradurga Karnataka. due to the geographical proximity, feasibility of the study and availability of the sample.

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## POPULATION:

**Target population:** - The target population for the present study comprised of parents of various income groups having children of birth to 5 years of age residing Turuvanur road Chitradurga Karnataka.

**Sample:-** In this study the sample consisted of parents of various income groups having children of birth to 5 years of age residing in Turuvanur road Chitradurga Karnataka..

**Sample size:-** sample size of 90 parents of various income groups having children of birth to 5 years of age and fulfill the exclusion and inclusion criteria.

**Sampling technique:-** Purposive sampling technique

**Inclusion criteria:-** Parents who are willing to participate, Parents who are having children of birth to 5 years & Parents in the age group of 21-40 years

**Exclusion criteria:** - Single parent, Parents with children of physically or mentally challenged & Parents with children of terminal illness

## METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION:

Tool for data collection: - The following tools were used for the study:

1. Structured interview schedule to assess the knowledge of parents towards play needs of children.
2. Five point scale to assess the attitude of parents regarding play needs of children of birth to 5 years age. The tool consists of three parts, part I, II and III

### Part I: Demographic Data

This section consisted of 9 items designed to gather personal information about the participants. These items included details such as age, gender, type of family, religion, educational qualification, income, occupation, number of children, and the age and gender of their children. Participants were requested to provide responses to these questions.

### Part II: Structured Interview Schedule

The structured interview schedule comprised 25 items designed to assess parents' knowledge about the play needs of children. The questions covered topics such as the meaning and importance of play, types of play for different age groups, functions of play, selection of play materials, and safety considerations. Each question offered four response options: one correct answer and three distractors.

Scoring was as follows:

- **Correct response:** 1 point
- **Incorrect response:** 0 points

The total score ranged from 0 to 25, with 25 being the highest possible score.

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**The resulting score were ranged as follows:-**

Adequate: more than 75% (19-25 marks)

Moderately adequate: 50 - 75% (13-18 marks)  
Inadequate: less than 50% (less than 13 marks)

**Part- III: Modified form of 5 point Likert scale** prepared with attitude statement regarding play needs of children. It consisted of 20 statements and 5 columns such as Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Uncertain (UC), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). There were 10 negative and 10 positive statements. Each positive statement carried the score 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and negative carried the score 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The resulting score were ranged as follows

Favorable: more than 75% (75-100 marks)

Moderately favorable: 50 - 75% (50-74 marks)  
Unfavorable: less than 50% (less than 50 marks)

**Development of tool:-**

The tool was developed by using the following steps

- Extensive review of research literature
- Consultation with experts
- Establishing content of validity by formally seeking the suggestion and recommendations of experts
- Establishing reliability of tool by applying statistical procedures
- Pilot study
- Main study

**Reliability:**

To establish the reliability of the tool, the **split-half method** was employed. The tool was administered to 12 participants, and the test was divided into two equal halves. The correlation between the two halves was calculated using Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient formula, and the significance of the correlation was tested using the probable error method.

The reliability of the entire test was then estimated using **Spearman's Brown Prophecy Formula**. The results showed:

- The reliability of the structured interview schedule to assess knowledge was **0.8753**.
- The reliability of the attitude scale was **0.8842**.

**Data collection procedure:-**

The data collection was conducted over a period of four weeks in Turuvanur Road, Chitradurga, Karnataka. Written permission was obtained from the concerned authority prior to the study. Data were collected from 90 parents who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

After a brief self-introduction and an explanation of the study's purpose, written consent was obtained from each participant. The investigator conducted individual interviews with the participants, which took approximately 20 to 30 minutes per participant. At the end of each session, the investigator expressed gratitude to the participants, marking the conclusion of the data collection process.

The purpose of the study was explained to all participants, and informed consent was secured. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods

### **Study findings -**

#### ***Section A: Distribution of samples based on demographic characteristics:-***

In the present study observed that, 9 (30%), 12 (40%), 9 (30%) of the low income groups were in the age group of 21-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years respectively. 5 (16.7%), 24 (80%), 1 (3.3%) of middle income

group were in the age group of 21-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years respectively. 5 (16.75%), 20 (66.75%), 5 (16.6%) of high income group were in the age group of 21-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years respectively.

In the present study observed that 4(13.3%) samples of low income group, 11(36.7%) samples of middle group, 16 (53.3%) samples of high income group were males and 26 (86.7%) samples of low income group, 19(63.3%) sample of middle income group, 14 (46.7%) samples of high income group were females.

In the present study observed that,18 (60%) samples of low income group, 22 (73.4%) samples of middle income group, 23 (76.7% ) samples of high income group belonged to nuclear family. 5 (16.7%). samples of low income group, 7 (23.3%) samples of middle income group, 4 (13.3%) samples of high income group belonged to joint family. 7 (23.3%) samples of low income group, 1 (3.3%) samples of middle income group, 3 (10.0%) samples of high income group belonged to extended family.

28 (93.3%) samples of low income group, 15 (50%) samples of middle income group, 23 (76.6%) of high income group belonged to Hindu religion. 2 (6.67%) samples of low income group, 6 (20%) of middle income group, 5 (16.7%) of high income group belonged to Muslim religion. 0 (0%) of low income group, 9 (30%) of middle income group, 2 (6.67%) of high income group belonged to Christian religion.

19(63.4%) samples of low income group, 9 (30% ) samples of middle income group, 21 (70%) of high income group had one child each. 10 (33.3%) samples of low income group, 21 (70%) of middle income group, 7 (23.3%) of high income group had two children each. 1 (3.3%) of low income group, 0 (0%) of middle income group, 2 (6.7%) of high income group had 3 children each.

The present study revealed that 15 (50%) samples of low income group, 13 (43.3%) of middle income group, 11 (37.7%) samples of high income group had children less than 2 years of age. 18 (60%) of low income group, 24 (80%) of middle income group, 21 (70%) of high income group have children of 2- 3 years. 3 (10% of low income group, 9 (30%) of middle income group, 1 (3.3%) of high income group had children of 4-5 years.6 (20%) of

low income group, 5 (16.7%) of middle income group, 9 (30%) of high income group had children more than 5 years of age group.

Present study revealed 23 (76.7%) samples of low income group, 23 (76.7%) of middle income group, 22 (73.3%) of high income group had male children. 19 (63.3%) samples of low income group, 28 (93.3%) of middle income group, 20 (66.7%) of high income group had female children.

The present study revealed 4 (4.4%) of fathers and 26 (28.9%) of mothers were below matriculation. 28 (31.1%) fathers and 12 (13.35) mothers were matriculates. 12 (13.3%) father and 7 (7.8%) mother were intermediate. 23

(25.6%) father and 29 (32.2%) mother were graduate. 23 (25.6%) fathers and 16 (17.8%) mothers were postgraduate.

Present study revealed that 20 (22.2%) fathers and 0 (0%) mothers were coolie workers. 0 (0%) fathers and 59

(65.6) mothers were housewives. 16 (17.8%) fathers and 0 (0%) mothers were business people. 40 (44.4%) fathers

and 19 (21.1%) mothers were private firm employees. 14 (15.6%) fathers and 12 (13.3%) mothers were government employees.

The mean knowledge of low income group, middle income group and high income group was 9.93, 12.4,

13.97 respectively. Corresponding standard deviations were 3.2, 3.6, and 2.3 respectively. The overall mean knowledge was 12.10 with standard deviation 3.5.

**Limitations:** - The present study was limited to

- Parents of various economic groups from an urban community.
- Minimal number of samples from each economic group

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

On the basis of the findings of the study it is recommended that

- Conduct a similar study with a larger sample size to enhance the generalizability of the findings.
- Extend the study to include children of different age groups to gain broader insights into their play needs.
- Explore the play needs of children in single-parent households to understand how these needs are met in such contexts.
- Carry out an experimental study with a structured teaching program to improve parents' knowledge about play needs.
- Undertake a comparative study to evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of parents in urban versus rural areas.
- Investigate the actual practices of parents regarding the play needs of their children.
- Conduct a study in hospital settings to understand how play is utilized in pediatric care.

- Perform a comparative study to assess the knowledge and attitudes of parents across different economic groups.

**Projected outcome:** - The study aims to equip parents with adequate knowledge and foster a positive attitude toward the play needs of their children, thereby contributing to the optimal growth and development of children from birth to 5 years.

### **CONCLUSION:**

On the basis of findings of the study the following conclusions were drawn- The knowledge and attitude regarding play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group among parents were assessed. Out of 90 samples, 52.2% samples had inadequate knowledge, 47.3 percent had moderate knowledge and 0 percent had adequate knowledge. 38.9 percent had moderately favorable attitude and 61.1 of them favorable attitude. The overall mean of knowledge was 12.10 and standard deviation was 3.5. The overall mean of attitude was 77.62 and standard deviation was 12.3. These findings showed that most of the parents had inadequate knowledge and favorable attitude regarding play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group

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