

## **Social Skill Competencies in Babies: It's Improvement in Relation with Ecological Factors**

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**ABSTRACT** The infants' early interaction experiences are determined by a multitude of biological, cultural and environmental factors. If the performance of infants in a particular development is declining that may be improved by improving his home environment or enforcement by intervention programme. In view of these points present investigation was undertaken with a view to identify the developmental deficiencies in babies with reference to social skill development, to delineate the crucial ecological factors affecting this development, and to study the impact of intervention programme on social skill development. Present study was conducted at two locations, viz., Hisar city as urban and Rawalwas Klan and Siswal villages as rural. The purposes of selection of localities were easy accessibility and rapport with the respondents. A total of 400 babies during the age of 12-24 months were selected randomly for investigation. The sample was divided into four age groups, viz., 12 - 15, 15-18, 18-21 and 21-24 months, and over the localities and gender. Thus, there were 25 male and 25 female babies in each age group. Significant differences for all the age groups were observed for all the variables. This indicated that formation of different age groups at the interval of 3 months for these variables were appropriate. In social skill development, males, in general, were better than females. Interaction of age x gender also revealed that the boys learned social skills differently than girls over the different age groups. Comparison of urban and rural sample also revealed that urban babies, in general were better than rural in social skill development. Regarding associations with economic factors, it appeared that the babies from higher income group generally had better development in social skills under both urban and rural areas. Intervention proved highly effective for development of social skills in both urban and rural areas.

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