

Early Cognitive Development of Babies of Rural and Urban Hisar

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ABSTRACT During 12 months of age babies expect a person to reach for an object that the person is looking at with positive affect rather than for another object to which the person is not attending. The present study was undertaken with the objectives to assess the level of cognitive development of urban and rural babies during the age of one to two years. Cognitive development index of 200 babies (100 males and 100 females) over the age groups of 12 to 24 months was assessed to find out differences for age groups and gender. Analysis of variance for mental development index (MDI) due to age was significant indicating differences in the level of mental development in the babies under investigation. Non significant mean squares for gender revealed that the mental development level of male and female babies was almost equal. In addition, non significant interaction of age x gender further suggested that development of cognitive process with increase of age was similar in both male and female babies. Considerable differences in mental level were observed for all the age groups studied for both boys and girls in both areas. With regard to gender, boys were at par with girls for all the age groups. Interaction of age and gender revealed that there was no differential increase in boys and girls over the age groups studied.