

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Play Needs of Under-Five Children among Parents of Various Economic Groups

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ABSTRACT

Play is vital to a child's development to promotes physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development. Every child, regardless of age, culture, social background, or financial situation, needs to play.¹ In order to ensure their children's physical and mental health, parents need to be knowledgeable of their play needs.² This study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude of parents of different socioeconomic background about the play needs of children under five in a few chosen urban neighborhoods of Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Data was gathered from 90 parents of children under five years old using a survey strategy, descriptive explorative study design, and purposive sampling technique. Parents' attitudes were evaluated using a modified 5-point Likert scale, and their understanding of their children's play demands was evaluated using a structured interview schedule. Data analysis and interpretation were done according to the objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics. The results of the study revealed majority of samples 48(53.3 percent) had inadequate knowledge regarding play needs. The overall mean knowledge score was 11.91. Majority of samples 56(62.2 percent) had favorable attitude towards play needs of children. The overall mean attitude was 76.98. There was significant relationship found between the variables (age, sex, type of family, education of mother, occupation of father, occupation of mother) and knowledge of parents at $p < 0.05$ level. There was no significant relationship found between the variables (religion, number of children, sex of child, education of father) and knowledge of parents at $p < 0.05$ level. There was significant relationship found between the variables (education of mother, occupation of father, occupation of mother) and attitude of parents at $p < 0.05$ level. There was no significant relationship found between the variables (age, sex, type of family, religion, number of children, sex of child, education of father) and

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attitude of parents at $p < 0.05$ level. The results of study exposed the requirement of the play needs of the children. This indicates the need of rapid action to improve the knowledge of parents regarding the play needs for the optimal growth and development of children.

KEYWORDS

• Knowledge • Attitude • Economic Group • Play Needs • Children

INTRODUCTION

Play is a universal language of children. It is one of the most important forms of communication and can be an effective technique in relating to them.⁷ Play empowers children, supports their right to make choices to discover their own solutions and to develop at their own pace. Play helps the child to grow, develop, learn and ultimately mature.³

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

In India children of birth to 5 years constitute 9 percent of our total population. Studies have shown that children live in a vastly different world today. Migration and globalization have created significant, organizational health and social psychological change. The children's physical, emotional and psychological health is firmly embedded in their socio-economical milieu.⁴

Play needs of children of different economic groups are not often met due to various factors.⁹ These may be due to the lack of knowledge, negative attitude, lack of time, poor socio-economic conditions etc. Irrespective of the economic group, high, middle or low, it has been found the parents are not aware of the fact. Play contributes all types of child's growth and development and help to develop a sense of trust and autonomy in children of birth to 5 years.⁵

A child's first and best playmates are their parents. Children who have had their parents participate in their play tend to be the most imaginative. As a result, parents need to be well-informed and considerate of their children's play needs. The researcher plays a crucial role as a nurse in identifying these issues and putting strategies in place to comprehend the importance of play needs. The purpose of this study was to evaluate and correlate parents' attitudes and knowledge about the play needs of children under five, as

well as to link these attitudes and knowledge to specific demographic characteristics.⁶

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Play Needs of Under-Five Children Among Parents of Various Economic Groups in Selected Urban Areas, Raipur, (C.G.)

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

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

HYPOTHESIS

H₁: There will be a significant relationship between knowledge and attitude of parents of various economic groups regarding the play needs of children.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research approach: Survey approach was used in this study.

Research Design: A descriptive research design was adopted for this study.

Setting of the study: The study was conducted in Mowa, Raipur District, Chhattisgarh due to the geographical proximity, feasibility of the study and availability of the samples.

Population: The target population for the present study comprised of all the people residing in Mowa, Raipur.

Sample and sample size: In this study the sample consisted of parents of various income groups having children of birth to 5 years of age residing in Mowa, Raipur. In this study sample size is 90.

Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling technique was found to be apt for the study.

DESCRIPTION OF TOOL

The following tools were used for the study:

1. Structured interview schedule to assess the knowledge of parents towards play needs of children of birth to 5 years age.

2. Five-point Likert 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

Level of Knowledge	Range of scoring	Percentage
Adequate	19-25	76-100
Moderately adequate	13-18	50-75
Inadequate	< 12	< 50

Part-III: Modified form of 5-point Likert scale prepared with attitude statements regarding play needs of children. It consists of 20 statements and 5 columns such as Strongly Agree (SA), Agree(A), Uncertain (UC), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree

This section consisted of 10 items seeking personal information such as age, gender, type of family, religion, characteristics of the subjects such as educational qualification, income and occupation, number of children, their age and gender. The samples were requested to answer for the data.

Part - II: Structured interview schedule

The structured interview schedule consisted of 25 items on knowledge about play needs of children meaning importance, types of play in different age groups, functions of play, selection of play materials, safety. Each question had 4 responses with which one correct response and 3 distracters. Score '1' was given for correct response in a single question and score '0' was given for wrong response. The total number of responses were twenty five giving rise to maximum score of 25. The resulting score were ranged as follows:

(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:

Level of Knowledge	Range of scoring	Percentage
Favorable	75-100	76-100
Moderately Favorable	50-74	50-75
Unfavorable	< 50	< 50

Data Collection: The data collection was done for 10 days in Mowa, Raipur. The relevant authorities granted explicit written consent, and data was collected within the allotted time. Data were collected from 90 parents who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Following a brief self and study-introduction, the participant's written consent was requested. The samples were interviewed by the researcher. Each sample takes 20 to 30

minutes to obtain. Data collection ended after the researcher thanked the samples.

RESULTS

Section A: Findings regarding characteristics of demographic variable of the samples.

Section B: Findings related to the knowledge score of the parents of various economic groups regarding play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group.

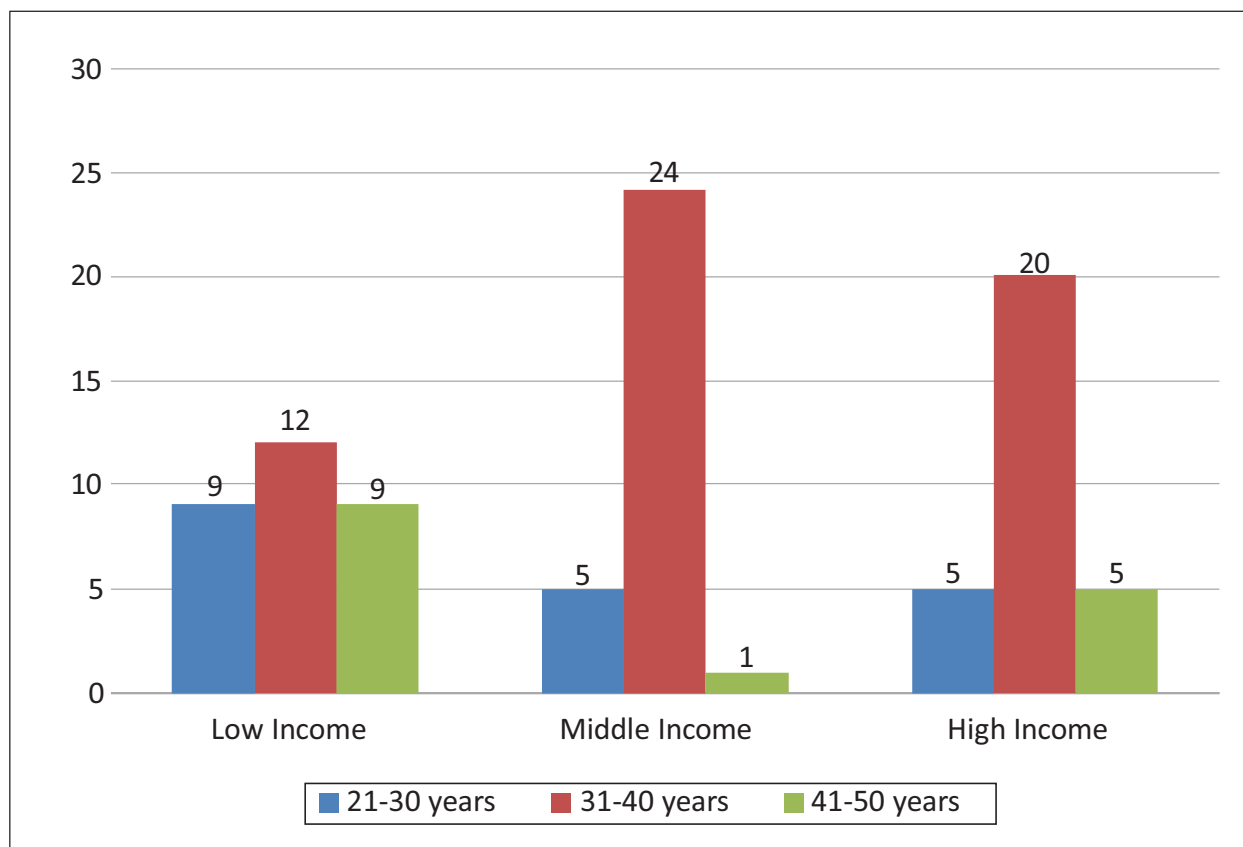


Figure 1: Frequency distribution of age of the samples by income group

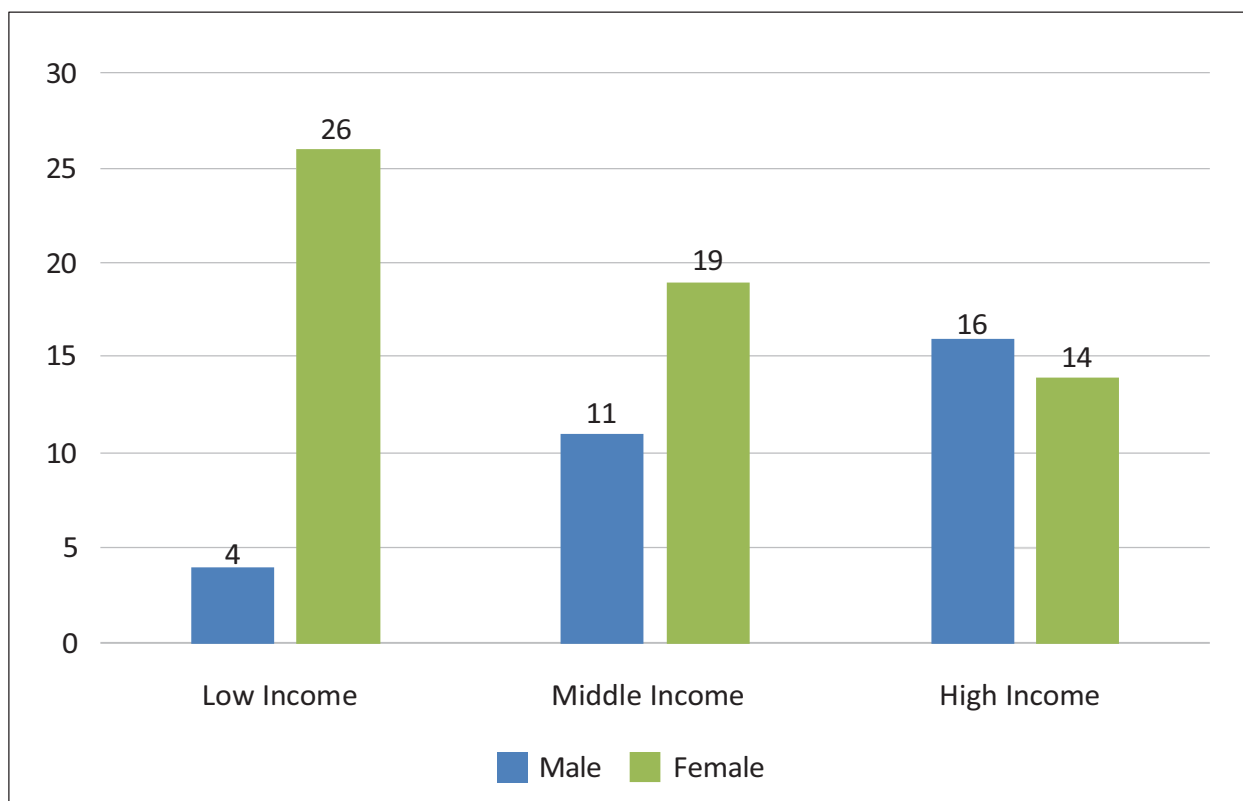


Figure 2: Frequency distribution of gender of samples by income group

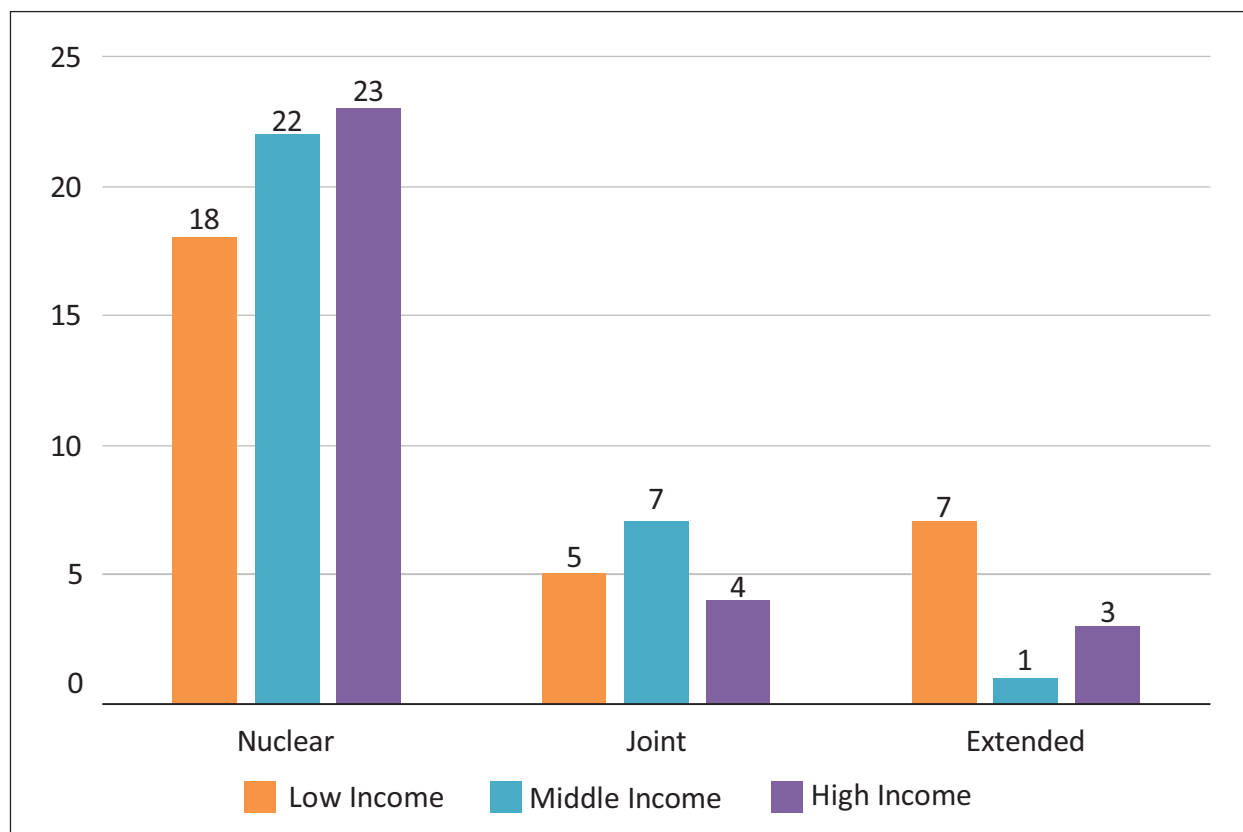


Figure 3: Frequency distribution of type of family of samples by income group

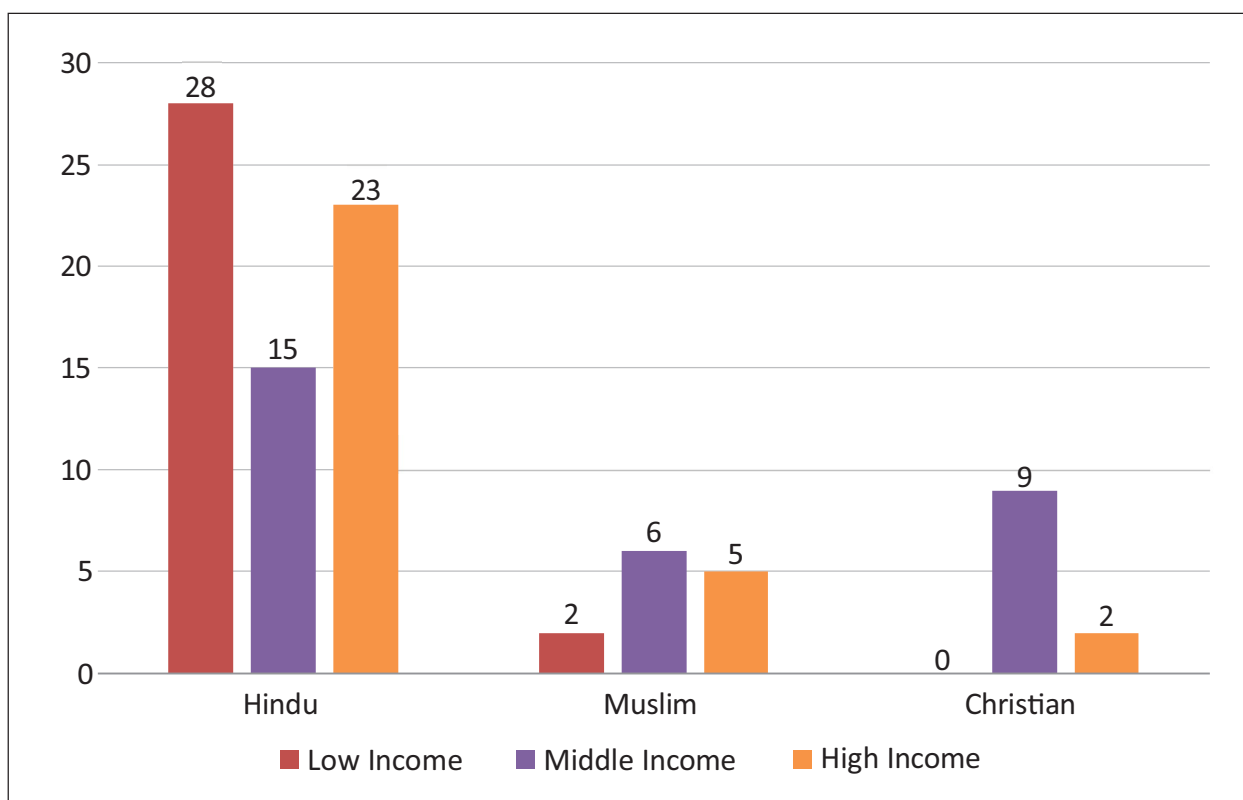


Figure 4: Frequency distribution of religion of samples by income group

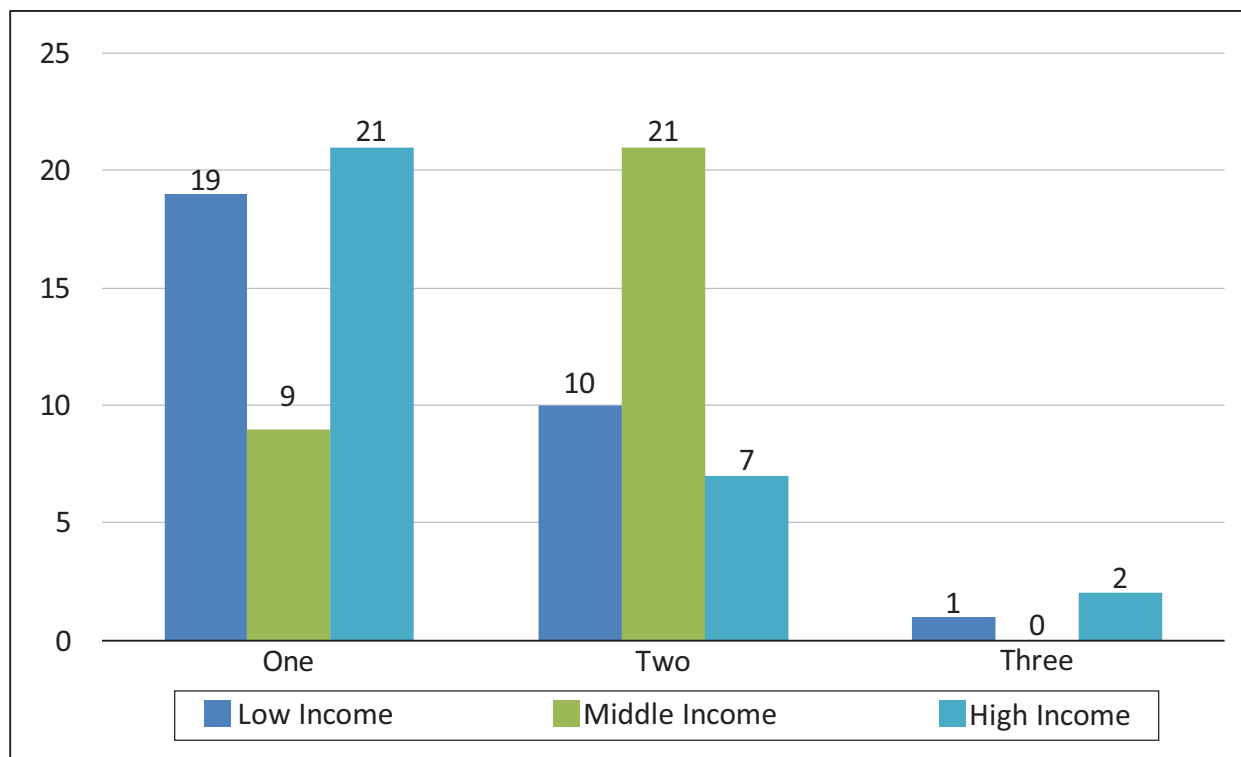


Figure 5: Frequency distribution of number of children of samples by income group

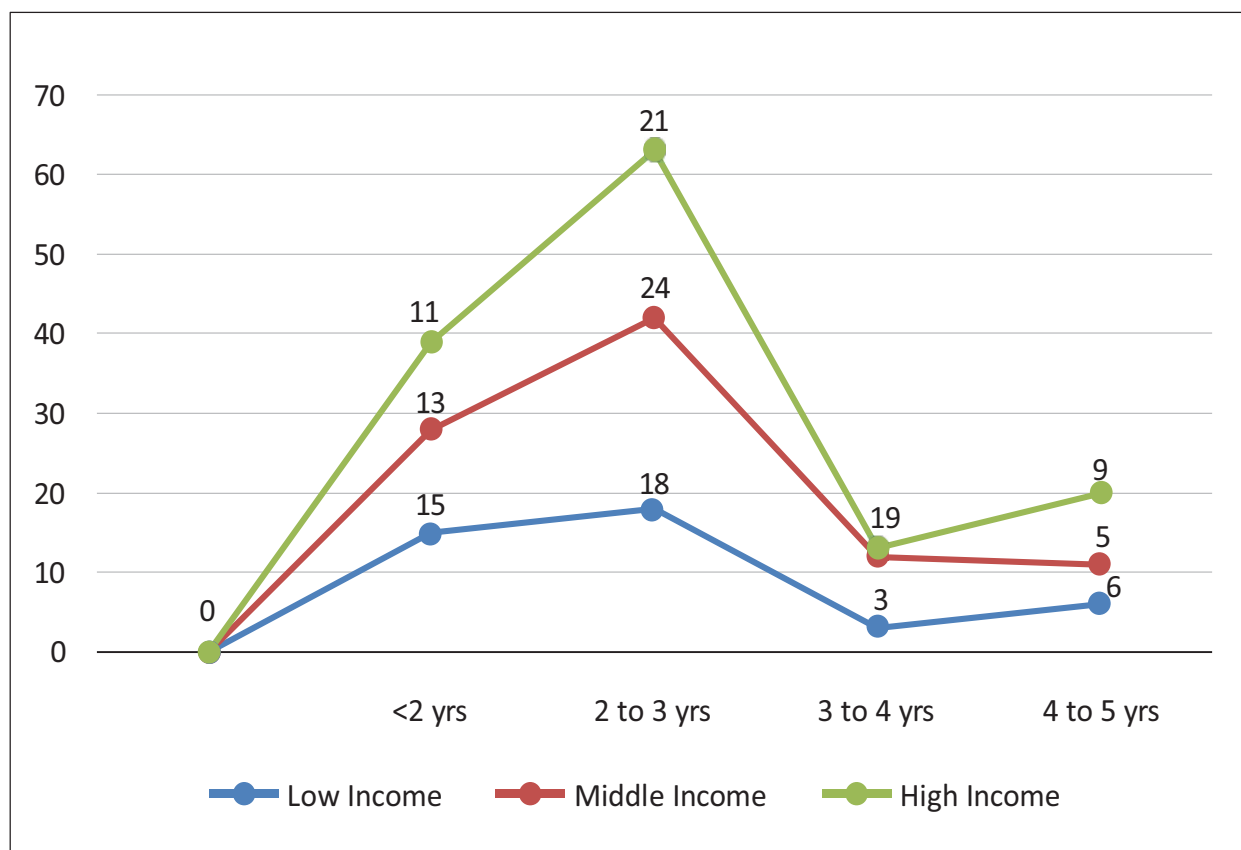


Figure 6: Frequency distribution of age of children of samples by income group

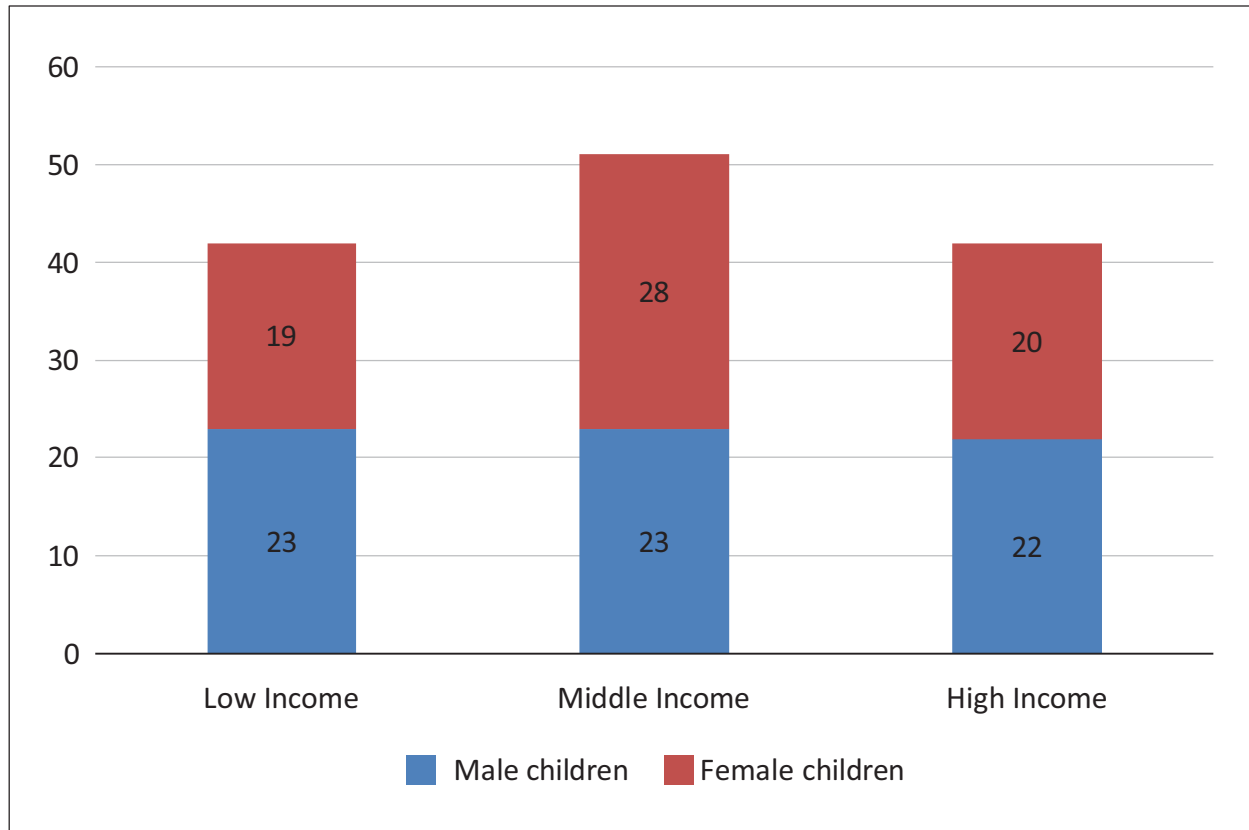


Figure 7: Frequency distribution of the sex of the child of the samples by income group

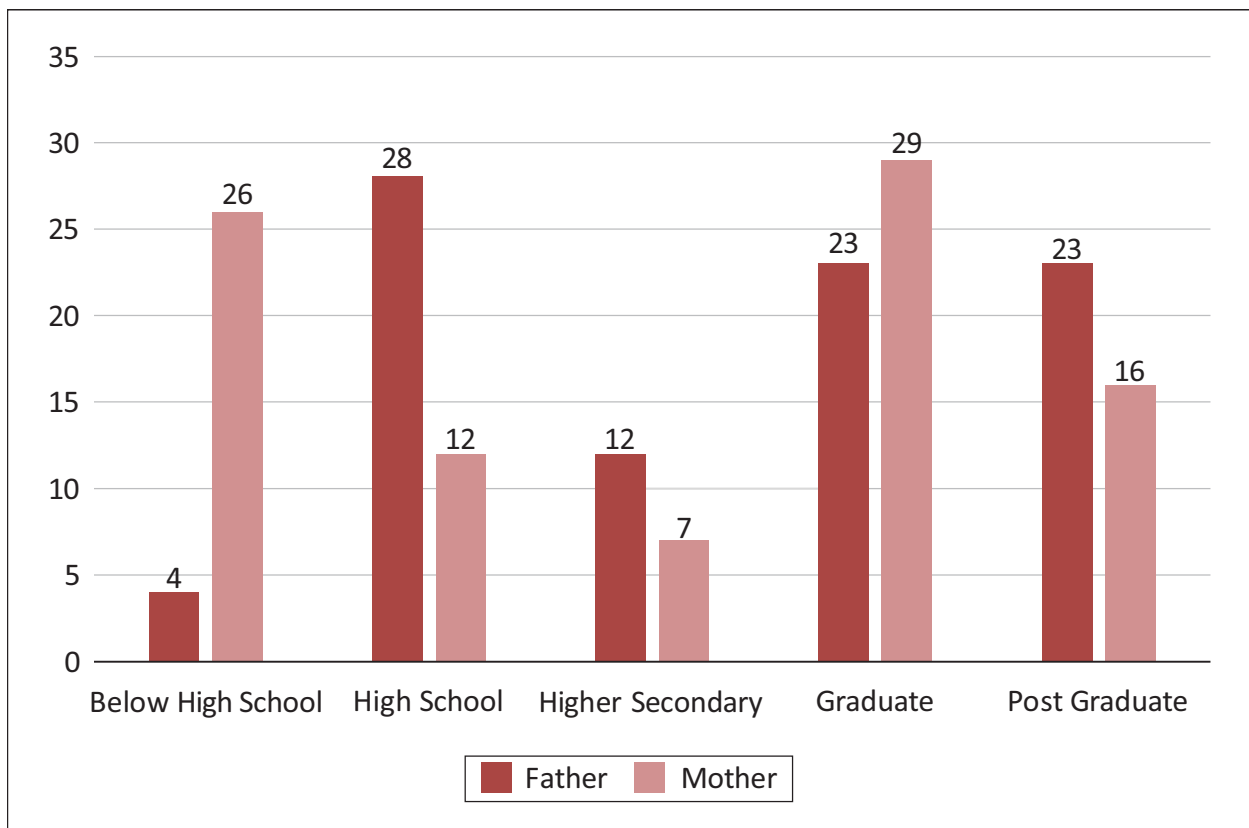


Figure 8: Frequency distribution of education of samples

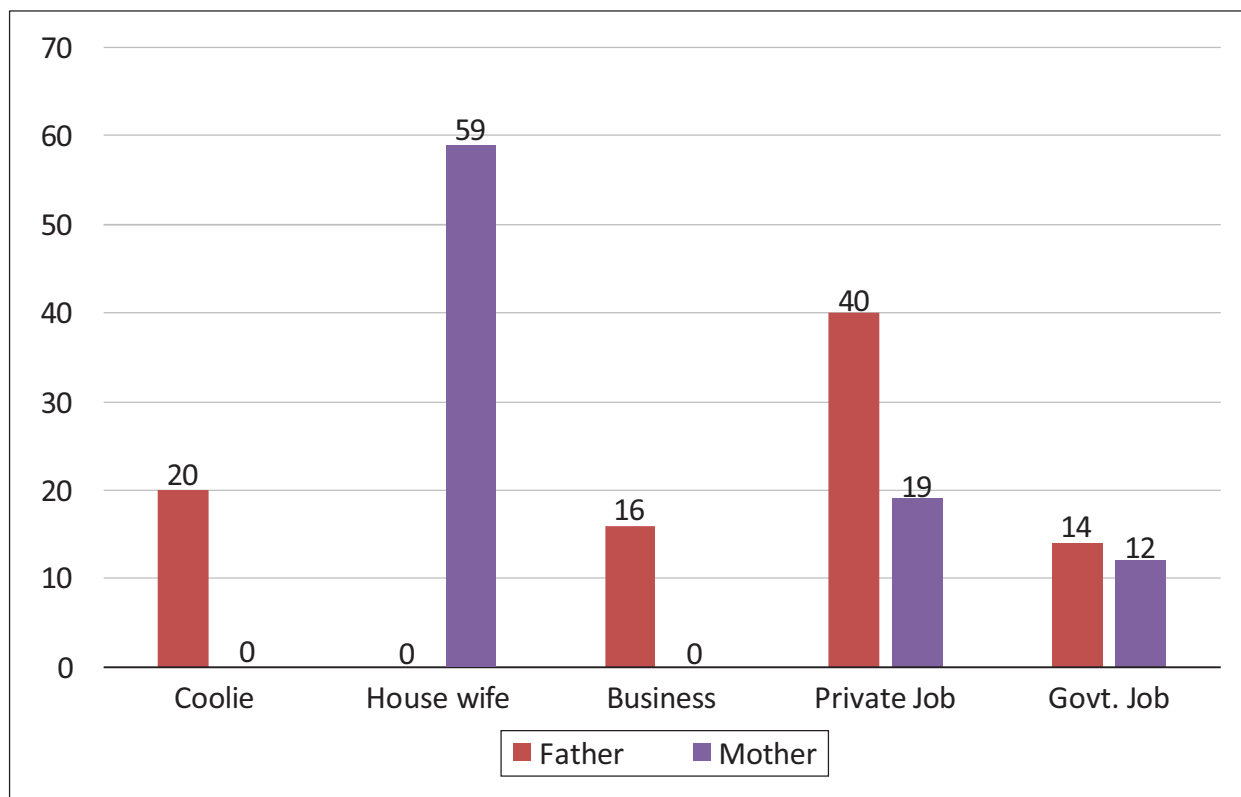


Figure 9: Frequency distribution of the occupation of samples

Out of 90 samples, 48 (53.3 percent) had inadequate knowledge, 42 (46.6 percent) had moderately adequate knowledge and none of them had adequate knowledge on play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group.

Section C: Findings related to the attitude score of the parents of various economic groups regarding play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group

Out of 90 samples, 34 (37.7 percent) had moderately favorable attitude, 56 (62.2 percent) had favorable attitude and none of them had unfavorable attitude towards play needs.

Section D: Findings regarding relationship between knowledge and attitude

Findings of the study revealed a statistically positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of parents of different economic groups towards play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group. Correlation coefficient (r) between knowledge and attitude of parents towards play needs of children of low-income group (+0.518), middle income group (+0.323) and high-income group (+0.562) was found to be statistically significant.

Section E: Association between knowledge and selected demographic variables

Table 1: Association between knowledge and income groups

n=90

Knowledge level	Respondents by Income Groups							
	Low		Middle		High		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Inadequate	26	86.6	17	56.6	5	16.6	48	53.3
Moderately adequate	4	13.3	13	43.3	25	83.3	42	46.6
Total	30	100.0	30	100.0	30	100.0	90	100.0
χ^2 Value	23.83*							

* Significant at 5% level

There was significant relationship found between the knowledge and variables such as age ($\chi^2=6.81$), sex ($\chi^2=5.21$), type of family ($\chi^2=6.33$), education of mother ($\chi^2=18.94$), occupation of father ($\chi^2=7.80$), occupation of mother ($\chi^2=17.92$), income ($\chi^2=23.83$) and

knowledge of parents at $p<0.05$ level. There was no significant relationship found between the knowledge and variables such as religion ($\chi^2=4.33$), number of children ($\chi^2=2.83$), sex of child ($\chi^2=1.22$), education of father ($\chi^2=8.67$) and knowledge of parents.

Section F: Association between attitude and selected demographic variables

Table 2: Association between attitude and income groups

n=90

Attitude level	Income Groups							
	Low		Middle		High		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Moderately favourable	14	46.6	12	40	8	26.6	34	37.7
Favorable	16	53.3	18	60	22	73.3	56	62.2
Total	30	100.0	30	100.0	30	100.0	90	100.0
χ^2 Value	2.41*							

*NS: Non-Significant

There was significant relationship found between attitude of parents and variables such as education of mother ($\chi^2=10.89$), occupation of mother ($\chi^2=7.55$) at $p<0.05$ level. There was no significant relationship found between the variables such as age ($\chi^2=1.87$), sex ($\chi^2=0.76$), type of family ($\chi^2=0.62$), religion ($\chi^2=0.44$), number of children ($\chi^2=2.21$), sex of child ($\chi^2=2.12$), education of father ($\chi^2=3.01$), occupation of father ($\chi^2=3.40$) and income ($\chi^2=2.41$).

DISCUSSION

Statistical analysis shows that there was a significant correlation found between knowledge and attitude of parents. Findings of the study indicated a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude of parents of various economic groups regarding play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group. As knowledge increased parents possessed a positive attitude towards play needs of the children. The findings of the study helped the parents to gain more information on meeting the play needs, to develop an insight into the importance of play needs and also signifies the meaning and importance of play, functions of play, selection and safety of play materials of children of birth to 5 years of age group.

CONCLUSION

The present study attempted to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding play needs of under-five children among parents of various economic groups and concluded that most of the parents had inadequate knowledge and favourable attitude regarding play needs of children of birth to 5 years of age group. Investigator had a satisfying and enriching experience throughout this study and was a new learning experience. The results of study exposed the requirement of the play needs of the children. This indicates the need of rapid action to improve the knowledge of parents regarding the play needs for the optimal growth and development of children. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens. It is the responsibility of all the parents and health care professionals to mould our children to dynamic, efficient, effective citizens.

Conflicts of Interest

The author has no conflict of interest regarding this investigation.

Funding

This research received no funding.

Ethical Declaration

This article does not involve any animal subjects, and therefore does not require ethics

approval. Permission was obtained from the community authority. The written consent of the participant was obtained before data collection. Assurance was given to the participants regarding confidentiality of the information collected from them.

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