

## **Family size influence the soft skills and social skills development among children**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Family size generally refers to the total number of individuals in a family. Soft skills and social skills including effective communication, social, professional ethics, problem solving, decision-making, and organizational skills are needed in adventure education to enhance the learning of children. The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana state. Two areas were selected purposively *i.e.*, rural and urban, from urban area Hisar city and from rural area two villages namely Balsmand and Kharia were taken for collection of data. A total of 200 children in three age groups, namely, 3, 4 and 5 years were selected for the study. Family size was independent variable. Soft skills and social skills were taken as dependent variable. Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale of Social Maturity (Sparrow *et al.*, 1935) was used to determine soft skills and social skills among children. Result revealed that non significant association of soft skills with family size ( $\chi^2=0.68$ ) in rural and ( $\chi^2=0$ ) in urban areas. Social skills were significant association with family size ( $\chi^2=3.03^{**}$ ) in rural areas but not significant association in urban ( $\chi^2=2.48$ ) areas.

**Key Words :** Soft skills, Social skills, Family size, Self-confidence, Communication skills, Paternal education

### **INTRODUCTION**

Family size generally refers to the total number of individuals in a family, from a demographic perspective; it refers to the number of total number of children borne to a woman at a point of time. The first five years of life are crucial for physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language development of the child. During this stage child is just like a wet cement whatever falls on it, makes an impression.

Therefore child's ability to acquire many skills depend upon the opportunities available to him during this stage. The importance of stimulating environment during this most plastic and impressionable stage cannot be overlooked. "Better the experience given, richer is the dividend". With the perpetual growth of the Indian economy, the importance of soft skills and technical skills in India has increased tremendously over the years.

Soft skills encompass a range of interpersonal, communication, representational, conflict resolution, adaptive skills and self management and organizational skills (Dubrin, 2014). Soft skills including effective communication, social, professional ethics, problem solving, decision-making,

and organizational skills are needed in adventure education to enhance the learning of children (Priest and Gass, 2007). Family size has positive impacts both on cognitive skills and behavioral problems of children, but the latter are more sustained than the former. This is perhaps because behavior is more malleable than cognition. Especially among whites, there is considerable heterogeneity in these impacts, which are larger for girls, and for mothers with higher cognition (Carneiro and Heckman, 2013).

Soft skills encompass a range of interpersonal skills such as courtesy, respect for other, self-discipline, self-confidence, conformity to norms, language proficiency, and behaviour and communication skills. Failure to teach children vital life skills such as communication and self control is widening the gap between rich and poor. Soft skills are applied skills as opposed to basic knowledge skills because these are the abilities and traits that pertain to personality, attitude, and behavior.

Children are the future of the nation; they have to learn certain fundamentals such as security, association, belonging, dignity, hope, power, enjoyment and competence in the preschool classroom. These fundamentals are called “soft skills”. When we focus on changes in respect to parents – rather than siblings or other persons in the household – as parents are first and foremost those capable of assisting their children to acquire non-cognitive skills (Cunha *et al.*, 2006).

**Objectives:**

- To find out the area wise influence of family size on the soft skills among children.
- To find out the area wise influence of family size on the social skills among children

**METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Hisar district of Haryana state. Two areas were selected purposively *i.e.*, rural and urban, from urban area Hisar city and from rural area two villages namely Balsmand and Kharia were taken for collection of data. A total of 200 children in three age groups, namely, 3, 4 and 5 years were selected for the study. Family size was independent variable. Soft skills and social skills were taken as dependent variable. Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale of Social Maturity (Sparrow *et al.*, 1935) was used to determine soft skills and social skills among children.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Association of soft skills with family size :**

Table 1 highlighted that non significant association of soft skills with family size ( $\chi^2 = 0.68$ ) in rural and ( $\chi^2 = 0$ ) in urban areas.

Table 1 : Association of soft skills with family size									
Variables	Rural					Urban			
	First	Second	Third	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value	Second	Third	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value
<b>Soft skills</b>									
Low	-	22(22.00)	7(7.00)	29(29.00)	0.68	-	-	-	0
Medium	-	36(36.00)	15(15.00)	51(51.00)		14(14.00)	14(14.00)	28(28.00)	
High	-	13(13.00)	7(7.00)	20(20.00)		36(36.00)	36(36.00)	72(72.00)	
Total	-	71(71.00)	29(29.00)	100(100.00)		50(50.00)	50(50.00)	-	

Table 2 highlighted that Social skills were significant association with family size ( $\chi^2=3.03^{**}$ ) in rural areas but not significant association in urban ( $\chi^2=2.48$ ) areas.

Table 2 : Association of soft skills with family size									
Variables	Rural				Urban				
Family Size	First	Second	Third	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value	Second	Third	Total	X <sup>2</sup> value
<b>Social skills</b>									
Low	7(7.00)	3(3.00)	-	10(10.00)	30.39**	-	-	-	2.48
Medium	30(30.00)	7(7.00)	-	37(37.00)		10(10.00)	17(17.00)	27(27.00)	
High	34(34.00)	19(19.00)	-	53(53.00)		40(40.00)	33(33.00)	73(73.00)	
Total	71(71.00)	29(29.00)	-	100(100.00)		50(50.00)	50(50.00)	100(100.00)	

**Conclusion:**

It was concluded that non-significant association of soft skills with family size in rural and in urban areas. Social skills were significant association with family size in rural areas but not significant association in urban areas. In join families had lower level of problems than preschoolers of nuclear families and girls had also showed low behavioural problems as compared to the boys, (Arora et.al. 2008).

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