**Factor Associated With Early Childhood Development Index in Bangladesh**

**Introduction:**

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) indicates that under the age of 18 years a person is said to be a child and from birth to the age 8 it’s called early childhood. Child development refers to the sequences of physical, language, thought, and emotional changes that occur in a child from birth to the beginning of adulthood (Junek, 2007). In WHO's opinion, Early Childhood Development (ECD) refers to physical, socio-emotional, cognitive, and motor development in the early year of age. At the early age of prenatal periods to infancy and early childhood, a child’s newly developing brain is highly productive and responsive to change (Currie & Vogl, 2012). This period is the golden period for them to make themselves highly thirsty for learning. Family is the backbone for a child to ensure all the rights he/she deserved. Talking with them, playing with them, singing, telling stories, counting, calling names, home-based study all of these make sure from the family member of a child. By proper care, a child can be properly developed as his/her childhood. All these elements can create a child more sophisticated for the real world.

From Early Childhood Development Task Force, important of early childhood development (ECD) increased in the current century (OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, n.d.). Developed countries suggest that population-level measures can be helpful both for quantifying ECD and predicting further-life well-being (Mccoy et al., 2016).

To measure early childhood development UNICEF made a great contribution by developing the family care indicators (FCIs) questionnaire that indicates the home environment of children like developing countries, had a strong influence on child development (Hamadani et al., 2010). From UNICEF’s the ECDI was 1st initiated in 2009 during the 4th round of MICS and has been available in the following survey.

As a developing country like Bangladesh, all kinds of development occur every spare of life from birth to death. Governmental and Non-governmental organizations are dealing with a lot of developmental facilities for the child, child’s parents, and child’s care-takers to ensure all kinds of rights they deserved. Creating an innovative foundation for strong development during the early years of life is essential for successful communities, economic productivity, and civil societies.

To identifying the early childhood development we utilize data from UNICEF’s three nationally surveyed Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) data to build the relationship factors associated with the Early Childhood Development (ECD) index. Here we used UNICEF’s Bangladesh MICS-3, MICS-5, and MICS-6 datasets to identify the ECD index score and its association. In this index, we focus on 3 and 4 years old children’s literacy, learning ability, social and physical development. This index describes the child’s ability to read, count, recognize the number, ability to do something independently, and interact with companion and people. This paper aims to draw the relationship among factors associated with early childhood development Index (ECDI) in Bangladesh from 2006 to 2019 and we try to show the developmental condition and identify the factors that are obstacles to the development.

References:

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