**Influence of parental factors on breakfast consumption and cognitive skills of higher primary school children**

**ABSTRACT**

Breakfast provides body and brain with fuel and it differs qualitatively from eating after overnight fast during sleep. A study was conducted to examine theInfluence of parental factors on breakfast consumption and cognitive skills of higher primary school children at University of Agricultural Science Dharwad (2021-22). Study sample comprised of 60 children from rural and 60 children from urban in Dharwad district who attended higher primary school. Breakfast consumption was assessed by using self structured questionnaire. Socio economic status developed by Aggarwal and others in 2005 was used to assess parent education and occupation. The cognitive skills of children were assessed by using Wechsler’s Intelligence Scale for School Children (WISC-III). Results revealed that, children with younger age parents had higher cognitive scores compared to older age parents, parents education and occupation showed significant association and differences with regular and irregular breakfast consumers. Thus study results indicate that, there is a need for guidance/ counseling, orientation programme to children and their parents to encourage their regular breakfast consumption.

**INTRODUCTION**

Breakfast provides body and brain with fuel and it differs qualitatively from eating after overnight fast during sleep. A daily breakfast consumption has been contributed in positive health outcomes. It is a fact that gap between dinner and breakfast is so high that an individual is really starving without a breakfast, there is a possibility of low blood glucose level and low metabolic rate, irritability and fatigue (Marika 2003). Breakfast is an important factor in the health of children as the body is low in reserve energy and there is need for frequent supply of needed energy for a day.

Missing breakfast can also negatively impact lifestyle factors, social and behavioral outcomes. Majority of parents think having breakfast improved their children’s cognitive achievements. The parent’s education has an effect on the children having breakfast daily. Higher the parents education, more the children consuming breakfast (Abdulrahman *et al.* (2020).

The children belong to higher parents education and unemployed fathers skip more breakfast due to the reason of ‘no appetite’ followed by absence of favorite food (Azad *et al.* (2013). Students whose mothers had a low level of education and students with a low value of breakfast consumption had a higher likelihood of skipping breakfast. Mothers' high value of breakfast and encouragement of children to eat breakfast were directly related to an increase in children's perceived importance of breakfast consumption. Hence, with this background a need was felt to conduct a study with the objective to examine the influence of parental factors on breakfast consumption and cognitive skills of higher primary school children.

**Materials and Methods:**

The population of the study comprised of school going children in the age group of 10-13 years residing in the rural and urban area of Dharwad taluk, Dharwad district, Karnataka state. Four localities were selected from the Dharwad city and four villages were located from the rural areas of Dharwad taluk. From each locality and villages a sample of 15 children were randomly selected (boys and girls). Thus, a total of 120 school children were selected for the study.

**TOOLS USED FOR ASSESSMENT:**

**Structured schedule** **for breakfast consumption:** The schedule is used to assess the information on breakfast consumption pattern and age of parents.

Criteria for selection of children based on breakfast consumption pattern: According to number of days ofbreakfast consumption per week, children were categorised as regular and irregular breakfast consumers. Children who consumed breakfast for more than 5 days in a week they were considered as regular breakfast consumers, if less than 5 days, they were considered as irregular breakfast consumers (Hazzaa *et* *al.* (2019).

**Table 1. Age of the father and mother: Age of father and mother of selected children was categorized as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Father’s age** | **Mother’s age** |
| ˃30 years | ˃25 years |
| 30-35 years | 25-30 years |
| <35 years | <30 years |

**Socio Economic Status:** Socio economic status developed by Aggarwal et al. (2005) was used. This assess parent’s education and occupation.

**Table 2. Education of the mother and father: Education of the father and mother was categorized as below based on the Aggarwal et al. (2005) scale.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Score** |
| Illiterate | 0 |
| Just literate but not schooling | 1 |
| *˂* Primary but attended school for at least one year | 2 |
| Primary pass but ˂10th | 3 |
| 10th class pass but ˂ Graduation | 4 |
| Graduation | 5 |
| Post graduation (non technical incl. Ph.D.) | 6 |
| Professional qualification with technical degree or diploma e.g. Doctor, Engg, CA, MBA etc. | 7 |

**Table 3. Occupation of the mother and father: Occupation of the mother and father was classified based on Aggarwal *et al.* (2005) scale.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Score** |
| Unemployment ( None of the family member is employed) | 0 |
| Self employed with income ˂ 5000 (labourer, house wife) | 1 |
| Self employed with income ˃ 5000 (shops, petty business) | 2 |
| Service at shops, transport, own cultivation of land | 3 |
| Service in private sector or independent business (employing 2-20 persons) | 4 |
| Service in central/ state/ public undertaking (owner of a company employing ˃ 20 persons) | 5 |

**Wechsler’s Intelligence Scale for School Children (WISC-III):** The Wechsler’s Intelligence scale for school children (WISC-III) is an individually administered clinical instrument for assessing the cognitive abilities of 6-16 years old children. This scale consists of 13 subtests, each measuring different aspects of intelligence. They are organized into two groups as performance subtests and verbal subtests as below

Table 4. **Intelligence Scale for School Children grouped as performance subtests and verbal subtests**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Performance Tests** | **Verbal Tests** |
| 1. Picture completion | 1. Information |
| 1. Coding | 1. Similarities |
| 5. Picture arrangements | 6. Arithmetic |
| 1. Block design | 1. Vocabulary |
| 1. Object assembly | 10. Comprehension |
| 11. Symbol search | 12. Digit span |
| 13. Mazes |  |

In addition to the verbal performance and full scale IQ scores, four factors based index scores were also calculated.

Table 5. **Four factors-based index scores**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Factor-I**  **Verbal comprehension** | **Factor-II**  **Perceptual organization** | **Factor-III**  **Freedom from distractibility** | **Factor-IV**  **Processing speed** |
| Information  Similarities Vocabulary  Comprehension | Picture organization  Picture arrangement  Block design  Object assembly | Arithmetic  Digit span | Coding symbols search |

**Scoring and IQ index:** Each subtest has specific scoring pattern. Guidelines are given in manual in detail. On the raw scores, equivalent scaled scores are calculated and by totaling sum of scaled scores for verbal and per performance and full scaled scores are calculated. With the respective items of the scaled scores for four factors ie., verbal comprehension, perceptual organization, freedom from distractibility and for processing speed are calculated, finally for sum of scaled scores IQ are calculated and classifies as,

Table 6. **Scoring and IQ index**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Composite score rang** | **Classification** |
| 130 and above | Extremely high |
| 120 – 129 | Very high |
| 110 – 119 | High Average |
| 90 - 109 | Average |
| 80 – 89 | Low average |
| 70 – 79 | Very low |
| 69 and below | Extremely low |

**Results and Discussion:**

**Distribution of rural and urban children by parental characteristics**

Contents of table 7 showed that, In case of rural fathers, majority (78.30%) of them belonged to the age group of 30-35 years followed by above 35 years age group. Among urban fathers, higher percentage of them (71.70%) belonged to age group of 30-35 years followed by age group of above 35 years. With regard to age of the rural mothers, around 55.00 per cent of them belonged to the age group of 25-30 years followed by 38.30 per cent of mother belonged to the age group of above 30 years. In case of urban mothers, about 71.70 per cent of them belonged to age group of 30-35 years, 20.00 per cent belonged to age group of above 30 years.

With regard to education of rural fathers, around 40.00 per cent of them were completed their 10th class but less than graduation followed by 30.00 per cent had completed their primary pass but less than 10th. In case of urban fathers, around 58.30 per cent of them had completed their graduation followed by 30.00 per cent were in 10th class pass but less than graduation. With respect to education of rural mothers, around 36.70 per cent of them were in category of just literate but not schooling followed by 33.30 per cent had less thanprimary but attended school for at least one year. Among urban mothers, about 26.70 per cent of them were in primary pass less than 10th category followed by 25.00 per cent of mothers were in 10th class pass but less than graduation category.

With regard to occupation of rural fathers, about 33.30 per cent of them were self employed with income more than 5000 as well as service at shops/home followed by 30.00 per cent of them had service in private sector/business. In case of urban fathers, around 50.00 per cent had service in private sector/ business followed by 45.00 per cent were service at shops/home. With regard to occupation among rural mothers, about 55.00 per cent of them were self employed with income less than 5000 followed by mothers with 26.70 per cent were unemployed. In case of urban mothers, about 33.30 per cent of them were self employed with income less than 5000, followed by 25.00 per cent were self employed with income more than 5000.

It was observed that, with respect to regular intake of breakfast among rural children, around 68.30 per cent of them were having breakfast regularly and remaining 31.70 per cent were irregular consuming the breakfast. In case of urban children, 66.70 per cent of children were having breakfast regularly and about 33.30 per cent were irregular in breakfast consumption. Priya *et al*. (2010) reported that, majority of children were regular breakfast eaters. Another study conducted by Siong *et al.* (2018)revealed that, the overall prevalence of 75.60 per cent of them being regular breakfast eaters, which 11.7 per cent were breakfast skippers and 12.7 per cent were irregular breakfast eaters.

**Table 7. Distribution of rural and urban children by parent’s characteristics**

**N=120**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parents characteristics** | **Category** | **Rural (n = 60)** | | **Urban (n=60)** | |
| **N** | **%** | **N** | **%** |
| **Age of the fathers** | ˂ 30 years | 1 | 1.70 | 4 | 6.70 |
| 30 - 35 years | 47 | 78.30 | 43 | 71.70 |
| ˃ 35 years | 12 | 20.00 | 13 | 21.70 |
| Total | 60 | 100.00 | 60 | 100.00 |
| **Age of the mothers** | ˂ 25 years | 4 | 6.70 | 5 | 8.30 |
| 25 - 30 years | 33 | 55.00 | 43 | 71.70 |
| ˃ 30 years | 23 | 38.30 | 12 | 20.00 |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.00** | **60** | **100.00** |
| **Education of fathers** | Professional qualification with technical degree or diploma e.g. Doctor, Eng, CA, MBA | - | - | - | - |
| Post graduation | - | - | 4 | 6.70 |
| Graduation | 14 | 23.30 | 35 | 58.30 |
| 10thclass pass but˂ Graduation | 24 | 40.00 | 18 | 30.00 |
| Primary pass but ˂ 10th | 18 | 30.00 | 3 | 5.00 |
| *˂* Primary but attended school for at least one year | 4 | 6.70 | - | - |
| Just literate but not schooling | - | - | - | - |
| Illiterate | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.00** | **60** | **100.00** |
| **Education of mothers** | Professional qualification with technical degree or diploma e.g. Doctor, Eng, CA, MBA | - | - | - | - |
| Post graduation | - | - | 2 | 3.30 |
| Graduation | 1 | 1.70 | 9 | 15.00 |
| 10thclass pass but  ˂ Graduation | 2 | 3.30 | 15 | 25.00 |
| Primary pass but ˂ 10th | 10 | 16.70 | 16 | 26.70 |
| *˂* Primary but attended school for at least one year | 20 | 33.30 | 14 | 23.30 |
| Just literate but not schooling | 22 | 36.70 | 4 | 6.70 |
| Illiterate | 5 | 8.30 | - | - |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.00** | **60** | **100.00** |
| **Occupation of fathers** | Service in central/state/public undertaken | - | - | 1 | 1.70 |
| Service in private sector/ business | 18 | 30.00 | 30 | 50.00 |
| Service at shops/home | 20 | 33.30 | 27 | 45.00 |
| Self employed with income > 5000 | 20 | 33.30 | 2 | 3.30 |
| Self employed with income < 5000 | 2 | 3.30 | - | - |
| Unemployed | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.0** | **60** | **100** |
| **Occupation of mothers** | Service in central/state/public undertaken | - | - | 3 | 5.00 |
| Service in private sector/ business | 1 | 1.70 | 3 | 5.00 |
| Service at shops/home | 1 | 1.70 | 13 | 21.70 |
| Self employed with income > 5000 | 9 | 15.00 | 15 | 25.00 |
| Self employed with income < 5000 | 33 | 55.00 | 20 | 33.30 |
| Unemployed | 16 | 26.70 | 6 | 10.00 |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.00** | **60** | **100.00** |
| **Consumption of breakfast** | Regular | 41 | 68.30 | 40 | 66.70 |
| Irregular | 19 | 31.70 | 20 | 33.30 |
| **Total** | **60** | **100.00** | **60** | **100.00** |

**Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by father’s age**

Result of the table 8 indicated that, in case of regular breakfast consumers, in high average of cognitive skills, more per cent of children whose fathers age was between 30-35 years followed by above 35 years in both rural and urban areas. However, on analysis there was non significant association was found between father’s age and regular and irregular breakfast consumers and cognitive skills in rural and urban children.

**Table 8. Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by father’s age**

**N = 120**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Father’s age** | | **Rural (n=60)** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Regular BC** | | | | | **Modified**  **χ²** | | **Irregular BC** | | | | **Modified**  **χ²** |
| **High average** | | **Average** | | **Total** | 1.65NS | | **Average** | | **Below average** | **Total** | 2.12NS |
| **30-35** | | 16(48.49) | | 17(51.51) | | 33(100.00) | 10(66.64) | | 5(33.33) | 15(100.00) |
| **>35** | | 3(37.50) | | 5(62.50) | | 8(100.00) | 2(50.00) | | 2(50.00) | 4(100.00) |
| **Total** | | 19(46.34) | | 22(53.65) | | 41(100.00) | 12(63.16) | | 7(36.84) | 19(100.00) |
| **Urban (n=60)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **High average** | | **Average** | | **Total** | | 4.63NS | **High average** | | **Average** | | **Total** | 3.42NS |
| **30-35** | 23(65.71) | | 12(34.29) | | 35(100.00) | | 2(10.00) | | 10(90.00) | | 12(100.00) |
| **>35** | 2(40.00) | | 3(60.00) | | 5(100.00) | | 1(12.50) | | 7(87.50) | | 8(100.00) |
| **Total** | 25(62.50) | | 15(37.50) | | 40(100.00) | | 3(15.00) | | 17(85.50) | | 20(100.00) |

NS-Non Significant

**Table 9. Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by mother’s age**

**N = 120**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mother’s age** | **Rural (n=60)** | | | | | | | | |
| **Regular BC** | | | **Modified**  **χ²** | **Irregular BC** | | | | **Modified**  **χ²** |
| **High**  **Average** | **Average** | **Total** | 1.52NS | **Average** | | **Below average** | **Total** | 1.78NS |
| **25-30** | 14(56.00) | 11(44.00) | 25(100.00) | 8(66.66) | | 4(33.34) | 12(100.00) |
| **>30** | 5(31.25) | 11(68.75) | 16(100.00) | 4(57.15) | | 3(42.85) | 7(100.00) |
| **Total** | 19(46.34) | 22(53.65) | 41(100.00) | 12(63.16) | | 7(36.84) | 19(100.00) |
| **Urban (n=60)** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **High**  **Average** | **Average** | **Total** | 0.83NS | **High**  **Average** | **Average** | | **Total** | 1.52NS |
| **25-30** | 20(60.60) | 13(39.40) | 33(100.00) | 2(13.33) | 13(86.67) | | 15(100.00) |
| **>30** | 5(71.43) | 2(28.57) | 7(100.00) | 1(20.00) | 4(80.00) | | 5(100.00) |
| **Total** | 25(62.50) | 15(37.50) | 40(100.00) | 3(15.00) | 17(85.00) | | 20(100.00) |

NS-Non Significant

**Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by mother’s age**

Result of the table 9 indicated that, in case of irregular breakfast consumers, in average level of cognitive skills, higher per cent of children whose mothers age was above 30 years followed by between 25-30 years in both rural and urban areas. The modified chi- square value showed non significant association was found between mothers age and regular and irregular breakfast consumers and cognitive skills in rural and urban children.

**Table 10. Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by father’s education**

**N=120**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Father’s education** | **Rural (n=60)** | | | | | | | |
| **Regular BC** | | | **Modified**  **χ²** | **Irregular BC** | | | **Modified**  **χ²** |
| **High**  **Average** | **Average** | **Total** | 4.18NS | **Average** | **Below average** | **Total** | 4.18NS |
| **Graduation** | 5(62.50) | 3(37.50) | 8(100.00) | 4(66.67) | 2(33.33) | 6(100.00) |
| **10th class pass but < Graduation** | 8(53.34) | 7(46.66) | 15(100.00) | 6(66.67) | 3(33.33) | 9(100.00) |
| **Primary pass but < 10th** | 6(33.33) | 12(66.67) | 18(100.00) | 2(50.00) | 2(50.00) | 4(100.00) |
| **Total** | 19(46.35) | 22(53.65) | 41(100.00) | 12(63.16) | 7(36.84) | 19(100.00) |
| **Urban (n=60)** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **High**  **Average** | **Average** | **Total** | 10.69\* | **High average** | **Average** | **Total** | 9.33\* |
| **Graduation** | 19(67.86) | 9(32.14) | 28(100.00) | 2(18.18) | 9(81.82) | 11(100.00) |
| **10th class pass but < Graduation** | 6(50.00) | 6(50.00) | 12(100.00) | 1(11.12) | 8(88.88) | 9(100.00) |
| **Total** | 25(62.50) | 15(37.50) | 40(100.00) | 3(15.00) | 17(85.00) | 20(100.00) |

NS-Non Significant \* significant level of 0.05 level

**Table 11. Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by mother’s education**

**N=120**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mother’s education** | **Rural (n=60)** | | | | | | | |
| **Regular BC** | | | **Modified χ²** | **Irregular BC** | | | **Modified χ²** |
| **High**  **Average** | **Average** | **Total** | 7.21\* | **Average** | **Below average** | **Total** | 16.18\* |
| **Primary pass <10th** | 6(85.71) | 1(14.29) | 7(100.00) | 4(60.00) | 2(40.00) | 5(100.00) |
| **< primary but attended school for at least one year** | 11(91.67) | 1(8.33) | 12(100.00) | 4(50.00) | 4(50.00) | 8(100.00) |
| **Just literate but not schooling** | 2(9.10) | 20(90.90) | 22(100.00) | 4(80.00) | 1(20.00) | 5(100.00) |
| **Total** | 19(46.35) | 22(53.65) | 41(100.00) | 12(63.16) | 7(36.84) | 19(100.00) |
| **Urban (n=60)** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **High**  **average** | **Average** | **Total** | 5.69NS | **High**  **average** | **Average** | **Total** | 10.86\* |
| **Graduation** | 6(66.67) | 3(33.33) | 9(100.00) | 1(50.00) | 1(50.00) | 2(100.00) |
| **10th class pass but < graduation** | 6(60.00) | 4(40.00) | 10(100.00) |
| - | 5(100.00) | 5(100.00) |
| **Primary pass <10th** | 6(54.55) | 5(45.45) | 11(100.00) | 1(20.00) | 4(80.00) | 5(100.00) |
| **< primary but attended school for at least one year** | 7(75.00) | 3(25.00) | 10(100.00) | 1(12.50) | 7(87.50) | 8(100.00) |
| **Total** | 25(62.50) | 15(37.50) | 40(100.00) | 3(15.00) | 17(85.00) | 20(100.00) |

NS-Non Significant \* significant level of 0.05

**Table 12. Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by father’s occupation**

**N=120**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Father’s occupation** | **Rural (n=60)** | | | | | | | | |
| **Regular BC** | | | **Modified**  **χ²** | **Irregular BC** | | | | **Modified**  **χ²** |
| **High average** | **Average** | **Total** | 8.95\* | **Average** | | **Below average** | **Total** | 2.37\* |
| **Service in private sector/ business** | 6(60.00) | 4(40.00) | 10(100.00) | 4(50.00) | | 4(50.00) | 8(100.00) |
| **Service at shops/ home.** | 8(66.67) | 4(33.33) | 12(100.00) | 5(62.50) | | 3(37.50) | 8(100.00) |
| **Self employed with income >5000** | 16(84.21) | 3(15.78) | 19(100.00) | 1(33.33) | | 2(66.67) | 3(100.00) |
| **Total** | 19(46.35) | 22(53.65) | 41(100.00) | 12(63.16) | | 7(36.84) | 19(100.00) |
| **Urban (n=60)** | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **High average** | **Average** | **Total** | 11.10\* | **High average** | **Average** | | **Total** | 3.36NS |
| **Service in private sector/ business** | 16(64.00) | 9(36.00) | 25(100.00) |
| 2(33.33) | 4(66.67) | | 6(100.00) |
| **Service at shops/ home.** | 11(71.42) | 4(28.57) | 15(100.00) |
| 1(7.69) | 13(92.31) | | 14(100.00) |
| **Total** | 25(62.50) | 15(37.50) | 40(100.00) | 3(15.00) | 17(85.00) | | 20(100.00) |

NS-Non Significant \* significant level of 0.05

**Table 13. Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by mother’s occupation**

**N=120**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mother’s occupation** | **Rural (n=60)** | | | | | | | |
| **Regular BC** | | | **Modified**  **χ²** | **Irregular BC** | | | **Modified**  **χ²** |
| **High average** | **Average** | **Total** | 4.60\* | **Average** | **Below average** | **Total** | 6.65\* |
| **Self employed with income >5000** | 4(66.67) | 3(33.33) | 7(100.00) | 3(66.67) | 1(33.33) | 4(100.00) |
| **Self employed with income <5000** | 12(46.16) | 14(53.84) | 26(100.00) | 4(57.15) | 3(42.85) | 7(100.00) |
| **Unemployed** | 3(37.50) | 5(62.50) | 8(100.00) | 5(62.50) | 3(37.50) | 8(100.00) |
| **Total** | 19(46.35) | 22(53.65) | 41(100.00) | 12(63.16) | 7(63.84) | 19(100.00) |
| **Urban (n=60)** | | | | | | | | |
|  | **High average** | **Average** | **Total** | 0.65\* | **High average** | **Average** | **Total** | 0.29\* |
| **Service at shops, home** | 8(80.00) | 2(20.00) | 10(100.00) | 1(11.11) | 8(88.89) | 9(100.00) |
| **Self employed with income >5000** | 6(66.67) | 3(33.33) | 9(100.00) | -- | 6(100.00) | 6(100.00) |
| **Self employed with income <5000** | 9(50.50) | 9(50.00) | 18(100.00) | 1(50.00) | 1(50.00) | 2(100.00) |
| **Unemployed** | 2(60.67) | 1(39.33) | 3(100.00) | 1(33.33) | 2(66.67) | 3(100.00) |
| **Total** | 25(62.50) | 15(37.50) | 40(100.00) | 3(15.00) | 17(85.00) | 20(100.00) |

\* significant level of 0.05

**Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by father’s education**

In relation to father’s education, significant association and difference was found between breakfast consumption and cognitive skills of urban (f=1.26 and 7.75) children (table 10). However non significant association and difference was observed with rural children. It is observed that fathers who had higher education (graduation), their children tend to have higher cognitive skills scores than other category children. Fathers with more education used more diverse academics, spend time with their children and also they are more conscious about the child’s education and literacy. The findings of the present study are in conformity with results Hazzaa *et al*. (2019) which shows that, there were significant differences between daily versus non-daily breakfast consumers with father’s education (p < 0.001), with a clear positive trend between daily breakfast intake with increase in fathers education. Another study Mohammad *et al.* (2014)revealed that higher parental education were significantly associated with skipping breakfast.

**Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by mother’s education** With regard to mother’s education, a significant association and difference was found with rural regular and irregular (x2=7.21 and 16.18) and urban irregular ( x2=10.86) breakfast consumers with non significant result on urban regular breakfast consumers (table 11).The reason might be that less educated mothers were less likely to provide children with adequate cognitive stimulation and bring negative effects on child abilities. As mother’s education increases there was significant increase in the children cognition. These results are in line with the results of Hesham *et al.(*2011) who revealed that, children of mothers with low educational levels had significantly lower IQ scores (t ¼ 3·256; P¼0·001) than the children of mothers with at least 6 years of formal education. Another study by Mohammed *et al. (*2014)showed that, the prevalence of breakfast consumption was 52.3 per cent, statistically decreasing with mothers age.In a study byAneley and Zelalem. (2019) it was noted that, skipping breakfast was to the extens of 32.5 per cent among students whose mother were in educated.

**Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by father’s occupation**

Results revealed to father’s occupation showed significant influence on breakfast consumption and cognitive skills of rural regular and irregular (x2=8.95and 2.37) and urban regular (x2=11.10) breakfast consumers but non significant association was found urban irregular breakfast consumers. Significant difference was observed in regular and irregular breakfast consumers both rural and urban except rural regular breakfast eaters (table 12). Children whose fathers who were in service in private sectors/business was found to be advanced in cognitive scores compared to children whose fathers working with other categories. The reason could be that, parents who work in cognitively stimulating jobs provide intellectual stimulating and emotional nurturing home environments for children. The findings of the present study are in conformity with results of Hazzaa *et al.* (2019) who found significant difference and association between breakfast eaters and breakfast skippers with higher paternal occupation status providing good cognitive scores of the children.

**Association between cognitive indices of regular and irregular breakfast consumers by mother’s occupation**

With regard to mother’s occupation, it is observed that, significant association and difference was found with cognitive skills of regular and irregular breakfast consumers in rural(x2=4.60 and 6.65) and urban(x2=0.65and 0.29) children. Mothers who were self employed with income more than 5000 (rural) and service ay shops/home (urban), children had higher cognitive scores than the other categories of mothers ( table 13). Hazzaa *et al.* (2019) also found associated significant difference between breakfast eaters and breakfast skippers with higher maternal occupation status was good cognitive scores among children. Results of study by Lara *et al.* (2014) showed that, significantly higher proportion of working mothers reported more breakfast eaters compared to less proportion of mother working. In a study conducted by Hesham *et al. (*2011) found that, children of working mothers had significantly better IQ scores than the children of mothers with no employment.From theReem *et al.* (2017)study, it was observed that,mother’s occupation level were significantly associated with the daily consumption of breakfast and they were performed better in cognitive tests

**CONCLUSSION**

Children with younger age parents had higher cognitive scores compared to older age group parents. In urban areas, father’s education had significant association and difference between regular and irregular breakfast consumers. Mother’s education had significant influence and difference in mean score of regular and irregular breakfast consumers in both rural and urban areas. However, children whose parents were completed their higher education had better cognitive scores. Parents occupation showed significant association and difference with regular and irregular breakfast consumers in both rural and urban areas. Fathers who had service in private sector/business and mothers who were self employed with income more than 5000 had better cognitive scores. Further, it is recommended that a breakfast importance training for parents to be explored, in order to encourage and improve breakfast consumption pattern among children.

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