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Parental Knowledge on Children's Clothing During Climate Change in Ilorin Metropolis

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Abstract

The study investigated parental knowledge on children's clothing during climate change in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. Four research questions were examined. One research hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The survey research design was adopted and the population for the study comprised of two hundred respondents using a purposive random sampling technique. Frequency and percentages were used to analyze the demographic characteristics of the respondents while mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the other descriptive variables. The midpoint mean for awareness was 2.00. Analysis of variance was used to analyze the only null hypothesis. The results of the findings show that: the respondents are fully aware of available children clothing in form of gown, skirt, blouse, shoe, trouser, socks, matinee coat, shirt and trouser. Parents possessed information on planning, deciding, and executing children's clothing with mean score 2.56. Also, parents had the knowledge of choosing wisely on the acceptable clothing (2.48) and to select adequately on durable ones (2.30). Parents are conscious of different environmental changes (2.46) and that the children should be covered at all times (3.02). Children are vulnerable to climate-related diseases when adequate clothing were not provided (2.28). Significantly, there was a relationship between parental clothing knowledge and climate change at $p<0.05$. The study concludes that: clothing protects the body from various climate changes and if worn properly is able to make the body adaptable to this change. Parental clothing knowledge should control and steer selection of different kinds of children's clothing for safety and comfort. It is therefore, recommended that parents should continue to seek recent information on children's clothing and purchase clothing that are adaptable and affordable to the various weather changes.

Keywords: Education, Family, Clothing, Environment, Climate Change.

Introduction

Parents are the most critical people in the lives of young children. From birth, children learn and depend on mothers and fathers as well as other caregivers acting in the parenting roles for security and caring. Parental knowledge is necessary in providing the relevant attention and information that will improve the quality of life of children (Lee, Farrell, and Mannix (2015). According to Anne & Christiana (2002), parents make choices about the amount and quality of care children receive, the food and amount of physical activity engage in, the emotional and the quality of environment. Mcleod, Wood & Weisz (2007) revealed that parents generally are filled with anticipation about their children's unfolding personalities and are usually fraught with problems and uncertainty about children's physical, emotional and economic wellbeing. Parents may also lack knowledge on how best to provide children with appropriate clothing during climate change.

According to Anyakoha (2015), clothing is any article placed on the body to protect, beautify or adorn the body. Deepti, Monisha

& Anita (2015) see clothing as those items that play rehabilitative functions as it builds children's self-esteem. Physically challenged individuals use clothing to motivate the appearance in creating positive self-expression. Wright (2016) & Foster (2014) opines that clothing is anything used to communicate intent. According to Okeke (2015) & Jones (2000), clothing serves so many functions to man which include: protection, status, recognition and acceptance, self-adornment, self-expression, identification and an extension of self and for modesty. Steele (2008) identified clothing worn by an individual to include: gown, blouse, head ties, shoes and jewelry, trouser, skirt, underwear's, head ties, hairdos, hair bands and Hijab. It can also be regarded as wearing apparel whether knitted, woven, braided, or crocheted.

Children's clothing is of different kinds and these can be gown, skirt and blouse, trouser, shirt, polo, socks, singlet, matinee coat, head cover, shoe, playsuit, and sweater depending on children's ages. Zakari (2016) & Afroza (2018) reports that the choice of suitable clothing to children is imperative to enjoyment and for wellbeing. Grown-up children have some clothing likes and dislike, therefore, should be involved when clothing decisions are made. Cook (2004) asserted that mothers have been found to be responsible for children's wellbeing especially in marketing, advisory and choosing suitable clothing. Nwabah & Azubike (2016) & Fordberg & Mansdorf (2005) reveals that in selecting children's clothing, parents should possess the ability to pick wisely on acceptable, suitable and durable clothing. Between 8-9 years, children begin to make choices of clothing pieces. Guest (2011) & Stone (2011) agreed that there may be some poor choices of clothing when children make choices based on their likes and dislikes. Therefore, parental knowledge is critical in making choices for suitable clothing for the different climatic conditions.

The knowledge and practices of individual wellbeing's are important during climate change. According to Hathaway & Maibach (2018), people's health can be affected by climate change. Ilevbare & Idemudia (2017) asserted that young children, pregnant women, older adults, aged, the sick and disabled individuals have been identified to be at risk during climate change. Effects of climate change may be: risk of water-related diseases, high or low temperature that may lead to heat or cold related diseases. Therefore, utilization of adequate clothing should be considered at any given condition to avoid any pollutants which might triggers any allergies.

In the family, parents should be conversant with what is happening within and outside the environment. Lindeboom, Liena- Nozal, & Klauw (2006) explained that when parents and other caregivers support young children, lives are enriched, and society is advantaged. Parental knowledge on clothing such as: planning, deciding and executing the selection of clothing for protection and wellness should be considered also during climate change.

The climate seasons (rain and dry) that exists at a particular time determines children's clothing. Climate change results from the increase in the average temperature on earth. As the heat of the earth increases, disasters like hurricanes, droughts, floods, land degradation, accumulation of wastes, and wastes decomposition gets more frequent. Human activities have led to large increases in heat-trapping gases over the past century. Global average temperature and sea level have increased, and precipitation patterns have changed (Drayna, McLellan, Simpson, Li, and Gorelick, 2010). According to Currie & Deschenes (2016), climate change will fundamentally alter the earth's climate system in many ways that threaten children's physical and mental wellbeing.

Proper clothing is one of the ways to protect children during climate change. Dogbey, Kpobee, Dedume, & Osei (2015) & Mosby (2013) revealed that in every crisis, children are the most vulnerable, and climate change is no exception. With temperature increase, together with water scarcity, children will feel air pollution, water-borne diseases, and dangerous

respiratory conditions.

During extreme weather conditions, it is noticed that some children are exposed, uncovered, and unprotected in the community and these may particularly be vulnerable to the effect of climate change. Cold and dry weathers are not too friendly for children especially when parents are unaware of climate change effects. Lack of appropriate and correct clothing at this period may be a challenge to children. This might be a problem for children since the body can easily get affected by allergies. Inadequate attention to children's clothing may also pose threat to the skin. It is on this premise that the study investigated parental knowledge of children's clothing during climate change.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions

1. What are the kinds of children's clothing parents choose during climate change in Ilorin metropolis?
2. What are the effects of parental knowledge on children's clothing during climate change in Ilorin metropolis?
3. What are the effects of climate change on children clothing in Ilorin metropolis?

Research Hypothesis

$H0_1$**:** There is no significant difference between parental knowledge and climate change.

Methodology

Research design: The study adopted descriptive survey design. It helps in collecting views, facts and ideas to analyse and answer research questions in order to make some conclusions about what exist. A descriptive survey design was preferred for this study because information was gathered from individuals who formed a representative sample of the population. After the collation and analysis of the results, the findings can be generalised to the significant larger population of the study.

Population of the Study

The population of parents and children that stay together in Ilorin metropolis are sixty-six thousand, seven hundred and forty-two (Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Gazette (2007).

Sample and Sampling Techniques: Two hundred and thirty (230) residents were purposively selected randomly. Multistage sampling technique was used. First stage: homogenous purposive sampling in selecting two wards from the local government areas. The second stage: non-proportionate stratified random technique was used to select the 230 respondents.

Method of Data Collection: A questionnaire of four sections was used to solicit information from respondents. Sections A and B sought information on the demographic characteristics of the respondents and kinds of children clothing the parents selected for the children. Section C, and D were rated on a 3-point scale of preference of: fully aware (FA/3), aware (A/2), and not aware (NA/1) respectively. The significant value is 2.00. The questionnaire was assessed by three Home Economists in the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State. All the necessary corrections were effected. House to house visitation to distribute questionnaire was done for two weeks with two research assistants based on the information given in the Local government area.

Method of Data Collection: 230 copies of questionnaires were administered to the parents in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. Completed copies of the questionnaires were collected and checked to ensure completeness and free from mutilation. Only 200 copies of the instrument were found acceptable for data analyses.

Method of Data Analysis: The research questions were analysed using frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation while the only hypothesis was analysed using analysis of variance.

Results

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the distribution of the respondents by demographic characteristics. Majority of respondents were mothers: 103(47.5%), 30-40 years: 95(47.5%), Yoruba: 132(66.0%), and Christian: 108(54.0%). The marital status of the respondents shows that 152 (76.0%) were married, 21(10.5%) were divorced, 18(9.0%) were separated while 9(4.5%) respondents were widowed.

This shows that majority of respondents were married. 179(89.5%) respondents experienced the rainy season, and 21(10.5%) respondents experienced a dry climate. This shows that the majority of respondents experienced rain during the period of study.

Table 1 shows frequency distribution of respondents on kinds of children's clothing.

Ten items are the major kinds of children's clothing commonly utilized. 90% of the respondent's children wore gown. This implies that the climatic condition is not too cold. 96% respondents worn socks. This may not necessary mean that the weather is cold. Some respondents used socks to complement dressing.77% singlet were worn by respondent's children. This is an inner garment for fitness of apparel and may be use as additional warmth to the body. 94% matinee coat, 98% head cover, 99% sweater/cardigan are worn by the respondents children. This implies that the weather was cold. 98% shoe, 95% blouse/skirt are worn by the children. These may be worn at any time of the day regardless of the weather condition.

Table 1: Frequency distribution of kinds of children's clothing.

S/N	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gown	180	90
2	Socks	192	96
3	Singlet	144	77
4	Matinee coat	188	94
5	Head cover	196	98
6	Shoe	196	98
7	Play wear	160	80
8	Sweater/Cardigan	198	99
9	Blouse/Skirt	190	95
10	Shirt/Trouser	190	95

Table 2 presents parent's knowledge on children's clothing during climate change. The respondents are all aware of the stated items. The grand mean score of 2.63 is above the decision rule of 2.00. This implies that all the respondents are fully aware of the different kinds of children's clothing. Possess information on planning, deciding, and executing children's clothing. Also, parents have the knowledge of choosing wisely the acceptable clothing and select wisely on durable clothing. They are conscious of different changes in climate and children should be covered at all times.

Table 2: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Respondents of Parental Knowledge on Children's Clothing during Climate Change. **N=200**

Statements	$\bar{x}$	SD	Remarks
Parents are aware of different kinds of children's clothing	2.76	0.72	FA
Possess information on planning, deciding, and executing children's clothing.	2.56	0.66	FA
Parents are aware that children should wear clothes that cover the body to avoid being stung by insects	3.20	0.78	FA
Parents knowledge on choosing wisely the acceptable clothing	2.48	0.68	FA
Parent's belief wearing proper children's clothing at all times is important for wellness.	2.22	0.62	FA
Parent select wisely for durable clothing	2.30	0.64	FA
They are conscious of different changes in climate	2.46	0.66	FA
Children should be covered at all time	3.02	0.86	FA
Grand Mean	**2.63**		**FA**

Key: $\bar{x}$ =Mean SD= Standard Deviation FA= Fully Aware

Table 3 presents the effect of climate change on children's health through clothing. From the data, all the stated items were fully aware by the respondents. The grand mean of 2.26 is greater than the bench mark of 2.00. This implies that all the respondents are fully aware of the effects of climate change on children's clothing. If their clothing are not properly attended to, it might have adverse effects on them especially in the harsh rainy and dry seasons.

Table 3: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Respondents on the Effects of Climate Change on Children Clothing **N=200**

S/N	Statements	$\bar{x}$	SD	Remarks
1.	Climate change exposes children to various climatic conditions	2.32	0.82	FA
2.	increases the risk of water-related illness	2.28	0.72	FA
3.	Children are vulnerable to climate-related diseases when adequate clothing were not provided.	2.28	0.72	FA
4.	Extreme high temperature during climate change may lead to heat-related illness	2.26	0.70	FA
5.	Extreme low temperature during climate change may lead to cold-related illness.	2.16	0. 60	FA
6.	Climate change increases the number of airborne pollutants which triggers allergies	2.24	0.68	FA
	Grand Mean	**2.26**		**FA**

Key: $\bar{x}$ =Mean SD= Standard Deviation FA= Fully Aware

Table 5 indicates a correlation analysis of parental clothing knowledge and climate change in the study area. The calculated r-value used 0.424, the critical r-value had 0.197, and the degree of freedom of 198 at a 0.05 level of significance. The calculated r-value is greater than the r-value. Therefore, the null hypothesis which state that: there is no significant relationship between parental clothing knowledge and climate change is thus rejected. There are different kinds of weather that needs various clothing for protection and wellness, based on this, clothing for each season must be adhered to for healthier and better living.

Table 5: Correlation analysis in parental clothing knowledge and climate change.

Status	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	Df	Cal. r-value	Crit. r-value	Remark
Parental clothing knowledge		12.54	2.152				
	200			198	0.424	0.197	S
Climate change		11.29	2.352				

Key: *Significant at P<0.05

Discussions

Findings based on the data collected and analyzed shows that the respondents are fully aware of climate change and different clothing that should be worn during these variations for the children. Planning and decision to select adequate clothing is important. Parent have to decide on what kinds of clothing to select at a given time for the children. Ejila (2014) revealed, children can also choose the like or dislike but chooses the ones to wear regardless of the climate at a given time.

Jeong (2010), states that childhood diseases occur as a result of climate change if necessary precautions are not taken. With adequate awareness of correct clothing utilization, there will be an improvement in children's wellness and happiness.

Mandeville & Nelson (2009) asserted a positive correlation between increased ambient temperature and urolithiasis. Victora, Ada, Fall, Hallal, Matorell & Richter (2008) explained that childhood exposure to specific toxins, toxicants, infectious agents, or conditions can produce disease and dysfunction that may last throughout childhood. Furthermore, Balbus, Crimmins & Gamble (2016) revealed that human health has always been influenced by climate and weather changes in climate variability particularly changes in weather extremes, which affect the environment that provides clean air, food and water, Climate change together with other natural and human health and wellbeing in numerous ways.

Significantly, the findings revealed that there is relationship between parental clothing knowledge and climate change. According to Anne & Christiana (2002), parent's knowledge on health practices and programs, and the dwelling communities are vital. Stone (2011) agreed that children should also be involved in clothing selection since there are likes and dislikes despite the fact that the parents are fully aware on suitable clothing for different weather conditions for happier and healthy living.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings, it is hereby concluded that there are different kinds of clothing, they protect the body from various climates and give good appearance. Clothing should be selected carefully as the skin might reacts to harsh weather and allergies reaction may occur. Parental knowledge on children's clothing should control and steer selection of different kinds of clothing articles for safety at all times. The awareness should also enhance the wellbeing of the children. Correct and adequate children's clothing in all-season reduces morbidity and promote a happier life.

Based on the findings of the study, recommendations are drawn.

1. Parents should continue to seek for recent information on children's clothing and for clothing that are adaptable to the weather conditions at all times. The involvement of children on their choices should also be considerate.
2. Knowledge of climate change awareness should be pursued by government and other relevant agencies, so it is common knowledge to be disseminated by the mass media.

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