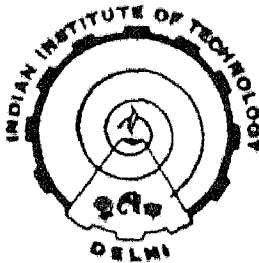


**ROLE OF MATERNAL INTERACTION
IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT :
AN EMPIRICAL STUDY**

by
SUMAN LATA BHANOT

Thesis submitted
in fulfilment of the requirements for the
award of the degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

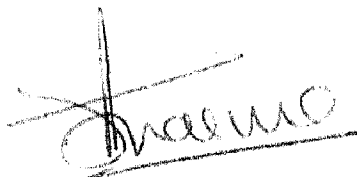


Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI
MARCH 1988

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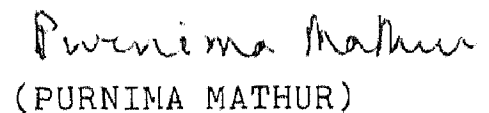
This is to certify that thesis entitled "Role of Maternal Interaction in Early Childhood Development; An Empirical Study" being submitted by Ms. SUMAN LATA BHANOT to the Indian Institute Of Technology, Delhi, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, is a record of bonafide research work carried out by her. She has worked under our guidance and supervision and has fulfilled the requirements for the submission of this thesis, which to our knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

The results contained in this thesis have not been submitted in part or full, to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to explore relationship between role of maternal interaction and early childhood development. An attempt was made to measure mental and psychomotor development of infants and its relationship with affiliation and stimulation, the dimensions considered crucial of maternal interaction.

The sample comprised 120 infants of age six months to twenty-four months and their mothers. The infant development was measured through participatory observation using adapted Bayley's Scales of Infant Development (BSID). Various aspects of maternal interaction related to the above dimensions were rated on a three point scale. Appropriate statistical techniques were used to test the hypotheses of the study. Results showed significant correlation between the extent of maternal interaction and mental, motor and social development of the infants. Clear cut Socio-economic-status (SES) differences were established between maternal interaction and subsequently in infant development. Significant differences were observed in development scores of the infants from lower and upper SES and lower and middle SES. Mothers from these SES differed significantly on both affiliation and stimulation.

Sex and ordinal position of the infant as variables did not affect maternal interaction and infant development.

The study emphasizes the need of optimal stimulation through appropriate experiences intertwined with love and affection for development of infants to their full potentials.

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