

P01-347

COGNITIVE FUNCTION IN CHILDREN. GANDER SPECIFIC DIFFERENCE IN GENERAL PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN

A. Shaheen<sup>1</sup>, S. Ullah<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Pakistan, <sup>2</sup>Hull University, Hull, UK

Objective: The primary objective of this study was to assess the gander specific cognitive function of primary school children inPakistan.

Design: Prospective observational study conducted in 4 schools in a small district of Pakistan.

Method: Two hundred children (90 male,110 female), age 7-12 years class 3, 4 and 5 were assessed using McCarthy scale of child cognition. Verbal and linguistic skills, mathematical skills, reasoning in conversation, memory (word, number, picture, past) and Gross fine movements were assessed.

Results: Verbal and linguistic skills: Better skills demonstrated in girls mean score 3.99 SD( 0.84) ,95 % CI (3.81,4.17) when compared to boys mean score 3.81 SD(0.91),95 % CI (3.64,3.98).Comparison of two groups did not reach to the statistical significance T =2.05, P=0.15.

Mathematical ability: Girls mean score 2.66 SD (0.52), 95% CI (2.55,2.77 ) whereas boys mean score 2.40 SD (0.69),95% CI (2.27,2.53).It was statistically significant T=8.3,P=0.004.

Reasoning in conversation: Better reasoning among girls demonstrated with mean score 3.90 SD (2.17), 95 % CI (3.44,4.36) whereas boys scored 3.47 SD(1.89), 95% CI(3.11,3.83).It was not statistically significant T=2.19,P=0.14.

Memory: Girls mean score 3.52 SD(0.60),95% CI (3.40,3.65) whereas boys scoring 3.22 SD (0.87) 95% CI(3.05,3.38).It was statistically significant with T=7.8,P=0.006.

Gross movements:Girls scored 4.29SD(0.75),95% CI (4.13,4.45) whereas boys scoring 4.08 SD(0.91) ,95% CI (3.91,4.25).Though better gross movements demonstrated by girls they did not reach to statistical significance T=2.98,P=0.08.

Conclusion: Girls demonstrate better cognitive function in general and there mathematical ability and memory in particle are better than there age and background matched male classmates.