Introduction: “Mothers as primary caregivers, provide emotional availability and maternal sensitivity to their developing infant” (Biringen et al., 2012).

In Ghana, daycare caregivers

- play a significant role in the emotional development of the infants and toddlers, yet they lack the professional training for this care.

- An intervention programme on the daycare caregiver emotional availability will enhance the emotional developments of the infants and toddlers.

Intervention Programme

- 12 observers will be trained on the four assessment tools during a 5-day training course.

- The observers will assess the daily interactions of the caregivers with the children in their centers.

- Each session will be videotaped and a narrative report written.

- The caregivers will undergo 5-days intensive intervention training programme.

- Videos of the caregiver-child interaction will be discussed.

- Videos on the EA and the four attachment classification (secure, avoidant, ambivalent and disorganized).

- The caregivers will identify the child’s expressive emotions and will be encouraged to see things from the child’s point of view, using emotional language and gentle touches.

- post-intervention will be conducted after 3months as follow-ups which includes video-taping the caregiver child interaction at the centres and additional training will be organized to discuss findings with caregivers and share their experience.

Participants

120 daycare caregivers will be selected from four regions in Ghana: These caregivers have

- low SES,
- low academic qualifications or no high-school diploma,
- poor working conditions of service,
- no opportunity for professional development.

Measure

- Four assessment tools will be used during the intervention training programme.

- A CLASS-infant assessment tool (Biringen et al., 2012) will assess the quality and the effectiveness of the daycare caregiver—child interaction.

- The EA Scales, Version 3.0 (Biringen, Z., 2000; Biringen, Z., Robinson, J., & Emde, 1998) will focus on daycare care givers qualities (sensitivity, structuring, non intrusiveness, and non hostility) in managing the child’s emotional crisis.

- The Attachment Q-Sort (AQS) (Waters & Deane, 1985) will assess the caregiver-child attachment behaviour and how sensitive the caregivers are responsive to the needs of the child.

- The Caregiver Interaction Scale (CIS; Arnett, 1989) over all quality of interaction and engagement of the daycare caregiver with the child.

Limitations

- Focused only on typically developing children
- Just few caregivers from each centre involved.
- Short period of intervention
- Inadequate funding

Conclusion

The findings will be used as

- an advocacy tool for early childhood care interventions in the communities.
- inform policy makers on the need to expand the scope of the early childhood care and development policy in Ghana to include the children’s emotional development needs.

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