



Diapering Habits and Practices

Beenu Singh | Alka Goel

Department of Clothing and Textiles, College of Home Science, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology Pantnagar, U. S. Nagar, Uttarakhand.

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ABSTRACT

In India, there are variations in diapering practices, because of various practices in different culture and also due to regional regional difference. Most of the mothers prefer using cloth diapers in day time and modern disposable diaper during the night and outings. Diaper material, financial status, belief and child's comfort influence the use of diapers. Due to advancement of diaper technology the frequency of using diapers is also increased. There is a belief in India that cotton diapers are more breathable but due to advanced designs and function of diapers, many parents are going for modern disposable diaper than cloth diapers. In the study data was collected from the mothers who were working and housewives. The data in the study reveals the use of diapers, no of diapers used per day, brand of diaper used by the mothers.

KEYWORDS: Cloth diapers, disposable diapers, diaper technology

1. INTRODUCTION

There are different diapering practices which vary among different countries. Various diaper materials usage has evolved since the last decade from reusable cotton cloth to modern disposable diapers (Server, 2010). Some recent advancement in diaper technology and design features have led to dryness in baby's skin and decrease in redness or rashes due to diaper usage. Diapering practices vary around the world from use of reusable cloth diapers to disposable diapers with advanced designs and technologies. But the diaper technology can affect the baby's skin and the manifestation of diaper dermatitis (Maya, Pai and Anjalin, 2015). Diapering practices vary among different countries from the use of cloth diapers to the modern disposable diaper.

The study was conducted in Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand. The locale was selected purposively because of the easy accessibility of researcher to the place and the respondents. The mothers who were working and housewives were selected for the survey. The data was collected on the use of diapers, no. of diapers used per day, brand of diaper used. Total no. of 45 mothers were selected for study randomly. The objective of the present study was to explore the knowledge about diapering habits. Assessing their knowledge and awareness regarding the use of diapers and of issues related to it.

2. METHODOLOGY

The research conducted in present study was exploratory in nature. The method used for conducting

study was survey. Questionnaire was used as instrument for obtaining the relevant information from selected respondents on different aspects diapering practices of mothers.

Questionnaire was used to collect basic data related to mothers and their children. Questionnaire comprised of two parts. Part-I of questionnaire dealt with the general information of the respondents like age, education level, type of family, no. of child. The Part-II of questionnaire sought information regarding the no. of diapers used and awareness of respondents about different aspects related to diapering practices of mothers.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal information of respondents who use diapers for their child

The personal information of the respondents including their age, education level, type of family, monthly income and occupation has been presented in Table1.

It was clear from the Table 1 that the age of more than half of the respondents (55.55 %) was between 30-35 years and 26.66 % respondents were between 24-29, followed by 13.33% between 36-40 and 4.44% between 18-23 years of age. It was found that most of the respondents (80%) have nuclear family while only (20%) have joint family.

The educational status of respondents was found to be Ph.D. (22.22%), M.Sc. (33.33%), graduation (35.55%) and intermediate (8.88%).

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to personal information

n= 45

Sl. No.	Parameters	Variables	Frequency	Percent
1.	Age	18-23years	2	4.44
		24-29years	12	26.66
		30-35years	25	55.55
		36-40years	6	13.33
2.	Type of family	Nuclear	36	80.00
		Joint	9	20.00
3.	Education level	Intermediate	4	8.88
		Graduation	16	35.55
		Masters	15	33.33
		Ph.D.	10	22.22
		Service	26	57.77
4.		Housewife	19	42.22

Sl. No.	Occupation	Monthly income (Rs)	Frequency	Percentage
5.	Monthly income (Rs)	> 30,000	15	33.33
		10-30,000	15	33.33
		<10,000	15	33.33

It can be envisaged from the data given in Table1 that 57.77 % respondents were doing service while 42.22% were housewives. Equal no. of respondents were taken from each income group respectively.

Diapering Practices among Respondents

In this section, information was collected through personal interview method. The reasons and other details while conducting interview of the respondents. This section divulges the information regarding the use of diapers for child and the effects observed due to continuous use of diapers on the skin of baby, brand of diaper used and factors related to diapers.

1 Use of diaper for child

Table 1 reveals that the most of the respondents (88.88%) prefer to use diaper for their child while 11.11% of respondents use cloth nappies for their child. It was found that respondents who belong to lower income group were not using diapers instead they are using cloth nappies.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of use of diaper for child

n=45

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	40	88.88
2	No	5	11.11

2. Idea about the diaper brands available in the market

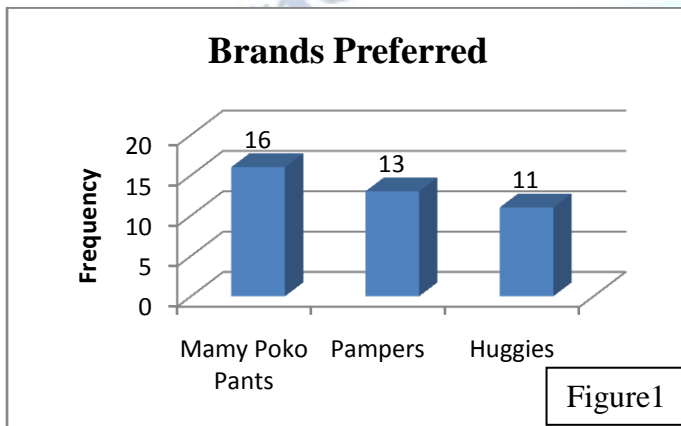
Table 2 illustrates the responses for the knowledge about the diaper brands available in the market. Maximum no. of respondents (73.33%) has the knowledge about the different brands available in the market followed by the respondents who do not have knowledge about different brands (26.66 %). The reason was found that the respondents who were not literate and belong to lower income group did not know the brands available in the market. They go for diaper which was easily available and low in cost.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the basis of idea about the diaper brands available in the market
n=45

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	33	73.33
2	No	12	26.66

3. Brands preferred for child

It is evident from the Figure 1 that 40% respondents preferred mamy poko pants and pamper was preferred by 32.5% respondents followed by 27.5% of respondents who preferred huggies.



4. Number of diapers used per day

As evident from Table 3, that most of the respondents (35%) use 4-5 diapers per day followed by 25% using 7-8, followed by 22.5% who are using 2-3 diapers per day while 17.5% use diapers rarely. Thus, it can be visualized from data given in table that few respondents were using diapers when they are going out with baby for long time.

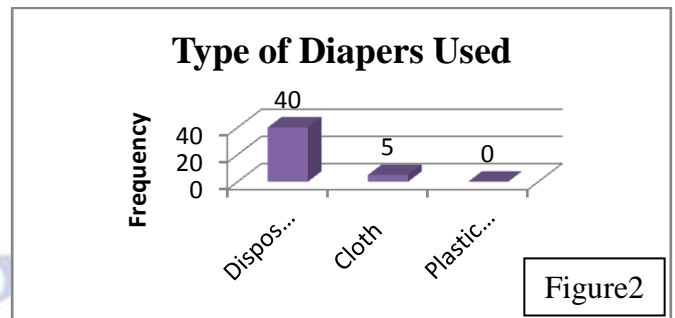
Table 3: Distribution of respondents on the basis of number of diapers used per day

Sl. No.	No. of diapers used per day	Frequency	Percentage
1	7-8	10	25
2	4-5	14	35
3	2-3	9	22.5
4	Rarely	7	17.5

5. Type of diapers used

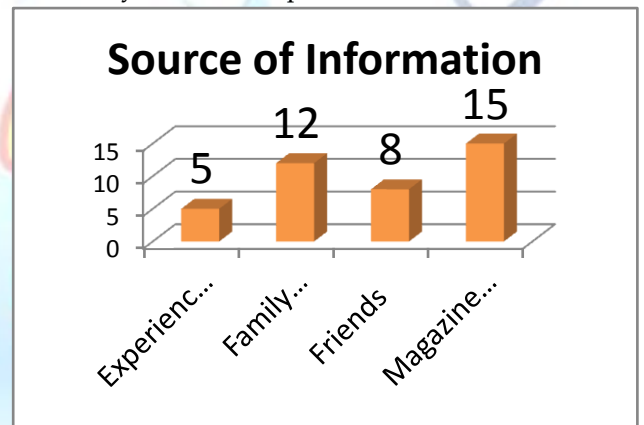
Figure 2 reveals that the large no. of respondents (88.88%) uses disposable diapers whereas only 11.11% uses cloth nappies for their child and none of them uses plastic underpants. It provided a clear idea that disposable diapers were found to be the demand of the parents and only very few parents

are going for cloth nappies which is not a eco friendly choice.



6. Source of information influenced choice of diaper

The data in Figure 3 reveals that most of respondents (37.5%) got information from magazine/TV, while 30% of respondents got information from family members. Very less no. of respondents i.e. 20% have information from friends and only 12.5% experience with other child.



7. Rashes or redness observed at the hip area due to diaper use

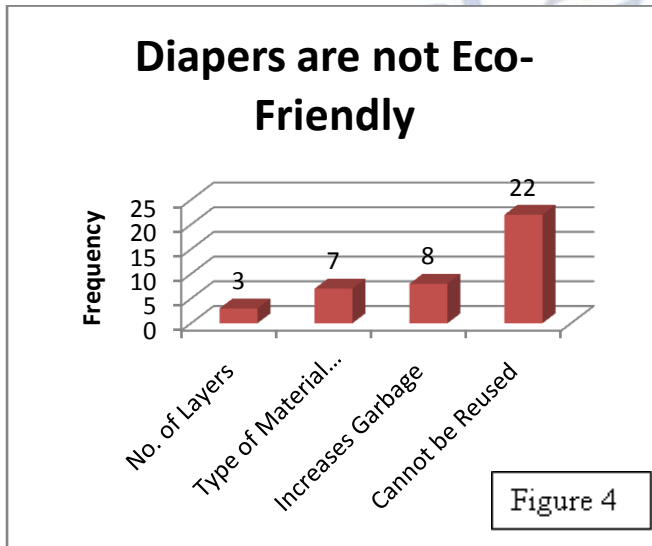
Table 4 reveals that most of respondents (60%) observed rashes or redness at the hip area due to diaper use while 40% did not observe any rashes at the hip area. It was noted that the respondents who were using disposable diapers were applying cream and absorb powder to prevent the rashes or redness on their baby's hip area and who were using less frequently diapers were found to have no rashes on their baby's skin.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents on the basis of rashes or redness observed at the hip area due to diaper use

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	24	60
2	No	16	40

8. Diapers are not ecofriendly

When the respondents were asked that the disposable diapers are not eco friendly, most of them (55%) stated that they cannot be reused followed by 20 % respondents said that it increases garbage. Only 17.5 % of the respondents knows that the material is not eco friendly from which the diapers are made. Very less respondents were having knowledge about the no. of layers used in diaper construction.



9. Usage of diaper for long time

It was found that all the respondents were having awareness the hygiene level of diapers. They know that if diapers were used for long time, then it will be very unhygienic for the child.

10. Application of cream/oil/powder at the hip area of child

Table 5 reveals that most of respondents (55.55 %) were applying cream/oil/powder at the hip area of their child to protect from rashes and skin infection on their baby's skin.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents on the basis of application of cream/oil/powder at the hip area of child n=40

Sl. No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	25	55.55
2	No	20	44.44

4. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded on the basis the results that majority of the respondents were using disposable diapers for their child rather than cloth nappy. Most of the respondents were also found to be using 4-5 diapers on an average per day. Rashes or redness was observed by most of the mothers who are using diapers frequently for their child. The present study shows that awareness program on prevention and management of diapers will be effective in improving knowledge of mothers. It will also be effective in changing the attitude and diapering practice of mothers.

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.

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