

**FACTORS AFFECTING INFANCY DEVELOPMENT:
AN ANALYSIS FROM THE *SUNNAH* AND CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOLOGY**

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Abstract

The period of infancy plays a significant role in the development and growth of children. Islam and contemporary psychology have given much emphasis to the developmental aspects of infancy. Both domains extensively describe factors that are influential during the infancy period. The *Sunnah*, the secondary source of Islamic teachings, has described a number of factors that have direct or indirect impacts upon the development of infants. Further, contemporary psychologists have explored factors affecting development during the infancy period of human development based on theoretical and empirical investigations. This paper attempts to highlight factors impacting upon infancy drawing from both the *Sunnah* and contemporary psychological research. In the first part of the paper, an introduction to a recent study undertaken by the first author is presented. The paper goes on to define key terminologies utilised in the research. This will be followed by discussion of factors affecting infancy from the perspective of the *Sunnah* and contemporary psychological research. A comparative examination of the findings of the research is presented. Finally, conclusions and recommendations are identified within the study. The research presented in this paper employed a qualitative content analysis methodology as a means of integrating the findings from the authentic *Sunnah* with contemporary psychological research. More broadly, the paper attempts to integrate Islamic knowledge with contemporary psychological insights as a means of informing infant health care strategies. Specifically, the findings of the study will serve to develop further insights surrounding factors influencing the development of children as a means of increasing the welfare of Muslim children globally.

Keywords: Factors, Affecting, Infancy, the *Sunnah*, Contemporary Psychology
