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Authors

Joseph, Ebenezer
Easvaradoss, Veena
Abraham, Suneera
[et al.](#)

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Enhancing Creativity in Children by Imparting Chess Training

Ebenezer Joseph

University of Madras, Chennai, India

Veena Easvaradoss

Women's Christian College, Chennai, India

Suneera Abraham

Emmanuel Chess Centre, Chennai, India

Michael Brazil

Emmanuel Chess Centre, Chennai, India.

David Chandran

Emmanuel Chess Centre, Chennai, India.

Abstract: Creativity is the ability to find hidden patterns, to make connections between seemingly unrelated phenomena, and to generate solutions. The present study, funded by Indian Government, analysed the effect of one year chess training program on the creativity of school-going children of both genders. A pre-test post-test with control group design was used. The sample comprised 64 children: 32 children each in experimental (Mean age=11.86, SD=1.44) and control (Mean age=12.03, SD=1.14) groups. Children in the experimental group underwent weekly chess training with Winning Moves Chess Curriculum. Creativity was assessed by Indian adaption of Wallach-Kogan Creativity Test. Pre-intervention equivalence of the two groups was established. Independent t test analysis revealed that the experimental group had statistically significant gains in total creativity and Instances and Alternate Uses subtests compared to the control group. The authors conclude that systematic chess intervention increases creativity in children. The educational implications are significant.