

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND TEMPERAMENTAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ADOLESCENT CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS AND STAY-AT-HOME MOTHERS - A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is an attempt to study the effect of maternal employment on the academic achievement and temperament of adolescent children. This study involved the comparison of the academic achievement and temperamental differences among adolescent children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers. The comparison of both the dependent variables was studied at three levels: adolescent children (irrespective of their genders), male children and female children of both types of mothers. For the present study, descriptive survey method was used. Annual marks of the adolescent children were taken as an indicator for their academic achievement whereas Introversion Extroversion Inventory (IEI) was used as a tool to explore the temperamental differences among the adolescent children. The sample for the present study consisted of 200 adolescent children from two government and two private senior secondary schools of Faridabad. This research has disclosed that adolescent children residing with working mothers have performed better in academics and shown to have a balanced personality than children of stay-at-home mothers.

Keywords: Academic achievement, Temperamental differences, Maternal employment

INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt in the fact that maternal employment affects the adolescent development but how does it affect, is the matter of concern for this study. The literature shows both the positive effects and negative effects of maternal employment on the adolescent development. Greater sense of independence and maturity level among adolescents are some of the positive effects of maternal employment (Montemayor, 1983). Working mothers are looked upon as influential role models by the adolescents specially by the daughters. This could result into improvement of adolescent behaviour. On the other hand, detachment of adolescents from home due to reduction in quantity and quality of supervision is considered as one of the major negative effect of maternal employment (Hoffman, 1980). Impact of maternal employment specifically on two factors that are academic achievement and temperament of adolescents was the focus of this study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

According to Samuel Ullman "Youth is not only a time of life, it is also a state of mind and a matter of will". Quality of the youth of a nation determines the future of the nation. The great Indian philosopher Swami Vivekananda has rightly said, "Youths are not useless but are used less". Considering the needs of globalization, the quality and quantity of challenges that the adolescents face, have amplified. Therefore, proper support, guidance and supervision are required at this important stage of life.

The intense role played by the mothers for the emotional and moral support of their children cannot be ignored. But due to financial requirements, identity built up and other factors, a larger number of females (including mothers) are taking up the jobs. As a result of this, the mothers have started coming out of their 'homes' to enter their 'offices'. They have switched their roles from a 'care taker' to an 'employee'. This shift has affected their time and focus towards their children.

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The purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of maternal employment on the academic achievements and temperamental differences among adolescents. This research was valuable because it threw light on the comparison between the roles played by working and stay-at-home mothers for their adolescent children. This study attempted to fill the gap in the literature on the relationship between maternal employment and adolescents' outcomes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study were following:-

1. To know more about the academic achievement of adolescent children of working mothers.
2. To know more about the academic achievement of adolescent children of stay-at-home mothers.
3. To know about the temperamental differences of children of working mothers.
4. To know about the temperamental differences of children of stay-at-home mothers.
5. To compare the academic achievement and temperamental differences among the adolescent children of working & stay-at-home mothers.

VARIABLES

Independent variable: Maternal employment.

Dependent variables: Academic achievement and Temperamental differences.

HYPOTHESES

To carry out this study, the following null hypotheses were formed:

1. There is no significant difference between the academic achievements among the adolescent children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.
2. There is no significant difference of the temperament among the adolescent children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.
3. There is no significant difference between the academic achievements among the adolescent male and female children of stay-at-home mothers.

4. There is no significant difference of the temperament among the adolescent male and female children of stay-at-home mothers.
5. There is no significant difference between the academic achievements among the adolescent male and female children of working mothers.
6. There is no significant difference of the temperament among the adolescent male and female children of working mothers.
7. There is no significant difference between the academic achievements among the adolescent male children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.
8. There is no significant difference of the temperament among the adolescent male children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.
9. There is no significant difference between the academic achievements among the adolescent female children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.
10. There is no significant difference of the temperament among the adolescent female children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was delimited to the following aspects:

1. Two hundred students of classes VIII, IX and X (both boys and girls) were included in the sample- One hundred children were of working mothers and one hundred were of stay-at-home mothers.
2. All of the students were taken from the schools of the Faridabad district.
3. The study was delimited to only two aspects- academic achievement and temperamental differences (introversion/ extroversion/ ambiversion).

RESEARCH METHOD

Descriptive Survey was used as a research method keeping in view the objectives and the nature of the present study.

SAMPLE

The sample consisted of 200 adolescents - 100 adolescent children of working and 100

adolescent children of stay-at-home mothers from two Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools and two public schools of Faridabad city. They were selected randomly from VIII, IX & X classes. The average age of the students was 13 to 15 years.

TOOLS USED

1. Annual examination marks were taken to judge the academic achievement of the students.
2. Introversion Extroversion Inventory (IEI) constructed by Dr. P.F. Aziz and Dr. Rekha Agnihotri (Meerut) was used to measure the temperamental differences.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

For the present study, mean, standard deviation, t-value and graphs were calculated for the analysis and interpretation of the data.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

This study covered the following five aspects:

1. Comparison of academic achievement and temperamental differences among adolescent children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.
2. Comparison of academic achievement and temperamental differences among adolescent male and female children of stay-at-home mothers.
3. Comparison of academic achievement and temperamental differences among adolescent male and female children of working mothers.
4. Comparison of academic achievement and temperamental differences among male children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.
5. Comparison of academic achievement and temperamental differences among female children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.

COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND TEMPERAMENTAL DIFFERENCES AMONG CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS AND STAY-AT-HOME MOTHERS

Academic achievement of adolescent children

S. No.	Category	Mean annual examination percentage	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Children of working mothers	56.8	13.0	1.73
2.	Children of stay-at-home mothers	53.7	12.7	

Finding 1: Children of working mothers were found to be academically brighter than stay-at-home mothers.

Temperamental differences among adolescent children

S. No.	Category	Mean IEI score	Standard Deviation	t-value
1	Children of working mothers	6	11.1	0.692
2	Children of stay-at-home mothers	5	9.6	

Finding 2: Ambivert characteristics were seen at the top among the children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.

COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND TEMPERAMENTAL DIFFERENCES AMONG MALE AND FEMALE CHILDREN OF STAY-AT-HOME MOTHERS

Academic achievement of children of stay-at-home mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean annual examination percentage	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Male children of stay-at-home mothers	49.9	12.1	-2.18
2.	Female children of stay-at-home mothers	55.6	12.7	

Finding 3: On comparison of academic achievement of male and female children of stay-at-home mothers, boys were found to be academically very dull than their girl counterparts.

Temperamental differences among children of stay-at-home mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean IEI score	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Male children of stay-at-home mothers	4	10.6	-0.829
2.	Female children of stay-at-home mothers	6	9.19	

Finding 4: Temperament of both male and female children of stay-at-home mothers was found to be almost similar. Both fall into ambivert category.

COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND TEMPERAMENTAL DIFFERENCES AMONG MALE AND FEMALE CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS

Academic achievement of children of working mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean annual examination percentage	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Male children of working mothers	56	12.9	-0.521
2.	Female children of working mothers	56	13.2	

Finding 5: Both boys and girls of working mothers have performed equally in the field of academics.

Temperamental differences among children of working mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean IEI score	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Male children of working mothers	9	11.4	2.09
2.	Female children of working mothers	4	10.6	

Finding 6: Though both genders of children of working mothers fell in the ambivert category, but a significant difference was found among them. Boys were found to exhibit more extroverts-like characteristics than their girl counterparts.:

COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND TEMPERAMENTAL

DIFFERENCES AMONG MALE CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS AND STAY-AT-HOME MOTHERS

Academic achievement of male children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean annual examination percentage	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Male children of working mothers	56.0	12.9	2.07
2.	Male children of stay-at-home mothers	49.9	12.1	

Finding 7: Male children of working mothers hold an upper hand on the male children of stay-at-home mothers in the academic field.

Temperamental differences among male children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean IEI score	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Male children of working mothers	9	11.4	1.93
2.	Male children of stay-at-home mothers	4	10.6	

Finding 8: Male children of both-working mothers and stay-at-home mothers were found to be ambiverts though male children of the working mothers have the tendency to be like extroverts.

COMPARISON OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND TEMPERAMENTAL DIFFERENCES AMONG FEMALE CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS AND STAY-AT-HOME MOTHERS

Academic achievement of female children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean annual examination percentage	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Female children of working mothers	57.4	13.2	0.760
2.	Female children of stay-at-home mothers	55.6	12.7	

Finding 9: Girls of both working and stay-at-home mothers behave almost equally in the academic field.

Temperamental differences among female children of working mothers and stay-at-home mothers

S. No.	Category	Mean IELscore	Standard Deviation	t-value
1.	Female children of working mothers	4.31	10.6	0.788
2.	Female children of stay-at-home mothers	5.70	9.19	

Finding 10: Girls of both working and stay-at-home mothers were found to be ambiverts.

CONCLUSION

The fact which ultimately instigated the investigator to pursue this research work was to study the effect of maternal employment on academic achievement and temperamental differences among the adolescent children. This research has disclosed that adolescent children residing with working mothers have performed better in academics and shown to have a balanced personality than children of stay-at-home mothers.

The investigator earnestly feels that with advancements in science and technology, and in the interest of national reconstruction and development, especially when world organizations are attempting to utilize the talents and energies of women in various directions, in INDIA, one cannot afford to leave mothers at home simply to care and look after the child. Again, psychological researches have shown that certain specific abilities are comparatively found more among the females. These are verbal ability, space relations ability memory and perceptual ability. Still girls have been found doing well on jobs related to mechanical ability, numerical ability and reasoning ability. Today there are countries which have started realizing that jobs, which are related to such abilities where girls excel, should be given to ladies first. Under such circumstances, how can we think of asking the women to stay at home and to look after the household needs and care of children.

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