

A Comparative Study to Assess the Level of Behavioural Problems among Children between the Age Group of 2½ Years to 5 Years of Employed and Unemployed Mothers in Selected Areas of Nagpur

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Abstract

The mother's emotional adjustment when she assumes work outside home is the key to whether she succeeds or fails. Although working mothers have become the norm in the society, disapproving attitudes from various strata of the society contribute to the torn and guilty feelings many working mothers experience. The mother's status as a working woman may consistently have either positive or negative effects on children's development and educational outcomes. In the present comparative study done on employed and unemployed mothers with children in the age group of 2½-5 years, it was seen that maximum children of employed mothers exhibit moderate behavioural problems 24 (80%) while those of unemployed mothers exhibit mild behavioural problems 22 (73.33%).

Keywords: Comparative Study; Behavioural problems; Mother's Employment.

Introduction

In this age of expanded interdependence and nuclear families, there is likelihood of encountering families with working mothers and their children. Mothers play an important role in child rearing because they are the primary caregivers. The lifestyle of a working mother and her schedule has an impact on the development of the child.

On one hand, a working mother is able to support the family financially, on another she is at risk of missing the small joys of watching her beloved child grow. In families where father is the primary caregiver while mother is at work, 40% mothers adjust with their working hours to meet child care needs, compared with 6% of fathers. National statistic of labor force shows that 71-77% of the working mothers have the children in the age group of 2½ to 5 years and these children have behavioral problem. The National Statistics show around 32% children under

this age group have behavioural problems in Maharashtra. The period of 2½ to 5 years is one of rapid change in developmental, social, emotional, cognitive and linguistic abilities. The child is progressively developing more autonomy. It's a period of transition from a toddler to a preschooler. Early emergent behavior problem are likely to be serious behavior problem, social skills deficits and academic difficulties later in life.

The study of behavioral problems among 2½ to 5 years children can improve the knowledge of employed and unemployed mothers to prevent these kinds of disorders in their children.

Problem Statement

A comparative study to assess the level of behavioural problems among children between the age group of 2½ years to 5 years of employed and unemployed mothers in selected areas of Nagpur.

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The Main Objective of the Present Study was-

- To assess the level of behavioural problems among children between the age group between 2½ years to 5 years of employed and unemployed mothers.
- To compare the level of behavioural problems among the children of the age group between 2½ years to 5 years of employed and unemployed mothers.
- To find out the association between the level of behavioural problems among the children between the group of 2½ years to 5 years of employed and unemployed mothers and their selected demographic variables.

Methods

The research approach used was Non Experimental research approach. The Research Design selected for the study was Descriptive design category Comparative in nature. The setting was Kidzee Preschool (Jaffar Nagar branch) Nagpur. The sample includes 60 mothers who were selected by non-probability convenience sampling technique. The tool was a modified version of the original child behaviour checklist made by T. Achenbach & L. Rescorla ASEBA, University of Vermont, it comprised of 2 sections:

- *Section-A:* The section of demographic data to collect information of age, education, family pattern, religion, working pattern etc...

- *Section-B:* Consisted of 50 questions in a checklist pattern to recognize the extent of behavioural problems.

The Pilot Study was conducted with 6 mothers. Split half method with Karl Pearson's formula was used to test the reliability of the tool.

The reliability of the tool was 0.90. It was statistically significant and thus reliable.

Results

Majority of the employed and unemployed mothers had girl children and in the age group of 3.1 - 5 years. Majority of the employed and unemployed mothers belonged to Hindu religion. Majority of employed and unemployed mothers were graduates by qualification.

Majority unemployed mothers had 2 children while the employed mothers had one child. Majority employed mothers spent 2 hours with their children while the unemployed mothers spend 3-4 hours with their children. Maximum children of employed mothers exhibit moderate behavioural problems 24 (80%) while those of unemployed mothers exhibit mild behavioural problems 22 (73.33%).

The t value is 0.549 and p value is 0.549 which is less than the level of significance at 0.5 level (df= 58) so the null hypothesis H_0 is accepted and the alternative hypothesis H_1 is rejected. Hence there is no significant difference in the level of behavioural problems among the children of employed and unemployed mothers.

Table 1:

MCBC	Mild (1 - 34)		Moderate (35 - 74)		Severe (>75)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Employed	2	6.6%	24	80%	4	13.33%
Unemployed	22	73.33%	6	20%	2	6.6%

Table 2:

Demographic Variables	Chi Square	P Value	Degree of Freedom	Significance
Gender	3.348	0.187	2	NS
Age	2.498	0.868	6	NS
Religion	10.205	0.116	6	NS
Mother's education	4.981	0.759	8	NS
Number of Siblings	2.406	0.704	2	S
Type of family	1.357	0.507	2	NS
Time with Child	5.55	0.475	6	NS
Nature of Family	1.149	0.979	6	S
Order of birth	10.569	0.102	6	NS
Caretaker	4.836	0.565	6	NS

There is a significant association in the demographic variables such as number of siblings and nature of family with the behavioural problems in children of employed mothers at significance level of 0.05, whereas there is no significant association with the demographic variables and the behavioural problems of children of unemployed mothers.

Interpretation and Conclusion

Findings of the study indicate no significant difference in the level of behavioural problems of children of employed and unemployed mothers but there is a significant association of the demographic variables with the behavioral problems of employed mothers.

Recommendations

- A similar study can be undertaken with a large sample.
- A structured teaching program on child behavior problems to mothers can be done between different settings.
- A comparative study can be conducted on knowledge, attitude and practice of employed and unemployed mothers regarding child rearing practices.
- A similar study can be replicated by using structured teaching program or workshops on child rearing practices.

- A similar study should be conducted at corporate companies where the percentage of working women is high so that the concerns of a working mother will be highlighted and the institutions will execute establishment of day care centres at the working place.

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