



A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PERSONALITY TRAITS OF GROWING ADOLESCENT CHILDREN OF WORKING AND NON WORKING MOTHERS

Abstract

INTRODUCTION :

Parenting is a very big responsibility and the parent-child interaction plays a vital role in the development of a child. The behavior, mannerism, ethics and level of confidence in a child is the total reflection of the style of parenting of a child. In other words, proper parenting prepares a child to face the world boldly and accept the challenges and opportunities in his life. It is a well known fact that in almost all societies whether in East or West child rearing is taken up by members of the family, especially the mother. Therefore, the role of mother is most significant for a child. Besides proper physical care and nourishment of a child, a mother is also a source of inspiration and motivation for evolving moral and ethical values in a child. Mother is the first school of a child. Family is the first institute for the early life development of the child. For a very long time, the society has made us believe that the children whose mothers are housewives enjoy maximum attention in their upbringing and proper education. On the other hand, if the mother goes for service outside the home, she becomes unable to perform the duties of a real and true mother. Due to her engagement outside the home and responsibility of the works, tradition had held her responsible for not catering to the needs of the child.

A lot of experimental evidence is available which depicts that the parent-child relationship is very important in personality growth. Since the mother is in charge of all the smaller needs of the child there is a lot of expectation from her but due to the changing scenario, mothers cannot sit at home just to rear their children. They need to act wisely, actively and smartly. As a result, many working women have been perceived to be less warm and affectionate towards their families. Since their children are sometimes sent to the creche or left to the mercy of the maids, they are seen by the society to be groomed inefficiently and completely dependent

on others. On the other hand, the children of non-working mothers are perceived to be getting a lot of affection and care from their mothers. Most of their needs are satisfied by their mothers. Non-working mothers get ample time to attend to their children but while considering the other side of the coin, it has also been observed that the children of working mothers have enough degree of self-confidence and self-assurance. They have wider knowledge and more career options in comparison to non working mothers. **The circumstances force them to make their own decisions and they are capable** of doing most of their work by themselves. They interact much with the outer world. Their social circle is also wider. All these things shape the child as bold and more confident. There are many traits or personality **patterns in a child that require attention**.

Studies of the development of the **personality pattern have revealed** that three factors are responsible for child development- hereditary endowment, early **experiences within the family** and events in later life. The pattern is closely **associated with the maturation of the physical and** mental characteristics. These characteristics provide the foundations on which the structure of the personality pattern is built through learning experiences. The early learning experiences are in the different environments as children come in contact with others outside their homes. Earlier studies have proved that the child needs to be guided for social, moral and recreational adjustments which he can get only in a good and healthy home environment and through parental love. Proper care at home helps in better development of a child physically, emotionally, mentally and socially.

'Since times the immortal mother has been the most active participant in the process of her child's development. The child learns to face the world through strong confidence building, self-respect and self-esteem taught by her mother in early years. A good child-parent, especially child-mother relation is the strongest foundation for all children for their overall development in life. The children need their parents especially their mothers to take care of everything for them, share with them their happiness and sadness. This is actually possible only if their mothers are always there for them all the time, which is not the case in the present scenario. Some of the changes in the roles as **well as attitude stem from the gradual increase in women's** economic independence. The economic independence of the present era does serve **to make a woman** feel much more capable and secure.

Nuclear family system has also posed a great threat. Children are left alone at home when both the parents go for work. In nuclear families, there are no grandmothers, aunts or elders to protect them from the current environment of media exposure and drug-addiction. They are left free to do whatever they want - watch anything on television or the internet which sometimes leads to greater problems. Adolescents who already have a lot of stress due to peer pressure and other changes in the absence of maternal care develop poor personality.

A mother who earlier played the role of housewife and child up-bringer now has multiple roles to play. If **she is a wife and mother at home and she is a director in a company** or a political leader she is committed to both the roles. She is paid for her work at the company but for that time due to her absence from home she is forced to overlook some of her responsibilities. With this, her **difficulties have also become multidimensional**. It is said that **children of working mothers** suffer to a great extent. They remain emotionally starved and develop bad habits. Though this is not true in all cases, absence of a mother for a longer period of time pushes children in the company of bad friends/drug addiction. The financial conditions and status of family no doubt improves but sometimes children lose and their personalities suffer.

Definition of Key Terms: Personality Traits, Working Mother, Non-working Mother, Role of Mother, Adolescent Children

PERSONALITY: An individual's personality is the complex of mental characteristics that marks them unique from other people. It includes all the patterns, thought and emotions that cause us to do and say things in particular ways. At a basic level, personality is expressed through our temperament or emotional tone. However, personality also colors our values, beliefs and expectations. There are many potential factors that are involved in shaping a personality. These factors are usually seen as coming from heredity and the environment. There are many potential environmental influences that help to shape personality. Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psycho-physical systems that determine his unique adjustment to his environment. This dynamic organization of the psycho-physical system of the individual is the result of many factors. Many inner environmental factors help in the development of the personality of the individual. An individual is what he has been made by his parents. Family and the social environment keep on influencing the personality of an individual. Of all the factors, the influence of the mother is great on the personality development of the individual. Mother is the first school for the child. Family is the first institution for the early life development of the child.

PERSONALITY TRAITS :

The trait of extroversion-introversion is a central dimension of human personality. The terms introversion and extroversion were first popularized by Carl Jung. Extraverts, also spelled extroverts, tend to be gregarious, assertive and interested in seeking out excitement. Introverts, in contrast, tend to be more reserved, less outgoing, and less sociable. They are not necessarily loners but they tend to have smaller circles of friends and are less likely to thrive on making new social contacts. Researchers have identified the second personality dimension as Extroversion, with extreme extroverts at one end and extreme introverts at the other. Extroverts are very sociable people who also tend to be energetic, optimistic, friendly and assertive.

Introverts are less likely to seek stimulation from others because their own thoughts and imagination are stimulating enough. A common misconception is that all introverts suffer from social anxiety or shyness. Introversion does not describe social discomfort but rather social preference. An introvert may not be shy at all but may merely prefer non-social or less social activities. Introverts do not typically express these characteristics, but it would be incorrect to say that they are asocial and without energy. Studies find that extraverts have more friends and spend more time in social situations than introverts.

Eysenck hypothesized that extraversion and introversion is a matter of the balance of inhibition and excitation in the brain itself. Excitation is the brain waking itself up, getting into an alert, and learning state. Inhibition is the brain calming itself down, either in the usual sense of relaxing and going to sleep, or in the sense of protecting itself in the case of overwhelming stimulation.

WORKING MOTHER:

If the mother goes for service outside the home, she becomes able to perform the duties of the real and true mother. Due to her engagement outside the home and responsibility of the work, she is not in a position to cater to the needs of the child. The father is the bread earner and mainly thinks that if he has earned some money for the family, his job is over. He becomes so involved in his work that he has no time to look after the child in the family, this way there remains the role of the mother in the all-round development of the personality of the child. Thus, it is evident that a mother plays a role of great significance and influence in shaping the personality of her child. It can also be considered that the status of a mother, i.e. whether she is working or non-working has got ample influence on the personality development of a child in the present era of swift lifestyle too. It is observed that the working status of a mother brings both positive & negative impacts on the 360-degree personality development of the child. Almost similar facts can be observed in examining the personality development of children of non-working mothers too beyond facts, feelings and ideas in their search for the essence of reality.

Non-Working mother:

The children, whose mothers are housewives, get maximum care in the upbringing and proper reaction of the child. It is the mother who is fully responsible for the overall personality development of the child. Those mothers who stay at home may or may not be financially independent.

ROLE OF MOTHER:

The mother's reason for working and her attitude towards her job has a significant effect on her role as a mother because employment doesn't fit into the stereotype of "mother". She feels guilty for being away from her home, especially if working is not motivated by financial necessity, early practices, performance. Therefore, it is necessary for the mother and child to spend time with each other doing routine activities like eating together or just cuddling each other. Mothers should interact with their children about their day and ask about theirs. Given the fact that time is important, mothers need to prioritize household work and only do those chores that are essential on a daily basis. Mothers should try to avoid distractions like the television, radio and phone calls when they are spending special time with their children.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY: Changing needs of the society has changed the role of mothers from just being house makers. They are moving shoulder to shoulder with men and sharing all the responsibilities within and outside the home. As a result, time spent by them with their children has decreased, Sharing- caring guidance etc has taken a little back-seat. This has influenced the personality of children to a great extent. The researcher herself observed the different phenomena prevailing in the society about the personality of the children of working mothers and those of non-working mothers. After a keen observation she found that a lot of differences are there in the personality characteristics of the children of working mothers and non-working mothers. The researcher herself is a mother and was in service, so she has realized the pangs of the life of a child whose mother goes to work outside the home. So, the researcher thought of this problem and made the decision to conduct this study at this level.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Following objectives have been formulated for the study

1. To study the personality traits of the adolescent children of working mothers.
2. To study the personality traits of the adolescent children of non-working mothers.
3. To compare the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.
4. To compare the personality traits of male adolescent children of working and non working mothers.
5. To compare personality traits of female adolescent children of working and non-working mothers
5. To compare personality traits of male and female adolescent children of working mothers.
6. To compare personality traits of male and female adolescent children of non-working mothers.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY :

Following hypotheses were made to study the personality traits of adolescent children-

1. There is no significant difference between the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.
2. There is no significant difference between the personality traits of male adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.
3. There is no significant difference between the personality traits of female adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.
4. There is no significant difference between the personality traits of male and female adolescent children of working mothers.
5. There is no significant difference between the personality traits of male and female adolescent children of non-working mothers.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY :

The study is confined to the private schools of Ghaziabad district only and the students belonging to the age group 11 to 13 years studying in classes VI to VIII of Private Schools of Ghaziabad district affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (C.B.S.E).

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Indian Studies Related To Children of Working and Non-Working Mothers

According to Carl Jung, each function may be experienced in an introverted or an extraverted fashion, and one of the functions is more dominant in different people. He understands these in terms of eight different personality types as follows:

The self is the midpoint of personality, around which all of the other systems are constellated. It holds these systems together and provides personality unity, equilibrium and stability. The self is life's goal, a goal that people constantly strive for but rarely reach. Before the self emerges, it is necessary for the various components of the personality to become fully developed and individuated.

Review of Related Literature:

The researcher has reviewed too much research regarding Personality traits of children of working and non working mothers. Sudha Trivedi (1988) found that there is no significant difference between the achievement scores of the children of working and non-working mothers. Youngblut, J.M *et al* (1998) explored differences in parent-child and family relationships for employed and non-employed single mothers. They found that employed mothers had more positive perceptions and provided more enriching home environments for their children. They noted that in single-parent families, employment and consistency are positive influences on the mother-child relationship. **Minakshi Goswami** (2000) found that working mother's children were more achievement oriented than all other groups, while anxiety of the girls of working mothers found to be highest. **Hangal et al.** (2007) assessed the impact of maternal employment on the self-concept, emotional maturity and achievement motivation of adolescents and found that the adolescent children of homemakers have significantly higher self-concept and also found that children of employed mothers have high emotional maturity and female children of employed mothers are highly achievement oriented. **Sheikh and Qamar Jahan** (2012) find out that study habits of the higher secondary school students of working mothers had significantly better study habits than those having non-working mothers.

VARIABLES USED IN THE STUDY:

DEPENDENT VARIABLE: Working and Non-Working Mothers

DEPENDENT VARIABLE: Personality traits of Adolescent children of Working and Non Working Mothers

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY USED:

A Descriptive Survey Method was used for the study.

Population and Sample :

For the purpose of the present study, the population is defined as total i.e. male and female adolescent children of working and non-working mothers of the age group 11 to 13 years studying in classes VI to VIII of Private Schools of Ghaziabad district affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (C.B.S.E). For the present study the researcher has chosen 2 schools of Ghaziabad district through a random sampling technique. A sample of 202 children studying in classes VI to VIII and age group between 11 to 13 years of which data of 89(44 female and 45 male) children of working mothers and 113(60 male and 53 female) children of non-working mothers was collected through random cluster sampling technique.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE USED:

T -TEST was used as a statistical technique to compare personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.

RESEARCH TOOL USED :

An Introversion-Extroversion Inventory prepared by Dr P.F Aziz and Dr Rekha Agnihotri (Hindi Version) in 2001 was used to collect the data. It consisted of 60 items (30 pertaining to an introvert's and 30 extrovert) characteristics. The reliability is 0.95 and the validity coefficient was 0.95. One mark is awarded for each correct response and zero mark was awarded for each incorrect response.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

HYPOTHESIS-1 "There is no significant difference between the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers."

TABLE 1: Comparison between the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers

Respondents	No. of Children (N)	Mean	S.D.	DF	T Value	Level of Significance
Adolescent Children of working Mothers	89	7.2	12.18	200	0.06	1.97 at .05 level 2.60 at .01 level Not Significant
Adolescent Children of non working Mothers	113	10.3	10.84			Not Significant

Result and Discussion : Table-1 shows that the mean score of adolescent children of working mothers is 7.20 followed by the mean of 10.30 of the adolescent children of non-working mothers. The obtained standard deviation scores are 12.18 and 10.84 respectively with 0.06 as their t-value at 200 degrees of freedom, not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels. As the calculated value of 't' ratio is found not significant at the both levels of significance. It means that the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers do not differ significantly. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

HYPOTHESIS-2 "There is no significant difference between male adolescent children of working and non-working mothers."

Table 2: Comparison between the personality traits of male adolescent children of working and non-working mothers

Respondents	No. of Children (N)	Mean	S.D.	DF	T Value	Level of Significance
Male Adolescent Children of working Mothers	45	5.84	12.68	96	0.03	1.99at .05 level 2.63 at .01 level
Adolescent Children of non working Mothers	53	10.75	9.89			Not Significant * Not Significant **

Result and Discussion: Table-2 shows that the mean score of adolescent children of working mothers was 5.84 followed by the mean of 10.75 of the adolescent children of non-working mothers. The obtained standard deviation scores are 12.68 and 9.89 respectively with 0.03 as their t-value at 96 degrees of freedom, not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels. As the calculated value of 't' ratio is found not significant at the both levels of significance. It means that the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers do not differ significantly. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

HYPOTHESIS-3 “There is no significant difference between the personality traits of female adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.”

Table 3: Comparison between the personality traits of female adolescent children of working and non-working mothers

Respondents	No. of Children (N)	Mean	S.D.	DF	T Value	Level of Significance
Female Adolescent Children of working Mothers	44	8.59	11.63	112	0.568	1.98 at .05 level 2.62 at .01 level
Female Adolescent Children of non working Mothers	60	9.91	11.68			Not Significant* Not Significant**

Result and Discussion: Table-3 shows that the mean score of female adolescent children of working mothers is 8.59 followed by the mean of 9.91 of female adolescent children of non-working mothers. The obtained standard deviation scores are 11.63 and 11.68 respectively with 0.568 as their t-value at 112 degrees of freedom, not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels. As the calculated value of 't' ratio is found not significant at the both levels of significance. It means that the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers do not differ significantly. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

HYPOTHESES 4: “There is no significant difference between the personality traits of male and female adolescent children of working mothers.”

Table 4: Comparison between the personality traits of male and female adolescent children of working mothers

Respondents	No. of Children (N)	Mean	S.D.	DF	T Value	Level of Significance
Male Adolescent Children of working Mothers	45	5.84	12.68	87	0.289	1.99at .05 level 2.63 at .01 level Not Significant
Female Adolescent Children of working Mothers	44	8.59	11.63			* Not Significant **

Result and Discussion: Table-4 shows that the mean score of male adolescent children of working mothers is 5.84 followed by the mean of 8.59 of female adolescent children of working mothers. The obtained standard deviation scores are 12.68 and 11.63 respectively with 0.289 as their t-value at 87 degrees of freedom, not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels. As the calculated value of 't' ratio is found not significant at the both levels of significance. It means that the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers do not differ significantly. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

HYPOTHESIS-5 "There is no significant difference between the personality traits of male and female adolescent children of non-working mothers."

Table 5: Comparison between the personality traits of male and female adolescent children of non-working mothers

Respondents	N	Mean	S.D.	DF	T value	Level of Significance
Male Adolescent Children of Non working mothers	53	10.75	9.89	111	0.68	1.98 at .05 level 2.62 at .01 level
Female Adolescent Children of Non working mothers	60	9.91	11.68			Not Significant * Not Significant

Result and Discussion: Table-5 shows that the mean score of male adolescent children of Non working mothers is 10.75 followed by the mean of 9.91 of female adolescent children of Non working mothers. The obtained standard deviation scores are 12.68 and 11.63 respectively with 0.68 as their t-value at 111 degrees of freedom, not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels. As the calculated value of 't' ratio is found not significant at the both levels of significance. It means that the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers do not differ significantly. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusions: Overall the research concludes that the personality traits of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers are not affected by the status of maternal employment. This suggests that the adolescent children can be either introverted or extroverted and their personality traits are not based on whether the mother is working or not. The personality traits of male adolescent children of working and non-working mothers are not affected by the status of maternal employment. In other words, the male adolescent children and their grooming is a separate matter and has no bearing over the employment nature of the mother. The mother might impact the male adolescent's personality but this has nothing to do with the fact that the mother goes out for a job or not. The introversion and extroversion traits of the female adolescents are their own personal attributes and does not suggest that they have been shaped up because of mother's position of staying inside or outside the house. A comparison between the male and female adolescent children belonging to the working mothers was done. It does not provide any evidence of a major difference in their personality traits on the range of introversion and extroversion. A comparison between the male and female adolescent children status of maternal employment. A comparison between the male and female adolescent children of non-working mothers also does not provide any evidence of a major reform in their personality traits on the range of introversion and extroversion.

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