



A comparative study to assess the behavioral problems of school children among working and non-working mother in the city

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Abstract

Background: A comparative study was conducted to assess the behavioral problems of school children among working and non-working mother Behaviors can be defined as the way in which an individual behaves or acts. It is the way an individual conducts herself/himself. Behaviour is the way an individual acts towards people, society or object which can be either bad or good, It can be normal or abnormal according to society norms. Society will always try to collect bad behavior's back to normal.

Objective: 1. Assess the behavior problems of school children among working and non-working mothers. 2. Compare the behavior problems of school children among working and non-working mothers. 3. Associate the behavioral problems of school children with their mothers selected demographic variables.

Methodology: 60 sample researcher was taken in this study. were drawn by using non probability purposive sampling. Behavior problems of the children were assessed by using semi structured questionnaires' mothers.

Result: The present study results showed that there was a significant association between the selected demographic variables such as occupation of mother, income of family, education of mother and behavioral problems of children.

Conclusion: The finding revealed that that the mean difference of behavioral problem among children of working and non-working mother was 13.39. Hence there was a significant difference in the behavioral problems of children working and non-working.

Keywords: Behavioral problems, working and non-working mothers

Introduction

Behaviors can be defined as the way in which an individual behaves or acts. It is the way an individual conducts herself/himself. Behaviour is the way an individual acts towards people, society or object which can be either bad or good, It can be normal or abnormal according to society norms. Society will always try to collect bad behavior's back to normal. In the modern urban landscape, the traditional family structure has undergone a significant transformation, with economic pressures and career aspirations leading a vast number of mothers to join the workforce. This shift has sparked a critical debate regarding the developmental trajectory of children, specifically whether the reduced physical presence of a working mother influences the manifestation of behavioral issues compared to the constant supervision provided by a stay-at-home mother. While maternal employment can foster financial stability and provide a model of independence, it may also lead to "latchkey" challenges or emotional gaps; conversely, full-time maternal presence offers consistent support but may inadvertently lead to over-dependency. By conducting a comparative assessment within the city environment—where stressors like long commutes and high academic competition are prevalent—this study aims to identify the specific internalizing and externalizing behavioral patterns that emerge in school-aged children across both groups.

Background

Behavioral development in children is strongly influenced by the infant-caregiver relationship. Mother have a vital role

in mounding the behavior of the children. A mother can imply positive attitude to the children by identifying negativism and behavioral problems. All children will at some developmental stage display repetitive behavior but whether they may be considered as disorder depends on their frequency and persistence and the effect they have on physical, emotional and social functioning.

Need of the study

The need for this study arises from the rapid urbanization and shifting economic landscape of city life, which has led to a significant increase in dual-income households and a departure from traditional caregiving roles. As mothers balance professional demands with maternal responsibilities, there is a growing concern regarding the "quality vs. quantity" of time spent with children and its subsequent impact on their psychological development. By comparing the prevalence of internalizing behaviors (like anxiety and social withdrawal) and externalizing behaviors (such as aggression or hyperactivity) between children of working and non-working mothers, this research seeks to provide empirical evidence to replace societal stereotypes. Ultimately, the study is essential for identifying whether maternal employment acts as a stressor or a positive model for independence, allowing educators, counselors, and parents to develop targeted support systems that ensure the emotional and behavioral well-being of urban school children.

Statements of problem

“A comparative study to assess the behavioral problems of school children among working and non-working mother in Kolazhy panchayath in Thrissur.”

Objectives

- Assess the behavior problems of school children among working and non-working mothers.
- Compare the behavior problems of school children among working and non-working mothers.
- Associate the behavioral problems of school children with their mothers selected demographic variables.

Operational definition

Behavioral problems refers to the behavioral problems exhibited by children with respect to habits, speech, sleep, scholastic performance, emotional, social life and psychosexual aspects which are measured by behavioral rating scale.

Working mothers: refers to mothers employed in private or public sector and who work, for about 6 - 8 hrs a day.

Non-working mothers: refers to those mothers managing their own household activities and not involved in any external sector for an employment.

School children: refers to children in the age group of 6-12 years in selected community at Thrissur.

Assumptions: Mothers have prime influence on the behavior of the children.

Literature review: For the present study was organized as

- Behavioral problems among children
- Prevalence of behavioral problems among children
- Comparison of behavioral problems of children among working and non-working mothers.
- Impact of mothers job on the behavior of children.

Methodology

Research approach: Quantitative research approach

Research design: Comparative design

Variables

Dependent variables: Behavioural problems of children

Independent variable: Working status of mother

Setting of the study: The study was conducted at wards of Kolazhy panchayath in Thrissur.

Population: Mother having children in age group of 6 – 12 years.

Sample: Consisted of working and non working mothers of Kolazhy Panchayath who satisfied the including criteria. The sample consisted of 60 mothers having children in the age group of 6 – 12 years (30 non – working mothers in group 1 and 30 working mothers in group 2.)

Sampling technique: Non probability purposive sampling technique was used to select sample.

Inclusion criteria: Mothers

- Who were available at home setting during data collection

- Who could read English or Malayalam

Development of tool

Section A: Structured questionnaire to collect demographic data. It consisted demographic variables such as age, sex, education, birth order and religious of the child and also included age, sex, education, occupation, and family income of mother.

Section B: Rating scale to assess the behavioural problem of children.

Content validity: of the tool was done The expert from the field of pediatrics, clinical psychologist, psychiatrist and expert from the nursing faculties. The investigator had incorporated the suggestion and the tool was certified as valid by the expert.

Reliability of the tool: was done by inter – observe reliability and was found to be 0.99. So the tool was found to be highly reliable.

Data analysis: The data obtained from working and non working mothers was analysed in term of objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics.

- Frequency and percentage distribution of samples based on their demographic variables.
- Frequency percentages, mean and standard deviation of behavioural problems.
- Un – paired to compare the behavioral problems of children among working
- ANOVA and chi – square test to find association of behavioural problems of children and with the mothers selected demographic variables.

Regarding the age of the children majority 14 (46.66%) children in group 1 and group 2 were in the age group of 10 to years while 6 (20%) in group 1 and 11 (36.67 %) in group 2 were in the age group of 6 <= 8 years. Study consisted of more female children. Regarding the age of the mothers, both working and non – working mothers shows the same distribution i.e.(26.67%) mothers were in the age group of 20 – 30 years, 13 (43.33%) in the age group of 31 – 40 years and 9 (30 %) in the age group of 41 – 50 years.

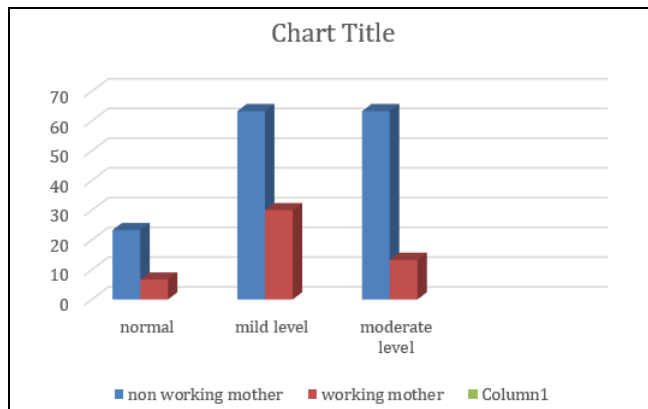
Considering the education of the mothers, the majority, 11 (36.67 %) mothers in group 1 and 14 mothers in group 2 had high school education. Very few, 3 (10%) mothers in group 1 (3.33%) in the group 2 had primary education. While 5 (16.67%) mothers in group 1 and 7 (23.33%) mothers had higher secondary education, 3 (10%) mothers in a group 1 and 5 (16.67%) were graduated. 2 (6.67%) mother in group 1 and 3 (10 %) were educated in other field. In relation to the occupation of mother, most of the working mothers 15 (50%) were working in private sectors. Regarding the number of children, findings revealed that 18 (60%) mothers in group 1 and 14 (46.67%) in group 2 had two children, whereas 9 (30%) mothers in group 1 and 14 (46.67%) in group 2 had one child.

Section 2

Assessment of behavioral problems of children among working and non – working mothers.

Bar design diagram reveals that 19 (63.3%) children in group 1 and (30%) in group 2 had mild level of behavioural

problems whereas (13.3%) children in group 1 and 19 (63.33%) in group 2 had moderate level of behavioural problems and only 7 (23.33%) children in group 1 and 2 (6.67%) children in group 2 had no behavioural problems. In both groups none, of them had severe level of behavioural problems.



Behavioral Problems of Children Among Working And Non –Working Mothers.

**Section 3
Comparison of behavioural problems of children among working and non – working mothers.**

Table 1

Group	Mean	Mean difference
Non – working mothers	27.3	13.39
Working mothers	41.23	

n = 60

Table 2

Group	SD	Mean difference	Calculated t value	Table value
Non-working mothers	7.62	13.39	6.25	5.177*
Working mother	9.46			

n = 60

Table 2 shown that the calculated t values 6.25 in higher than that of the table value which is 5.177. Hence there is a significant difference in the behavioural problems of school children among working and non – working mothers

Table 3 revels the association of behavioural problems of children with the selected demographic variables. Variables such as education, working status and monthly income of mothers had an association with the behavioural problems of children whereas the remaining variables such as age, gender, class of the study, number of siblings and birth order of children, religious, type of family, age of mothers and sources of information had no association with behavioral problems of children.

Recommendations

- Studies can be conducted on an experimental basic which will be more useful for the society.
- Use of randomized control trial studies to support the use of cognitive behavioural interventions.

- More researches can be conducted at large magnitude on a longitudinal perspective.

Section 4

Association behavioural problems of children with their mothers selected demographic variable

Table 3

Variable	Category	Mean Score	Calculated F Value	Table Value	Inference
Age of children	6 –8	36.28	0.136	2.544*	NS
	>8–10	37.21			
	10 –≤12	34.36			
Sex	Male	36.45	—	—	NS
	Female	34.78			
Class of study	1st	34.23	1.45	2.78	NS
	2nd	36.23			
	3rd	32.34			
	4th	29.67			
	5th	38.27			
	6th	39.23			
	7th	33.27			
Birth order	One	35.56	0.823	3.16*	NS
	Two	34.04			
	Three	34.00			
Religion	Hindu	34.21	0.208	3.16*	NS
	Christian	34.60			
	Muslim	33.00			
Education	Primary	44.21	16.91	254*	S
	High school	34.28			
	Plus two	28.71			
	Degree	23.70			
	Others	42.00			
	Occupation	Private sector			
Government sector	31.00				
Self-employed	44.67				
	Unemployed	27.30			
Number of children	One	35.56	0.131	3.16*	NS
	Two	34.03			
	Three	34.00			
Family monthly income	< Rs.10,000	37.24	5.46	3.16*	S
	Rs.10,001–50,000	32.19			
	> Rs.50,001	22.00			
Type of family	Nuclear	35.84	0.095	3.16*	NS
	Joint	34.08			
	Single parent	34.00			
Source of information	Health personnel	38.23	1.34	2.77	NS
	Friends	36.53			
	Neighbors	37.00			
	Media	39.00			

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