RELATIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE PERSONALITY TRAITS OF THE CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS AND HOME MAKERS

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ABSTRACT

In earlier centuries, the term “Women empowerment” was treated as almost non-existent. A woman was synonymous with a care taker, a home maker or even a baby sitter. Today when women feel the necessity to be independent financially, emotionally and socially, it turns out to be an imperative requirement to analyze the effect it holds on the upbringing of their children. True that women empowerment endows and privileges women to take life-determining decisions in their personal journey to liberty. But how far their children become victims of this new development is the contention here. In my study I propose to dwell on the psychological impact the children of working mothers and home makers anchorage, during their growing up years. Do the children of working mothers get a more gratifying life than the children of non working mothers and are they capable of facing the challenges of life at par with the children of non working mothers? A sample of 80 children (40 of working mothers and 40 of non working mothers) was carried out for 5 personality traits viz. openness, neuroticism, conscientiousness, extroversion, and agreeableness. Statistical analysis was performed on the collected data and t value was found for 1% and 5% level of significance. The present study also oversees adjustment pattern and emotional maturity of such children.

KEYWORDS: *Openness, Neuroticism, Conscientiousness, Extroversion, Agreeableness, Adjustment pattern, Adjustment, honesty, Progression & Self confidence*

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INTRODUCTION

The empowerment and self-reliance of women and any transformation of their political, social, economic and physical & mental status of wellbeing is a highly constituent end in itself. In addition, apart from playing their roles as home makers, women also play the roles of industrialists, bankers, company secretaries, IT analysts and many more roles in work sector. Women have gradually become socially and financially self-sufficient notwithstanding the emotional trauma they undergo in the balancing act of parenting, home making and working.

Human personality is so complex a phenomenon that it can be interpreted in many ways. In general Personality of a person is understood through the evolution a set of behaviors and cognitions. A layman's comprehension of human personality is restricted to a person possessing good or bad behavioral patterns or characteristics. But the psychologists have different stories to tell. According to them a person's traits, eventually, assumes many shades of meaning depending on the social environment, family culture, availability of both the parents etc. There are many elements that play determining roles in carving a person. One such is the point of discussion here. The working women and home makers play very distinctive roles in the upbringing of their children. There are factors that affect this upbringing depending on the status of their mothers while parenting.

Working women find less time for their children and influence both positive and negative aspects of their children's traits of personality. The working status of mothers can affect their children's development and can hinder their ability to adjust themselves to lead a normal life. It is the mothers who teach life lessons to the children encompassing them with confidence to face the world fearlessly and be independent. The vantage of a woman's touch often reflects in their personalities as they grow up. A woman is a mentor, a guide, a teacher and a friend.

There is an old age debate over the effect the working women have on their children. People in the past believed that if a woman crossed the boundaries of her home, it had a direct hit on her child's upbringing.

Some thinkers speculate that a working mother gave way to a number of social problems such as higher divorce rate, adolescent crime, more alcoholism and more schizophrenia. On the other hand some thinkers speculate that mothers' employment has a number of positive effects on children like growing independence, respect for work, societal belonging and many more.

Inversely the children of nonworking mothers are subject to their environmental conditions and do not get the level of exposure that their counterparts get. They also tend to suffer in terms of inter personal relationships. A mature adolescent is able to fix a mundane issue rather than blaming others for the problem. When a mother enters the employment market, her priorities change and it affects the emotional maturity of the children. Such children suffer setbacks in their resolutions and confidence. Moreover they become less equipped with facing the challenges of the world around.

The present study is about personality factors and adjustment pattern of the children of working and non-working mothers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To identify the personality traits, adjustment pattern and emotional stability of children of working mothers.
- To identify the personality traits, adjustment pattern and emotional stability of children of non-working mothers.
- To compare the personality traits, adjustment pattern and emotional stability of children of working & non-working mothers.

HYPOTHESES

Null Hypothesis

H₀₁: There is no difference between personality traits children of working and nonworking women.

H₀₂: There is no difference in adjustment pattern between children of working mothers and nonworking mothers.

H₀₃: There is no difference between the stability of children of working mothers and nonworking mothers.

Alternative Hypothesis

H₁₁: There is significant difference between personality traits of children of working and nonworking women.

H₁₂: There is significant difference in adjustment pattern between children of working mothers and nonworking mothers.

H₁₃: There is significant difference between the stability of children of working mothers and nonworking mothers.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Aggarwal (2016) carried out similar study under six heads, viz: Activity-Passivity, Enthusiastic-Non Enthusiastic, Assertive-Submissive, Suspicious-Trusting, Depressive-Non Depressive and Emotional Stability- Emotional Unstability. Khan & Hassan (2012) analyzed that children of working and non-working mothers show significant difference in self – awareness, empathy, self- motivation, emotional stability, managing relations, integrity, self-development and altruistic behavior.

Khan and Shah (2015) studied that children of employed mother are found to be more emotionally unstable as compared to the children of nonworking mothers who were found as emotionally stable. Reynolds, Calendar & Edwards (2003) analyzed that Working Mothers usually place their children in childcare, which results in less attention & instruction. It may have significant cognitive effects later in childhood. It has been found that working mothers had a negative impact on their children, because after work they are sometimes too tired to interact with their children.

Cummins (2015) studied that another factor that looms large in research on childcare is the wide variability in outcome based on the type of care and instruction provided by the daycare center. There is an abundance of research attesting to the importance of letting kids play during early childhood rather than immersing them in controlled instruction.

Research Methodology

The sample consisted of 8th class students aged between 13 to 15 years. 40 students of working and 40 of nonworking mothers were selected. Comrey Personality Scale was used to measure personality traits. Employed and unemployed mothers were treated as independent variables whereas personality traits were treated as dependent variables. The data was treated by descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) and finally it was treated by students' t statistics for inferences.

WORKING DEFINITIONS

Working Mother: A mother who works outside the home for some salary. She employs somebody at home to take care of her children or send them to day care homes.

Nonworking Mother: A mother who stays at home and takes care of her children.

Openness: Openness is the quality to accept changes and take risk.

Neuroticism: it is the quality to score high on feelings like anxiety, worry, fear, anger, frustration, envy, jealousy, guilt, depressed mood and loneliness.

Conscientiousness: It is the quality of being dependable, disciplined and achievement focused.

Extroversion: It is the quality of expressing one's feelings.

Agreeableness: Agreeableness measures the extent of a person's warmth and kindness.

DATA AND ANALYSIS

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation for Various Personality Traits of children of working and non working Mother

Category	Personality Traits	Mean	Standard Deviation	t value	Tabulated value at 1% level of significance	Tabulated value at 5% level of significance
Working mother	Openness	26.13	4.12	5.86	9.78 3.84	11.21 1.23
Non working mother		18.52	3.71	2.491		
Working mother	Neuroticism	23.86	5.13	7.47		
Non working mother		19.12	2.98	1.84		
Working mother	Conscientiousness	21.13	4.98	11.12		
Non working mother		18.73	3.01	2.64		
Working mother	Extroversion	22.43	4.96	9.53		
Non working mother		17.43	3.10	5.18		
Working mother	Agreeableness	22.13	5.21	9.43		
Non working mother		13.46	2.96	3.79

Figure 1: Graph Showing Mean for Personality Traits of Children of Working and Non Working Mothers

- *Blue colour column indicates mean for children of working mothers and red colour column indicates mean for*

children of non working mothers

Figure 2: Graph showing std. deviation for personality traits of working and non working Mothers

- Blue colour column indicates mean for children of working mothers and red colour column indicates mean for children of non working mothers

Adjustment Ability

It is the mother who supervises and trains her children to face various phases in life. It is she who brings in the much needed confidence and self esteem to be brave and strong to face the world. Though a non-working mother is available for her children at all times, today's generation heads beyond the boundary of time. Around 40% mothers are found working today. She has the natural susceptibility to adjust both at home and work. A working mother leads her children to face the world that is deterred by value adoptions can also train her wards with all the abilities by spending quality time with them. It is not the quantity of time but the quality of time that matters to the children.

Pattern of adjustment of children of working and non working mother was studied and results are found as follows:

Table 2: Adjustment pattern of children of working and non working mothers

Category	Area of adjustment	Mean	Standard Deviation	t value at 5% level of significance
Children of working mother	Parents	7.6	3.1	2.42
Children of non working mothers		5.23	2.9	
Children of working mother	Grand Parents	6.1	3.05	2.63
Children of non working mothers		6.5	3.0	
Children of working mother	Peer group	7.31	3.13	2.49
Children of non working mothers		4.28	2.86	
Children of working mother	School	6.32	2.95	2.85
Children of non working mothers		5.41	2.12	

Children of working mother	Relatives	6.08	3.29	2.63
Children of non working mothers		5.51	2.64

Figure 3: Showing adjustment pattern between children of working and Non Working Mothers

*Blue colour line shows the adjustment pattern of children of working mother and pink colour line shows adjustment pattern of non working mothers

Table 3: Difference of mean for adjustment pattern of children of working and non working mothers

Category	Sample Size	Mean	Standard Deviation	t value at 5% level of significance
Children of working mother	40	33.41	15.52	2.604
Children of non working mothers	40	26.93	13.52

Figure 4: Adjustment pattern of children of working and non working mothers

Table 4: Comparison of emotional maturity between children of working and non working mothers

Category	Constraint of emotional maturity	Mean	Standard Deviation	t value at 5% level of significance
Children of working mother	Honesty	21.86	11.48	15.56
Children of non working		18.92	11.22	

mothers				
Children of working mother	Progression	19.63	12.48	
Children of non working mothers		15.42	9.82	
Children of working mother	Self Confidence	18.72	11.96	
Children of non working mothers		16.52	10.25

Figure 5: Constraints of emotional maturity between children of working and non working mothers

**Violet colour shows the adjustment pattern of children of working mothers and pink colour line shows adjustment pattern of non working mothers*

INFERENCES

Openness: We see that the mean for openness is greater in case of children of working mothers than children of non working mothers, it means that children of non working mothers are more able to express themselves more than children of non working mothers. They are stronger and braver to take risks for new tasks and accept changes easily. Working mothers happen to meet their children only in the morning and in the evening hours and the fatigued mother finds it impossible to devote her time to her children as a result they get a feeling of insecurity inside them and hence fear to take risk and accept the changes.

Neuroticism

In case of neuroticism also mean of children of working mother is higher than mean of children of non working mothers. Children of home makers show a tendency to strike a harmonious chord with their mothers in this area. Their bond is cemented on a symbiotic relationship. The non working mother has all the time in the world for her child when she gets back home from school. She opens up the eventful day with her mother who is also her confidant. The mother sees things in the right perspective and advises her on personal matters and assists her in choosing between the right and the wrong. The mother also helps her child to overcome the feelings of jealousy, anger, hatred, anxiety, fear and guilt.

On the other hand, the children of working mothers' main concern is lack of quality time. The mother is so fatigued and fagged out when she returns from her work place that she cannot garner the energy needed to listen to her distraught children. They develop mood disorders, anxiety disorders, shrewdness share their matters with peers, trust their friends and defy their parents.

Conscientiousness: The mean in case of conscientiousness is also greater in case of working mothers hence the children of working mothers are dependent on others, slightly indisciplined and moderately focused.. Children of non working mothers are decisive in nature. They take easy decisions and are independent. They give importance to ethical practices and values rendered by their mothers and are well disciplined and focused on what they have to achieve in life .

Extroversion: Here too, the mean of the children of working mothers is greater, which indicates that they are more introvert. Children of non working mothers freely express their feelings and views but the children of working mothers hesitate to express themselves, they avoid mixing in groups and prefer to stay away.

Agreeableness: The mean indicates that warmth and kindness plays an important role in carving one's personality and the fact that the mean of the children of working mothers is greater, indicates that kids of non working mothers are more kind and warm. They treat other people with respect , kindness and shows forth a sense of belonging. Whereas the children of working mothers are seem to unrelenting, harsh and self-possessed.

Adjustment Ability: The study reveals that the mean of the children of working mothers is higher as compared to the children of non working mothers. This could mean that the children of non working mothers are slightly more inclined to making adjustments. Since there is not much difference between the means of the two categories, we can say that the working or non-working nature of a mother does not play any significant role in the adjustment ability of the two categories of children. Thus the children do not suffer from adjustment hassles if the mother is working or not working.

Emotional Maturity: The Children of non working mothers are found to be more emotionally matured than the children of working mothers. They understand the strains of relationships and handle vulnerable situations more maturely. They are able to solve their problems by being more independent and self-reliant.

Testing of Hypotheses

The null hypothesis H_{01} is rejected. There is significant difference in personality traits of children of working and non working mothers. The mean difference given in the table 1 proves this. While null hypotheses H_{02} and H_{03} are accepted, the adjustment pattern of children of both the groups is almost similar and children of non working mothers are more emotionally matured than the children of working mothers.

CONCLUSIONS

Parental care plays a vital role in developing the personality traits of children. And mainly the tender loving care acquired in the early childhood years paves the way for the development of a wholesome personality. Children who are brought up under the protective care of maid servants and relatives tend to perceive life differently. They nurture such acute sense of fear in their minds that they fumble before taking any risk in their lives.

The study reveals that personality traits of children of working mothers is significantly different from personality of children of non working mothers. Children derive the benefits of motivation and inspiration from their mothers and this comes with quality time that the latter spends with their children. The mother takes up the responsibility of carefully

mentoring, nurturing and fostering the child into a wholesome personality, notwithstanding the obstacles that come her way. The ethics and values she imparts makes her a stronger person to face the rough storms of life and take right decisions. But a working mother cannot devote that kind of time to her children as a result her children fall prey to their own incapacities. They become dependent on others for their decisions and are not that cordial and friendly. Their passion to chase a career path may be relatively less as compared to the others.

The working status of a mother does not affect their adjustment abilities in any way. Their adjustment patterns are almost similar in both the cases. The mean of the children of working mothers show that their children are slightly better in adjusting with people around than children of non working mothers. As we have discussed earlier the ability to adjust surely depends on the circumstantial and situational conditions rather than the working status of a mother, the children of working mothers are better equipped with adjustmental patterns.

Emotional maturity is a very important factor in dealing with life's challenges. An emotionally matured person is capable of handling any situation more peacefully than others. From the study, it was found that children of working mothers are more emotionally matured than children of non working mothers.

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