

Research Paper :

Maternal Employment and the home adjustment of adolescent girls

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims at studying the impact of family environment due to maternal employment on the adjustment of young daughters of working and non-working mothers. A sum of 100 female students comprising 50 daughters of working mothers and 50 daughters of non-working mothers studying in four different colleges of Muzaffarnagar district ranging in age from 13-19 years were served as subjects. Adjustment of the respondents was assessed through adjustment inventory for college students (AICS) developed by Sinha and Singh (1993). Family environment scale (FES) developed by Bhatia and Chadha (1993) was used to assess the family environment of the respondents. Insignificant difference was observed between the categories on home adjustment level whereas, significant differences were observed on the subscale of independence of family environment. Significant effect on adjustment was found to be with expressiveness, Active recreational orientation and organization.

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Participation of women in economic activity, of late has been a matter of debate among social scientists particularly in the context of its consequences on the family.

Home environment, though is a contributory effort of both the mother and the father later added by the efforts of children, a major share of it results from the contribution of the mother. Mother is understood to be a prime factor in the development of the child as she spends most of her time satisfying the physical, mental and moral needs of the child. Mother's influence may lay the foundation of happy and prosperous life or it may turn it towards disaster.

While the family environment is important for each and every person of the family it is the child who gets affected the most. It is here that the question of child's adjustment arises.

Kuppaswamy defined adjustment as an "establishing satisfactory relationship with oneself and one's environment".

The process of adjustment is slightly different for each one of us and as same for the adolescents also.

The term adolescence derives from Latin word 'adolescere' means to grow into maturity. The term 'adolescence' denote a period during which the growing

person makes the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Objectives of the study is to study the home adjustment level of adolescent girls of working and non working mothers, to access the family environment of respondents and to find out the effect of family environment on the home adjustment level of respondents in context of maternal employment.

METHODOLOGY

Two type of scales *i.e.* adjustment inventory for college students (AICS) developed by Singh and Sinha (1993) and family environment scale developed by Bhatia and Chadha (1993) were used to measure the adjustment and family environment of the respondents respectively.

The total sample of 100 adolescent girls between the age group of 13-19 years, out of which 50 were having working mothers and 50 girls having non-working mothers, was purposively selected from the Colleges of Muzaffarnagar city due to easy accessibility and time constraints.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates that majority of the adolescent girls (44) had average home adjustment. It may be because in

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of the respondents according to home adjustment

Area	Category	Excellent	Good	Average	Unsatisfactory	Total
Home Adjustment	Working	0	11	25	14	50
	Non-working	2	12	19	17	50
	Total	2	23	44	31	100