

Social maturity of adolescents of working and non working mothers

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Changes taking place in family and social life not only affect adolescents, but also how they are socialized. The present study was an attempt to study and compare the social maturity of adolescents of working and non-working mothers. All total 160 adolescents of working and non working mothers were selected from Jorhat town, Assam; including boys and girls from VIII to X standard, out of which 80 were boys and 80 were girls of 13- 17 years of age. A self-constructed interview schedule was used to assess the maturity level of adolescents. Results revealed that majority of adolescents of working mothers were socially matured than adolescents of non-working mothers.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Adolescents, Social maturity, Working mothers, Non-working mothers

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Adolescence is not only a time of life, it is also a state of mind and a matter of will. The behaviors and life styles learned or adopted during adolescence will influence in building self esteem, capacity to cope up with situation of an individual both in the present and in the future. The society desires that the adolescents achieve socially responsible behaviour, develop intellectual skills and concept necessary for civic competence. Social maturity is the process of establishing a satisfactory relationship between individual and his environment. According to Cronbach (1953), a socially matured person is one who commits oneself to socially desirable goals.

According to Mussen (1963) among the various agents of socialization in the family, mother plays a distinct and important role in the development of personal characteristic, social behaviour, adjustment and motivation and many of such traits. Socially, it was norm in the past that non working mothers having a more expressive role in the family, taking care of adolescents, carrying out household duties and providing emotional support to the family. Today women are beginning to realize that there is a world outside their kitchen windows.

A large number of women, especially mothers are entering the labour force either due to economic necessity or in search of identity. As a result, adolescents' home lives have undergone considerable changes over the past few decades.

Social maturity may be considered one important dimension of total personality development of an adolescent. The quality and nature of the parental nurturance that adolescents receive will profoundly influence adolescents' future development. It appears that when mothers of adolescents entered the labour force, they compensated for time away from their young teenagers by cutting down on time apart when they were not on the job (Chase Lansdale *et al.*, 2003). Hence, the present investigation aims at studying the social maturity of adolescents of working and non-working mothers.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

All total 160 samples of working and non working mothers from four co-educational high schools were selected randomly for the investigation. Out of 160 samples, 80 were boys and 80 were girls from VII to X standard. Both boys and girls were divided into four different age groups, 12- 13, 13-14, 14 -15, and 15 - 16 years. A total numbers of 20 boys and 20 girls who were in the age group of 12-13 years were randomly selected from each of the four different schools. Similarly, 20 boys and 20 girls who were in the age group of 13-14, 20 boys and 20 girls were in the age group of 14-15 and 20 boys and 20 girls belonging to the age group of 15-16 years were selected