Research Paper :

Maternal Employment and the home adjustment of adolescent girls

SURABHI SAINI AND SHARDA TRIVEDI

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 use 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.

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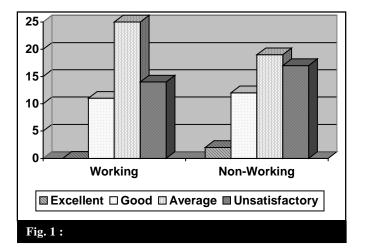
The total sample of 100 adolescent girls between the age group of 13-19 years, out of which 50 were having working mothers and 50 girls having non-working mothers, was purposively selected from the Colleges of Muzaffarnagar city due to easy accessibility and time constraints.

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

Fig. 1 :

Table 3 : Comparison of mean scores of daughter of working and non-working mother on family environment				
Subscales	Category	Mean	S.D.	Z-Score
Cohesion	Working	56.84	6.94	1.45
	Non-working	54.8	7.88	
Expressiveness	Working	32.18	5.99	1.36
	Non-working	30.72	4.78	
Conflict	Working	44.88	6.01	1.52
	Non-working	42.84	7.35	
Acceptance and caring	Working	50.22	6.27	0.82
	Non-working	49.24	5.72	
Independence	Working	32.76	7.19	2.77*
	Non-working	29.12	5.97	
Active Recreational Orientation	Working	28.38	5.45	0.58
	Non-working	27.8	4.66	
Organization	Working	8.2	2.71	1.78
	Non-working	7.38	2.07	
Control	Working	13.58	3.07	0.2
	Non-working	13.46	3.05	

* indicates significant of value at P=0.05

our Indian society adolescent females are expected to share the responsibilities of home. They are taught by their parents to take interest in various household tasks and to contribute to the family.

Shah and Lakhera (1996) said that parents were assumed to function as model for the adolescent's adjustment to life particularly in home. Anshu (1997) depicted that family climate was an effective determinant of home adjustment of adolescents.

Table 2 reports the mean, standard deviation and Z score of both categories at home adjustment level. The value of Z score (0.29) was found to be at 5% level of significance. The daughters of working and non-working mothers both were better adjusted at home front. It may be because mothers prepare their young daughters, make them understand certain values of life thus rendering them to face challenges in their future lives. Jensen *et al.* (1987) examined the effects of maternal employment on adolescents and the frequently cited hypothesis that there was no difference between the adolescents of working and non-working mothers.

Table 2 : Mean, standard deviation and Z-Score of adolescent girls of working and non working mothers on the dimensions of home adjustment				
Area of adjustment	Category	Mean	S.D.	Z-Score
Home	Working	4.64	1.81	0.29
	Non-Working	4.78	2.92	

Table 3 reveals that only in the area of independence the value of Z score (2.77*) for difference in means was found to be significant. The daughters of working mothers were found to be more independent as they saw their mothers performing double roles in the home as well as outside the home which helped them in getting a sense of

independence.

A careful purview of Table 4 shows that the value of chi-square was found to be significant at 0.05 level with the subscales of expressiveness (7.37*),active recreational orientation (6.77*) and organization (4.92*).It may be because liberty to express their inner thoughts and feelings leads to better adjustment active recreational orientation provides the young adults opportunities to interact with others. It helps them to understand others point of view and to become socialized. Parents teach their children to organize their work and to carry out their chores in a methodical manner thus making a better utilization of their time.

Conclusion:

On the basis of obtained results it is concluded that there was found to be insignificant difference between the categories at home adjustment level. On the family environment scale on the subscale of independence the daughters of working mothers were found to be more independent. While assessing the association the expressiveness, active recreational orientation and organization were found to be significantly associated with adjustment .whereas cohesion, conflict, acceptance and caring and control were found to be insignificantly associated with adjustment.

Table 4 : Effect of family environment on the adjustment of respondents					
Adjustment	Good	Average	Unsatisfactory	Total	X^2 (Chi square)
Cohesion					
High	3	14	12	29	
Average	9	30	24	63	1.92
Low	0	05	03	08	
Total	12	49	39	100	
Expressiveness					
High	0	02	03	05	
Average	08	43	27	78	7.37 *
Low	04	04	09	17	
Total	12	49	39	100	
Conflict					
High	01	08	06	15	
Average	02	35	28	72	0.58
Low	09	06	05	13	
Total	12	49	39	100	
Acc. and caring					
High	4	14	08	26	
Average	08	31	28	67	1.98
Low	0	04	03	07	
Total	12	49	39	100	
Independence					
High	01	08	06	15	
Average	09	35	28	72	0.55
Low	02	06	05	13	
Total	12	49	39	100	
A.R.O.					
High	02	09	06	17	
Average	09	27	15	51	6.77*
Low	01	13	18	32	
Total	12	49	39	100	
Organization					
High	05	15	08	28	
Average	05	12	13	30	4.92 *
Low	02	22	18	42	
Total	12	49	39	100	
Control					
High	0	03	03	06	
Average	07	27	18	52	1.6
Low	05	19	18	42	
Total	12	49	39	100	

*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

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