

Social maturity of adolescents of working and non working mothers

■ ASHAPURNA PHUKAN, MINOTI PHUKAN AND MALA HANDIQUE

Received: 18.07.2012; Revised: 24.09.2012; Accepted: 05.11.2012

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

ASHAPURNA PHUKAN
Department of Child
Development and Family
Relations, College of Home
Science, Assam Agricultural
University, JORHAT (ASSAM)
INDIA

■ **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

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Phukan, Ashapura, Phukan, Minoti and Handique, Mala (2012). Social maturity of adolescents of working and non working mothers. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 7 (2): 407-409.

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

as samples from each of the four schools for the present study.

An interview schedule was constructed for collection of relevant data from the respondents. A survey method was adopted for the proposed study. The data from the respondents were collected with the help of home visits.

In order to analyse the data, raw scores obtained on the level of respondents' social maturity were added up. Frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were found to elicit the level of respondents' social maturity. Z-test was applied to know the significance of the difference between two groups *i.e.* adolescents of working mothers and adolescents of non-working mothers on the basis of their social maturity.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The social maturity of adolescents of working and non working mothers was categorized into high, moderate and low levels of maturity. For this categorization, mean and standard deviation were worked out as given in Table 1.

Category	Mean	SD
Adolescents of working mothers	1.65	0.11
Adolescents of non-working mothers	1.53	0.10

Results Table 2 reveals that maximum numbers of adolescents of working mothers were socially matured than adolescents of non-working mothers. This may be due to the fact that the adolescents of working mothers have high self-esteem, feeling of independence and more career aspiration. They may have more avenues of getting exposed to a wider world because of the fact that their mother or may be both the parents are employed in transferable job whereby they get shifted their place of residence from one city to another. Lew (1986) agrees that there are some positive effects of working mothers for adolescents. Adolescents discover their own ability and they do this by learning that they are able to do

something. Women who work in meaningful role other than the mothering provide their children with positive role models. According to Birnbaum (1975) adolescents of working mothers may develop a greater degree of autonomy and maturity than those with non-working mothers. Also, working mothers may have a less stressful relationship with their adolescents because they would invest quality time with adolescents and could more easily relinquish maternal control than non-working mothers. All these explanations may suitably support the present finding that adolescents of working mothers are more matured than adolescents of non working mothers.

Finding of Table 3 reveal that calculated value of Z was 2.44, which being greater than that of the table value 1.96. Hence, there a significant difference existed in social maturity of adolescents of working mothers and adolescents of non-working mothers. It may be attributed to the fact that working mothers learn to be properly organized by balancing their needs and wants. They sustain a good family interaction and social relation as well. They encourage their adolescents to participate in the various social functions which tend to shape the adolescents' capability to process information, establish personal competencies and social maturity. Due to participation in workforce, working mothers usually are involved in different social situations. So, social networks of adolescents of working mothers are gradually broaden with different people who provide adolescents to take opportunities to exchange valuable experiences, information and ideas. As a result ties with the community and society help in enhancing social maturity of adolescents. Mathur and Misra (1999) stated that working mothers' adolescents have access to more material comforts and enriching opportunities such as good schools, opportunities to travel to far off places, private music lessons, sports and so on.

Conclusion:

On the basis of present study, it can be concluded that majority of adolescents of working mothers were socially matured than adolescents of non-working mothers. A

Category	Adolescents of working mothers		Adolescents of non working mothers	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
High	25	31.25	11	13.75
Moderate	55	68.75	59	73.75
Low	0	0.00	10	12.50
Total	80	100	80	100

Respondents	Mean	SD	Z - value
Adolescents of working mothers (n = 80)	1.65	0.11	2.44*
Adolescents of non working mothers (n = 80)	1.53	0.10	

* indicates significance of value at P=0.05

significant difference existed in social maturity between adolescents of working and non working mothers. Parents should provide guidelines and discipline adolescents for proper behaviour when necessary. Social maturity is very important for boys and girls for success in every walk of life. It is the strongest factor in molding one's personality.

Authors' affiliations:

MINOTI PHUKAN AND MALA HANDIQUE, Department of Child Development and Family Relations, College of Home Science, Assam Agricultural University, JORHAT (ASSAM) INDIA

■ REFERENCES

- Birnbaum, J.A.** (1975). Life patterns and self esteem in gifted family orientated and career committed woman. In : M.S. Mednick, S.S. Tangri and L.W. Hoffman (Eds), *Women and achievement*. Hemisphere, Washington, D.C. (U.S.A.).
- Chase-Lansdale, P.L.**, Moffit, R.A., Lohman, B.J., Cherlin, A.J., Coley, R.L., Pittman, L.D., Roff, J. and Votruba – Drzal, E. (2003). Mothers' transitions from welfare to work and the well – being of pre-schoolers and adolescents, *Science*, **299** (5612) : 1548-1552.
- Cronbach, L.J.** (1953). Correlation between persons as a research tool. In : O. H. Mowrer (Ed.), *Psychotherapy: Theory and research*. Ronald, New York pp. 376-389.
- Lew, I.S.** (1986). You can't do it all. Canada : Collier Macmillan Canada, Inc. retrieved from <http://web.nanya.edu.tw/acof/acen/Word/Nanya26/950703.pdf> on 17/11 /2010.
- Mathur, K.** and Misra, G (1999). Influence of maternal employment on children personality. *Indian J. Psychometry & Edu.*, **25**: 11-24.
- Mussen, P.H.** (1963). Mother nurturance and girls' incidental imitative learning, *J. Personality & Soc. Psychol.*, **2** (1) : 94-97.
