

Periodic Research

A Study of General Problems and Adjustment of Adolescent Children of Working Mothers

Abstract

Ever since women began entering the work force the debate has been looming over mothers who enter the work force and those who choose to remain at home with their children. The study was conducted to find out general problems and adjustment pattern among the adolescent children of working mothers. The sample of the study comprised of 70 children (13 to 20 years) of working mothers selected randomly from High school and intermediate colleges of Dehradun district. It has been found that though the children of working mothers faced no severe physical, educational, emotional and social problems still they have to face more social, emotional and home adjustment.

Keywords: Adolescent Children, Emotional Problems, Social Problems, Physical Problems, Working Women.

Introduction

The family is the most important part of the child's social network. From contact with family member's children lay the foundation for attitudes towards people, things and life in general. Parental attitude influences the way parents treat their children that in turn influences their children's attitude towards them and the way they behave. Mother imparts the most significant influence in determining the growth and development of child's personality. According to Thompson (1989), mother has more opportunity than father to influence offspring's psychological growth and behaviour.

Many women are working today outside the home than they were doing in past generations. Some young children adjust to this pattern of life very well, but some not able to cope with this stress effectively. The possible consequences of mother's employment on adolescents depend upon four factors:

1. The sex of adolescent.
2. Whether the mother is working part time or full time.
3. The socio-economic status of family.
4. The stability of the family constellation.

It is important to gauge the effects of maternal employment on adolescents. Working mother may expect her adolescent children to perform task that are difficult or inappropriate (Glassier and Mavaree, 1965).

Objectives of Study

The effect of employment on general problem and adjustment of adolescent is to be studied here with the question "Does mother's employment aggravate general problems of adolescent children?". Thus the main objectives of the study are :

1. To find out the adolescent children of employed mothers.
2. To find out the general problems of adolescent children of working mothers

Review of Literature

Mahale, M.N. (1975) investigated the parent adolescent relationship in different sized families and related it to the social development of adolescent. He found that in comparison to large sized families, majority of adolescents from small sized families discussed their personal problems with their parents. According to Menezes L. (1978) in study of the relationship between level of communication of parents and total adjustments of adolescents found a positive and significant correlation between level of communication of father and mother and total adjustment of adolescents. Tania Rehman and Tasmania Rehman (1977) envisaged that working mother in order to compensate for the feeling of guilt, prove

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themselves as more primitive and less dominant. Mehraj Ud Din Sheikh Qamar Jahan (2012), "Study Habits of Higher Secondary School Students of Working and Non-working Mothers", aims at finding out the difference between study habits of higher secondary school children of working mothers and non working mothers on the basis of gender. The study further revealed that female children of working mothers had significantly better study habits than male children of working mothers. Lois Wladis Hoffmann (2014), "The Effects of the Mothers' Employment on the Family and the Child", talks on the effects of maternal employment on families and children, with the focus on children.

Methodology

Sampling Technique

The researcher has adapted simple random sampling technique for the conduction of this study. It means that each member of the sample is selected from the total population in such a manner that all members of the population have essentially the same probability of being selected. The study was conducted on 70 students of different High School and Intermediate colleges of Dehradun which constituted the population for this study. The age group of such children was from 13 to 20 years.

Tools of Study

1. The adjustment inventory for school students has been designed by segregating students in three areas of adjustment, viz. Emotional, Social and Educational. A list of 100 questions indicating the significant problems of school students in all the three areas was prepared. This list was presented to 25 educated judges
2. Finally the 60 items inventory in its final form was administered to a randomly selected representative sample from pupil as of 40 schools of Dehradun.
3. In item analysis validity co-efficient were determined for each item by Biserial Correlation method.
4. The subject could be classified into five categories in accordance with raw scores viz., Excellent, Good Average, Unsatisfactory, Very unsatisfactory.
5. Coefficient of reliability was determined by (1) Split Half method, (2) Test-Retest method and (3) K-R formula 20.

Meaning of symbols and explanations of the different areas

Emotional Adjustment

High scores indicate unstable emotion, while low scores students tend to be emotionally stable.

Social Adjustment

Individuals scoring high points are submissive and retiring while low scores indicate aggressive behaviour.

Educational Adjustment

Individuals scoring high points are poorly adjusted with their curricular and co-curricular programmes. Those with low scores are interested in school programmes.

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Questionnaire

The questionnaire has been constructed in structure form or is a closed form item, since the closed form items facilitate the tabulation and analysis of data.

Analysis and Interpretations of Data

The data from the current study after statistical analysis was processed and after its analysis, results were collected.

Educational Problems

- (a) Positive Replies : $\frac{30}{120} \times 100 = 25\%$
- (b) Negative replies : $\frac{80}{120} \times 100 = 66.8\%$
- (c) No Response : $\frac{10}{120} \times 100 = 8.3\%$

Emotional Problems

- (a) Positive Replies : $\frac{50}{150} \times 100 = 33.3\%$
- (b) Negative replies : $\frac{80}{150} \times 100 = 53.3\%$
- (c) No Response : $\frac{10}{150} \times 100 = 13.4\%$

Social Problems

- (a) Positive Replies : $\frac{40}{120} \times 100 = 33.3\%$
- (b) Negative replies : $\frac{70}{120} \times 100 = 58.3\%$
- (c) No Response : $\frac{10}{120} \times 100 = 8.3\%$

Physical Problems

- (a) Positive Replies : $\frac{40}{110} \times 100 = 36.4\%$
- (b) Negative replies : $\frac{60}{110} \times 100 = 54.5\%$
- (c) No Response : $\frac{10}{110} \times 100 = 9.09\%$

Interpretation

After processing and analysing the questionnaire the researcher has found that 66.8% children of working mothers faced no educational problems. There were 25% children who faced the educational problems at home in the absence of their mothers. The researcher found that 53.3% of children did not faced any type of emotional problem at home. 33.3% children faced emotional problems at home as they were not given proper care and attention at home. 58.3% children found no social problems whereas 33.3% children faced social problems because of their mother's employment. This shows that on social area also they were well adjusted. The study of physical problems of the children shows 54.5% children has no physical problems, only 36.5% children faced physical problem because of not getting proper attention.

Conclusions and Suggestions

The present study has been carried out in government, private and public schools of Dehradun city. Only 70 students could be taken up for the study after applying simple random sampling technique. results of the questionnaire depicts that no severe Physical, Educational, Emotional and Social problems were faced by the adolescent children of working mother's.

On the basis of empirical and explorative evidences, the researcher wishes to suggest the following inevitable areas of parental absence and to be investigated:

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1. A longitudinal comparative study may be made on High School students living in hostels and orphanages in relation to their Adjustment study habits and academic adjustments.
2. It would be worthwhile to investigate the problems of parents absent students in academic adjustment employing in longitudinal method. This would help to focus on the origin of academic adjustment and the cause of its development and thus would help in identifying remedial measures.
3. Parental absence may be categorised under different heads viz. due to death, divorce, separation and hob etc. and then studied in relation to their effect on adjustment, study habit and academic achievement.

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