



Problems Faced By the Children of Working Mothers

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ABSTRACT

Background of the study: Children are the nation's most important assets. Infancy and childhood are of paramount importance in determining and patterning the future behavior and character of children. Childhood is the period of dependency. Gradually, children learn to adjust in the environment. A mother is assumed to be the most important influence in a child's life. Mothers should try to devote some time for their children to make them feel loved and special. The present study aimed to assess the problems faced by the children of working mothers. This study aimed to assess the problems faced by the children of working mothers in selected schools at Mangaluru.

Methodology: The study was conducted among 101 children with 10-12 years of age studying in 5th, 6th and 7th class in selected schools at Mangalore. The samples were selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique. The data collection tool consists of two sections, the demographic proforma and the investigators developed rating scale to assess the problems faced by the children. Data analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Result: The results revealed that majority (60%) of the children sometimes experienced Academic problems and problems related to other activities. Regarding problems related to their mothers' job majority (46%) of the children felt sometimes they faced the problems. Majority (57%) of the children sometimes felt that they have not spent time with their mother and regarding emotional problems, majority (54%) felt that they occasionally experienced.

Conclusion: The present study concluded that the children of working mothers sometimes faced problems related to academic, nature of mothers' job, spending time with mother and emotional problems.

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INTRODUCTION

The central figure of every house is a mother. She is the one who makes the decision, guides the children as they grow up and helps them to meet the battle of life with courage and understanding. A mother has responsibility to see that all her children are fed and taken well care.¹ Mother plays multiple roles in the family that affect the health and well-being the all family member.² Working mother has been initiative to have a beneficial effect on child health and development outcomes, including higher self-esteem fewer social and emotional problem reduced risk of being uninsured, higher vaccination rates and greater academic achievement.³ Working mothers children's face several cognitive and behavioral effects there

early developmental years. Children's with working mother usually placed them with servants, which results in them receiving less one-on-one affections and instructions.⁴

The most important period of child development is first few years of their growth and at this stage children need the mother most. There cognitive, effective and psychomotor development is based on their earliest attachment of mother. If the attachment between mother and child is interrupted during this period, there is a higher risk that the children become detached, emotionally disrupted and there will be mistrust in the later relationship between them. The early separation of mother due to job has a great negative effect on child's psychological,

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social and emotional development.⁵

According to Santrock (2004), the child of working mother do not see their mothers from the time they leave for school in the morning until about 6 or 7 pm these children doesn't get the care from their mother even they return home after completing the school works. They are called latch key children because they are given the key of their home, take the key to school, and then use it to let themselves into the home while their parents are still at work. These children had negative latch key experiences. Without limits and parental supervision these children find their way in to trouble more easily, possibly stealing, vandalizing or abusing a sibling.⁶

Majority of adolescence identified with disruptive problems have a history of behavioral issues that began in preschool years. Zukauskiene (2010) found that intervention during early school years has a chance to reduce the prevalence of behavior problems in adolescence.⁷ On an average around 29% of the world's children suffer from psychosocial problems. Psychosocial disorders frequently lead to poor school performance and to dropping- out of school.⁸

The working status of a mother do not have a negative effect on the child rather it make the child more independent and emotionally stronger they also have good social interaction and strong peer group thus to explore whether working status of a mother affects a child growth and progress.⁹ early full-time employment was associated with later risk for child behavioral difficulties. But this increased risk was not the case when mothers worked full-time when their children were toddlers or preschoolers. It appears that working full-time when the child is an infant – a critical period in terms of attachment and emotional and cognitive growth – is more likely to be associated with subsequent difficulties.¹⁰ The investigators assume that the children's of working mother may face many problems in their life that is, physical, emotional, psychomotor, adjustment problem etc. Hence the present study was planned to assess the Problems faced by the children of working mothers.

The study found that working mothers has a positive effect on children's academic performance in all specifications, particularly when women work part-time. The study concluded that no or a small negative effect of maternal employment on children's cognitive development and academic performance.¹¹ On the other hand, in a study it was noted that working mothers see their children with a sense of confidence with the abilities to do many things with their own. They also see their children with the advance learning capabilities such in cognitive development overall, it can be concluded that mother's employment has both positive and negative on their children development.¹²

A comparative study was done on behavioural problems of pre-school children among working and non-working mothers revealed that preschool children of working mothers have more behavioural problems than those of non-working mothers. Nurses can play a major role in diminishing the behavioural problems by providing guidance and counselling for the children and their mothers.¹³

Personality profiles of 400 children of working and 400 of non-working mothers were found as outgoing, emotionally less stable, over-active, assertive, happy go lucky, have low superego strength, adventurous, tough minded, internally restrained, insecure, self-sufficient, uncontrolled, tense and reverse is true for children of non-working mothers.¹⁴ Children of working mothers have higher stress level than children of non-working mothers. Boys of working women have more stress level than girls of working women.¹⁵

Methodology: Research approach chosen for this study was quantitative research approach and a descriptive design was adopted to conduct the study. The sample consisted of 101 children between 10 and 12 years in selected schools at Mangaluru and Non- probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample. The children of working mothers, studying in upper primary school from 5th-7th standard were included and the children of non-working mothers were excluded from the study. Tool was prepared on the basis of objectives of the study and it was developed after review of literature of relevant



topics and discussion. The developed tool has two sections, part I: Demographic proforma which includes age, gender, class, education status of mother, occupation of the mother, type of family, area of living and part II: Rating scale to assess the problems faced by children of working mothers. The investigator developed rating scale consists of 21 items to assess the problems faced by children of working mothers, which are subdivided into three domains such as academic and other activities, nature of mothers job, spending time with mother and emotional problems. The score ranges from 1-3, which is divided into never sometimes and always with a score of 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The tool was given to five experts for the validation. Eighty percentage of agreement among experts was considered for retaining the items. Eight items were modified based on the suggestions of experts. The pre-test was done to assess the feasibility of the tool. The reliability coefficient of the tool was 0.8 calculated using Cronbach's alpha formula. The pilot study was conducted among 10 children of working mothers.

Data Collection: Formal written permission was obtained from the school authority. Approval from the Scientific Review Board of Yenepoya Nursing College and the ethical clearance (Protocol No YEC2/523) from Ethics Committee of Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) were obtained. The subjects were informed about the nature and purpose of the study prior to the data collection and informed consent from parents and assent from children were obtained. Data was collected using the two part tool. The total time taken by respondent to complete the questionnaire was 20 minutes.

Statistical analysis: The collected data was coded and transformed to master data sheet for statistical analysis. Demographic data, rating scale were analyzed using the descriptive Statistics such as Frequency and Percentage. Chi-square test was used to find the association between the problems faced by the children of working mothers and selected demographic variables.

Results:
Section 1: Demographic characteristics

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic characteristics

Sl No	Demographic characteristics	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
N = 101			
1.	Age in years		
	a) 10	35	34.7
	b) 11	31	30.7
	c) 12	35	34.7
2.	Religion		
	a) Hindu	50	49.5
	b) Muslim	33	32.7
	c) Christian	15	14.9
	d) Other	3	2.9
3.	Gender		
	a) Male	48	47.5
	b) Female	53	52.5

Table 1 Shows that majority of the children (34.7%) belongs to the age group 10 and 12. Majority (49.5%) of the children are Hindu. Maximum number of children (52.5%) was females..

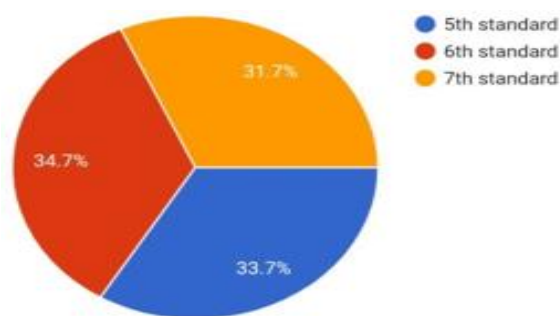


Figure 1: Percentage distribution of samples according to the class study.

As per the figure 1, 34.7% samples of this study, studying in 6th standard. 33.7% samples were studying in 7th standard and 31.7% in 5th standard.

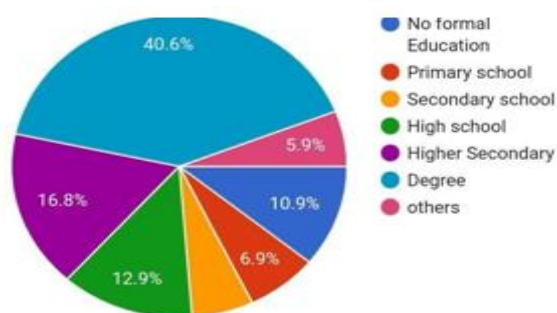


Figure 2: Percentage distribution of sample according to the education of mother

As per the figure two 40.6% samples of the study belongs to degree, 16.8% belongs to higher secondary, 12.9% were high school, 10.9% belongs to no formal education, 6.9%



were primary school, 6% belongs to secondary school and 5.9% belongs to others.

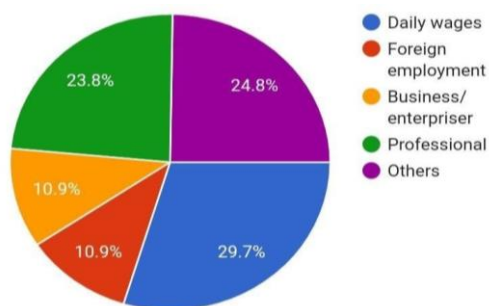


Figure 3: Percentage distribution of job of mothers

As per figure 3, 29.7% were daily wages, 24.8% were doing other work, 23.8% were professional, 10.9% were foreign employers and 10.9% were business enterprisers.

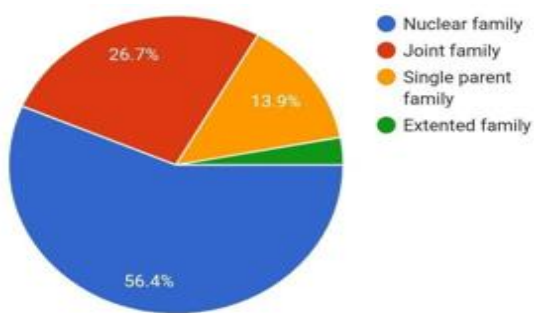


Figure 4: Percentage distribution according to type of family

As per figure 4. 56.4% samples belong to nuclear family, 26.7% were joint family. 13% were single parent families and 3% were extended families.

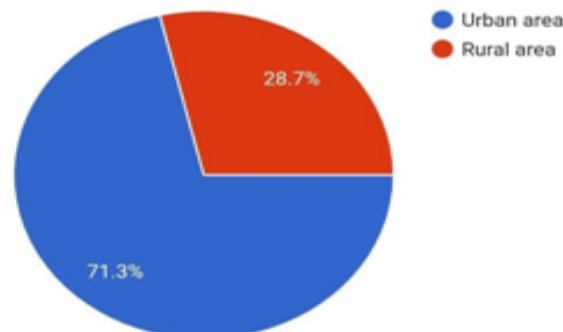


Figure 5: Percentage distribution of samples according to area of living

As per figure 5, 71.3% of samples of the study belongs to urban area and 28.7% were living in rural area.

Section-II Assess the problems faced by the children of working mothers

Table 2: Problems related to Academic & other activities

Sl No.	Problems related to academic and other activities	N = 101					
		Always		Sometime		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Are you scoring good marks in exam?	37	36.63	57	56.43	7	6.93
2.	Do you have your food on time?	44	43.6	54	53.5	3	2.9
3.	Does your daily activities are going in smooth in the absence of your mother?	21	20.8	76	75.2	4	4
4	Are you study alone in your home after coming back from school ?	29	28.7	60	59.4	12	11.9
Average regarding problems of academic and other activities		29.4	26.6	59	59.7	12.6	13.69

Table 2 shows the problems faced by the children related to academic and other activities. The average on the problems related to academic and other activities shows that

59.7% of children sometimes have problem, 26.6% have always problem and 13.69% have never faced any problems related to academic and other activities.

Table 3: Problems related to nature of job

Sl No.	Problem related to nature of job	N = 101					
		Always		Sometime		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Are you happy about your mothers occupation?	61	60.4	35	34.7	5	5
2	Are you proud about the job of your mother?	58	57.4	38	37.6	5	5
3	Do you behave rude to you mother for any small issues happening because of her work?	21	20.8	57	56.4	23	22.8
4	At any instance did you feel shy while discussing your mothers job with your friends or any other person?	15	14.9	57	56.4	29	28.7
Average on problems related to nature of job		38.75	38.37	46.75	46.27	15.5	15.37



Table 3 shows the problems faced by the children related to nature of the job. The average on the problems related to nature of the job shows that 46.27% have sometimes

problem, 38.37% have always problem and 15.37% have never faced any problems related to nature of the job.

Table 4: Spending time with mother

SL.NO	Spending time with mother	N = 101					
		Always		Some times		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Do you share your daily activities to your mother?	46	45.5	48	47.5	7	6.9
2	Do you spend time with your mother?	43	42.6	55	54.5	3	2.9
3	Are you sharing your feeling to your mother?	42	41.6	53	52.5	6	5.9
4	In the absence of your mother will you share your personal matter to anyone else?	11	10.9	74	73.3	16	15.8
Average on spending time with mother		35.5	35.16	57.5	56.96	8	7.87

Table 4 shows the problems faced by the children related to spending time with mother. The average on the problems related to spending time with mother 56.69% have

sometimes, 35.16% have always and 7.87% have never faced any problems related to spending time with mother.

Table 5: Emotional problems

SL.NO	Emotional problems	N = 101					
		Always		Sometime		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Are you able to maintain a good bonding with your mother?	57	56.4	39	38.6	5	5
2	Do you feel you want more love and affection from you mother?	33	32.7	58	57.4	10	9.9
3		15	14.9	77	76.2	9	8.9
4	Are you feeling loneliness?	12	11.9	60	59.4	29	28.7
5	Are you feel guilty about anything which you have told to your mother?	16	15.8	48	47.5	37	36.6
6	Are you feeling happy about your family relationship?	56	55.4	39	38.6	6	5.9
7	At any moment did you curse your mother?	14	13.9	63	62.4	24	23.8
8	Are you feel guilty about anything which you have told to your mother?	16	15.8	48	47.5	37	36.5
Average on emotional problems?		29	28.6	54	54.3	17	17.1

Table 5 shows the problems faced by the children related to emotional problems. The average on emotional problems shows that 54.3% have sometimes, 28.6% have always and 17.1% have never faced any emotional problems.

Chi square test was used to compute the association between the problems faced by the children of working mothers and selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis stated,
 H1: There is a significant association between the problems and selected demographic variables.

Section 3: Association between the problems faced by the children of working mothers and selected demographic variables.

Table 6: Association between the problems faced by the children of working mothers and selected demographic variables.

SL. No	Demography and types of problem	N = 101	
		Chi square	P value
1.	Age and Nature of Mother's Job	10.948	0.025*
2.	Gender and emotional problems	9.601	0.008*
3.	Occupation of mother and Academic problems	23.754	0.008*
4.	Occupation and problems on spending time with mother	21.670	0.017*
5.	Occupation and emotional problems	24.36	0.006*
6.	Family and Academic problem	24.414	0.000*



P< 0.05, * Significance

Table 6 Shows that the association between the problems faced by the children of working mothers and selected demographic variables. There is significant association found between the age of children and nature of mothers job at $p<0.05$. There is significant association found between the gender of child and emotional problems at $p<0.05$. There is significant association found between the occupation of mother and academic problems at $p<0.05$. There is significant association between occupation and problems on spending time with mother at $p<0.05$. There is significant association between emotional problems and occupation at $p<0.05$. There is significance association between family and academic problem at $p<0.05$.

Discussion:

This study finding revealed that majority (52.5) of children was females and belongs to age group of 10 and 12 years (34.7%). Most of the mothers having degree education (40.6%) and majority of mothers were daily wages (29.7%). Most of the students belong to nuclear family (56.4%) and majority belongs live in urban areas (71.3%). Pabitra Shrestha (2020) conducted a comparative descriptive study on behavioral problems among school age children of working and non-working mothers. More than half of the children 55.8% were <9 years and 44.2% were ≥ 9 years old of working and non-working mothers respectively. Regarding gender of the children, working mothers had majority 57.7% male children. Regarding educational status, 84.6% of working mothers were literate respectively among them 46.2% of working mothers respectively had secondary education. Regarding type of family 78.8% working mothers had nuclear family¹⁶.

The present findings revealed that the 60% of students have the problems related to academic and other activities. It is contradicted with the study results of another study, where

84.6% children of working mothers had passed the exam. Similarly, 15.4% and 7.7% children of working and non-working mother respectively had excellent result.¹⁶

The present study revealed that the 60% (sometime) and 26% (always) have the Problems related to nature of mothers job and 57%(sometimes) and 35%(always) have the

problem related to spending time with Mothers. The present finding of the study revealed that the 54% (sometimes) and 29% (always) have emotional problems. The study finding is consistent with another study result, where it was found that children of non-working mothers possess better social, emotional and home adjustment than children of working mothers¹. It was also supported by another study conducted by Divya, and the findings revealed that majority of children of working mothers had (82%) moderate emotional problems and (67%) of children had severe emotional problems¹⁷.

The present study finding revealed that that there was a significant association between the problems faced by the children of working mothers and age, gender, occupation, type of family. The study finding is supported by a study in which there was an association between problems faced by the children and demographic characteristics such as age, sex and type of family at $p<0.05$ level¹⁷.

In context of increase in the number of working mothers in nursing profession, it is important for the nurses to improve the knowledge regarding the children problems and improve the pediatric patients emotional health. Children may not get proper attention and may encounter with problems when the mothers are working. Solutions can be given to the mothers to overcome the problems faced by the children. The findings of the study would help in formulating new guidelines to assess the problems faced by the children of working mothers and guide to prevent the problems. Research has become the integral part of the nursing it's importance is reflected partially in the changes to nurses education made in recent years. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of care provided to the children. Research should be conducted to find the children's problems and based on the findings, interventions may be planned to manage the children problems. Covid-19 pandemic limited the availability of samples during the data collection. Academic, nature of job of mother, spending time with mother and emotional problems are common among school children because of maladjustment. The mothers need to pay attention and take steps to identify the



academic and emotional problems of their children.

Conclusion: On the basis of the present study, the children of working mother face many problems related to academic, nature of job of mother, spending time with mother and emotional problems. The present finding of the study revealed that the 60% of students have the problems related to academic and other activities. The present study revealed that the 60% (sometime) and 26% (always) have the Problems related to nature of mothers job. The present finding of the study revealed that the 46% (sometimes) and 38% (always) have the problem related to spending time with mother. The present finding of the study revealed that the 57% (sometimes) and 35% (always) have the problem related to spending time with mothers. The present finding of the study revealed that the 54% (sometimes) and 29% (always) have emotional problems.

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