

Study On the Impact of Mother's Working Condition on Child Rearing Practices.

¹Sadaf Rana Khan

PhD Scholar Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur.

Abstract : Women in India are the subject that altered society's perception on how to view women. Since ancient times, women have solely been thought of as having children, caring for them, and taking care of the rest of the household's family members. While the male or family head was expected to make the household's bread and butter arrangements. Every subsequent generation has carried on with this way of thinking. However, times have changed, and the public is now becoming more informed thanks to the media and connected channels. Many women and mothers were able to utilize their education by contributing to the financial security of their family and the development of the country as a result of this beneficial transformation in the population. Working women have a huge impact on society's advancement and the ability of other women to succeed in life.

When a mother starts working, she balances her responsibilities at home and at the workplace. It's crucial to strike a balance between work and life. The study's goal is to examine how mother's working conditions affect their children. The child's behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and educational developments are all included in the current study. This descriptive study, which focused on 256 working moms and 146 full time moms in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat District, was conducted. Data collection employed an interview schedule.

This study will help policy makers, psychologists, academicians and social welfare organizations to understand and intervene with the focus on working condition of women and measures to improve the related issues.

Keywords: Working condition, child rearing practices.

Introduction

Rearing a child is always considered as women's job in developing country like India. Women were responsible for all the household courses that also include raising a child. In early times when families used to have joint family systems, used to look after kids when mother was busy in other household works. With the industrialization and development of urban areas, joint families started to break down and nuclear families introduced as the result of migration of people in the search of jobs in urban areas. With higher liabilities and less earning, women in nuclear families started to go out of home to support the financial needs of the family. Women when got the opportunity have left no stone unturned to prove the dual role in best possible way. Women of our nation have made India a proud nation by serving the nation as President, Prime Minister, senior officials and many other higher positions.

In spite of major development and schemes for women in India, literacy rate of female is lower than the male literacy rate. Literacy rate for women is 60.6% whereas for male, it is about 81.3% ("Women in India," 2022). Women are now employed and engaged in both traditional and non-traditional occupations. About 30% of women work in the software industry, and 51% of rural women work in small, forest-based businesses ("Women in India," 2022). Annual bulletin of periodic labour force survey (PLFS) of 2019-20 stated that India's labor force of female is just 22.2 percent which very less in comparison of male labour force that is 56.8 percent. The percent is declined more after COVID-19 pandemic. In Madhya Pradesh also the labor force rate declined from 15 percent in 2020 to 13 percent by the end of 2021 (Bharadwaj, 2022).

Wing to fly and fear to fall down; both things are received from the parents to a child and it all depends on the parents what they want to give to their child from fear and wings. In a child's life mother plays a crucial role especially in the early years of her child. A child needs to be nurtured, cared and loved to be emotionally strong in later stages of life. Mother is the first school for her child where the little life learns so many things and upto the age of 5, a child's brain is 90% developed. By the age of 5 children develops the behavior he or she has been observing till now. So, it is very important for the parents to provide safe and healthy atmosphere to their children.

Child rearing does not only mean to facilitate child with basic needs, but it is ways beyond than that. It is helping the child to know his or her capabilities and potential so that a child develops sense of confidence within him and behave in socially accepted manner ("MES-084 Practices in Modern Pre-School Education. Child Care and Education," 2021)

Children must have access to health care, proper nutrition, safety and protection from harm, opportunities for early learning, and responsive care giving such as talking, singing, and playing with parents and other loved ones in order to develop to the fullest extent possible, as is their human right. All of this is necessary to feed expanding bodies and nourish developing brains (Unicef, 2022). With increase in number of working mothers, there is also a big question on better child development! Child care is such a delegate process that it cannot be ignored or left on anyone. Availability of day care and child care facilities have raised but it's very risky at the same time to trust on.

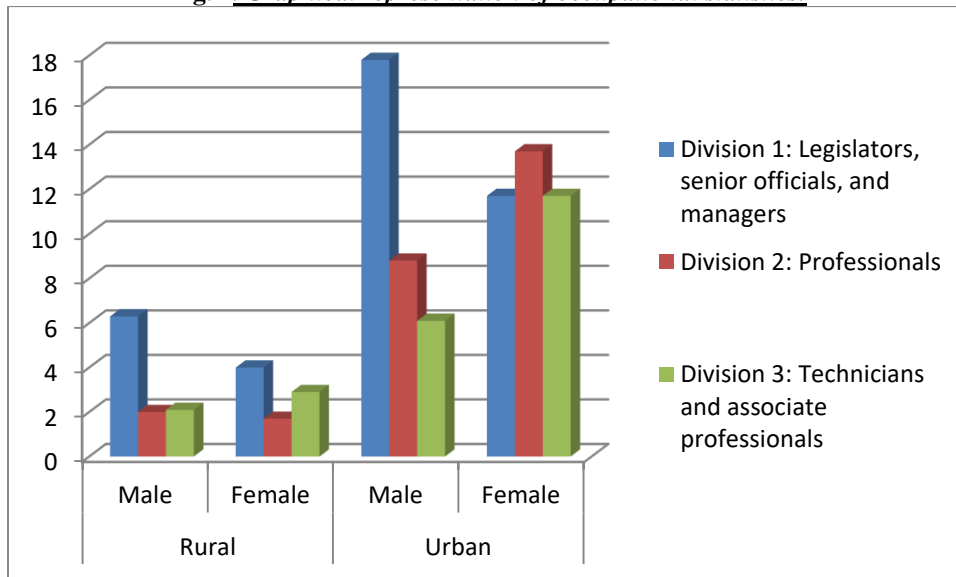
The present study focuses on analyzing impact of working condition of mothers on child rearing practices. To study this, hypothesis is formed which states that, there is significant relation of working condition of mother with child rearing practices.

Working Condition of Mothers in India

Working condition of mothers in India is poor when compared with other countries. The reason for this situation is our mindset towards the gender roles which is coming from generations. If a mother is working, she has to do dual responsibility of managing household work like cooking, cleaning, looking after children and elders as well as going out and doing job. In this whole scenario, there is no involvement of the husbands. This is one of the reasons that women after maternity leave was not able to join the office

or retain at workplace. In 2018, India ranked 130 out of 189 countries according to the UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI), 130 according to the Gender Development Index (GDI), and 127 according to the Gender Inequality Index, according to a report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India (Manimekalai et al., 2019). Women who are into professional and technical fields, contributes more than male professionals in urban areas. Data of occupational statistics showed steady increase by 11.7% in female than that of male which is 6.1 % under urban areas in India.

Fig. 1. Graphical representation of occupational statistics.



Note:- This statistical data was produced by Naina Bharadwaj in 2022. From ‘Women and Work in India: Trends and Analysis’(Bharadwaj, 2022).

Although women are involved in the marathon of entrepreneurial industry, they contribute much less than males do. However, it offers the chance to work flexibly and according to preference. Women contribute 21.49% of all establishments (Bharadwaj, 2022) which is clearly a low percentage, but if they are given more possibilities and fewer domestic duties, a beneficial improvement will be visible.

Working Mothers and Child Care

No of the circumstances, a mother is a mother who loves her child without conditions. It is also crucial for mothers to spend quality time with their children since the relationship you have with your child throughout the first three years of their existence determines how strong or weak it will be in the future. So this initial time is the investment you made to have better returns in future.

India is a developing country where families are getting nuclear and both the parents go out for job. In this situation very few mothers enjoys the perks of good facilities like crèche and other arrangements at workplace. On the other hand there are majority of working women who struggle to leave their children in safe hands. Now a day’s children are distant from the love of grandparents and mothers have to rely on care taker and maids which are outsiders. To manage kids and jobs, many a time mothers have to adjust with informal arrangement for baby care such as relatives, neighbors which sometimes gets risky to trust on.

Many of the mothers admitted that they feel stressed at workplace as they are worried about their children. There have been many research studies done on work life balance which concluded that working mothers are suffering from stress in order to fulfill the needs of the family and requirements of the job. One of the study conducted by (Kadale et al., 2018) analyzed that almost all the working mothers (152) are under stress and among those 56% of mothers were suffering from moderate stress when analyzed under perceived stress scale.

Methodology

It was a descriptive study where full time mothers and working mothers were the respondents of the study. The study was done in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh and mothers of school going children from age group of 3-12 years were the inclusion criteria for the study.

Multi stage sampling was used to collect data. Under this, in stage the schools were selected from the three blocks of the district. In second stage children were selected from the age group of 3-12 by using stratified simple random sampling method. In the last and third stage mothers of these children were interviewed by using structured interview schedules. Child rearing practices inventory developed by Chamundieswari et.al 1982 was used to understand the child rearing practices adopted by working and full time mothers.

Results

Out of 400 women, 254 mothers were working and 146 mothers were full time mothers. Relationship between working condition and child rearing was studied by using Chi-square method. Seven dimensions of child rearing practices were examined and were segregated into three score ranges. 0-125 scores shows low level, 126 to 250 range falls under medium level and 251-500 represents high levels of child rearing practices adopted by mothers.

Table 1. Relationship of working condition with child rearing practices.

Working condition	CRP Level	Impact on Children	Total
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		Low	Medium	High	
Working Mothers	Low	0	0	0	0
	Medium	0	35	36	71
	High	0	85	98	183
Total		0	120	134	254
Full time mothers	Low	0	1	0	1
	Medium	0	33	21	54
	High	1	38	52	91
Total		1	72	73	146
Grand Total		2	192	207	400

Note:- CRP Level means Child Rearing Practices Level

From the above table, it was observed that working mothers, whose CRP levels were found high, have positive impact on children as compared to full time mothers. There was a huge difference on impact on children of working and full time mothers. The calculated chi-square value of relation of working mother and CRP levels at 0.05 % of significance level and 1 degree of freedom was found to be 0.166 which is less than the p-value i.e 0.99. Hence, it may be concluded that there is no significant relationship between working condition and child rearing practices and research hypothesis is not supported. This result is justified with the study done by (Scarr et al., 1989) which stated that it is not the employment of mother that affects child's development but family environment, maternal relations and proper family support have impact on children.

Discussion : Working mothers compared to full time mothers have higher levels of child rearing practices. This comparison shows the greater significance levels under relation between working mothers and child rearing practices. From previous research studies it is understood that working mothers suffers and go through mental and emotional stress due to the dual responsibility of household as well as work. Bossard and Stroker (1954) stated in their study that children of working mothers came across with many issues such as loneliness among children, aggressive behavioral problem, low self-esteem, taking advantage of mother's absence, lack of love and attention (Manimekalai et al., 2019).

Limitations

The results of the study should be understood in light of its constraints. The data was collected during COVID-19 pandemic due to which the collected data may vary as compared to normal situations. There were more respondents from working background as many full time mothers refused to participate. There was less number of mothers having children between 3 to 5 age group because of very few enrollments of these kids in schools. Interview would have been better collected if there would not be lockdown rules.

Conclusion

Child rearing practices is very important for parents to understand and adopt good practices to have better relations with their children in future. It should not be the only responsibility of a mother to raise child but it should be done as collaborative effort of both father and mother. Is women gets support from the spouse and other family members, then she will be able to have more balanced life with work and face less stress. Mothers can also contribute more in working sector for better financial stability and support by sharing the responsibility of household work. Social work intervention may play a vital role through Anganwadies, NGOs, School social work settings and other welfare organizations. These organizations may focus on the issue by organizing community based program for awareness and to take appropriate measures as well as suggestions.

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