

Comparative Study to Assess the Problems among the Preschooler of Working and Non working Mothers in Selected Playgroups

Reshma Bodhak

How to cite this article:

Reshma Bodhak/ Comparative Study to Assess the Problems among the Preschooler of Working and Non working Mothers in Selected Playgroups/RFP Journal of Gerontology and Geriatric Nursing. 2021; 4 (1-2): 13-18.

Abstract

Preschool children are of paramount importance in determining the future behaviors of children. Preschool behavior problems are now being recognized as clear some disorders are more common than others, and conditions range from mild to severe. The common behavioral problems identified in children includes Habit problems, Problems of eating, Sleep Problems, Speech problems, Scholastic problems, psychosexual problems, Personality problems and Psycho social problems. Often, a child will be having more than one disorder.¹

Working women will have less time at her disposal for child care. The working mother has both positive and negative impact over the child's development. Hence the researcher intended to identify behavioral problems of preschool children of working mothers and to compare with that of non-working mothers. An awareness of the prevalence of these problems is important to plan mental health services for children in order to improve the quality of life of the affected children. There is no more crucial period of life than the age Perera H, Gunatunge C. Screening for mental health problems in urban preschool children-A pilot study. Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health 2004; 33 (2):39-42. up to six years. Preschool behavior problems are now being recognized as clear indicator of difficulties that may persist in Vijayalakshmi K, Kumar CV, Rajamanickam H, Cherian A. Child rearing practices and psychological problems in children. Nursing and Midwifery Research Journal 2007 Apr; 3(2):49-51 to later childhood and that may indicate family dysfunction. Screening is necessary to detect developmental problems in preschool children. Therefore various problems always require special attention.

Keywords: Preschooler ; Scholastic problems, Psychosexual problems; Mental health.

Introduction

Children are the inheritance from God. They are like clay in the potter's hand. Handled with love and care, they become something beautiful or else they will break Children of today are the citizens of tomorrow. The prosperity of the nation depends upon the health of its future citizens. Children with sound mind in sound body are essential for the future development of the country.²

Author Affiliation: Associate Professor, HOD Community Health Nursing, Sinhgad College of Nursing, Pune 411028, India.

Corresponding Author: Reshma Bodhak, Associate Professor, HOD Community Health Nursing, Sinhgad College of Nursing, Pune 411028, India.

E-mail: salvereshma@gmail.com

Received on: 31.10.2020

Accepted on: 30.11.2021

Every child should have tender loving care and sense of security from parents. The mother is more responsible for the integrated development of a child. The investment on our children in terms of developing environment both physical and emotional is going to reap rich individuals in future. As said by Karl Augustus Menninger "What s done to the children, they will do to the society".³

It stresses that the mother's reaction plays an important role in molding the behavior of the child. Different mothering styles may influence a child's behavior and inadequate attention may result in abnormal behavior in children. Sometimes such children show a wide variety of behavior which may even create problems to parents, family members and society. It may be minor but produce anxiety to the parents, which may be due to failure in adjustment to external environment.³

Need for the Study

Preschool period is one of rapid change in developmental, social, emotional, cognitive and linguistic abilities. The child is progressively developing more autonomy.⁴ Preschool children with early emergent behavior problems are likely to evince serious behavior problems, social skill deficits and academic difficulties later in life.⁴

A study was conducted on behavior problems among preschool children. Out of 200 Preschool children (aged 3-6 years), 44 (22%) had behavior problems. The prevalence was higher among boys and more common in children from nuclear families and a lower socio-economic status.⁵

The recent studies estimated that only about 50% of the psychosocial problems of the children are identified by their primary physician or parents, 12-25% of all American school age children and 13% preschoolers have emotional/behavioral disorders. The psychosocial problems increased from 6.8% to 18.7%. Intentional problems showed the greatest absolute increase (1.4%-9.2%) and emotional problems showed the increase (0.2-3.6%). The percentage of children with attention deficit/hyperactivity problems receiving medications increased from 32% to 78%. These increase in psychosocial problems were associated with increase in the proportions of single-parent families, parents get divorced, mothers employment and parent child relationship.⁶

The preschool child (3-6 years of age) is more self reliant. During this age children are socialized into the culture. In some cultures they become quite independent and are required to take on considerable responsibility, even to the extent of being responsible for the care younger siblings. In other cultures children are not encouraged to develop independence until much later. They remain totally dependent on adults for their care and feeding. Again, the culture the child is raised in determines in the timing and the kinds of skills acquired in relation to self-care, independence and the development of responsibility. While in many cultures in the Majority World (the developing countries) children may be given the role of caretaker for younger siblings, children ages 3-6 also have needs of their own. They need: opportunities to develop fine motor skills: encouragement of language through talking reading, singing; activities that will develop a positive sense of mastery: opportunities to learn

cooperation, helping, sharing: and experimentation with pre-writing and pre reading skills.⁷

The Statement of the Study

'Comparative study to assess the problems among the preschooler of working and non-working mothers in selected playgroups.

Objectives of Study

- To assess the problems among the preschoolers of working mothers in selected playgroups.
- To assess the problems among the preschoolers of non working mothers in selected playgroups.
- To compare the problems among the preschooler of working and non-working mothers in selected playgroups.
- To find out the association between problems among children of working and non-working mothers in selected playgroups with selected demographic variables.

Assumption

This study is based on following assumptions

- The children of working mothers will have more health problems.
- Working mothers will spend less time towards the care of their children. There will be some difference in the occurrence problems among children of working and non-working mothers.
- Problems vary from child to child.

Delimitation

The study is delimited to

- Mother's expressed views to the rating scale on problems of their child.
- Mother's working in Pune.
- Working and non working mothers whose children are attending preschool.
- The data collection period of four week.

Conceptual Framework

Theory of General System theory The author of the theory was **Ludwing Von Bertalanffy Model (1968)**

Review of Literature

Review of literature related to Behavioral problems among children

A study was conducted on problems among preschool children in Salem, India. The findings of the study reveals that, the level of behavioral problems among 50 preschool children of employed mothers, 33 (66%) of them had moderate behavioral problems and 17 (34%) of them had mild behavioral problems. Whereas among 50 preschool children of unemployed mothers, 11 (22%) of them had moderate behavioral problems and 39 (78%) of them had mild behavioral problems. The study findings shows that behavioral problems are found high among preschool children of employed mothers than the preschool children of unemployed mothers.⁸

Review of Literature Related to Psychological Problem among Children

Mcintosh (2006) has made an attempt to find out how working mothers affect their children emotionally and academically, verses mothers who do not work outside the home. A purposive sampling technique was used. Data was collected qualitative open-ended questionnaire developed by the researcher was distributed directly to the participants. After each questionnaire was returned, the data was examined to define possible themes. The results of the study indicate that having a working or stay at home mother does not determine a child's academic ability. Both working and stay at home mothers, also fell that their child's emotional state was stable.⁹

Review of Literature Related to Physical Problem among Children

Schachter (1981) conducted a study to compare the toddlers of employed mothers with unemployed mothers matching family size, social class, intact status and group care experience. No differences were found on language development but intelligence of children of non-employed mothers was found to be significantly higher. Difference was found in emotional adjustment but children of employed mothers were found to be more peers oriented and self-sufficient.¹⁰

Methodology

Research Approach: Quantitative Descriptive Research Approach.

Research Design: Exploratory Descriptive Comparative Research Design.

Variable of Study

Independent Variables

The presumed cause is independent variable. The independent variable in this study is Foot Reflexology therapy.

Dependent Variables

The presumed effect is dependent variable. The dependent variable in this study is Blood Pressure and Level of Stress.

Setting of the Study: The study was conducted in selected play group in Pune.

Population

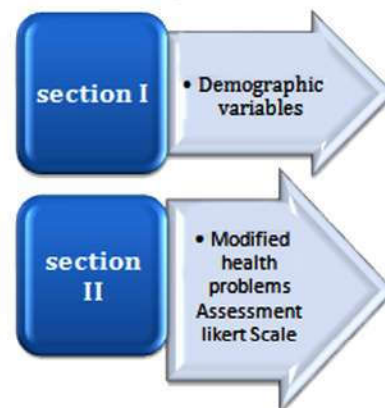
Target Population: Working and non-working mothers of preschooler children in selected playgroup in overall Pune city.

Sample: The sample comprised of working and non working mother of preschooler children in selected playgroup.

Sampling Technique: Non probability Purposive sampling techniques.

Sample Size: Sample size was 100. A sample of 50 working and 50 non working mothers of preschool children will be selected for study. Total 100 sample.

The tool is consisting of Two sections



Major Studyfindings

Findings Related to Demographic Variables

- **Age in years (Child):** Majority 44% of samples in age group 3-4 years, 30% were in age group

of 5-6 years and minimum 26% were in age group of 4-5 years for the working mother's preschooler child. In non-working mothers preschooler child majority 44% of samples in age group 4-5 years, 32% were in age group of 3-4 years and minimum 24% were in age group 5-6 years.

- **Gender (Child):** Majority 60% of sample in gender of female and minimum 40% of sample in gender of male in working mother's preschooler child. In non-working mothers preschooler child majority 52% of sample in male and minimum 48% of sample in female result like a vice versa.
- **Marital Status of Mother:** Maximum 94% samples were married in non working mother and 88% samples were married in working mothers of preschooler 8% were widow in working mothers and 4% sample were widow in non-working mothers of preschooler 4% sample were divorced in working mother and 2% sample were divorced in non-working mothers of preschooler. 0% sample were unmarried in both working and non-working mothers of preschooler child.
- **Occupation:** In working mother's majority 82% sample were private employee, 14% sample were government employee and 4% sample were business. In non working mothers majority 100% sample were house wife.
- **Monthly Family Income:** Majority 44% sample in working mothers and 38% sample in non-working mothers were having 20,000/- and above monthly income, minimum 8% in working mothers were having up to 10,000/- and 18% in non-working mothers were having up to 10,000/- & 10,001-15,001/- monthly income 14% were having 10,001-15,001/-, 34% having 15,001-20,000/- monthly income of working mothers. 26% having 10,001-15,000/- monthly income of non-working mothers of preschooler.
- **Type of Family:** Majority 62% working mother's child and 54% non working mother's child leaves in nuclear family. Minimum 0% leaves in extended family both working and non-working mothers preschoolers child. 36% working mother's child and 46% non-working mothers child leaves in joint family 1% working mothers child leaves in single parent family.

Finding Related to Health Problems among the Preschooler of Working and non Working mothers

Behavioral Problems

- In working mothers some sample responses for disrespect 60% samples are never, 26% are rarely and 14% are sometime, 2% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 50% samples are never, 32% are rarely, 18% are sometimes and 0% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for aggressive behavior 44% samples are rarely, 38% are sometime and 18% are never, 0% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 40% samples are rarely, 34% are never, 24% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for habit of nail bites 50% samples are rarely, 24% are never and 16% are sometime, 10% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 46% samples are never, 40% are rarely, 12% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Anger 48% samples are rarely, 30% are sometime and 14% are never, 8% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 36% samples are never, 32% are sometime, 30% are rarely and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Bed wetting 40% samples are never, 40% are rarely and 20% are sometime, 0% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 48% samples are never, 40% are rarely, 12% are sometimes and 0% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Refusing food 40% samples are rarely, 30% are sometime and 26% are never, 4% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 44% samples are never, 32% are rarely, 16% are sometimes and 8% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Excessive crying 46% samples are rarely, 34% are never and 14% are sometime, 6% are always. In non working mothers some sample responses for 46% samples are never, 28% are rarely, 22% are sometimes and 4% are always.

- In working mothers some sample responses for School phobia 34% samples are never, 28% are rarely and 28% are sometime, 6% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 46% samples are never, 32% are rarely, 12% are sometimes and 0% are always.

Psychological problems

- In working mothers some sample responses for Anxious 40% samples are rarely, 36% are never and 18% are sometime, 6% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 54% samples are never, 26% are rarely, 18% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Hyperactivity 36% samples are rarely, 30% are never and 24% are sometime, 10% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 44% samples are never, 40% are rarely, 14% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Lack of concentration 38% samples are rarely, 38% are never and 24% are sometime, 0% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 52% samples are never, 36% are rarely, 10% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Lack of motivation 46% samples are never, 38% are rarely and 14% are sometime, 2% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 66% samples are never, 28% are rarely, 4% are sometime and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for impaired memory 46% samples are never, 34% are rarely and 16% are sometime, 4% are always. In non working mothers some sample responses for 70% samples are never, 18% are rarely, 12% are sometimes and 0% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Difficulty in learning 38% samples are sometime, 38% are never and 22% are never, 1% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 60% samples are never, 22% are rarely, 18% are sometimes and 0% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses

for staying alone 30% samples are rarely, 27% are never and 12% are sometime, 4% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 72% samples are never, 20% are rarely, 8% are sometimes and 0% are always.

- In working mothers some sample responses for fear about separation from parents 50% samples are never, 28% are some time and 12% are always, 10% are rarely. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 42% samples are never, 26% are rarely, 22% are sometimes and 10% are always.

Physical Problems

- In working mothers some sample responses for Weakness 46% samples are rarely, 34% are never and 14% are sometime, 6% are always. In non working mothers some sample responses for 46% samples are never, 28% are rarely, 14% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for pain 40% samples are rarely, 40% are never and 18% are sometime, 2% are always. In non working mothers some sample responses for 70% samples are never, 24% are rarely, 21% are sometimes and 4% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for fatigue 52% samples are rarely, 28% are never and 18% are sometime, 2% are always. In non working mothers some sample responses for 52% samples are never, 36% are rarely, 10% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Drowsiness 50% samples are rarely, 38% are never and 10% are sometime, 2% are always. In non working mothers some sample responses for 60% samples are never, 32% are rarely, 8% are sometime and 0% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Fever 40% are sometime, 26% samples are rarely, 22% are never and, 12% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 42% samples are rarely, 34% are never, 22% are sometimes and 2% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for Allergy 52% samples are never, 30% are rarely and 14% are sometime, 4% are always. In non-working mothers some sample

responses for 64% samples are never, 26% are rarely, 6% are sometimes and 0% are always.

- In working mothers some sample responses for cold and cough 34% samples are sometime, 30% are rarely and 20% are never, 16% are always. In non working mothers some sample responses for 46% samples are rarely, 20% are never, 20% are sometimes and 4% are always.
- In working mothers some sample responses for skin rashes 50% samples are never, 44% are rarely and 6% are sometime, 0% are always. In non-working mothers some sample responses for 72% samples are never, 26% are rarely, 1% are sometimes and 0% are always.

Overall Health Problems Findings

Health Problem wise Overall Frequency and Mean

Behavioral Problems: In working mothers child 160 (40%) samples are rarely, 125 (31.2%) are never, 97(24.2%) are sometime and 18 (4.5%) are always. In non-working mothers child 180 (45%) samples are never, 137 (34.2%) are rarely, 74 (18.5%) are sometime and 9 (2.2%) are always.

Psychological Problems: In working mothers child 169 (42.2%) samples are never, 124 (31%) are rarely, 87(21.7%) are sometime and 20 (5%) are always. In non-working mothers child 230 (57.5%) samples are never, 108 (27%) are rarely, 53 (13.2%) are sometime and 9 (2.2%) are always.

Physical Problems: In working mothers child 159 (39.7%) samples are rarely, 142 (35.5%) are never, 77 (19.2%) are sometime and 22 (5.5%) are always. In non working mothers child 221 (55.2%) samples are never, 133 (33.2%) are rarely, 40 (10%) are sometime and 7 (1.7%) are always.

Finding Related to the Association between Demographic Variables

This section deals with association between selected demographic variables assessed by using chi-square test. The result summaries of chi-square test are tabulated below:

Selected Variables	Calculated Value (X ²)	T Value (P 0.05)	DF	Association
Age in years (child)	3.989	5.99	2	Not significant
Gender (Child)	0.724	3.84	1	Not significant
Marital status of Mother	0.548	7.82	3	Not significant
Occupation of mother	50	7.82	3	Significant
Monthly Family Income:	3.2	7.82	3	Not significant
Type of Family:	0.941	7.82	3	Not significant

Result

Health problems are more in working mothers childas compare to non-working mothers child.

References

1. Gupte S. The Short Textbook of Pediatrics. 10th edition. NewDelhi: Jaypee Publications; 2004.
2. Vijayalakshmi K, Kumar CV, Rajamanickam H, Cherian A. Child rearing practices and psychological problems in children. Nursing and Midwifery Research Journal 2007 Apr;3(2):49-51.
3. Datta P. Pediatric Nursing. 2nd edition. New Delhi: Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd; 2009.p.1, 186-192.
4. Huaqing C, Kaiser, Ann P. Behavior problems of preschool children from low income families. Topics in Early Childhood Special Education 2003 Dec; 23(4):188-216.
5. Rai S, Malik SC, Sharma D. Behavior problems among preschool children. Indian Paediatrics 1993 Apr; 30(4):475-8.
6. Kelley J. Khelleher et.al "Increasing identification of psychosocial problem" official Journal of the American academy of Pediatrics Vol-105-2006.
7. Piyush Gupta, "Essential pediatric nursing", 1st edition A.P Jain Publisher, 2004.
8. Anitha J, Jayasudha A, Kalaiselvi. Behavioral problems among preschool children. Nightingale Nursing times.2010 July; 6(4):33-36.
9. Mcintosh, K.L. (2006). Women Mothers Vs Stay at Home Mothers The Impact on Children. (Unpublished Doctoral Thesis.) Graduate School of Marietta College.
10. Schachter, F.F. (1981). Toddlers with employed mothers, Child Development, 52, 958-964.

