



Employment Status Of Mother And Extra Curricular Achievements Of The Young Adults In Kerala, India

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Abstract

Women are taking up their dual responsibility of home and career and are supporting the family with the income from their employment. We find that there is an increase in the families headed by two working spouses. The changed roles, employment status of mothers and their parenting style have profound influence on the status, performance and achievements of children. The paper intends to analyse the influence of mother's employment status on the extracurricular achievements of young adults in Kerala.

Keywords: Extracurricular Achievements, Young adult, Employment Status

Introduction

The influence of the family is very important and remains throughout the child's life. The physiological, psychological and social growth of the child takes place within the family. The role of parents and family in the development of the child has become more important. The mother tends to be the primary caregiver who uniquely influences the child's growth and development.

Traditionally, women are seen to be confined to their household activities and her employment outside the home was not accepted because of several religious, social, familial, cultural taboos. Women's role was naturally limited to the family. Since she was the bearer of children, she was fully occupied with her responsibilities as a mother and homemaker. Man's responsibility was to provide the household with raw materials (Rajasekhar, Sasikala, 2013). But now these notions are fading and women are moving out and taking up the dual role of domestic work and career. There are positive trends across all of the countries and the growth in participation began at different points in time, and proceeded at different rates. The knowledge

economy has created greater access for women coupled with factors such as changes in marital patterns and smaller families. This has led to an increase in the number of working women and hence, working mothers (Grossman, 1981).

Employment of women is an important tool for women's empowerment. Many women are taking up new roles and challenges of work and career. Women who work outside have to play the dual role of domestic work and career. However, the women who work outside their homes are not relieved from their cultural responsibility of domestic work. It is found that visibility of women in the work force is increasing and at the same time her domestic chores and child care responsibilities are not lightened. She has to play different roles simultaneously and her domestic role must be balanced with professional role so as to avoid the chances of role conflict.

Child rearing is both difficult and rewarding at the same time. The goal of every parent is to have their child grown up to be a responsible and resourceful adult in the society. Parents, especially the mother, have the most potent effect on the personality development of their children. The mother plays an important role in stimulating and inducing her child's social and adaptive behaviours. Even if the social support available to women is high, a working woman is supposed to take up several responsibilities and there are several tasks which she alone has to perform. In comparison to an employed mother, an educated homemaker can always be available at home for her children. Therefore the parenting styles adopted by both working and non-working mothers are different which has profound influence on the status, performance and achievements of their children.

With the increase in the number of dual career families, the traditional conceptions of parenting, family social support networks and functions have changed. Mothers who work full time take up major responsibilities in providing for the various needs of the family. The changed roles, employment status of mothers and their parenting style have profound influence on the status, performance and achievements of children. The post-adolescent periods are the most impressionable and crucial years in the life of an individual. The overall development is most rapid in this period and it is the base for later development in adulthood. Mother's role in the upbringing of the young adults is incomparable. Building a good character in a child takes time, involvement, unconditional support and love. Her proper guidance helps them to grow, develop and respond to life in a positive way.

Objective of the study

- The study aims to analyse the influence of mother's employment status on the extracurricular achievements of young adults in Kerala. It tries to examine the relative performance of extracurricular achievements of young adults of working and non-working mothers in Kerala.

Hypothesis

- The extracurricular achievements of young adults of working mothers are better than that of non-working mothers in Kerala”

Review of literature

Nandwana, et al.(2010)made an exploratory attempt to examine daily activity profile and the wellbeing of children of employed and non-employed mothers. A representative sample of 180 mothers (90 children of employed mothers and 90 children of non-employed mothers) belonging to nuclear families of Udaipur, Rajasthan were selected. Data were collected using self-structured interview schedule. The results of the study revealed that major part of after school time of the children of employed mothers was devoted to skill classes, academics and watching TV and least time was given to interaction with persons, parents and play. In comparison to this, after school time of children of non-employed mothers is devoted to TV watching, academics, skill classes and playing video games. In both the cases, less time is given to play during after school hours. 80 per cent employed mothers reported that their children were facing wellbeing problems. The results of the study revealed that highly significant difference was found between the children of employed and non-employed mothers in their after school hours as well as well-being.

The achievement orientation scores and maternal employment data in a study by Powell, (1963) revealed that children of employed mothers have high achievement motivation at each age level. This might be due to two reasons. First, employed mothers have their own need for achievement in the concern for their family getting ahead.

These attitudes are acquired and are reflected in their children. They develop a stronger need for achievement than those whose mothers are not employed. Secondly, a working mother is exposed to new ideas, varying experiences of broadening interests which in turn leads to a cultural enrichment in their family environment. This provides opportunities for the development of skills which is essential for the development of achievement orientation.

Vijayalaxmi and Bowlby (2007) in their research comparing the children of employed mothers and homemakers observed that the adolescent children of homemakers have significantly higher self concept and higher achievement motivation than the children of employed mothers. The female children of home makers are having significantly higher emotional maturity compared to the male children of homemakers. The children of employed mothers are more socially maladjusted and lacked independence to a very highly significant level compared to the children of homemakers.

A descriptive study was conducted by Hungal, et al.(2007)on 150 adolescents- 75 adolescent of employed mothers and homemakers each; studying in 6th and 8th standard in Hubli- Dharwad cities of North Karnataka of 12 – 15 years to assess the impact of maternal employment on the self-concept, emotional maturity and achievement motivation of adolescents. Children's Self-concept Scale by Ahluwalia, Emotional Maturity Scale by Singh and Bhargava and Deo-Mohan Achievement Motivation Scales were used to collect the data. The data were analysed using t-test and ANOVA. The study found that the adolescent children of homemakers have significantly higher self-concept than children of the employed mothers. It was also noticed

that children of employed mothers have high emotional maturity and female children of employed mothers are highly achievement oriented.

Dhawan and Sharma (2012) brought out in their study that emotions do play a central role in the life of an individual. An individual should have higher emotional maturity in order to lead an effective life. It is true that our behaviour is constantly influenced by the emotional maturity level that we possess and especially, the adolescents who are highly emotional in their dealings need to be studied. The objective of the study was to find the influence of working and non-working mothers on the emotional maturity and achievement motivation of adolescents. 60 adolescents (30 adolescents of working mothers and 30 adolescents of non-working) from the age range of 12 to 17 years were randomly selected from the public schools of Delhi and NCR Region. The results reported no significant difference between emotional maturity and achievement motivation of adolescents of working and non-working mothers and no gender difference was also found between the two.

Another important research done by Hanafi (2004) identifies maternal childrearing practices (achievement values, monitoring, and discussion) among employed and unemployed Malaysian mothers. The findings revealed that children perceived their mothers to have high achievement values. Mothers whether they are employed or unemployed are aware of the importance of education and there is no significant difference between the achievement values of the mothers. The only dimension that showed a difference is the way how employed and unemployed mothers conduct their monitoring practices. The children perceived unemployed mothers as conducting more monitoring on them compared to mothers who are employed. This difference could be attributed to the time factor - absence and presence of these two groups of mothers in the home. The study points to the fact that there is no much difference in the child rearing practices of employed and unemployed mothers.

Baum (2004) made an attempt to study the long term effects of maternal employment in child's achievement using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth and found that maternal employment remained positively related to grades in the first two age categories and adolescent children of employed mothers yielded a small, but negative effect on grades. A model, using multivariate regression analysis that controlled the differences not caused by maternal employment, found adolescent children of employed mothers yielding a statistically significant negative effect on academic grades. The results of the study also showed that maternal employment during the child's adolescent years significantly reduces academic grades for both boys and girls.

A meta-analysis of 68 studies and also the random effects models were used to examine whether children's achievement differed depending on their mother's employment in a research on maternal employment and children's achievement by Goldberg, et al. (2008). Four achievement outcomes – formal tests of achievement and intellectual functioning, grades, and teacher ratings of cognitive competence were emphasised. When all employment was compared with non-employment for combined and separate achievement outcomes without moderators, effects were non-significant. Small beneficial effects of part-time compared with full-time

employment were evident for all achievement outcomes combined and for each individual achievement outcome. Significant sample-level moderators of the associations between maternal employment and achievement for all outcomes combined included family structure, and socio economic status. Analysis of child-gender indicated more positive effects for girls. Children's age was a significant moderator for the outcome of intellectual functioning.

Lopoo (2007) examined the relationship between a mother's employment and the after-school activities of adolescent children. Using the individual fixed-effect model, he found a positive relationship between maternal employment and participation in lessons after school for the children of mothers with at least a high school education. Maternal employment is also positively related to sports participation for the children. This suggests that maternal employment affects adolescent children's behaviour through the additional economic resources that it brings into a household

Researchers have done studies comparing the working and non- working women and also their children's performances; these studies bring out the relations between status of the mother and various dimensions of the status of children.

Source of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data has been used for the study. The primary data was collected through field survey by administering the pre tested semi structured interview schedule on 600 working and non-working mothers with young adults from the households in the selected wards of Vadakara, Varkala and Anthicad CD Blocks of Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur Districts of Kerala.

Descriptive research design has been used for the study. The quantitative approach was used for the present research. The primary data has been collected from three districts viz, Kozhikode, Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram considering their distinctive socio-economic, geographic and cultural features. These districts also have high female population as well as high work participation rate.

Extra Curricular Achievements of Young adults of the Working and Non-Working Mothers

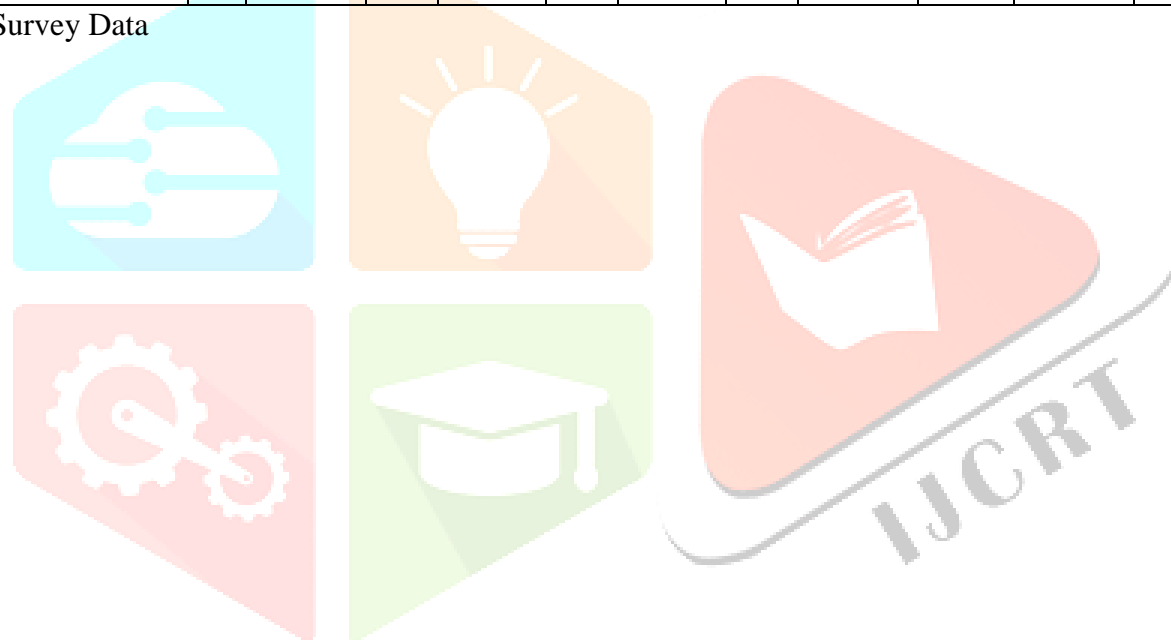
Extra Curricular activities of children benefit them socially, physically and cognitively. It is important for the parent to consider how much time the child spends on extra-curricular activity. Learning a new skill or becoming proficient in a skill brings the satisfaction of achievement which could build confidence. It helps them to develop team spirit, time management, stress management, better organisational skills and improves their self-esteem.

Table 1
Extra Curricular Achievements of Young adults of the Working and Non-Working Mothers

Sl. No	Items	Employment Status of the Mother	National		State		University		District		School / College		Total		Chi-square test
1	Arts	Working mothers	0	0.0%	13	6.5%	10	5.0%	26	13.0%	151	75.5%	200	100%	$\chi^2(4) = 3.36$ $p = .50$
		Non-working mothers	2	1.2%	12	7.2%	5	3.0%	22	13.3%	125	75.3%	166	100%	
2	Literary	Working mothers	1	0.7%	6	4.3%	1	0.7%	14	9.9%	119	84.4%	141	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 1.42$ $p = .840$
		Non-working mothers	0	0.0%	7	5.6%	1	0.8%	10	8.0%	107	85.6%	125	100.0%	
3	Sports	Working mothers	3	1.8%	8	4.9%	11	6.7%	30	18.4%	111	68.1%	163	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 4.07$ $p = .396$
		Non-working mothers	7	4.4%	4	2.5%	7	4.4%	26	16.5%	114	72.2%	158	100.0%	
4	Quiz	Working mothers	2	1.4%	5	3.5%	4	2.8%	29	20.3%	103	72.0%	143	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 3.83$ $p = .429$
		Non-working mothers	1	0.8%	8	6.1%	2	1.5%	18	13.6%	103	78.0%	132	100.0%	
5	Projects	Working mothers	1	0.9%	3	2.6%	3	2.6%	12	10.3%	97	83.6%	116	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 2.90$ $p = .575$
		Non-working mothers	3	2.9%	6	5.7%	3	2.9%	12	11.4%	81	77.1%	105	100.0%	
6	Scouts/Guides	Working mothers	4	10.8%	3	8.1%	1	2.7%	8	21.6%	21	56.8%	37	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 3.50$ $p = .477$
		Non-working mothers	2	6.9%	6	20.7%	0	0.0%	4	13.8%	17	58.6%	29	100.0%	
7	Student Police	Working mothers	2	9.1%	2	9.1%	0	0%	3	13.6%	15	68.2%	22	100.0%	$\chi^2(3) = 1.77$ $p = .477$
		Non-working mothers	0	0.0%	1	6.3%	0	0%	2	12.5%	13	81.3%	16	100.0%	
8	NSS	Working mothers	1	1.7%	3	5.0%	0	0.0%	10	16.7%	46	76.7%	60	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 9.02$ $p = .061$
		Non-working mothers	6	10.2%	7	11.9%	1	1.7%	4	6.8%	41	69.5%	59	100.0%	
9	NCC	Working mothers	2	5.7%	1	2.9%	0	0.0%	5	14.3%	27	77.1%	35	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 3.10$ $p = .541$
		Non-working mothers	3	6.3%	4	8.3%	1	2.1%	3	6.3%	37	77.1%	48	100.0%	
10	Research	Working mothers	1	4.2%	2	8.3%	0	0.0%	3	12.5%	18	75.0%	24	100.0%	$\chi^2(4) = 2.69$ $p = .611$
		Non-working mothers	1	5.0%	1	5.0%	1	5.0%	5	25.0%	12	60.0%	20	100.0%	

11	Club Activities	Working mothers	1	0.9%	4	3.5%	0	0%	14	12.3%	95	83.3%	114	100.0%	$\chi^2(3) = .59$ $p = .899$
		Non-working mothers	1	1.1%	5	5.6%	0	0%	10	11.2%	73	82.0%	89	100.0%	
12	Social Service	Working mothers	3	4.1%	3	4.1%	0	0%	6	8.2%	61	83.6%	73	100.0%	$\chi^2(3) = 4.05$ $p = .257$
		Non-working mothers	2	3.6%	0	0.0%	0	0%	9	16.1%	45	80.4%	56	100.0%	
13	Any other	Working mothers	1	16.7%	0	0%	1	16.7%	1	16.7%	3	50.0%	6	100.0%	$\chi^2(3) = 2.07$ $p = .5587$
		Non-working mothers	1	20.0%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	80.0%	5	100.0%	

Source: Primary Survey Data



The extracurricular achievements of young adults of the working and non-working mothers were analysed in terms of thirteen indicators at the national, state, university, district and college/school levels. Chi-square test results signify that there was no statistically significant difference in the extracurricular achievements of young adults of the working and non-working mothers in all the thirteen indicators as shown in Table 1.

Table 2

**Summary Statistics of the Number of Items of Extra Curricular Achievements
of Young adults of the Working and Non-Working Mothers**

Sl. No.	Employment Status of the Mother	Mean*	N	Std. Deviation	Independent samples t-test results
1	Working Mothers	3.8	300	2.21	t = 2.249, df = 598 p = .025
2	Non-Working Mothers	3.4	300	2.36	
	Total	3.6	600	2.30	

Note: *Average Number of Extra Curricular Achievements

Source: Primary Survey Data

Table 2 clearly indicates that the number of extracurricular achievements of the young adults of the working mothers (M=3.8, SD= 2.21) was significantly higher than that of the young adults of the non-working mothers (M=3.4, SD = 2.36) in Kerala, t (598) = 2.25, p = .025. This reflects that the young adults of working mothers were much better in their extracurricular achievements when compared with the young adults of non-working mothers.

Table 3

Proportion of Young adults Having Extra Curricular Achievements

Sl. No.	Items of Extra Curricular Achievements of the Young adults	Employment Status of the Mother		Total	
		Working Mothers	Non-Working Mothers		
1	Arts	Count	200	166	366
		%	68.3%	60.4%	64.4
2	Literary	Count	141	125	266
		%	48.1%	45.5%	46.8
3	Sports	Count	163	158	321
		%	55.6%	57.5%	56.5
4	Quiz	Count	143	132	275
		%	48.8%	48.0%	48.4
5	Projects	Count	116	105	221
		%	39.6%	38.2%	38.9
6	Scouts/Guides	Count	37	29	66
		%	12.6%	10.5%	11.6
7	Student Police	Count	22	16	38
		%	7.5%	5.8%	6.7
8	NSS	Count	60	59	119
		%	20.5%	21.5%	21.0
9	NCC	Count	35	48	83
		%	11.9%	17.5%	14.6
10	Research	Count	24	20	44
		%	8.2%	7.3%	7.7

11	Club Activities	Count	114	89	203
		%	38.9%	32.4%	35.7
12	Social Service	Count	73	56	129
		%	24.9%	20.4%	22.7
13	Other Extra Curricular Achievements	Count	6	5	11
		%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9
Total		Count	293	275	568

Source: Primary Survey Data

Table 4

**Distribution of the Extra-Curricular Achievements of the Young adults
of the Working and Non-Working Mothers**

Sl. No.	Item of Extra-curricular Achievements		Employment Status of the Mother		Total
			Working Mothers	Non-Working Mothers	
1	Arts	Count	200	166	366
		%	17.6%	16.5%	17.1%
2	Literary	Count	141	125	266
		%	12.4%	12.4%	12.4%
3	Sports	Count	163	158	321
		%	14.4%	15.7%	15.0%
4	Quiz	Count	143	132	275
		%	12.6%	13.1%	12.8%
5	Projects	Count	116	105	221
		%	10.2%	10.4%	10.3%
6	Scouts/Guides	Count	37	29	66
		%	3.3%	2.9%	3.1%
7	Student Police	Count	22	16	38
		%	1.9%	1.6%	1.8%
8	NSS	Count	60	59	119
		%	5.3%	5.9%	5.6%
9	NCC	Count	35	48	83
		%	3.1%	4.8%	3.9%
10	Research	Count	24	20	44
		%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%
11	Club Activities	Count	114	89	203
		%	10.1%	8.8%	9.5%
12	Social Service	Count	73	56	129
		%	6.4%	5.6%	6.0%
13	Other Achievements	Count	6	5	11
		%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
	Total	Count	1134	1008	2142
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Survey Data

The Chi-Square test results testing the association between extra-curricular achievements and the employment status of the mother reveals that there was no statistically significant difference in the proportion of young adults of working mothers having extracurricular activities and that of the non-working mothers, $\chi^2 (12) = 7.54$, $p = .820$. Nandwana, Pareek, Upadhyay (2010) made an exploratory attempt to examine after school time of the children and found that employed mothers' children spend their time to skill classes, academics and watching TV and non-employed mothers' children devoted to TV watching, academics, skill classes and playing video games.

The pattern of distribution of the extra-curricular achievements of young adults reveal that out of the thirteen indicators, young adults of working mothers excelled in all the twelve indicators except NCC in which the young adults of non-working mothers performed well. Therefore, the extra-curricular achievements of young adults of working mothers are better.

Major Findings

In this study, an attempt has been made to analyse the relative performance of extracurricular achievements of young adults of working mothers and non-working mothers in Kerala. It was found that the number of extracurricular achievements of the young adults of the working mothers was significantly higher than that of the young adults of the non-working mothers.

Out of the thirteen indicators of extra-curricular achievements, young adults of working mothers excelled in all the twelve indicators except NCC in which the young adults of non-working mothers performed well. Analysing the extra-curricular achievements, it was observed that the number of extra-curricular achievements of young adults of working mothers was significantly higher. The pattern and distribution of extra-curricular achievements also revealed that the young adults of working mothers excelled and performed well than the young adults of non-working mothers.

Conclusion

In the study, the extracurricular achievements of young adults of working mothers were found to be better than that of non-working mothers in Kerala. Hence, the hypothesis “performance and achievements of young adults of working mothers are better than that of non-working mothers in Kerala” is accepted. The achievements of young adults of working mothers being better, we can conclude that working mothers rear better young adults than non-working mothers.

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