

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ABOUT THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN OF WORKING AND NON-WORKING MOTHERS OF INDUSTRIAL AREA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UPPER ASSAM

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Introduction

Education is an important human activity. It was born with the birth of human race, so it will continue to function as long as human race lives. Education is the deliberate and systematic influence exerted by the mature person up on the immature, through instruction, discipline and harmonious development of physical, intellectual, aesthetic, social and spiritual powers of the human being, according to individual and social needs and directed towards the union of the educated with his creator as the final end. Education is akin to survive in this world of competition and to lead a quality life. Effective knowledge and proper education not only essential for an individual but also for the family, community and the nation as a whole. Education involves essential process which intentionally transmits what is valuable in an intelligible and voluntary manner and which creates in the learner a desire to achieve it. In the formal teaching-learning situation, education consists initiating others in to activities, modes of conduct and develop the quality of life of the pupil. There is a strong relationship between literacy, expectancy and achievement.

Achievement encompasses student abilities and performance. It is multi-dimensional; it is intricately related to human growth and development; cognitive, social and physical. Academic achievement is very broad which generally indicates the learning outcome of the pupil. Achievement of these learning outcomes requires a series of planned and organized experiences and hence learning is called as a process. In this process of achievement of change in behavior one cannot say that all pupils will reach at the level of change during the same span of life.

Achievement refers to what a person has acquired after the specific training or instruction has been imparted. In other word, achievement tests are primarily designed to measure the effects of a specific program of instruction or training. Thus academic achievement indicates the performance under known and controlled conditions to acquire something. Achievement measures the extent to which a person has acquired or achieved certain information or proficiency as a function of instruction or training.

Achievement tests attempts to measure what an individual has learned—his or her present level of performance. It particularly helpful in determining individual or group status in academic learning. Achievement tests scores are used in placing advancing or retaining the students at particular grade levels. They are used in diagnosing strengths and weakness and as a basic for awarding prizes, scholarship or degrees.

Now-a-days, the number of working mother is gradually increasing as a result of which each office have quite a good percentage of women employees, particularly in government offices as well as in the industrial setup. The children of those working mothers may be studying in different levels of study, who need constant support and guidance on the part of their parents, specially mothers. It has been observed minutely that the mothers who are working are comparatively getting less time to spare with to look-after their children than those of the non-working mothers.

Result related information of each and every public examination generally reveals that quite a good numbers of students with better results (toppers also) coming from such families where both the parents are working in different offices. Apparently, it has been seen that fathers are busy with their office works and other activities related to their domestic affairs, social activities, they have to spend almost the whole day and for which they cannot spare time to look-after their children, so it becomes a responsibility of the mothers to look-after the children so far education of their children is concerned. But it is also found that the mothers are also getting less time to spare to look-after their children after coming from the offices. But even than a compromise is made is the question, whether they are paying keen interest to the children on education is another question. Keeping in view of the situation the investigator has taken up this topic to study if there is any impact on the studies of the children of the working mothers. Achievement tests score are used frequently in evaluating the influences of course of study. To maximize the academic achievement, within the given setup it is the goal of every educationists, teachers, researchers, curriculum planners, government and the nation as a whole. It is therefore essential to

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find out factors that influence students in their academic achievement.

Objectives

To find out the level of academic achievement in respect of the children of working and non-working mothers.

To find out the difference if any between the children of working and non-working mothers in terms of their academic achievement.

To find out the difference if any between the male and female children in terms of their academic achievement.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was used in the study to collect the pertinent data. The population of this study includes all the working mothers those who are working in the Oil industries of Nazira, Moran, Duliajan, Fertilizer industry of Namrup, Power stations like Assam Petrochemicals, Namrup, NTPC Namrup, Coal industries of Margarita and Ledu only. And the non-working mothers of nearby areas of those industries located in various areas ranging from Nazira to Ledu of Sibsagar district to the Tinsukia district of Assam respectively.

Tools used for the study include stratified random sample technique to collect the required data. A total of 200 mothers which includes 120 working mothers and 80 non-working mothers belonging to different industrial areas of Upper Assam. After going through the related literature a questionnaire based on various factors concerning mothers in relation to the academic achievement levels of their children was prepared and distributed to the sample of 120 working mothers and 80 non-working mothers selected from various industrial areas. The collected data was organized and analyzed according to the objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Findings

1. 55% of the mothers opined that their sons are better in studies than their daughters. Whereas 45% of them opined that their daughters are far better than their sons in studies. 64.17% of the working mothers spare only 1-2 hours for the studies of their children. Whereas 25.83% and 10% spend only 2-3 hours and 3 hours respectively to look after the studies of their children.
2. In case of non-working mothers it is bit different since it is indicated by the higher percentage that is 33.75% of non-working mothers spend 1-2 hours, 36.25% spend 2-3 hours and 30% spend 3 hours respectively in respect of education of their children. 75.5% of

the respondents indicated their satisfaction towards private tutors looking after the education of their children. Whereas, only 24.5% indicated their dissatisfaction with regard to this.

3. Major percentage of respondents reported that they take extra care and give special guidance to their children when they are in class IX and X respectively. Further they reported that during the annual examination in most of the cases either of the parents avail leave so as to facilitate their children to appear the examinations most conveniently and successfully.
4. 89.17% of the respondents pointed out that their working hampers the education of their children. But 10.33% reported that their working actually has no effect on the education of their children. 66% of the respondents expressed their satisfaction with regard to the care taken by the others available at home regarding their children in their absence. Whereas, 34% of them pointed out that they are not satisfied with the care taken by the maids or other family members in respect of their children when actually they are not available at home during the office hours.
5. 92.5% of the working mothers reported to get less time to look after the studies of their children. But 83.75% of the non-working mothers reported to get sufficient time in this regard. 90.5% of the respondents opined that if they get more time, the educational achievements of their children would be definitely better.
6. 91.66% of the working mothers have their opinion that their earning facilitates better educational facilities to their children since they can arrange for tutorial facilities, providing reference books of qualitative nature etc. Whereas, 62.5% of the non-working mothers opined that their children are deprived of better educational facilities since they do not earn. On the other hand, 37.5% of the non-working mothers do not agree with this.
7. Last but not the least, the result of the present study indicate that there is a significant difference between the academic achievement in respect of the children of the working and non-working mothers.

Recommendations

On the basis of the study findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Since the present study includes only 120 working mothers and 80 non-working mothers selected from the different industrial areas and its nearby areas of Upper Assam, the summary fartherly intended on a large sample. And a comparative study may be conducted on the

same subject covering both industrial and non-industrial of Upper Assam.

2. Since in the present study only percentage have been calculated for analyzing data, the future researchers may apply some other valid statistical techniques in order to deduce better conclusion and findings.
3. Further research may use better tools like rating scale etc. for conducting similar type of study, so as to get more reliable and valid result.

Implications

1. The study indicates that working mothers do not get sufficient time to look after the education of their children and for their better academic achievement. Therefore, it may be suggested that both father and the mother should give equal attention to the children, provide better guidance towards their education.
2. The families where mothers are working, fathers should be cooperative enough with the mothers so that children can get better educational facilities. If it is a joint family, other people also should be equally cooperative with the mother so as to facilitate her to take rest and also care with regard to education of her children.
3. The study further reveals that sons are better in studies than the daughters. Mother should therefore, take enough care in this regard and pay attention to the education of their daughters. It also reveals that mothers spend only 1-2 hours for the education of their children which is very less. Therefore, it may be suggested that mother should be more careful in given sufficient time to their children, so as to help them towards better academic achievement.
4. It is observed from the study that in comparison to non-working mothers, working mothers depend mostly on private tutors for the education of their children which is always not desirable on the part of the children. Therefore, the mothers should always monitor the education of their children.
5. Since the study has reported that mother's working hampers studies of their children, hence, working mothers should be more careful as well as they should take extra care and at times should sacrifice other benefit keeping in view the significance of the education of their children.
6. It is clear that majority of working mothers are unable to pay more attention towards betterment of education of their children as they have difficult nature of duties. Even they have to compromise their timings with regards to education of their children as they cannot

get back the childhood and young hood period of their children again.

Conclusion

1. A major section of the working mothers have the opinion that since their earning is supportive to a great extent for having better facilities in learning of the children, so the children should be cooperative with the parents. The children should be serious enough in their studies. Some has reported that as the children remain alone at home for quite long time so parents should also be cooperative and friendly with their children.
2. Some findings also revealed that along with school the parents should shoulder responsibilities of imparting knowledge of good manner, discipline and sincerity at home at the very early period of life. Some suggestion came in this way that along with scholastic activities some non-scholastic may also be incorporated.
3. Some of the findings also reveals that the children of working mothers become self sufficient in various aspects as they have to perform various activities which otherwise non-working mothers used to perform for their children. It has also been reported that as mother whether working or non-working, it should be always in the mind that very young children are dependent on others, so they should be trained how to perform all his basic activities to get himself ready to develop good attitude.
4. It is also revealed from the study that the working mothers shall have to labour hard both physically and mentally to maintain a balance between the family including child care and their studies and usual office work.

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