



A Comparative Study of Reasoning Ability of Children of Working and Non-Working Mothers

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ABSTRACT

In the present study a comparative study of reasoning ability of children of working and non-working mothers has been made. Sample for the study consists of 200 students (100 children of working mothers and 100 children of non-working mothers), studying in B.Com final year. Shailja Bhagwat Reasoning Ability Test (2010) was used to measure the reasoning ability of the sample. Results revealed that reasoning ability of the children of working mothers was higher than the reasoning ability of the children of non-working mothers.

KEYWORDS : reasoning ability

INTRODUCTION

Man is a rational animal. He takes decisions in everyday life on the basis of reasoning. Reasoning refers to drawing conclusions or inferences from informations. Reasoning always requires going beyond the information that is given (Bruner, 1957). In logic, an inference is called deductive if the truth of the initial information guarantees the truth of the conclusions. The inference is called inductive if the truth of the premises makes the conclusion probable but not certain. Distinction between deductive and inductive reasoning can be important in understanding logic but in practice, these distinction may exist more in the mind of the researcher developing a task than in the performance of examines on that task. Many researchers have found that performance on deductive and inductive test is strongly related (Wilhelm, 2005). Reasoning is closely allied with other domains of inquiry in psychology. Reasoning, problem solving and decision making represent different but overlapping aspects of human intelligence. Although interrelated, research on each of these three aspects of thinking is enormous (e.g., Holyoak and Morrison, 2005).

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Some mothers may choose to stay at home and adopt the traditional homemaker role. Others might prefer to work outside home, living life to its full potential. When choosing between staying at home and working outside, mothers tend to analyse what's best for their children. There can be both negative and positive effects of working mothers on their children. While working moms can teach their children some invaluable life skills, they can also make the child feel neglected at times. The present study tend to find out the differences in reasoning ability of the children of working and non- working mothers.

Data from earlier UK studies had indicated a small disadvantage in literacy among children born before the mid 1990's whose mothers had worked in their earlier years. However, recent analysis of data on those born since the mid 1990,s found that this disadvantage had disappeared for these younger generations. Professor Joshi of the center of longitudinal studies, Institute of education, University of London, researcher working on six sets of longitudinal data had followed the lives of around 40000 children in total over a period of 40 years. The earlier analyses had associated working mothers with small disadvantage for children academically, she said. The negative estimates were modest- only a few percentage points lower than when compared with the children whose mother had not worked – but were statistically significant. However, there had since been a generational change and this pattern was not seen in their latter data which she had recently analysed.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To compare the reasoning ability of the children of working and non-working mothers.

HYPOTHESIS

There will be no significant difference between reasoning ability of the children of working and non-working mothers.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study is delimited to the students studying in B.Com final year.
2. The study is delimited to the students studying in different colleges of Durg District.

TOOLS

For the present study the data were collected with respect to Reasoning ability of the children. For assessing the reasoning ability of the students, Shailja Bhagwat Reasoning Ability Test (SBRAT) (2010) constructed by dr. (Smt.) Shailja Bhagwat was used. The reliability by test re-test and split half method was 0.74 and 0.79 respectively.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

All the students studying in B.Com final year, during the session 2014-2015 in Durg District constitute the population for the present study.

Stratified Random sampling technique was employed to select the sample for the present study. Sample for the study consists of 200 students (100 children of working mothers and 100 children of non-working mothers), studying in B.Com final year in different colleges of Durg District.

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

The data collected with respect to the present study were treated statistically. The obtained means, standard deviation and t value has been presented in the table below:

Working status of Mothers	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	T
Working Mothers	100	17.5700	3.53983	8.488**
Non-Working Mothers	100	12.7400	4.45544	

The t- value of 8.488 employed between reasoning ability scores of working and non-working mothers was found to be significant at .01 level of significance. This shows that the mean reasoning ability score of working and non-working mothers differ significantly. Therefore, the null hypothesis stated as, "There will be no significant difference between reasoning ability of the children of working and non-working mothers," is rejected. Thus it can be concluded that there exist a significant difference in the reasoning ability of children of working and non-working mothers.

Further, to find out whether children of working mothers or children of non-working mothers have higher level of reasoning ability, means was calculated. Mean of reasoning ability scores of children of working mothers was found to be 17.57 which is higher than the means of reasoning ability scores of children of non-working mother, this

reveals that the reasoning ability of the children of working mothers was found to be higher than the reasoning ability of the children of non-working mothers.

FINDING

Reasoning ability of the children of working mothers was found to be higher than the reasoning ability of the children of non-working mothers.

DISCUSSION

If the mothers are working the children become more independent as they have to do most of their work independently in absence of their mothers, which improves the problem solving ability, thinking capacity and problem solving ability of the children which in turn improves their reasoning ability. This may be the reason that the reasoning ability of the children of working mothers was found to be higher than the reasoning ability of the children of non-working mothers. A working mother with some sense of accomplishment and satisfaction can serve as a good role model for her kids. Children can get inspired to pursue their dreams and ambitions. Moms who effectively manage their work and family can instill good work ethics into their kids, they encourage their kids to take responsibility and hence the kids learn various skills and raising independent children, prepares them for the real world and inculcates in them sense of responsibility.

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