



## PARENTING STYLE OF WORKING AND NON-WORKING MOTHER – A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Gaja Lakshmi.S\*

Ph.D. Research scholar, Government Arts College, Coimbatore.  
\*Corresponding Author

### ABSTRACT

Parenting style is a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child-rearing. Parenting styles are the representation of how parents respond to and make demands on their children. The present study attempts to find out the parenting style of working and non-working mothers. For this study 100 college students were randomly selected from three different colleges in Coimbatore city. The sample age range from 18 to 23 years and the mean age is 22.35 years. The personal details such as family type, rural/urban have been gathered by using demographic profile form and the parenting scale inventory developed by Nancy Douling and Tera Toyokawam (1997) was used to gather the information regarding the parental style. The parenting scale inventory includes three subscales (responsiveness, autonomy granting and demandingness). The collected data were statistically analyzed with the help of mean, standard deviation and 't'-test. The results of the analysis showed that there is a significant difference in the responsiveness dimension, there is no significant difference seen in the other two dimensions autonomy granting and demandingness of parenting style of working and non-working mother. And there exists no significant difference seen in the parenting style of mothers who hail from either nuclear or joint family system.

**KEYWORDS :** Parenting Style, Working Mothers, Non-Working Mothers

### INTRODUCTION:

A parenting style is a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in their child rearing. The quality of parenting can be more essential than the quantity of time spent with the child. For instance, a parent can spend an entire afternoon with his or her child, yet the parent may be engaging in a different activity and not demonstrating enough interest towards the child. Parenting styles are the representation of how parents respond to and make demands on their children. *Spera, Christopher (2005).*

The most widely known categories of parenting styles are based on the work of Diana Baumrind. She identified three initial parenting styles: Authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting and permissive parenting.

#### Authoritative

The parent is demanding and responsive. When this style is systematically developed, it grows to fit the descriptions propagative parenting and concerted cultivation.

Authoritative parenting is characterized by a child-centred approach that holds high expectations of maturity. Authoritative parents can understand how their children are feeling and teach them how to regulate their feelings. Even with high expectations of maturity, authoritative parents are usually forgiving of any possible shortcomings, *Kathleen (2011)*. Authoritative parents will set clear standards for their children, monitor the limits that they set, and also allow children to develop autonomy.

#### Authoritarian

The parent is demanding but not responsive. Authoritarian parenting is a restrictive, punishment-heavy parenting style in which parents make their children follow their directions with little to no explanation or feedback and focus on the child's and family's perception and status. *Santrock, J.W. (2007)*. Corporal punishment, such as spanking, and shouting are forms of discipline frequently preferred by authoritarian parents.

#### Indulgent Or Permissive

The parent is responsive but not demanding.

Indulgent parenting, also called permissive, non-directive, lenient or libertarian, is characterized as having few behavioural expectations for the child. "Indulgent parenting is

a style of parenting in which parents are very involved with their children but place few demands or controls on them" *Michael (1987)*. Parents are nurturing and accepting, and are responsive to the child's needs and wishes.

#### Purpose Of The Study

Most studies, mainly in Anglophone countries, have shown that children with authoritative parents have the best outcomes in different areas (behaviour, mental and social adjustment...) *Darling, Nancy (1999)*. The case might be different, however, for Asian populations, where the authoritarian style was found as good as the authoritative one. On the other hand, some studies have found a superiority of the indulgent style in Spain *García, F. (2004)*. *Portugal Fernando (2011)* More recently a study has shown that in Spain, while using the same questionnaire used in other countries, the authoritative style continues to be the best one for children *Marta (2016)*. Furthermore, a systematic review has shown that the results don't depend on the culture but on the instruments used: studies measuring control as coercion find a detrimental effect of such control on adolescents, and better outcomes for children of permissive parents; however, when behavioural control is measured, such control is positive, and authoritative parents get the best results *Charo (2019)*. In reviewing the literature on parenting, it's clear that various parenting style play a vital role in child's performance in various domains. As there is not much research studies on Indian parents in Indian context that to among the working mothers, hence the main purpose of this study was to examine the parenting styles of working and non working mothers.

#### Objective Of The Study:

The main objective of the present study is to examine the parenting style of working and non working mothers as perceived by their children.

#### Hypotheses:

Following hypothesis has been proposed:

1. There will be no significant difference in the parenting style of working and non-working mothers.
2. There will be no significant difference in the parenting style of working mothers who hails from rural and urban areas.
3. There will be no significant difference in the parenting style of non-working mothers who hails from rural and urban areas.
4. There will be no significant difference in the parenting

style of working mothers who hails from nuclear and joint family.

- There will be no significant difference in the parenting style of non-working mothers who hails from nuclear and joint family.

**Sample:**

A total of one hundred and sixty samples randomly drawn from three different colleges were initially approached and appraised about the objective of the study. Out of 160 students only 130 were agreed to cooperate fully and scale was given to them. For the final analysis only hundred sample data was considered.

**Tools Used:**

The following scales have been used for the purpose of data collection.

- Demographic profile form.
- Parenting Style Inventory II (Nancy Douling and Tera Toyokawa 1997)

**Description Of The Tools:**

Parenting Style Inventory- II consists of 15 questions with three dimensions. Responsiveness, Autonomy- granting and Demandingness. The scales were individually handed over to the subjects with the following instructions. "Below are the statements that pertain to general life outcomes, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement out of five response. The five responses are, Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agrees and disagrees, Agree, Strongly agree

**Scoring:**

The five alternatives responses Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agrees and disagrees, Agree, Strongly agree were scored as 5,4,3,2,1 for the items c, d, e, g, h, j, k, m, n and for the items a, b, f, i, l, o, scoring was reversed.

**RESULTS:**

**Table 1 : Showing The Distribution Of The Samples**

S.No	Group	Living status/family type	N
( Age range from:18to23)Mean age:22.35			
1.	Children of Working Mother	Rural- Nuclear Family	12
		Rural- Joint Family	9
		Urban-Nuclear Family	26
		Urban-Joint Family	3
Total	50		
2.	Children of Non-Working Mother	Rural- Nuclear Family	16
		Rural- Joint Family	6
		Urban-Nuclear Family	24
		Urban-Joint Family	4
Total	50		
Grand Total	100		

Results shows that no significant difference between working and non-working mother

**Table 2: Showing The't' Score Of Working And Non-working Mother**

Group	N	Dimension of parenting style			Overall scale
		Responsiveness	Autonomy Granting	Demandingness	
Working mother	50				
VS		1.18*	1.45*	0.14*	0.624*
Non-Working Mother	50				

df: 98 \*Not significant

**Table 3:'t' Score Showing The Mean Difference In Parenting Style Of Working Mother Who Hails From Rural And Urban Areas.**

Group	N	Dimension of parenting style			Overall scale
		Responsiveness	Autonomy Granting	Demandingness	
Working mother	21				
Who hails from	+	2.80**	0.65*	0.17	0.114*
Rural and urban Area	29				

df: 48 \*Not significant \*\*Significant beyond 0.01 level

**Table 4:'t' Score Showing The Mean Difference In Parenting Style Of Non-working Mother Who Hails From Rural And Urban Areas.**

Group	N	Dimension of parenting style			Overall scale
		Responsiveness	Autonomy Granting	Demandingness	
Non-Working	22				
Who hails from	+	1.12*	0.45*	0.69*	0.58*
Rural and urban Area	28				

df: 48 \*Not significant

**Table 5:'t' Score Showing The Mean Difference In Parenting Style Of Working Mother Who Hails From Nuclear And Join Family -**

Group	N	Dimension of parenting style			Overall scale
		Responsiveness	Autonomy Granting	Demandingness	
Working mother	38				
Who hails from	+	1.024*	0.198*	0.44*	0.049*
Nuclear and join Family	12				

df: 48 \*Not significant

**Table 6:'t' Score Showing The Mean Difference In Parenting Style Of Non-working Mother Who Hails From Nuclear And Join Family.**

Group	N	Dimension of parenting style			Overall scale
		Responsiveness	Autonomy Granting	Demandingness	
Non-Working	40				
Who hails from Nuclear and join Family	10	0.65*	0.256*	0.025*	1.46*

df: 48 \*Not significant

## DISCUSSION

The findings of the study reveal that significance of the mean differences of all groups in all dimensions of parenting style has been worked out using 't' test and the results reveals that there is no significant difference between working and non-working mothers in all dimensions of parenting style, as stated in hypothesis The mean value of non-working mother group is little higher than the working mother group in all dimension of parenting style, this may suggest that the working mother may not seems to be very strict in their parenting role.

On verifying the mean difference in the parenting style of working mothers who hails from a rural and urban area, highlight that except in Responsiveness dimension, there was no significant difference was seen between these two groups. The significant difference in the responsiveness dimension suggests that the working mothers' hailing from a rural area does seem to be more responsive to their children than the mothers hailing from urban areas.

The reason could be attributed to the traditional value systems being still adopted in rural areas. Neither of the working mother hailing from both rural and urban does demand or grant autonomy to their children to function independently. This is the typical Indian way of culturing the mind of younger ones.

## CONCLUSION

The research concluded that, whether a mother is working or non-working or based on rural or urban area, or she may from joint or nuclear family, a mother is a mother, her bonding towards the ward is not different, though there may be slight difference.

## REFERENCES

1. Baumrind, D. (1966). Child care practices anteceding three patterns of preschool behaviour. *Genetic Psychology Monographs*, 75(1), 43-88.
2. Charo (2019). "Measurement and Function of the Control Dimension in Parenting Styles: A Systematic Review". *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 16 (17): 3157.
3. Darling, Nancy (1999). "Parenting style and its correlates" (PDF). ERIC Digest. ED427896. Archived (PDF) from the original on 2017-01-18. Retrieved 2016-09-30.
4. Garcia, Fernando (2013-03-11). "Parenting and Adolescents' Self-esteem: The Portuguese Context // Parentalidad y autoestima en la adolescencia: El contexto portugués". *Journal of Psychodidactics*. 18(2): 395-416.
5. Lee SM, Daniels MH, Kissinger DB(2009). Parental influences on adolescent adjustment: Parenting styles versus parenting practices. *The Family Journal*. ;14:253-259. doi: 10.1177/1066480706287654.
6. Nicole R. Bush, Liliانا J. Lengua, and Craig R. Colder (2008) "Temperament as a moderator of the relation between neighborhood and children's adjustment" *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 31(5): 351-361
7. Spera, Christopher ( 2005). "A Review of the Relationship Among Parenting Practices, Parenting Styles, and Adolescent School Achievement". *Educational Psychology Review*. 17 (2): 125-146.
8. Wang, R., Bianchi, S. M., & Raley, S. B. (2005). Teenagers' Internet use and family rules: A research note. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67(5), 1249-1258.