



## BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE SCHOOLERS OF EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED MOTHERS IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT - A SCHOOL BASED STUDY

**Nursing**

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### ABSTRACT

A descriptive-comparative study was conducted to compare the behavioural problems of schoolers of employed and unemployed mothers and to find out the association between the behavioural problems of schoolers of employed and unemployed mothers with selected demographic variables. Sample size was 200 (Group A: 100 schoolers of employed mothers and Group B: 100 schoolers of unemployed mothers). Through simple random sampling method ie lottery method, samples were selected. The tool used for the study had two sections. Section A had two parts such as self-administered questionnaire on demographic variables for schoolers and parents and Section B was Jodi-Palloha child behavior checklist. The study was conducted in Dr. GR Public School Neyyattinkara. The mean behavioural problem of schoolers of employed mother was 35.64 where as in schoolers of unemployed mother, it was 24.36. The calculated t value was 46.72 and p value was 1.96 at 0.05 level. The study concluded that there was a significant difference between the behavioral problems of schoolers of employed and unemployed mothers.

### KEYWORDS

schoolers; employed mother; unemployed mothers; behavioural problems.

### INTRODUCTION

A child's behavioral problem represent a conflict between his developing personality and that of his parents, teachers and siblings and of other children with whom he comes into contact (Mainiero and Sullivan 2005). Behavior problems in young children are common and usually load on two major dimensions described as internalizing (i.e., withdrawal, fearfulness, sadness, and somatic problems) and externalizing (i.e., hyperactivity, inattention, aggression, defiance) factors (Achenbach et al. 1991). Distinct externalizing and internalizing symptom clusters have been shown from an early age and tend to precede later psychopathological problems (Gilliom and Shaw 2004).

Symptoms from both types (internalizing and externalizing) may also occur from an early age of onset and morbidity is high throughout the period of childhood and adolescence. 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.

A study conducted on behavior problems among 200 preschool children in New Delhi revealed that 22% of them had behavioral problems. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report states that during the past two decades, there have been marked changes in inpatient services for preschool children with behavioral problems. 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.

Studies conducted in developed countries have shown that child conduct or behavior problems have negative impacts on children's social, educational and economic performance in later life (Fergusson DM, Horwood LJ, Ridder EM, 2005). Childhood behavior problems also predict involvement in anti-social behavior in adulthood (Kessler RC, et al, 2007). Nowadays in many communities parents are more anxious towards their preschool children's behavioral problems due to less attention or negligence or ignorance. There is a need for increased research in low-income settings to increase understanding of child behavior problems in order to explore feasible, acceptable, and effective ways of addressing such problems.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The objectives of the study were to compare the behavioural problems of schoolers of employed and unemployed mothers and to find out the association between the behavioural problems of schoolers of employed and unemployed mothers with selected demographic variables. This study was based on Kathryn. E. Bernad's child health assessment interaction model. The research design adopted for this study was non experimental descriptive-comparative study design. Sample size was 200 (Group A: 100 schoolers of employed mothers

and Group B: 100 schoolers of unemployed mothers). Through simple random sampling method ie lottery method, samples were selected. The tool used for the study had two sections. Section A had two parts such as self-administered questionnaire on demographic variables for schoolers and parents and Section B was Jodi-Palloha child behavior checklist. The study was conducted in Dr. GR Public School Neyyattinkara in South Kerala. Written informed consent was obtained from them after explaining the nature and purpose of the study. Assurance was given regarding the confidentiality of the data. As per the schedule they gathered in the auditorium between 2pm-4pm Data were collected from the mothers from 22.01.2019 to 30.01.2019 self-administered questionnaire and Jodi-Palloha Child Behaviour Checklist was distributed and instructions were given to the mothers to fill the tool. They co-operated very well and researcher conveyed gratitude towards the participants and concerned institution.

### RESULTS

#### Socio Demographic Data

Majority ie 57% and 60% schoolers were female in both the groups respectively. Regarding the birth order, the majority ie 54% and 63% of schoolers in Group A and B was the second child of the family. In terms of no of siblings, majority ie 54% and 63% in both the groups had one sibling. Regarding the dietary habit 89% and 91% in both groups were non-vegetarians. About the habitat, majority ie, 73% and 56% in both the groups respectively stays in urban area. With regard to type of family, 74% in Group A and 59% in Group B belongs to nuclear family. All schoolers in both the groups have engaged themselves in play activities. None of the parents reported to have the history of previous behavioural problem in their children.

Majority ie 36% of mothers in Group A (Schoolers of employed mothers) were between the 31-35 years and 41% were between 36-40 years in Group B (Schoolers of unemployed mothers). In terms of education of mothers, 48% of them were graduates in Group A and 59% have studied upto high school in Group B. About the education of father 60% were graduates in Group A and 53% have studied upto higher secondary in Group B. In terms of occupation of mothers, majority ie 56% was Government employee in Group A and 100% were unemployed in Group B. About the occupation of father, all of them (100%) were employed in Group A and Group B. In case of family monthly income, majority ie, 86% had the monthly income above 2250 in Group A and 62% had the monthly income below 2250 in Group B. In terms of marital status, all of them (100%) were married in Group A and B. In case of history of behavior problems, none of the children's parents in group A and B had the history of behaviour problems.

#### Behavioral Problems Among Subjects

**Table 1: Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Samples Based On Behavioural Problems (n=200)**

| Sl no | Level Of Behavioural Problems | Employed mother |    | Unemployed mother |    |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----|-------------------|----|
|       |                               | f               | %  | f                 | %  |
| 1.    | Mild                          | 32              | 32 | 81                | 81 |

|    |          |    |    |    |    |
|----|----------|----|----|----|----|
| 2. | Moderate | 68 | 68 | 19 | 19 |
| 3. | Severe   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |

Table 1 shows that majority i.e. 68 % of schoolers of employed mothers had moderate and 81 % of schoolers of unemployed had mild behavioural problems. None of the schoolers in both the group had severe behavioural problems.

**Table 2: Comparison Of Behavioral Problems Among Schoolers (n=200)**

| Group   | Mean  | Standard deviation | Degree of freedom | Level of significance | t value |
|---------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Group A | 35.64 | 5.94               | 198               | 0.05                  | 46.72*  |
| Group B | 24.36 | 4.91               |                   |                       |         |

The calculated t value is 46.72 and p value was 1.96 at 0.05 level.

#### · Association Between The Behavioral Problems Of Schoolers And Selected Demographic Variables.

Association between the behavioral problems of schoolers and selected demographic variables of schoolers shows there was a significant association between the behavioural problems of schoolers and selected demographic variable of schooler such as gender and habitat.

#### DISCUSSION

Majority i.e. 68 % of schoolers of employed mothers had moderate and 81 % of schoolers of unemployed had mild behavioural problems. None of the schoolers in both the group had severe behavioural problems. This shows that maternal presence may make the child to feel quiet comfortable and reduce the risk of behavioural problems.

These findings are supported by a study conducted by Ancy Alexander and Shetty in Mangalore to assess the emotional problems of children of working mothers. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 150 samples from two schools. Data were collected using behavioural rating scale and emotional rating scale. Majority of the children of working mothers had moderate behavioural problems i.e. 82%, 10.66% had mild behavioural problems, and 17.33% had mild emotional problems. Only one child had severe emotional problems. It was also found that the mean percentage score of various behavioural problems of children of the working mothers was maximum i.e. 52.33% for the problem of personality disorder whereas it was least i.e. 0.33% for antisocial behaviour. The mean percentage score of emotional problems was maximum i.e. 66.5% for anxiety and least i.e. 2.66% for jealousy. For conduct disorder, adjustment problems, habit disorder, and educational difficulties, it was 42.4%, 40%, 29.8%, and 49.8%, respectively. For fear, anger and irritability, depression, sleeping disturbances, and feeling of loneliness it was 33%, 39.87%, 60%, 30.5%, and 50%, respectively.

The study concluded that behavioral problem more prevalent in employed mother than the unemployed mothers.

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