



Personality amongst Children of Employed and Unemployed Mothers

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Abstract

The main objective of this investigation is to study the Personality amongst Children of employed and Unemployed Mothers. The sample consisted of 120 children of unemployed mothers and 120 children of employed mothers in Varanasi City with age range of 9 to 16 years. Multi-dimensional Personality Inventory constructed by Manju Agrawal and the same by researcher, Madhavi Srivastava was used to collect data. Obtained data was analyzed by using t-test. Results revealed that there was no significant difference in the personality dimensions like extroversion Introversion, self concept, independence-dependence adjustment, anxiety and overall personality at any level of confidence. Only temperament dimension of personality will be significant in both the groups.

Keywords: Employed mothers, Personality, Unemployed mothers.

1. Introduction

Personality can be conceptualized from a variety of theoretical perspective and at various level of abstractions or breadth each of which can make unique contribution to understanding of the complexities in human behavior and experience. Scholars have defined the word personality in many ways.

Allport (1937) defined, "Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of these psycho-physical systems that determine his unique adjustment to his environment."

Murphy (1955) defined, "Personality is not the sum or even the integration of separate traits but is unitary made of adjustment in relation to which each specific activity or interest, no matter, how trivial, must be seen."

Trayler (1957) defined personality in his words.....personality will be defined as the sum total of an individual's behavior in social situations. Behavior includes not only overt acts but inward feeling tone produced by the situation as interpreted by the individual through introspection."

An analysis of these views reveals that –

- (i). Personality is the total of biological innate and acquired dispositions.
- (ii). It is a composite of mental abilities interests, attitudes, temperament and other variable characterizing thoughts, feelings and behavior.
- (iii). It is a dynamic organization.
- (iv). It refers to the characteristics behaviour patterns, emotions, motives, thoughts and attitudes with which an individual consistently reacts to the environment in which he is surrounded.

Years ago personality development was not known at least in India. Developed personality inhales dominating nature and uncompromising attitude. Personality included health is wealth, quick decision making, casting and catching the opportunities and ever awakening thinking.

To start again with mothers in employed and unemployed condition we may mention that in India, unlike male, employment is necessarily viewed in the context of their social, marital and familial roles and relationship. When women cross the threshold of their homes to enter the world of paid work their employment is seen as intruding upon their primary responsibility of home making. They are expected to reorganize their traditional roles of wife, mother and homemaker in order to accommodate their "non-traditional" roles as earner. Majority of women in India are engaged in jobs. Their jobs were extended due to their primary roles in the family. When mothers shoulder responsibilities other than child-rearing and home making, their ways of handling children are expected to be different from those of mothers who are full time homemakers mothers. Against this dominant view of motherhood as the major objective of the Indian women's life, the employment status of the mother is expected to have serious consequences for children's personality and emotional development. It was concluded in most studies that the children of employed mother lack attention and proper care, feel neglected and thereby tend to be deficient in their personality development. Most of the studies are conceptualized from the perspective of "mother-blaming" that children of employed mothers were found to be poorly adjusted than those of unemployed mothers (Singh, 1986). While some studies present that mother absence provided children with more opportunities to develop self confidence and sense of exploration, in short, a more favorable environment for the realization of the their creative potential (Asha,1989). The present study denotes to investigate the personality amongst children of employed and unemployed mothers.

2. Hypothesis

There will be significant difference between children of employed mothers and those of unemployed mothers on the basis of personality.

3. Methodology

3.1 Sample

The sample for the present study consisted of 120 children of employed mothers and 120 children of unemployed mothers, in the age range of 9 to 16 years. They lived with their parents. Unemployed mothers matched with employed mothers on age and education.

3.2 Tools

Multidimensional personality Inventory developed by researcher was used to measure the personality of (9 to 12 years) late childhood, and same by Inventory developed by Manju Agrawal was administered to measure personality of (14 to 26 years) adolescent.

3.3 Procedure

For the purpose of the study the data were collected from both the groups of children. The information obtained from the subjects and was systematically analyzed. The sample was matched on age, sex and education. An ex-post facto research design was used. t-test was applied to see the significance of the test.

4. Result and discussion

In order to find out differences the children of employed mothers and children of unemployed mothers on the basis of personality 't' ratio was computed. The obtained data revealed that there are not significant group differences in the personality dimension such as extroversion, introversion, self concept, independence-dependence, adjustment, anxiety and overall personality. Only temperament dimension of personality was found to differ significantly in both the groups. The results are present in table.

Table: Personality as reported by different groups

| Dimensions | Group | N | M | SD | T | P |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|
| Extroversion- Introversion - | Group-I | 120 | 37.08 | 4.94 | 1.59 | NS |
| | Group-II | 120 | 38.09 | 4.83 | | |
| Self Concept | Group-I | 120 | 48.02 | 6.31 | 0.77 | NS |
| | Group-II | 120 | 48.08 | 7.04 | | |
| Independence Dependence | Group-I | 120 | 47.30 | 5.45 | 1.02 | NS |
| | Group-II | 120 | 46.59 | 5.28 | | |
| Temperament | Group-I | 120 | 48.88 | 5.19 | 4.34 | .01 |
| | Group-II | 120 | 46.17 | 4.92 | | |
| Adjustment | Group-I | 120 | 49.48 | 5.76 | 1.32 | NS |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-----|--------|-------|------|----|
| | Group-II | 120 | 50.39 | 4.85 | | |
| Anxiety | Group-I | 120 | 36.84 | 6.93 | 0.33 | NS |
| | Group-II | 120 | 36.55 | 6.67 | | |
| Total | Group-I | 120 | 263.60 | 16.66 | 1.05 | NS |
| | Group-II | 120 | 265.80 | 15.70 | | |

Note: Group-I= Children of unemployed mothers.

Group-II = Children of employed mothers.

Table indicates that children of employed mothers scored slightly higher than the children of unemployed mothers. The obtained 't' value is found to be not significant. Only temperament dimension of personality was found to be significant in both the group at 0.01 level of confidence. It means the children of employed mothers have good temperament in comparison to children of unemployed mothers (Fig.).

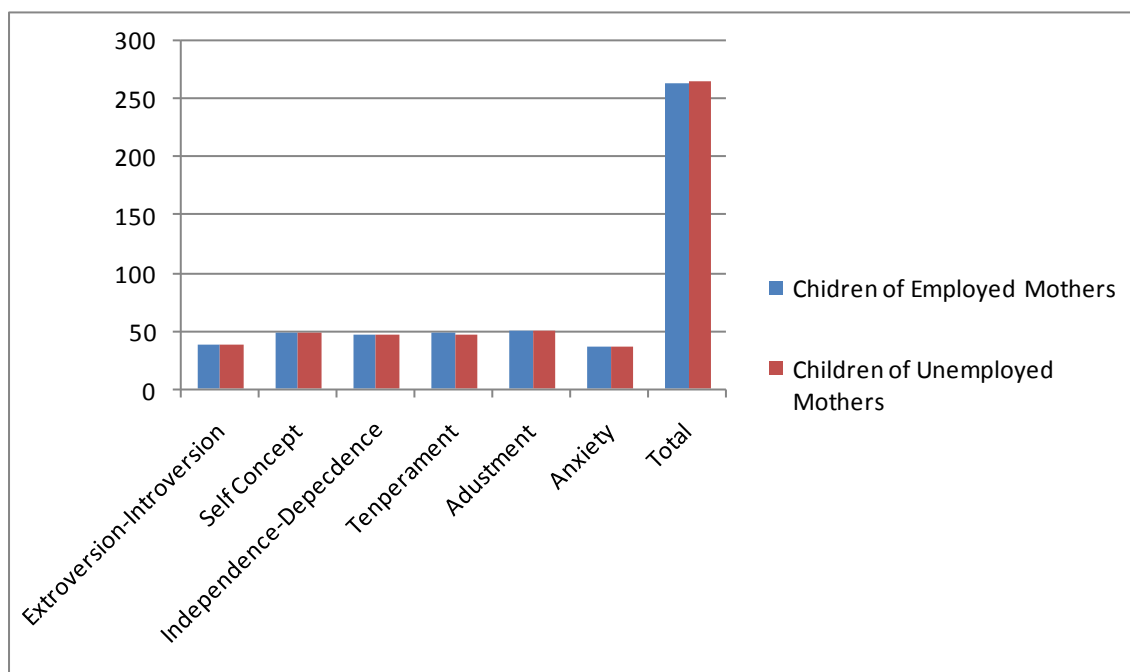


Fig. : Mean Scores of Personality of Employed and Unemployed Mother's Children

This is in accordance with the previous studies conducted by Hyde, Quest, Goldsmith and Biesanz (2004). They investigated spilt over from the mother role to the work role in a

sample of more than 300 families. At 4 months, 12 months, 3.5 years and 4.5 years of age, Childs difficult temperament was significantly associated with mother's work outcomes, including work role quality and rewards from combining work and family. The evidence was consistent with a structural model in which maternal sense of parenting competence and maternal depressed affect mediated these effects. On account of slightly higher scored, hypothesis was rejected. This could be due to fact that the selected sample was matched on age, sex and education. This result is supported by Burchimal (1976) reported that maternal employment had no relation with the selected personality characteristics and social relation patterns of children Nelson (1978) indicated that no significance difference in the personality adjustment of children of working and non-working mothers.

Observations, findings and subsequent conclusions of this study summarizes that there were insignificant difference between the two segments due to age group of 9 to 16 years. If it is conducted on children of progressively increasing age groups, study may throw more light on the impact of personality amongst children of both groups.

5. Conclusion

Conclusively, it is further mentioned that children of employed mothers are neglected due to lack of parental Umbrella, attention and proper care. They feel insecure, loneliness and poorly adjusted in comparison to those of full time homemaker ladies. But today it is disputed because of modernization and globalization. Child is the father of the nation, their growth; development, procurement, achievement and enhancement are of prime consideration. They should be carefully nourished in every walks of life for their all round development.

Due to environmental, social and political changes and all round economic development has brought intelligencia changes. Now it is found that hostels are successful in their career making where parental outlooks lack except monitory assistance. So this is doubtful statement that service/ working mothers neglect the security of children. India is now been invaded by western changes or ideology. This believes in freedom to eat, freedom to live, and all round freedom which does not like control on it. This does not mean that children should be paid proper attention. They take care of (him/her) themselves.

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