

Assessing the Child–Parent Relationship Between Working and Non-working Mothers in a Selected Community of Bhubaneswar

Kshirabdhi Tanaya^{1*}, Sakuntala Giri², Meghna Mishra³, Subhashree Moharana³

Abstract

Introduction: Two categories of mothers exist: those who work outside the home, referred to as working mothers, and those who stay at home, often described as housewives. Working mothers may allocate quality time to their children, even if the amount of time is not necessarily large. On the other hand, non-working mothers not only manage household responsibilities but also provide care for their children and the entire family. **Methods:** A non-experimental comparative research was carried out in the Baramunda urban community, aiming to achieve the following objectives: 1. Assess child–parent relationships in both working and non-working mothers. 2. Compare child–parent relationships between working and non-working mothers. 3. Investigate potential associations between child–parent relationships in working and non-working mothers and various demographic variables. The study involved a total of 100 participants who were selected using a non-probability purposive sampling method. **Results:** In analysis, study result revealed that the majority (82%) of working mothers were having average level of child parent relationship and 76% of non-working mothers were having average level of child parent relationship. Result also evaluated that there was significant association between level of child–parent relationship in working mothers with type of job ($\chi^2=7.027$, $p=0.008$), type of family ($\chi^2=5.767$, $p=0.016$) and the significant association found between level of child–parent relationship in non-working mothers with type of family ($\chi^2=4.778$, $p=0.043$). **Discussion:** In 2017, the researcher concluded that children with non-working mothers exhibit superior social, emotional, and domestic adjustment compared to children with working mothers. **Conclusion:** Study concluded that there is average level of child parent relationship among both working and non-working mothers.

Keywords: Working mother, quantitative, non-working mother, child–parent relationship

*Author for Correspondence

Kshirabdhi Tanaya
E-mail: ktktanaya@gmail.com

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

³Nursing Officer, Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

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INTRODUCTION

In a family, children are an important part and future of life. They need care, love, support and emotional interaction which is very valuable, and this responsibility is always carried by mother and other family members who are staying with the children [1]. Mother tends to be the primary caregiver for the children rather other members in family. In her role as a mother, she holds a crucial position in every stage of her children's lives, with the responsibility for ensuring their holistic development, encompassing physical, social, emotional, and cognitive well-being [2].

There are two kind of mothers who are working outside home; working mother or who are non-working mother (Housewives). Most of the women

who are educated are working outside and the time that she gives to her child may not quantitative but that time may really qualitative [3]. In the scenario of non-working mothers, they manage household chores, in addition to overseeing the care of their children and the well-being of all family members [4].

However, a study revealed that the children of non-working mothers were excited, tender hearted, sensitive and more protected [5]. Therefore, a study is conducted to know more about what is the actual child–parent relationship among working mothers and non-working mothers [6]. It is essential for them to be attentive to ensure the improvement of our society in accordance with children's rights, as children should receive proper and diligent nurturing. As members of the nursing profession, our first and foremost duty and responsibility are to emphasize the needs of children who require adjustment [7]. Each mother cares for and loves her children to support their comprehensive development. However, a mother's neglectful behavior towards her children may steer them in the wrong direction, resulting in maladaptive behavior or social adjustment problems [8].

In contemporary times, an increasing number of women are pursuing higher education and, as a result, they often choose to work outside the home and become self-reliant, rather than solely being homemakers. In such cases, the responsibility of caring for their children falls on other family members or caretakers when they are not available [9, 10].

However, study revealed that the children of non-working mothers were excited, tender hearted, sensitive and more protected [11]. Therefore, researchers were interested in conducting a study related to such kind of relationship among child and parent to know more about what is the actual child–parent relationship among working mothers and non-working mothers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design and Setting

A descriptive survey design was used for the current research study. Data were collected from participants in Baramunda urban community, Bhubaneswar.

Sample

All working and non-working mothers who are reaching the inclusion criteria, residing in selected urban community, Bhubaneswar.

Sample Size

In the present study sample size is 100.

Methods of Data Collection

Before starting the procedure, prior permission was taken from the higher authority of the village and written consent was also taken from the participants. Ethical permission was taken from the respective university for conducting the research study. Self-structured questionnaire was prepared for collecting the data from the participants. One tool was administered to assess the socio-demographic data and another structured tool was used to assess the child–parent relationship. This child–parent relationship questionnaire tool contains total 20 questions. Minimum score is 0 and the highest score is 20. Scoring pattern was like: Poor Knowledge =0–7, Intermediate Knowledge =8–14, and Adequate Knowledge =15–20. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to summarize the variables.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the Frequency (f) and Percentage (%) distribution of samples according to socio-demographic variables like age, education, religion, type of job, duration of work-ship of mother, type of family etc.

Table 1. Frequency (f) and Percentage (%) distribution of samples according to socio-demographic variables.

	Working		Non-working	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
<i>Age (years)</i>				
<30	16	32.0	21	42.0
31–45	34	68.0	23	46.0
≥46	0	0.0	6	12.0
<i>Education</i>				
No formal education	0	0.0	9	18.0
≤Matriculation	0	0.0	34	68.0
Intermediate	0	0.0	7	14.0
Graduate and above	50	100.0	0	0.0
<i>Type of Job</i>				
Private	15	30.0	0	0.0
Government	35	70.0	0	0.0
Self Employed	0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Religion</i>				
Hindu	50	100.0	29	58.0
Muslim	0	0.0	16	32.0
Christian	0	0.0	5	10.0
<i>Duration of Work Shift of Mother</i>				
8 h	50	100.0	0	0.0
<8 h	0	0.0	50	100.0
>8 h	0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Type of Family</i>				
Nuclear	21	42.0	18	36.0
Joint	29	58.0	25	50.0
Extended	0	0.0	7	14.0
<i>Family Income Per Month (Rs.)</i>				
≤10,000	0	0.0	17	34.0
11,000–20,000	6	12.0	16	32.0
21,000–40,000	20	40.0	3	6.0
≥40,000	24	48.0	14	28.0

Table 2 shows that about 82.0% samples were having average level of child–parent relationship and 18.0% were having good level of child–parent relationship in working mothers.

Similarly, 76.0% samples were having average level of child–parent relationship and 24.0% were having good level of child–parent relationship in non-working mothers.

Table 2. Frequency (f) and percentage (%) distribution of level of child–parent relationship among working mothers and non-working mothers (N=100 (n1=50, n2=50)).

Level of Child–parent Relationship	Working		Non-working	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Poor (30–70)	0	0.0	0	0.0
Average (71–110)	41	82.0	38	76.0
Good (111–150)	9	18.0	12	24.0
Total	50	100.0	50	100.0

Table 3 shows that the mean and standard deviation of level of child-parent relationship in working mothers were (2.18±0.38) and non-working mothers were (2.24±0.43), the standard error of working mother was 0.055 and non-working mother was 0.061, with the t-value as 8.72 at df=49 and p value 0.019, which was statistically significant. Therefore, it was determined that the null hypothesis was not supported, and the research hypothesis was validated. Thus, it was indicated that there was a significant difference among working and non-working mothers at 0.05 level of significance.

The data presented in Table 4 shows that Chi square test (χ^2) explores the association between level of child-parent relationship in working mothers with type of job ($\chi^2=7.027$, $p=0.008$), type of family ($\chi^2=5.767$, $p=0.016$).

Table 3. Comparison of level of child-parent relationship in working and non-working mothers by unpaired t-test (N=100 (n1=50, n2=50)).

Group	Mean±SD	SE	t-value	df	p-value
Working	2.18±0.38	0.055	8.72	49	0.019*
Non-working	2.24±0.43	0.061			

$P \leq 0.05^*$ = Significant

Table 4. Chi-square (χ^2) association between the level of child-parent relationship with selected socio-demographic variables in working mothers (N=100 (n1=50, n2=50)).

Variable	Working Mothers			
	Chi-square (χ^2)	df	p-value	Significant
Age (years) <30 31-45 ≥46	2.009	1	0.925	Not Significant
Education No formal education ≤Matriculation Intermediate Graduate and above	1.214	1	0.685	Not Significant
Occupation Working Non-Working	2.046	1	0.718	Not Significant
Type of Job Private Government Self Employed	7.027	1	0.008*	Significant
Religion Hindu Muslim Christian	3.611	1	0.629	Not Significant
Duration of work shift of mother 8 h <8 h >8 h	2.619	1	0.737	Not Significant
Type of family Nuclear Joint Extended	5.767	1	0.016*	Significant
Family income per month (Rs.) ≤10,000 11,000-20,000 21,000-40,000 ≥40,000	1.956	2	0.090	Not Significant

$P \leq 0.05^*$ = Significant.

The data presented in Table 5 shows that, Chi square test (χ^2) explores the association between level of child–parent relationship in non-working mothers with type of family ($\chi^2=4.778$, $p=0.043$).

Table 5. Chi-square association between the level of child–parent relationship with selected socio-demographic variables in non-working mothers (N=100 (n1=50, n2=50)).

Variable	Non-Working Mothers			
	Chi-square (χ^2)	df	p-value	Significant
Age (years) <30 31–45 ≥46	2.850	2	0.326	Not significant
Education No formal education ≤Matriculation Intermediate Graduate and above	1.014	2	0.602	Not significant
Occupation Working Non-Working	1.838	1	0.821	Not significant
Type of Job Private Government Self Employed	1.361	1	0.243	Not significant
Religion Hindu Muslim Christian	2.783	2	0.490	Not significant
Duration of work shift of mother 8 h <8 h >8 h	1.425	1	0.521	Not significant
Type of family Nuclear Joint Extended	4.778	2	0.043*	Significant
Family income per month (Rs.) ≤10,000 11,000–20,000 21,000–40,000 ≥40,000	1.149	3	0.765	Not significant

$P \leq 0.05^* = \text{Significant}$.

DISCUSSION

The current study aimed to evaluate the child–parent relationship between working mothers and non-working mothers in a chosen community, Bhubaneswar. The research employed a non-experimental descriptive survey research design.

The majority of the (82.0%) samples were having average level of child–parent relationship in working mothers and 76.0% samples were having average level of child–parent relationship non-working mothers.

The mean and standard deviation of level of child–parent relationship in working mothers were (2.18±0.38) and non-working mothers were (2.24±0.43), the standard error of working mother was 0.055 and non-working mother was 0.061 with the t-value as 8.72 at df=49 and p value 0.019, which was statistically significant ($p \leq 0.05$).

The Chi square test (χ^2) explores the association between level of child–parent relationship in working mothers with type of job ($\chi^2=7.027$, $p=0.008$), and type of family ($\chi^2=5.767$, $p=0.016$).

The Chi square test (χ^2) explores the association between level of child–parent relationship in non-working mothers with type of family ($\chi^2=4.778$, $p=0.043$).

The children of working mothers and nonworking mothers were the subjects of a similar study to determine how they adjusted. 800 kids from working and nonworking mothers (400 in each group) were randomly chosen for the study's sample from primary schools in the Budgam and Srinagar districts. Data were gathered using the Bells Adjustment Inventory, which Qadri (1964) translated into Urdu, and analyzed using the t-test. For the results to be transparent, bar diagrams and line graphs were created. There is a notable difference in the adjustment of children with working mothers compared to those with non-working mothers. Children of nonworking mothers have been reported to have better social, emotional, and domestic adjustment than children of working mothers. Additionally, it has been discovered that kids with working moms do better financially than kids with stay-at-home moms. The research results also revealed a significant difference in the overall adjustment scores between children of working mothers and children of non-working mothers [12].

CONCLUSION

At the end of this study, it has been concluded that there is average level of child–parent relationship in both working mothers and non-working mothers. Though working mothers are spending less time in home in comparison to non-working mothers but still in both working and non-working mother groups there is average level of relationship with their child as per the study findings.

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Institutional Review Board Statement

Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement

Consent has been taken from the participants.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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