

# THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

## Adjustment of Male and Female Children of Working Mothers

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### **Abstract:**

*The study was undertaken to investigate adjustment among male and female children of working mothers. An incidental sample of 200 school children of Patna town was selected for measuring adjustment of the children. Adjustment Inventory of School Students by Sinha and Singh (1984) was used and appropriate statistical analysis was done. Results indicated that there was no significant difference between male and female children on the measure of emotional adjustment. Male children of working mothers were found to be better socially adjusted than the female children of working mothers and female children of working mothers were better in educational adjustment than male children.*

### **1. Introduction**

Family is one of the most basic and fundamental social institution in which child comes into the existence, is raised and prepares himself/herself for participating in the society and beginning his/her social life. It is said that family is the first school of life and mother is the first teacher of that school. When a child is born at first he/she comes in the contact of his/her mother. Mother satisfy all types of his/her needs, the child perceives his/her mother as a source of pleasure and also as a source of security. It is due to maternal treatment and encouragement, that the child develops an identification with the parents which influence significantly the development of self concept, self-reliance and social relations in child.

But the families of today and tomorrow differ from the family of our fore fathers. In the modern Indian society, women are working in the different fields and so they cannot give appropriate time to their children. Their employment separates them from their children for several hours every day. This separation has detrimental effect on the child development.

The results of many studies suggest that impact of maternal employment may be different for males and females, with males somewhat more at risk for negative effects, while females may be more benefit. One reason for sex difference is that while working mothers may spend less time with both sons and daughters, these mothers are same sex-role models of competency and achievement for their daughters, but not for their sons. Without this advantage to compensate for whether negative reactions sons have to their mother's absence, boys are more vulnerable to the effects of maternal employment.

Some researchers found poorer adjustment for males, when the mother works (Douvan & Adelson,1966; Gold & Andres,1978b; Nelson,1971), and still other relationship at all (Burchinal,1963; Schooler,1972). For females, no detrimental relationship has been reported between adjustment and maternal employment. Maternal employment either is positively related (Gold & Andres,1978b; Whitmarsh,1985) or unrelated to female adjustment (Gold & Andres,1978a; Nelson,1971).

Kala (1986) designed an investigation to study personality development and adjustment of pre-adolescent children from higher socio-economic status families. He found that girls from the working mother group showed better adjustment with peers and better adjustment at home.

Jain & Jandu (1998) found significant difference between boys and girls of employed mothers on educational area of adjustment. Girls were better in educational adjustment than boys. Barua & Barua (1999) found in his study that boys and girls of working mothers had similar adjustment pattern.

Query & Kuruvilla (1975) found that maternal employment had a positive effect on the achievement test scores for 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls from two-parent families, while Gold & Andres (1978) reported no effects of maternal employment on the school achievement of 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls from two parent families, nor were there any effect of maternal employment on the achievement scores of boys and girls aged 14-16 from two parent families.

Research also shows that that maternal employment is either unrelated or positively related to academic achievement for adolescent girls and is unrelated for adolescent boys (Alwin & Thorton,1984; Rosental &Hansen,1981).

There is a trend in these conflicting findings which raises an important question, why does maternal employment sometimes affect male negatively but never had an adverse effect on females? Hoffman (1980) offers an answer to this question. She reports that increase in female independence may be linked increase in academic success. If maternal employment leads to greater independence in adolescent females, then these girls should do better in school. Hoffman also suggests that for males an increase independence may have a negative impact on their academic performance. This may be because those males who have a tendency for peer-sponsored misconduct now have no opportunity to take part in those activities.

## 2. Objectives of the Study

- (i) To study and compare the level of emotional adjustment of male and female children of working mothers.
- (ii) To study and compare the level of social adjustment of male and female children of working mothers.
- (iii) To study and compare the level of educational adjustment of male and female children of working mothers.

## 3. Hypotheses

- (i) There will be significant difference in the level of emotional adjustment among male and female children of working mothers.
- (ii) There will be significant difference in the level of social adjustment among male and female children of working mothers.
- (iii) There will be significant difference in the level of educational adjustment among male and female children of working mothers.

## 4. Method

4.1. Sample: For the present study 200 children of working mothers from Patna town were selected on the basis of availability. Among selected children. 100 were males and 100 were females. The age of children ranged from 15 to 16 years.

4.2. Tool of research: For collecting data, Adjustment Inventory of School Students by Sinha and Singh (1984) was used.

4.3. Procedure: The subjects were contacted personally and the inventory was administered to them. Scoring was done according to the respective scoring key.

4.4. Statistical Techniques: Descriptive analysis of data was done by using Mean, Standard deviation, and data was subjected to inferential statistics with the use of t-test.

## 5. Result

	Mean	SD	N	t – ratio(df-198)	p
Female	7.6	4.6	100	0.034	< .05
Male	7.62	3.6	100		

Table 1: Difference between mean scores of male and female children of working mothers on the measure of emotional adjustment.

Table 1 shows that there is no any significant difference between male and female children of working mothers on the measure of emotional adjustment. Obtained t-ratio between the mean score of female children (7.6) and the mean score of male children (7.62) is 0.034, which is not significant even at .05 level of confidence. So, hypothesis no.1 is rejected.

	Mean	SD	N	t – ratio (df-198)	p
Female	7.62	2.49	100	4.0	.01
Male	6.1	2.84	100		

Table 2: Difference between mean scores of male and female children of working mothers on the measure of social adjustment.

Table 2 shows a significant difference between male and female children of working mothers on the measure of social adjustment. So, hypothesis no.2 is accepted. It is also clear from Table 2 that mean score of the female children (7.62) is higher than the mean score of male children (6.1) and obtained t-ratio between these two mean scores (4.0) is significant at .01 level of confidence. So it can be said that male children of working mothers are socially better adjusted than female children of working mother.

	Mean	SD	N	t- ratio (df-198)	P
Female	5.6	3.15	100	3.036	.01
Male	7.27	3.21	100		

Table 3: Difference between mean score of male and female children of working mothers on the measure of educational adjustment.

Table 3 indicates a significant difference between mean score of male and female children of working mothers on the measure of educational adjustment. So, hypothesis no.3 is accepted. From Table 3, it is apparent that mean score of male children (7.27) is higher than the mean score of female children (5.6) and obtained t-ratio between these two scores (3.036) is significant at .01 level of confidence. So, it can be concluded that female children of working mothers have better educational adjustment than male children of working mothers.

## 6. Discussion

It is found in the present study that there is no any significant difference between male and female children of working mothers in terms of emotional adjustment. This may be due to many intervening variables that alter the impact of sex difference. So, more studies are needed in this context.

Significant difference is found between male and female children of working mothers on the measure of social adjustment and male children are found to be better socially adjusted than female children of working mothers. It may be due to the fact that during the absence of their mothers, male children get the opportunity to go outside of their home and to mix with their neighbours, which make them more sociable. While in the Indian culture, usually female children of age group 14 to 16 do not go outside from her home without her mother and during the absence of their they remain at home.

In this study significant difference is also found between male and female children of working mothers on the measure of educational adjustment which supports the findings of other previous studies.

### 7. Conclusion

On the basis of the above result and discussion it can be concluded that;

- i. There is no significant difference between male and female children of working mothers on the measure of emotional adjustment.
- ii. Male children of working mothers are socially better adjusted than the female children of working mothers.
- iii. Female children of working mothers have better educational adjustment than the male children of working mothers.

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