

ASSESSING THE BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS OF PRE-SCHOOLERS AMONG WORKING AND NON-WORKING MOTHERS

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Abstract- A Comparative Study to assess the Behavioural Problems of Pre-schoolers among Working and Non-working mothers attending paediatric OPD of Dr. SMCSI Medical college and Hospital Karakonam. The study was based on Nola pander's Health Promotion Model. A comparative descriptive research design was used and 60 samples of preschoolers were selected. It includes 30 preschool children of Working mothers, 30 preschool children of non-working mothers by using Non-Probability Purposive sampling techniques. A Self-administered questionnaire to assess the behavioural problems of the pre-schoolers using 5 Point Likert scale were used. The content validity of the tool was evaluated by experts from the respective field and reliability was analyzed by using Cronbach's alpha and r value of the tool was calculated as (0.87) and found to be reliable. Pilot study was done among 6 samples 3 working mothers and 3 non-working mothers and found to be feasible. The number of children with moderate level of behavioural problem is more among non-working mothers 24(80.0%) compared to working mothers 23(76.7%). The number of children with mild level of behavioural problem is less among non-working mothers 6(20.0%) compared to working mothers 7(23.3%). There was no significant association between behavioural problem of pre-schooler of working mothers and non-working mothers with selected socio demographic variables ($p < 0.05$).

Keywords: Behavioural problems, preschool children, working and non-working mother.

INTRODUCTION

Children are the inheritance from God. They are like clay in the potter's hand. Handled with love and care, they become something beautiful or else they will break. Every child should have tender loving care and sense of security from parents. The mother is more responsible for the integrated development of a child. Children are the nation's most important assets. Preschool period is a fantastic time for a child to learn things. At the same time, they become easily frustrated. A large number of children suffer from behavioral problems at one time or the other during their development. Mothers should try to devote some time for their children to make them feel loved and special. Mothers should be able to detect any behavioral changes at the earliest. Children of today are the citizens of tomorrow. The prosperity of the nation depends upon the health of its future citizens. Children with sound mind in sound body are essential for the future development of the country.

Relationship is essential for any child in order to improve shelter attachments and properly defined emotions. While children have an inherited capacity of bonding to their mother, these bonding render into real attachment only when parents are affectionate and attentive to the child. This association affects many other parts of the child's development as well. When children have loving relationships with parents, they are better-off to play with peers in the absence of their mother. The interaction between mother and child will create a loving relationship; if conducive, the child is at a higher risk for behaviour problems.

NEED FOR STUDY

Preschool period is one of rapid change in developmental, social, emotional, cognitive and linguistic abilities. The child is progressively developing more autonomy. Preschool children with early emergent behavior problems are likely to evince serious behavior problems, social skill deficits and academic difficulties later in life.

Normal children are healthy, happy and well adjusted. This adjustment is developed by providing basic emotional needs along with physical and physiological needs for their mental wellbeing. The emotional needs are considered as emotional food for healthy behaviour. The children are dependent on their parents, so parents are responsible for fulfilment of the emotional needs.

The preschool years extending from approximately 3 to 6 years of age. The causes for all behavioural problems in preschool children are due to parent's negligence, poor supervision or poor attention, family conflict and maladjustment e.g. too strict parents, rejection, sibling rivalry, unconscious, anger and defiance in the child, insecurity, conflict or hostility, aggression, neurotic attitudes of the mothers.

During the preschool period, children are most dependent on mother. So it is argued the maternal employment during this period would have major impact on overall growth and development of children.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A Comparative Study to assess the Behavioural Problems of Pre-schoolers among Working and Non-working mothers attending paediatric OPD of Dr. SMCSI Medical college and Hospital, Karakonam.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the behavioural problems of pre-schoolers among working mothers.
2. To assess the behavioural problems of pre-schoolers among non-working mothers.
3. To compare the behavioural problems of pre-schoolers between working and non-working mothers
4. To find out the association between behavioural problems of pre-schoolers children with selected socio-demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

Assess: In this study, assess refers to the statistical measurement of behavioural problems of pre-schoolers as reported by their mothers.

Behavioural problems: In this study, behavioural problems refers to Habit Problems, eating problems, Sleep Problems and speech problems.

Pre-schoolers: In this study, preschoolers refers to children in age group of 3-6 years **Working mothers:** In this study, working mothers refers to women who are mothers and who work outside the home for income in addition to the work they perform at home in raising their children in the age group of 3-6 years.

Non-working mothers: In this study, Non-working mothers refers to women who are full time homemakers also manage home and their children's in the age group of 3-6 years.

METHODOLOGY

Research approach: The research approach adopted for this study is quantitative in nature. This study aims at assess the Behavioural Problems of Pre-schoolers among Working and Non-working mother.

Research design: The research design adopted for this study is comparative descriptive research design.

Study variables: In this study the variables are Behaviour problems of the pre-schoolers, working mothers and non-working mothers.

Sampling technique Non-Probability Purposive sampling

Sample: The sample comprised of Working and Non-working mothers of pre-schoolers Attending Paediatric OPD

Sample size : 60 (30 working and 30 non-working mothers).

Setting of the study: The investigator selected paediatric OPD of Dr. SMCSI Medical college and Hospital Karakonam Thiruvananthapuram.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Pre-schoolers of working and non-working mothers, attending in paediatric OPD.
2. Pre-schoolers Mother who are willing to participate in study.
3. Pre-schoolers Mother who are able to read Malayalam, Tamil or English
4. If a mother is having more than one child under this age group, then the elder child will be considered.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Mothers of pre-schoolers with developmental problems.

TOOLS /INSTRUMENTS

In this study the researcher developed two section

Section A: Demographic data of the family-Socio demographic data includes age of the mother, marital status of the mother, type of family, religion, number of children, age of children, gender of the child, family history of behavioural problem, developmental milestones, previous history of hospitalization. Socio economic status of the family is calculated by using modified Kuppaswamy scale 2021.

Section B: Self-administered questionnaires to assess the behavioural problems of the pre-schoolers-This section consisted of 30 items to assess the behavioural problems of the pre-schoolers i.e. Habit Problems, eating problems, Sleep Problems and speech problems.

For this 5 Point Likert scale as never, sometimes, often, usually, always was used it consisted of 30 statements in which 11 positive and 19 negative statements were used.

SCORING AND INTERPRETATION

For section A, Socio economic status were analysed by using modified kuppaswamy socio economic status scale 2021.

SCORE	SOCIO ECONOMIC CLASS
26-29	UPPER
16-25	UPPER MIDDLE
11-15	LOWER MIDDLE
5-10	UPPER LOWER
<5	LOWER

For section B, there are 11 positive questions scored as 0,1,2,3,4 and 19 Negative questions scored as 4,3,2,1,0.

SCORING SYSTEM

Behavioural problems

LEVELS OF BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS	SCORE
SEVERE	57-76
MODERATE	38-56
MILD	19-37

Content validity of the tool

The prepared tools presented before the members of the research committee and also submitted to 5 experts that included a pediatrician for content validity. They gave their opinion and suggestions regarding each item in the tool in terms of relevance, need for modification and remarks. The suggestions of experts were incorporated in to the tool and it was modified as required by eliminating certain questions and also added new questions to them. The corrected tool was translated to Malayalam and Tamil to administered to the samples. Pilot study also assured the validity of the tool.

Reliability of the tool

The reliability of the tool is 0.87. It is opted as a good tool.

DATA ANALYSIS

Descriptive statistics like frequency and percentage were used to assess the behavioural problems of pre-schoolers among working mothers and non-working mothers

Independent t –test is used to compare the behavioural problems of pre-schoolers between working and non-working mothers. Chi square test and Fishers exact were used to determine the association between behavioural problems of pre-schoolers children with selected demographic variables.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage Distribution of mothers of pre-schoolers based on their demographic variables. N=60

Demographic variables	N=60	Frequency (%)
Age(yrs)		
a) 22-25		2033.33
b) 26-30		2033.33
c) 31-35		1931.67
d) >35	1	1.67

Marital status

a)	Single		
b)	Married	60	100
c)	Divorced		
d)	Widowed		

Working status

a) Working	30	50
b) Non-working	30	50

Type of family

a) Nuclear	29	48.33
b) Joint	31	51.67
c) Extended	0	0.00

Religion

a) Hindu	2033.34
b) Muslim	1118.33
c) Christian	2948.33

Number of children

a) 1		2541.67
b) 2		3151.67
c) 3		46.66
d) >3		00.00

Age of children

a) 3		18	30.00
b) 4	9		15.00
c) 5		16	26.67
d) 6		17	28.33

Gender of the child

a) Male		28	46.67
b) Female		32	53.33

Family history of behavioural problems

a) No	60	100
b) Yes	0	0.00

Developmental mile stones

a) Normal	60	100
b) Abnormal	0	0.00

Previous history of hospitalization

a) Yes	60	100
b) No	0	0.00

Table 2: Assessing behavioural problem of pre-schoolers among workingmothers

Levels of Behavioural Problems	n=30	Frequency (%)
a) Mild	7	23.3
b) Moderate	23	76.7
c) Severe	0	0.00

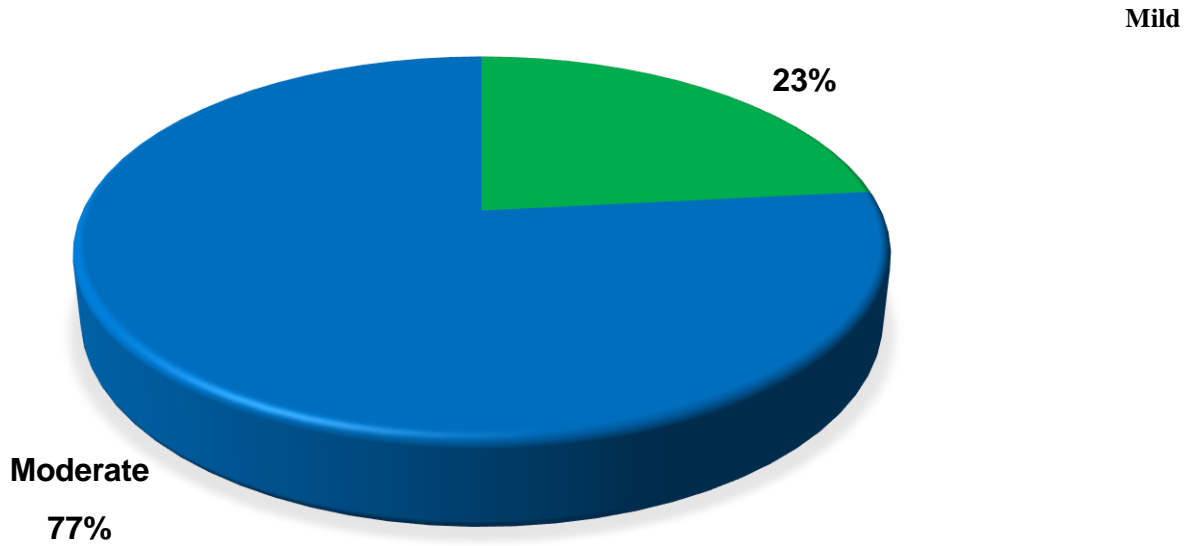


Figure 1: Behavioural problem of pre-schoolers among working mother.

Table 3: Assessing behavioural problem among nonworking mothers

Levels of Behavioural Problems	n=30	Frequency (%)
a) Mild		620.0
b) Moderate		2480.0
c) Severe		00.00

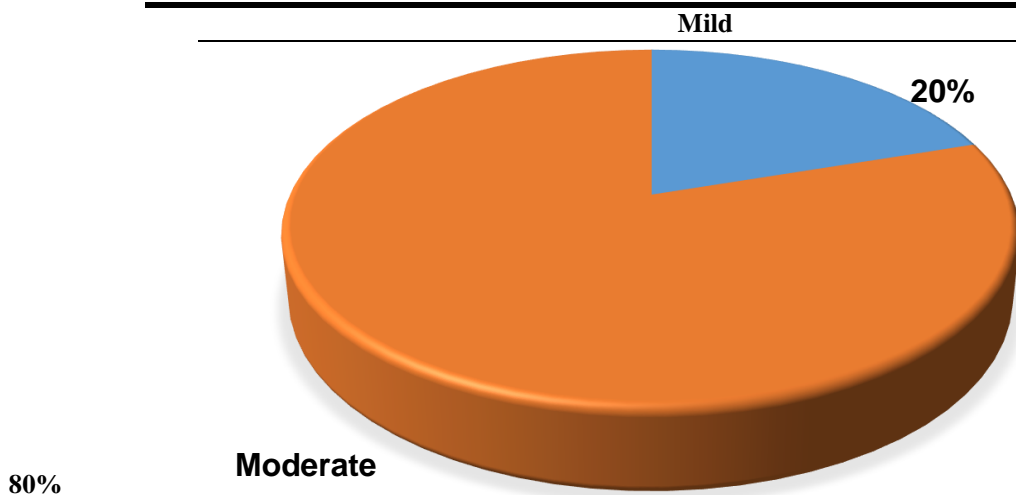


Figure 2: behavioural problem of pre-schoolers among nonworking mothers.

Table 4: Comparison of behavioural problem of pre-schoolers among working and nonworking mothers.

	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	't' Value
Working Mothers	2.23	0.43	0.03	0.769 d f=59
Non-Working Mothers	2.20	0.40		p>0.05

Table 5: Assessment of level behavioural problems of pre-schoolers among working and non-working mother.

Levels of Behavioural Problems	Working mothers N=30	Frequency (%) n (%)
a) Mild	7(23.3)	6(20.0)
b) Moderate	23(76.7)	24(80.0)
c) Severe	0(0.00)	0(0.00)

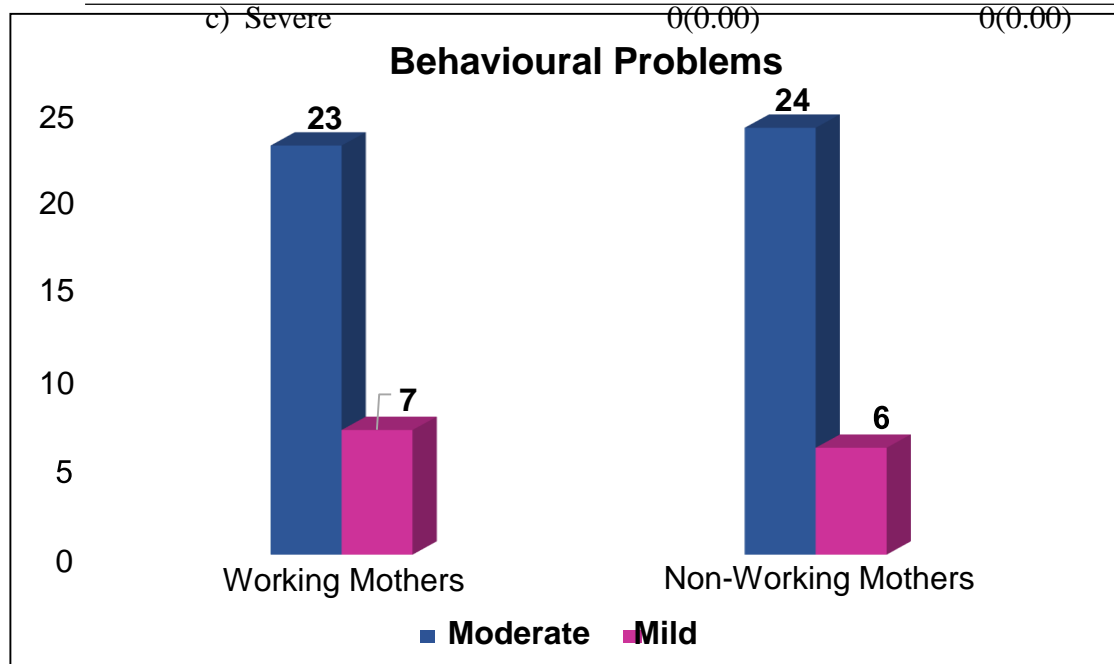
**Figure 3: Level of behavioural problem of pre-schoolers among Working mothers & nonworking mothers.**

Table 6: Association of behavioural problems of pre-schoolers with selected sociodemographic variables
Working mothers

N=30

Socio Demographic Factors	Behavioural Problems		χ^2	p-value
	Mild	Moderate		
Age of the mother				
a. 22-25 Years				
b. 26-30 Years				
c. 31-35 Years				
d. Above 35 Years				
	10			
	9			
	4			
	0			
	4.887	0.214		
Type of family				
a. Nuclear	2	5	0.140	1.000
b. joint	5	18		
Religion				
a. Hindu				
b. Muslim				
c. Christian				
	10			
	2			
	11			
	2.050	0.419		

Number of children

a. One	3	14		
b. Two	2	97.042	0.082	
c. Three	2	0		

Age of children

a. 3yrs	2	8		
b. 4yrs	2	3	3.168	0.384
c. 5yrs	0	6		
d. 6yrs	3	6		

Gender of the children

a. Male	5	120.810	0.427	
b. Female	2	11		

Education of the mother

a. Professional degree		2	3		
b. Graduate		5	13		
c. Intermediate /Diploma	0	7	3.106	0.185	
d. High school	0	0			
e. Middle school		0	0		
e. Primary school		0	0		

Occupation of the mother

a. Legislators, senior officials and managers.		0	0		
b. Professionals		6	10		
c. Technicians and associate professionals		0	3		
d. clerks		1	4		

e. Skilled worker and shopand market sale workers	0	2		
f. Skilled agriculture and workers	0	0		
fishery workers				
g. Craft and related trade workers	0	04.565	0.516	
h. Plant and machine operators and assembles	0	0		
i. Elementary occupation	0	4		
j. Unemployed	0	0 0		
Income				
a. ≥123,322		0	0	
b. 61,663-123,321		0	0	
c. 46,129-61,662		0	0	
d. 30,831-46,128		0	00.031	1.000
e. 18,497-30,830		4	14	
f. 6,175-18,496		3	9	
g. ≤6174		0	0	

**** Significant at p<0.05 level**

Non-Working Mothers

Socio Demographic Factors		Behavioural Problems		χ^2	P-value
		Mild	Moderate		
Age of the mother					
	a. 22-25 Years		3	8	
	b. 26-30 Years		2	10	5.947
	c. 31-35 Years		0	6	0.178
	d. Above 35 Years		1	0	
Type of family					
a.	Nuclear		2	5	
b.	joint		4	19	
0.419		0.603			
Religion					
	a. Hindu		2	11	0.312
	b. Muslim		1	3	
	c. Christian		3	10	
Number of children					
a.	One				
			3	14	
b.	Two				
			3	8	0.922
c.	Three				
			0	2	

1.000

0.780

Age of children

a. 3yrs	19	
b. 4yrs	14	
c. 5yrs	33	4.444
d. 6yrs	18	

Gender of the children

a.	Male	4	13	0.305	0.672
b.	Female	2	11		

0.288

Education of the mother

a. Professional degree	1	4	
b. Graduate	4	14	
c. Intermediate /Diploma	1	6	
d. High school	0	0	0.198
e. Middle school	0	0	
f. Primary school	0	0	
g. Illiterate	0	0	

Occupation of the mother

1.000

a. Legislators, senior officials and managers.	00
b. Professionals	412
c. Technicians and associate professionals	12
d. Clerks	14

e. Skilled worker and shop and market sale workers	02 2.083	0.882
f. Skilled agriculture and fishery workers	00	
g. Craft and related trade workers	00	
h. Plant and machine operators and assembles	00	
i. Elementary occupation	0 4	
j. Unemployed		

Income

a. $\geq 123,322$	00
b. 61,663-123,321	00
c. 46,129-61,662	00
d. 30,831-46,128	00
e. 18,497-30,830	414
f. 6,175-18,496	210
g. ≤ 6174	00

0.139 1.000

****Significant at $p < 0.05$ level**

Major findings of study:

- Majority of the samples 20(33.33%) were 22-33 years.
- All are married mothers 60(100%).
- Among the 60 samples 30(50%) were working and non-working mothers.
- Majority of the samples 31(51.67) % were living in joint family.
- Most of the mothers belongs to Christian 29(48.33%) by religion.
- Majority of the samples 31(51.67%) were having two pre-schoolers.
- Among the samples majority of mothers 18(30.00%) were having three years old pre-schoolers.
- Regarding the sex majority of them 32(53.33%) were female pre-schoolers.
- There was no family history of behavioural problems among the mothers of pre- schoolers 60(100%).
- All the pre-schoolers of working and nonworking mothers had normal developmental milestones 60(100%).
- All pre-schoolers had previous history of hospitalization 60(100%).
- There is no significant association between behavioural problem of pre-schooler of working mothers and non-working mothers with selected socio demographic variables($p < 0.05$)
- Majority of participants 23(76.7%) had moderate behavioural problem. Only 7(23.3%) had mild behavioural problems.
- Majority of participants 24(80.0%) had moderate behavioural problems. Only 6(20.0%) had mild behavioural problems.
- The number of children with moderate level of behavioural problem is more among non-working mothers (24(80.0%)) compared to working mothers (23(76.7%)). The number of children with mild level of behavioural problem is less among non- workingmothers (6(20.0%)) compared to working mothers (7(23.3%)).
- There is no significant association between behavioural problem of pre-schooler of working mothers and non-working mothers with selected socio demographic variables($p < 0.05$)

Nursing implications**Nursing practice:**

- Children's physical health is related with the mental health.
- The responsibility of the nurse to teach the employed mother regarding preventivemeasures to deal with the behavioural problems.
- Advice the mother to maintain a loving relationship between the parents and children.
- Give education regarding importance of parental care for the proper development of pre-schoolers.
- If the pre-schooler is admitted in the hospital allow the parents to be with them always.
- Special consideration for staff having infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Arrange theirduties to take care their children too.
- Allow the mother and mother substitute to be with them in hospital while admittedunder six children.

Nursing education:

- Education helps the individual to learn new stuff and there by acting an important rolein altering behaviour of the learner.
- Nurse educator can encourage the students to conduct mass health education on effectsof behavioural problems.
- Provide counselling services for children and their parents to solve the problemsthrough tender loving care for children.
- Pre-schoolers care is included in nursing curriculum.
- During home visit nursing students can educate about the importance of prevention ofbehavioural problems in children.
- Educate ASHA workers and anganwadi workers to reinforce the mothers about theimportance of prevention of behavioural problems in children.

Nursing administration:

- The nurse administrator should plan to organize in-service education programme for nursing personnel regarding preschool behavioural problems.
- Nurse administrators can make arrangements for creche inside the hospital premises to visit their under five children during their break time.
- Nurse administrator should motivate nursing personnel to conduct counselling programin pre-school, anganwadis, day care centre and conduct camp for early detection and treatment of behavioural problems of children.

Nursing research:

- This study can be reference to the scholars especially the beginners.
- This study can be published in journals to disseminate the information and to make generalization.
- This study finding add to the existing body of knowledge.

Limitations

The target population was limited to among Working and Non-working mothers attending paediatric OPD of Dr. SMCSI Medical college and Hospital Karakonam.

Recommendation

- A comparative study can be conducted between working and non-working mothers of preschool children.
- A study need to be conducted in different settings with large samples.
- A comparative study can be conducted to find the prevalence of preschool children behavioural problem among urban and rural villages.
- A study can be conducted to find out the effectiveness of counselling programme to modify the behavioural and emotional characters among children of employed mothers.

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