THE BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS IN PRESCHOOLERS OF WORKING AND NONWORKING MOTHERS FROM A SELECTED URBAN COMMUNITY.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: A large number of children suffer from behavioral problems at one time or the other during their development. The present study was aim to identify the behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and non working mothers.

Materials and methods: A descriptive comparative research design was selected for the study. A total of 70 working and 70 nonworking mothers were interviewed using non-probability purposive sampling. The tools used in the study were Demographic data, structured parental response inventory on selected behavioral problems in preschoolers.

Results: Mild behavioral problems were seen in children of nonworking mother which is significantly more than the working mother. Moderate behavioral problems were seen in working and in nonworking mothers. None of the preschool children were affected with severe behavioral problems in both groups. The finding shows that behavioral problems are more common in preschoolers of working mothers than preschoolers of nonworking mothers.

KEY WORDS

Behavioral problems, Preschoolers, Working mothers, Nonworking mothers.

INTRODUCTION

Children are the Nation’s most important assets. Preschool period is one of rapid change in Developmental, social, emotional, cognitive and linguistic abilities. A large number of children suffer from behavioral problems at one time or the other during their development. Mothers must try to devote some time for their children to make them feel loved and special. Mothers must be able to detect any behavioral changes at the earliest. The present study was aim to identify the behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and non working mothers.
OBJECTIVES

1. To identify behavioral problems in preschoolers of working mothers from a selected urban community.
2. To identify behavioral problems in preschoolers of nonworking mothers from a selected urban community.
3. To compare behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers from a selected urban community.
4. To associate selected behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers with selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A quantitative research approach was adopted to collect the data from both working and nonworking mothers to identify the behavioral problems in preschoolers. A typical descriptive comparative research design was selected for the study. Behavioral problems were found out by using the structured parental response inventory on selected behavioral problems in preschoolers. The scores of structured parental response inventory on selected behavioral problems in preschoolers by using by the rating scale were categorized as Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Always based on these scoring behavioral problems were interpreted. The sample for the study comprised of 70 working and 70 nonworking mothers of preschool children selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique. The criteria for sampling were based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The Data were collected by using Demographic data and structured parental response inventory on selected behavioral problems in preschoolers for identifying behavioral problems in preschoolers. The collected data were analyzed by t-test to compare the behavioral problems in preschoolers between working and nonworking mothers, ANOVA applied to determine the association between selected demographic variables and frequency and percentage were used to analyze sample characteristics.

RESULTS

SECTION I: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Section I of data analysis deals with the Demographic data. It includes age of the child, gender of the child, birth order of the child, number of siblings, age of the mother, education of the mother, employment of the mother, working and travelling hours of the mother, employment of the father, care taker of the child in case of working mother analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage. With regard to the age of the children, majority children are 5 years old from both the groups. Gender distribution is similar in both the groups of working and nonworking mothers. Majority of children are first born in both the groups. With related to the Number of siblings, majority of them
have one sibling. Age of the mother reveals that maximum sample were in the age group of 30-35 years, most of the mothers had taken primary education, and they are doing private jobs as their employment. In working mothers employment status of the spouses’ majority are in government jobs and nonworking mothers majority were doing private jobs. Working and travelling hours of the mothers most of them are comes under the category of 9-11 hours and their preschoolers cared by grandparents.

SECTION II:
IDENTIFICATION OF BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN PRESCHOOLERS OF WORKING AND NON WORKING MOTHERS

Section II divided into two parts

SECTION II A: Distribution of behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers.

SECTION II B: The behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers obtained by using a structured parental response inventory and scores of the sample is analyzed as frequency and percentage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>*</th>
<th>WORKING MOTHERS (n=70)</th>
<th>NONWORKING MOTHERS (n=70)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-21 (Normal)</td>
<td>3 4.28 5</td>
<td>3 4.285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-42 (Mild)</td>
<td>57 81.4 3</td>
<td>65 92.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43-63 (Moderate)</td>
<td>10 14.2 85</td>
<td>2 2.857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;64 (Severe)</td>
<td>0 0 0</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = STRUCTURED PARENTAL RESPONSE INVENTORY ON SELECTED BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN PRESCHOOLERS.
Section II deals with the behavioral problems among preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers obtained using a structured parental response inventory on selected behavioral problems presented in terms of frequency and percentage. Mild behavioral problems are seen in children of nonworking mother 65 (92.85%) which is significantly more than the working mother 57(81.43%). Moderate behavioral problems are seen ten (14.285%) in working and two (2.857%) in nonworking mothers respectively. Minimum three (4.285%) sample are in the normal category of both groups. None of the preschoolers are affected with severe behavioral problems in both groups.

Section III: Comparison of Behavioural Problems in Preschoolers of Working and Nonworking Mothers.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Group} & \text{Mean} & \text{SD} & \text{Mean difference} \\
\text{Working Mothers (n=70)} & 32.48 & 7.73 & 2.6 \\
\text{Nonworking Mothers (n=70)} & 29.88 & 6.53 & \\
\end{array}
\]

T-value 2.004
Significance Significant

P-value = 0.04

N=140
Section III deals with comparison of behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers presented in terms of t-test. To compare the total mean score of the working mothers and nonworking mothers; the t-test was used. P<0.05 is considered as a level of significance. The total score of working mothers is significantly more than that of nonworking mothers. The t value (2.0041) is more than the table value (1.64). Hence the alternate hypothesis is accepted for the mean total score and null hypothesis is rejected. This means that the preschool children of a working mother have more behavioral problems as compared to nonworking mothers of preschool children.

SECTION IV: ASSOCIATION OF SELECTED BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN PRESCHOOLERS OF WORKING AND NONWORKING MOTHERS WITH SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES.

This section IV deals with Analysis and interpretation of data in order to find out association of selected behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers with selected demographic variables. ANOVA is used to find out any association exists between the scores of selected behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers with selected demographic variables. In working mothers the significance is observed in age of the child and education of the mothers. As the calculated ‘F’ values are more than their respective ‘F’ table value at 0.05 levels. The data suggests that there is significant association between the education of mother and age of child. Hence the null hypothesis (H2) is rejected and alternate hypothesis is accepted for age of child and education of mother. In nonworking mothers data shows that there is no significant association of selected behavioral problems in preschoolers of nonworking mothers with age of child, age of mother or education of mother. Hence the null hypothesis (H2) is accepted and alternate hypothesis is rejected.

DISCUSSION

There is similar studies which support the findings of the present study. Alexander, A, Dr Asha p. (2014), conducted a Comparative Study on Behavioral Problems of Preschool Children among Working and Non-Working Mothers, shows that there is significant difference between behavioral problems in preschoolers of working and nonworking mothers. Also there is significant association between behavioral problems in preschool children with age of the child, gender, education of the mother.
CONCLUSION

Preschoolers of working mothers have more behavioral problems than those of nonworking mothers. Nurses can play a major role in diminishing the behavioral problems by providing guidance and counseling for the mothers. More interventional studies need to be conducted to reduce occurrence the behavioral problems in preschoolers.

REFERENCES