

## Child Rearing Practices Among Working and Non Working Mothers Of Under Five at Selected Hospital, Salem

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### ABSTRACT

Parenting is considered as important factor for child's development and well being. It is mother who is considered responsible for developing positive attitude, behavior and inculcating positive abilities in their children. This helps the children to have an understanding of right and wrong and to become good and successful human beings. Working women thus have a tough task of professional obligation along with taking care and nurturing their children from early age to adolescent. Although they are able to fulfill financial needs of their children but, still they are not able to give as much time and care as given by non-working mothers<sup>4</sup>.

A quantitative evaluative research approach with Non experimental survey research design was used to conduct the study among 40 (20 working & 20 non working mothers) at Sri Gokulam Hospital, Salem using Purposive sampling technique . Descriptive check list was used to collect the data.The results of the study shows that majority of non working mothers 19 (95%) and working mothers 16 (80%) had satisfactory Child Rearing Practices whereas 4 working mothers (20%) and only one non working mother (5%) had unsatisfactory Child Rearing Practices.The higher mean score percentage (72%) was found among non working mothers with the mean difference of 2 and significant difference (t value = 7.28) was found between working and non working mothers on child rearing practices.There was significant association found between only with education of the working mother and child rearing practices..

**Keywords:** Child rearing practices, Under five, Working mother, Non working mother.

### INTRODUCTION

A Child's well-being and future are dependent upon the care bestowed upon him by mother. Health and survival of child depends upon the mother's awareness, education and skills in mother craft. Child rearing practices refers generally to overall care of child as an individual who is not merely a physique but also has feelings, desires and needs.<sup>1</sup> It is the biggest and the most important business of the parents in the world. The parents are

significant in determining the ways in which the child develops. Child rearing in Indian culture is generally recognized as primarily the mother's privilege and responsibility.<sup>5</sup>

Women participation in the workforce has increased, and this has been accompanied by more significant challenges they face in balancing and managing their role between work and family responsibilities. Most of the working women require substantial time to be devoted to work and child rearing that

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involves lecturing and handling other student-related matters. This job requires a substantial amount of time to be spent on work-related responsibilities, and working mothers find it very difficult to accomplish responsibilities of an mother because of family and job commitments when comes together. They generally found it difficult to cope with the pressures related to work responsibilities and the demands related to family responsibilities.<sup>3</sup>

A comparative study was done to assess the child rearing practice among working and non-working mothers in the selected rural areas of Varanasi was done with non-experimental research design. 60 mothers were selected by purposive sampling technique out of which 30 were working and 30 were house wives who have children's of 5-12 years of age from the rural areas of Varanasi. The tool administered to the sample consisted of two sections including the socio-demographic data and a standardized tool by Alabama on child rearing practices. The results showed that the good practice of child rearing practice was 27 (90%) among the non-working mothers wherein the working mothers had only 20 (66.6%). and majority 10 (33.3%) of the working mothers had acceptable practice and only 3 (10%) of the non-working mothers had acceptable practice. On comparison, the paired t-test showed 4.763 at the level of p value <0.000025 showing the significance in the child rearing practice between working and non-working mothers. There was no statistically significant association between the mothers on child rearing practice with the selected demographic variables. The study concluded that non-working mothers impart better child rearing practice than the working mothers, yet most of the mothers apply the outmost best effort in child rearing practice. Study added that more health education and teaching sessions can be organized to all the mothers' on good child rearing practice to improve the child's health and future in a holistic way.<sup>2</sup>

Another study was conducted to assess and compare the knowledge and practice on child rearing practices among working and non-working mothers of selected urban community

areas of Raipur by using purposive sampling technique. Quantitative non-experimental cross sectional comparative research approach was used. The data were collected from 100 mothers (50 working and 50 non-working mothers) using a self-Structured Questionnaire and the Tool was organized in three parts including Demographic variables, Knowledge and Practice questions on child rearing practices. The result of the study revealed that 66% working & 74% nonworking mothers had average knowledge, 32% working & 24% nonworking mothers had good knowledge, 2%, of working & non-working mothers had excellent knowledge With regard to practice 72% working and 82% Non- working mothers had average practice, 18% working and 14% non-working had good practice. Correlation is computed by Karl Pearson coefficient of correlation ( $r = -0.66$ ), there is moderately positive correlation between knowledge and practice, it shows that when knowledge increases, practice will also increase. The findings of the study concluded that non-working mothers had more (average) knowledge and practice than working mothers regarding child rearing practices.<sup>1</sup>

Thus the researcher was interested to assess and compare the Child Rearing Practices among working and non working mothers in south part of India at Tamil Nadu.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A Study to Assess and compare the Child Rearing Practices among working and non working mothers of under 5 children at selected Hospital, Salem.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the child rearing practices of working and non working mothers
2. To compare the child rearing practices of working and non working mothers
3. To associate the child rearing practices of the mothers with their selected demographic variables

## HYPOTHESES

$H_1$ : There will be significant difference between the child rearing practices of working and

non working mothers of under five children at  $p \leq 0.05$  level

**H<sub>2</sub>:** There will be significant association between the child rearing practices of working and non working mothers with their selected demographic variables at  $p \leq 0.05$  level

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

### (MATERIALS and METHODS)

A quantitative evaluative research approach with Non experimental survey research design was used to conduct the study among 40 mothers of under five children (20 working & 20 non working mothers) at Sri Gokulam Hospital, Salem using Purposive sampling technique. Check list was used to collect the data. The setting was selected

by using convenient sampling technique. Tool had Demographic variables of the samples and self reported Check list with 20 items on child rearing practices of mothers of under five children including various aspects like Meeting the needs of the children, Care of children at illness, Quality time spent with children, Support towards child education and Work-life balance. The response to each statement in the check list was scored as 1 for Yes and 0 for No. Total score was 20. 1-10 score labeled as unsatisfactory child rearing practice and 11-20 score labeled as satisfactory child rearing practice. After obtaining permission from the concerned authorities, including informed consent was taken from the participants, the data was collected for a period of 4 weeks

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1 :- Frequency and Percentage Distribution of mothers according to their Demographic Variables**

n=40

S.No	Demographic variables	Working Mothers (n=20)		Non Working Mothers (n=20)	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age of Mother				
	20-25 years	6	30	6	30
	25.1-30 years	11	35	10	50
	30.1-35 years	3	15	4	20
2.	Religion				
	Hindu	15	75	18	90
	Muslim	1	5	1	5
	Christian	4	20	1	5
3.	Education				
	No education	6	30	14	70
	Graduate	14	70	6	30
	Post graduate	-	-	-	-
4.	Occupation				
	Daily wager	11	55	-	-
	Government employee	3	15	-	-
	Private employee	6	30	-	-
	House wife	-	-	20	100
5.	Income				
	Less than Rs.10,000	9	45	7	35
	Rs. 10,000 – 20,000	6	30	13	65
	Rs. 20,001 – 30,000	3	15	-	-
	Rs.30,000	2	10	-	-

S.No	Demographic variables	Working Mothers (n=20)		Non Working Mothers (n=20)	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Frequency
6.	Type of Family				
	Nuclear Family	16	80	14	70
	Joint Family	4	20	6	30
	Extended Family	-	-	-	-
7.	Area of Family				
	Semi urban	9	45	7	35
	Rural	10	50	13	65
	Urban	1	5	-	-
8.	Working Hours				
	6 - 8 hours	16	80	-	-
	8 - 10 hours	3	15	-	-
	10 - 12 hours	1	5	-	-
	Not working	-	-	20	100

**Table 2: Item Analysis on Child Rearing Practices among Working and Non Working mothers**

**n=40**

S.No	Item Analysis	Working Women(n=20)				Non Working Women(n=20)			
		Yes		No		Yes		No	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
<b>Meeting the needs of the children</b>									
1	Able to provide adequate nutrition to the child including breast feeding	17	85	3	15	15	75	5	25
2	Able to provide food according to the child's likes	17	85	3	15	11	55	9	45
3	Able to meet the hygienic needs of child	19	95	1	5	16	80	4	20
4	Able to maintain the child sleep pattern	15	75	5	25	17	85	3	15
5	Able to teach moral values to the child	19	95	1	5	19	95	1	5
<b>Care at Illness</b>									
6	Able to care the child during their sickness	15	75	5	25	12	60	8	40
7	Able to schedule my time for children hospitalization and doctors visit	14	70	6	30	17	85	3	15
<b>Quality time spent with children</b>									
8	Able to spend leisure time with the child	18	90	2	10	19	95	1	5
9	Able to spend quality time with children	11	55	9	45	17	85	3	15
10	Able to be with the child when he returns from school	4	20	16	80	16	80	4	20
11	Able to avoid Children being lonely	8	40	12	60	16	80	4	20
<b>Protective environment</b>									
12	Able to prevent child from physical hazards all the time	15	75	5	25	16	80	4	20
13	Able to provide a productive environment to the child	12	60	8	40	20	100	0	0
14	Able to give love and security for the child	19	95	1	5	19	95	1	5
<b>Support towards child education</b>									

S.No	Item Analysis	Working Women(n=20)				Non Working Women(n=20)			
		Yes		No		Yes		No	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
15	Able to support the children during their academics	10	50	10	50	10	50	10	50
16	Able to support the children in their extracurricular activities	8	40	12	60	15	75	5	25
17	Able to attend school meetings regularly to know the performance of their children	8	40	12	60	15	75	5	25
<b>Work -life balance</b>									
18	Able to rear the child very well	19	95	1	5	20	100	0	0
19	Able to take care of the child's physical health all the time	17	85	3	15	18	90	2	10
20	Able to follow child rearing routine regularly before going for work	15	75	5	25	0	0	0	0

**Table 3 Distribution of Samples according to the Child Rearing Practices** n=40

S.NO	Child rearing Practices	Working women(n=20)		Non Working women(n=20)	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Un Satisfactory(1-10)	4	20%	1	5%
2	Satisfactory (11-20)	16	80%	19	95%

**Table 4 Mean, Standard Deviation, Mean Score Percentage and t value of Samples according to the Child Rearing Practices**

n=40

S.No	Child rearing practice		Mean	SD	Mean score percentage	t-value
1	Working mothers	Yes	12.5	5.74	62.5	7.28* (Table Value is 2.712)
		No	7.5	5.74	37.5	
2	Non working mothers	Yes	14.4	4.54	72	
		No	5.6	5.96	28	

The table 2 shows that majority of non working mothers 19(95%) and working mothers 16 (80%) had satisfactory Child Rearing Practices whereas 4 working mothers (20%) and only one non working mother (5%) had an unsatisfactory Child Rearing Practice.

The table 3 shows that higher Mean score percentage (72%) was found among Non working mothers with the mean difference of 2 and significant difference (t value = 7.28) was found between working and non working mothers on

child rearing practices. Hence research hypothesis H1 was retained at  $p < 0.005$  level.

A similar comparative study was done to assess the knowledge regarding child rearing practices among working and non-working mothers of rural areas at Bihar. Out of 50 working mothers, 63.3 percent were having adequate knowledge and 36.7 percent were having moderate knowledge regarding child rearing practices. Among 50 non working mothers, 53.3 percent were having adequate knowledge and 46.7 percent were

**Table 5: Association of Child rearing practices of working and non working mothers with their Selected Demographic Variables.**

n=40

S.no	Demographic variables		Working Mothers(n=20)			Non Working Mothers (n=20)		
			df	Table value	Chi-square value	df	Table value	Chi-square value
1	Age	20-25 Years 26-30 Years 30-35 Years	2	5.99	1.826	2	5.99	0.468
2	Religion	Hindu Christian Muslim	2	5.99	1.805	2	5.99	1.126
3	Education	No Education Graduate Postgraduate	2	5.99	7.417*		5.99	0.133
4	Occupation	Daily wages Govt employee Private employee Housewife	3	7.81	1.038	3	7.81	0.57
5	Religion	Less than Rs 10000	2	5.99	1.805	2	5.99	1.126
		Rs 10001- Rs 20000						
		Rs 20001- Rs 30000						
		Above Rs 30001						
6	Type of Family	Nuclear Family Joint Family Extended Family	2	5.99	7.417*		5.99	0.133
7	Area of Living	Semi Urban Urban Rural Housewife	3	7.81	1.038	3	7.81	0.57
8	Working Hours	6-8 hours 8-10 hours 10-12 hours Not Working	3	7.815	1.401	-	-	-

\*P< 0.05 – Significant

having moderate knowledge regarding child rearing practices. It is concluded that Child rearing practices are influenced by child rearing knowledge. The important components of Child rearing are maternal activities that promote the children’s physical, intellectual, and psychosocial development so that they may grow up to express their full potentials. And statistically significant association was found between working and non-working mother, Family income per month and occupation and these variables influenced by knowledge of mothers (Table 5).<sup>6</sup>

There was significant association found between only with education of the working mother and child rearing practices. Hence hypothesis H<sub>2</sub> is rejected for all the demographic variables except the education of the working mother.

**CONCLUSION**

Child rearing is a multifaceted process encompassing the physical, emotional, and psychological care of children. Positive parenting techniques work well for raising children with

discipline and good moral values, and are every parent's dream. However, it is not an easy feat. And it is important to know that the parent child relationship is a two-way street, in other words, it is actually a partnership between a parent and their child. When parents develop effective parenting skills, they are able to take the initiative in filling the generation gap.

**Ethical Clearance:** Taken from Institutional Ethical Committee.No IECSGH/2023/10 Dated on 18/3/2023.

**Source of Funding:** Self

**Conflict Of Interest:** Nil.

**Declaration:** A Study was conducted by us to assess the Child Rearing Practices of working and non working mothers at selected Hospital, Salem. This is our original article and we are declaring that it is not published in any other journal.

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