

SELF – ESTEEM OF CHILDREN OF WORKING AND NON- WORKING MOTHERS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

ABSTRACT

A radical change in the status of women noticeable in the present day society, especially in the context of Indian society is that more and more women are now becoming economically independent by entering into the job arena .Majority of the mothers today are also working who have to play a variety of roles, that of a wife, a mother ,daughter-in-law and so on. They are more conscious about the future prospects of their children and so are ready to even bear the pain of working even for long hours .Coming to the stay –at-home mothers ,we find that their initiative is no less important than that of the working mothers. Their main advantage is the increased amount of time that they are able to spend with their children.As the main purpose of the present study was to find out the self esteem level of the children of working and non-working women in relation to their academic achievement, so a standardized scale by Coopersmith was employed. The results of the study revealed that there was no significant difference in the self esteem level of the children of working and non-working mothers in relation to gender. Again there existed a positive and significant relationship between the self esteem levels of children of working and non-working mothers in relation to their academic achievement.That is, children who had positive self-esteem were found to score higher in academics in comparison to children whose self esteem level was low.

Key words: self esteem, working and non-working women, academic achievement.

INTRODUCTION: Self –Esteem can be regarded as one of the most important human traits or qualities to achieve success in life. We often come across people who are endowed with certain extraordinary qualities or talents not usually possessed by the average man, but still they are not able to succeed in their endeavors due to the utter lack of self- esteem. Certain elements like having a strong will and self confidence, decision making power and originality, creativity, sanity and mental health is directly related to self esteem and sense of self worth.

Self esteem can be defined as a form of self acceptance, personal appreciation and subjective respect of one's own. It is to evaluate the differences between the image of self and ideal self. The self esteem of the individual can be perceived by looking at the discrepancy between how the individual perceives oneself and the self they would like to be .(Piskin). The terms, 'self-acceptance', 'personal appreciation', 'overall acceptance of the personality' and ' Self love' are regarded as synonymous to self esteem.

Rosenberg(1965) defined self esteem as negative and positive attitude of the individual to oneself. According to him, the sense of self of an individual

includes the individual's thought about oneself, perceptions and opinions. Rogers believes that to develop positive sense of self, the individual must grow in an environment of unconditional love. Instances of anxiety and depression might emerge when there is inconsistency between exhibited behavior and the sense of self of the individual. Rogers states that if the individual deceives oneself, anxiety will not be preserved in time.

Carl Rogers stressed on three important points of parent-child relationship for developing self-esteem. The first is to reflect acceptance, concern, compassion and warmth towards the child. The second is allowance and punishment. The third critical point is the democratic attitude of parents. The child raised with these three criteria will have higher self esteem.

If we take a glance at the structure of the Indian family, we find that there has been a tremendous in the employment of married women. The burden or the load of work of the employed mothers have increased as they need to play multiple roles in the family and society,

Researches conducted on the impact of maternal employment on maternal happiness have pointed out its negative impact on adolescents such as juvenile delinquency, feeling of loneliness and isolation, stress and poor adjustment. These negative impacts are more in comparison to that of home maker mothers. Time spent by the child with the mother can be regarded as the most precious as it can mould the attitudes, manners and behavior of the child in a proper direction. Moreover, it is believed that homemaker mothers can take better care of the academic side of the child as they are free from mental stress.

Again, drawing from various theoretical perspectives (eg;social comparison theory, symbolic interaction theory), much research has validated the assumption that high self esteem is associated with educational achievement.(Marsh, Byrne and Yeung 1999), that ability levels may influence depressive symptoms and levels of self esteem.(Humphrey, Charlton and Newton 2004), and that a positive self concept is desirable for children's personality development. Children with high self esteem usually feel good about themselves and better able to resolve their conflicts with other children and are resistant to deal with problems, troubles and failures. Such children possess the qualities of optimism, rationalism and positive self-concept. On the other hand, children with low self esteem are often confronted with difficulties and frustrations.

1.1 .PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

The purpose of the present study is to compare the levels of self esteem of students studying in government schools and private schools in relation to gender. It also purposes to compare the self esteem of boys and girls of working and non-working mothers in general and in relation to academic achievement.

1.2. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Brotherhood is regarded as the most precious gift bestowed upon women by God. Throughout the ages women have been performing diverse roles sacrificing her own desires and expectations for the betterment of the family. With the advancement of

culture and science ,we find that the modern woman is no longer confined to the four walls of her house, but is contributing financially for the betterment of her family and society by stepping into the workplace .A mother's involvement with her children is unique and different due to the reason that there is a strong emotional and social bond that binds the relationship between the two .Many a times we find that the children of working mothers exhibit the traits of loneliness, shyness, hesitation etc which might be due to the lesser amount of time spent by the mother with the child. But, there are also instances where we notice that children of working mothers excel in the field of academics as compared to those of stay at home mothers and vice versa. So the present study has been undertaken mainly to compare the levels of self esteem of children of working mothers and stay at home mothers in relation to their academic achievement and to suggest remedial measures.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Considering the significant role played by self esteem in gearing up the academic achievement level of the students, the present study has been conducted to compare the self esteem level of children of working mothers and non-working mothers in relation to their academic achievement. Therefore, the present study has been entitled as-

“ A study on Self Esteem of children of working mothers and non-working mothers in relation to their academic achievement.”

1.4. OBJECTIVES:

The following are the objectives of the present study:

1. To study the self esteem levels of children of working mothers and studying in government schools..
2. To study the self esteem levels of children of working mothers and studying in private schools.
3. To study the self esteem levels of children of non-working mothers and studying in government schools.
4. To study the self esteem levels of children of non-working mothers and studying in private schools.
5. To study the self esteem levels of children of working and non-working mothers in relation to their academic achievement.

1.5. HYPOTHESES:

The following are the hypotheses formulated on the basis of the objectives of the study:

Ho1: There exists no significant difference in the self esteem levels of children of working mothers and studying in the government schools.

Ho2: There exists no significant difference in the self esteem levels of children of working mothers and studying in the government schools .

Ho3: There exists no significant difference in the self esteem levels of children of non-working mothers and studying in the government schools.

Ho4: There exists no significant difference in the self esteem levels of children on-working mothers and studying in the private schools.

Ho5: There exists no significant difference in the self esteem levels of the working and non working mothers in relation to their academic achievement.

1.5. METHODOLOGY:

The researcher adopted descriptive research methodology for the purpose of conducting the study.

1.6. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF THE TERMS:

SELF-ESTEEM: In psychology the term self esteem is used to describe a person's overall sense of self worth or personal value. Self esteem can include a variety of beliefs about oneself such as the appraisal of one's own appearance, beliefs, emotions and behaviors.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Is is the extent to which a student, teacher or institution has achieved their short or long term educational goals.

1.7. TOOLS:

It was developed by Coopersmith(1986) and adopted by Piskin .The Coopersmith self inventory was used to measure te self esteem of the students.The scale items are answered as yes or no.

.8: POPULATION AND SAMPLE:

The population for the present study consisted of the 600 students studying in 15 schools of Kamrup district of Assam. Out of these a sample of 120 students(60 boys and 60 girls) were selected for the study.The sampling procedure adopted was Random sampling.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Kala (1986) found in his study that the two groups of working and non working mothers do not differ in perceived parent child relationship. The girls from the working group and boys from the non working group showed better adjustment with peers. The boys from non working group were better adjusted to teachers than that of working group. The girls from both the groups do not differ in adjustment to teachers.

Sharma (1986) found in his study that the self concept level of the children of working mothers was more than that of the children of nonworking mothers. The children of working mother were found to be better in concentration and confidence.

Sultana (1988) found in her study that there was no significant difference in academic achievement in social studies , language, mathematics and natural sciences among children belonging to working and non working mothers.

Trivedi (1988) found that there is no significant difference between the achievement scores of children of working and non working mothers.

Jain (1990) on the basis of her study concluded that children of educated working women have high emotional adjustment while children of non working women have high social adjustment. Level of aspiration of the children of working women was higher than that of the children of non working women.

Chhaganlal (1992) found that non-teachers children were significantly better than teachers' children in social value.

Mathura and Mishra(1994) examined the influence of maternal employment on teacher's personality.It's results show that maternal employment was related with personality factors like outgoing/reserved,ego strength/expedient etc.

Goswami(2000) found in her study that working mother's children were more achievement oriented than all other groups , while anxiety of the girls of working mothers found to be the highest.

Vinita(2003) found the self concept of the children of working mother to be higher than

Singhal(2009) found that parents who were helpful in their academic activities were more academic achievement oriented than that of those who were not supported by their parents.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

TABLE1: SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION

GENDER	
BOYS	GIRLS
60	60

TABLE 2: Representing Self Esteem levels of the children of working mothers and studying in the government schools.

LEVELS	BOYS	GIRLS
HIGH	10	9
MEDIUM	15	15
LOW	5	6

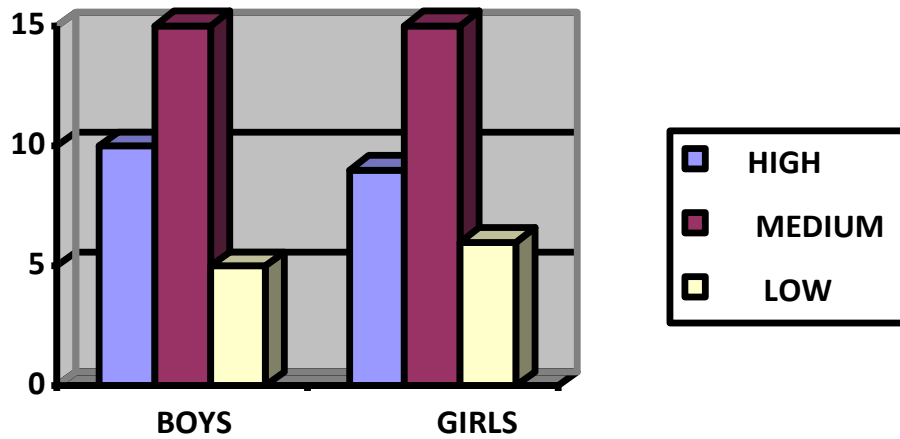


FIGURE 2: Representing Self Esteem levels of the children of working mothers and studying in the government schools.

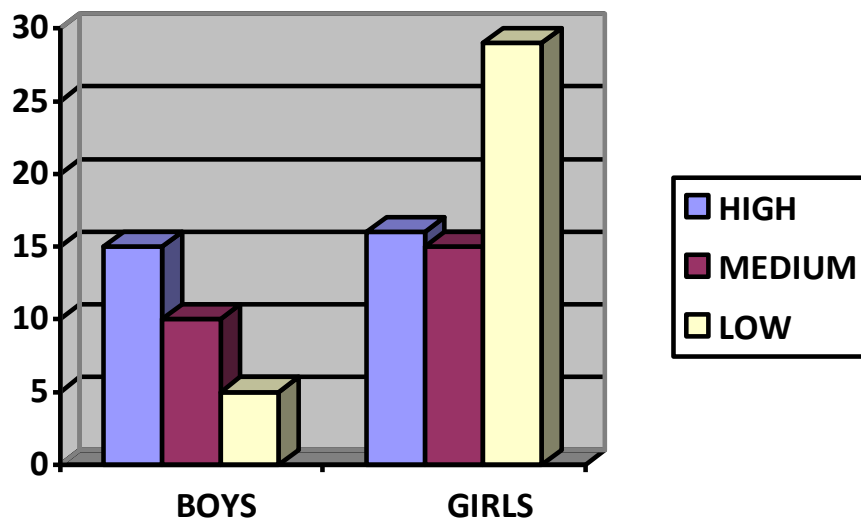
From Table2 and Figure2 it is clear that 10,15 and 5of the boys have high ,medium and low levels of self esteem . Similarly the girls possess 9,15 and 6 of high,medium and low levels of self esteem.

TABLE 3: Representing Self Esteem levels of the children of working mothers and studying in the private schools.

LEVELS	BOYS	GIRLS
HIGH	15	16
MEDIUM	10	15

LOW	5	29

FIGURE 3: Representing Self Esteem levels of the children of working mothers and studying in the private schools.



From the above table and figure it is seen that 15%,25% and 30% of the boys have high, medium and low levels of self esteem,while girls possess 16%,15% and 29% of high, medium and low levels of self esteem.

TABLE 4: REPRESENTING SELF ESTEEM LEVELS OF THE CHILDREN OF NON-WORKING MOTHERS AND STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

SELF ESTEEM LEVELS	BOYS	GIRLS
HIGH	30	23
MEDIUM	15	25
LOW	15	12

FIGURE 4: Representing Self Esteem levels of the children of non-working mothers and studying in government schools.

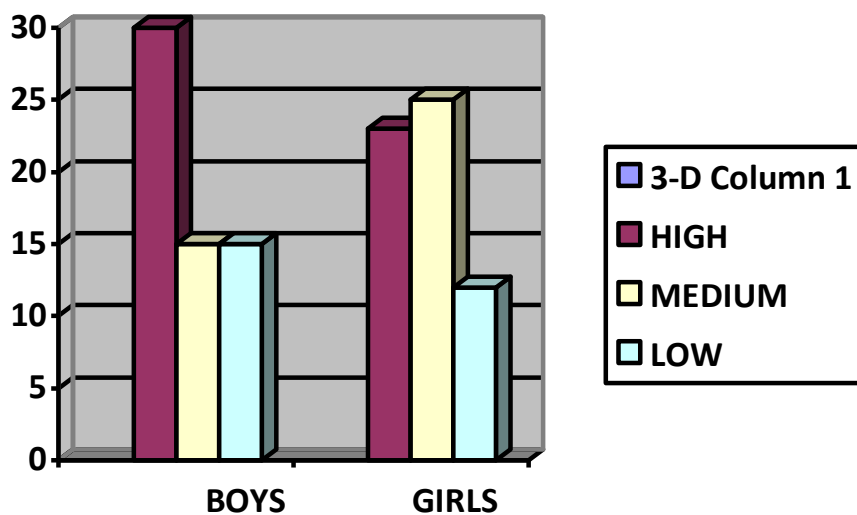


TABLE 5: REPRESENTING SELF ESTEEM LEVELS OF THE CHILDREN OF NON-WORKING MOTHERS AND STUDYING IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

SELF ESTEEM LEVELS	BOYS	GIRLS
HIGH	22	15
MEDIUM	25	24
LOW	13	21

FIGURE 5: Representing self esteem levels of the children of non-working mothers and studying in the government schools.

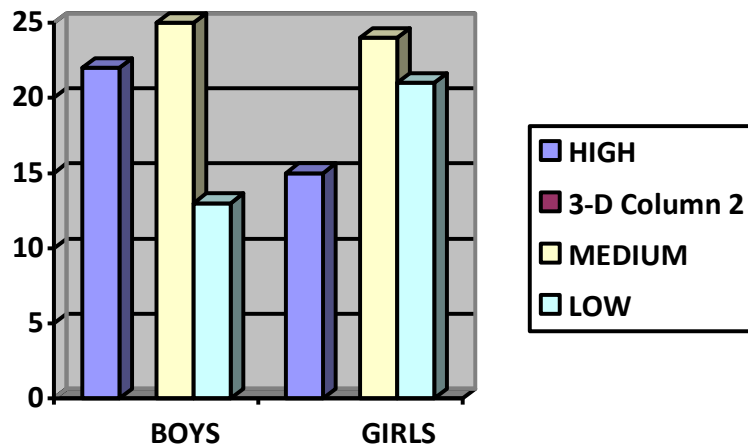


TABLE 6: REPRESENTING SELF ESTEEM LEVELS OF THE CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

VARIABLES	COEFFICIENT OF CORRELATION	INTERPRETATION
SELF ESTEEM		
ACADEMIC	0.30	SIGNIFICANT AT 0.01

ACHIEVEMENT		LEVEL.

A PERUSAL OF TABLE 5 INDICATES THAT THE COEFFICIENT OF CORRELATION BETWEEN SELF ESTEEM AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS IS 0.30 WHICH IS SIGNIFICANT AT 0.01 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE.SO,IT CAN BE SEEN THAT SELF ESTEEM AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ARE POSITIVELY CORRELATED IN THIS SAMPLE.

TABLE6: REPRESENTING SELF ESTEEM OF THE CHILDREN OF NON-WORKING MOTHERS IN RELATION TO THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

VARIABLES	CO EFFICIENT OF CORRELATION	INTERPRETATION
SELF ESTEEM	0 .25	SIGNIFICANT AT 0.01 LEVEL.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT		

From the above table it can be seen that the coefficient of correlation between the self esteem and academic achievement of the children is 0.25 which is significant at 0.01 level.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The major findings of the study are:

1. The number of boys of working mothers and studying in government schools who were found to possess high, medium and low levels of self esteem were 10,20 and 30 respectively .
2. Again, girls of working mothers and studying in government schools who were found to possess the three levels of self esteem,i.e, high, medium and low were 15,25 and 30.
3. Boys of non-working mothers and studying in the government schools possessing high,medium and low levels of self esteem were found to be 30,15 and 15.
4. In the same manner the number of girls of the non-working mothers and studying in the government schools were found to be 23,25 and 12 respectively.

5. The number of boys of the non-working mothers and studying in the government schools with high, medium and low levels of self esteem was found out to be 30, 15 and 15.
6. The number of girls of non-working mothers and studying in the government schools with high, medium and low levels of self esteem was found out to be 23, 25 and 12 respectively.
7. Similarly, the number of boys of non-working mothers and studying in the private schools with high, medium and low levels of self esteem was found out to be 22, 25 and 13, while that of the girls was found out to be 15, 24 and 21.
8. There existed a positive and significant relationship between the self esteem levels of children of working mothers and their academic achievement.
9. A positive and significant relationship also existed between the self esteem levels and academic achievement of children of non-working mothers and their academic achievement.

CONCLUSION: Based on the findings of the study we can say that there exists no significant difference in the self esteem levels between the children of working mothers and studying in the government schools and private schools in relation to gender. Similarly, there was found to be no significant difference in the self esteem levels of the children of non-working mothers and studying in the government and private schools in relation to gender. Moreover, it was found that a positive and significant relationship existed between the self esteem and academic achievement of the children of both the working and non-working mothers. So, the present study is of immense use in the present day competitive world. If the parents and teachers are aware about the level of self esteem of children, they can provide the right type of guidance and thus help them to be responsible and successful citizens of the future.

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