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## A Study of Personality Traits of Children of Working and Non-working Mothers.

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### ABSTRACT:

There is substantial evidence that personality results from both heredity and environment. As Thomas Teal noted, personality arises from the ongoing interaction of temperament and surroundings: when these forces are aligned, healthy development follows; when they clash, behavioral problems may emerge. Personality develops through repeated responses to people and situations and the reinforcement those responses provide. Early learning occurs mainly within the home, while subsequent learning takes place in broader social contexts.

Parenting plays a crucial role in a child's development. A child's behavior, manners, values, and self-confidence largely reflect parenting style. Effective parenting equips a child to face life's challenges and opportunities. In most societies, child-rearing is primarily a family responsibility, especially for mothers, making a mother's role central. Beyond physical care and nourishment, mothers shape a child's moral and emotional development —often described as the child's first school. Children of homemakers often receive more focused attention and guidance, while mothers who work outside the home may have less time to meet their child's needs. Prolonged maternal absence can sometimes lead to problems, though this is not universally true.

**Keywords:** Personality Traits, Working Mother, and Non-working Mother.

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### Introduction:

Research consistently shows the mother–child relationship is critical for personality development. Working mothers may experience fatigue, stress, or health issues that reduce their emotional availability; their children may be placed in daycare or cared for by others, which can foster insecurity in some cases. These children may display dependence or inefficiency later in life. Conversely, children of non-working mothers often receive more direct care and supervision, with lower risk of behavioral problems; educated mothers who stay home may also support their children's schoolwork.

Overall, a mother's presence and employment status can significantly influence a child's personality development. Maternal employment produces both positive and negative effects on a child's overall development, and similar patterns appear when comparing children of non-working mothers.

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### WORKING MOTHER:

The expression "working mothers" represents women who are mothers and who earn a living by working outside the house, much like they do while raising their young children.

"First, from the early 1950s, many working mothers began to challenge, although not overturn, the dominant narrative of the ideal mother being confined exclusively to the home. The simple fact that so many women were drawn to work outside the home despite criticism highlights the financial and emotional importance of employment for women" (Wilson, 2006).

One should define an operating mother as a lady with the potential to raise a toddler, integrate with a profession, and take on responsibility.

Non-working Mother: Non-operating women within the present study note that they are educated ladies with instructional qualifications, graduate and above, but no longer employed by any govt. Semi-authorities or personal jobs.

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### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

#### REVIEW IN INDIA:-

- **Khan, M.A. & Sayed, A. (2018).** The researchers conducted the study on "Children of Working and Non-working Mothers-their Adjustment. The study aimed to (a) identify children of working and non-working mothers and (b) compare their adjustment. Two of Kashmir's ten districts—Budgam and Srinagar—were randomly selected. From elementary schools in these districts, A selection at random

of 400 pupils having working mother and 400 students without working mothers was made. The sample comprised eighth-grade students aged 13–15. Adjustment was measured using Bell's Adjustment Inventory, translated into Urdu by Qadri (1964). Using a survey method, data were analyzed with means, standard deviations, and t-tests. The results indicated that children of working mothers were socially maladjusted, whereas children of working mothers were well-adjusted.

- **Rani, B. (2018).** The researcher conducted the study on "An Emotional Maturity of Children of Working Mothers and Home-Making Mothers". The researcher examined emotional maturity in children of working and homemaker mothers. The study aimed to compare these two groups. A purposive sample of 100 male students (ages 13–17, grades 8–11) was drawn from Rohtak and nearby villages: 50 with working mothers (defined as mothers who stayed away from home eight hours a day) and 50 with homemaker mothers. Data were collected via questionnaire using a survey method. Descriptive statistics (mean, SD) and t-tests assessed mean differences. Findings should be generalized cautiously due to the study's univariate design and potential confounding factors. Nevertheless, the results suggest that parents should prioritize quality time and install core values to guide adolescents constructively and reduce behavioral problems.
- **Biswas (2018) compared personality factors in children of working and non-working mothers using 400 adolescents**(100 per group: boys/girls/working/ nonworking). Purposive sampling and the Bengali-adapted High School Personality Questionnaire (Cattell & Cattell) were used. Data were analyzed with mean, SD, and t-tests. Results indicated mothers' employment affects children's personality. The author advises both working and nonworking mothers to give more individual, quality time and allow children opportunities to solve problems independently.
- **Sayed, A. & Khan, M.A. (2018).** The study, "Children of Working and Non-working Mothers – Their Stress and Coping Strategies", aimed to (a) compare stress levels and (b) examine coping strategies of children of working versus non-working mothers. From six educational zones in Budgam District, one zone was chosen. All students of working mothers in that zone were selected (N = 100), and 100 students with unemployed mothers were randomly selected from high and higher secondary schools. Participants were aged 14–15 years. Stress was measured with Cohen et al.'s (1983) Perceived Stress Scale and coping strategies with Folkman and Lazarus's (1988) scale. Using a survey design, data were analyzed with means, standard deviations, and t-tests. Results indicated that children of working mothers reported higher stress. Offspring of mothers who do not work were more problem-focused in coping, while children of working mothers were more likely to avoid problems, possibly due to reduced maternal availability.
- **Ghosh, S. (2019).** Investigated "Quality of Life among Working and Non-working Mothers in Kolkata." The study aimed to determine differences in overall quality of life and physical health between working and non-working mothers. The sample comprised 100 working and 100 non-working mothers selected by simple random sampling from workplaces, schools, hospitals, and households in Kolkata. Primary data were collected using an information schedule and the WHOQOL-BREF. A survey design was used, and data were analyzed with SPSS and t-tests. Results indicated significant differences between working and non-working mothers in quality of life, including physical and psychological health.
- **Mohapatro, P., Das, S., Mishra, T., & Mohanty, S. (2019).** Conducted "A Comparative Study to Assess the Social Adjustment of Children (8–12 years) of Employed and Unemployed Mothers" in selected schools in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Objectives were to assess and compare social adjustment levels of children of employed and unemployed mothers. The sample included 300 children (142 of employed mothers, 158 of unemployed mothers) selected via random sampling. Data were gathered using a self-structured questionnaire in a survey design. Descriptive and inferential statistics, including Chi-square tests, examined associations with demographic variables. The study found no difference: children of employed and unemployed mothers showed similar social adjustment.
- **Nirapure, J.M., Sharma, C.P., Yadav, P.K., & Samota, A.K. (2020).** Performed "A Comparative Study to Assess Emotional Problems Among Children (8–13 years) of Working and Non-working Mothers in Rural and Urban Areas of Bhopal (M.P)." The study's objective was to compare the emotional problems of working mothers' children to those of non-working mothers. The sample consisted of 60 children from Bhopal's rural and urban areas, 30 from each of the categories of working and non-working mothers. Using a questionnaire and survey method, data were analyzed with descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings showed a significant difference: children of working mothers exhibited higher levels of mental health problems than those of non-working mothers.
- **Shyaama, S.P., Srivastava, N., & Maheswari, M.R. (2022).** Studied "Family Functioning of Working and Non-working Mothers in Joint Families: An Adolescent Perspective." In joint families with working or unemployed mothers, this study looked at how adolescents perceive problem solving, communication, roles, emotional responses and involvement, behavioral control, and overall functioning. The sample included 123 adolescents (ages 13–17), both genders, from joint families. A personal data sheet with closed- and open-ended items collected background information. Using a survey design, analyses included means, standard deviations, and independent-sample t-tests performed in SPSS. Results indicated adolescents perceived both working and non-working mothers in joint families as demonstrating somewhat unhealthy family functioning. The authors suggest that challenges inherent to joint-family living—such as managing in-law relationships and heavy household responsibilities—may strain mothers' interactions with children, and that quality parenting should be prioritized over mere presence.

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## REVIEW ABROAD

- **Lincoln, B.C. (2000)** conducted a narrative study titled "Career and Family: A Qualitative Study of Working Mothers" to explore the lives of professional mothers. He found these women to be hardworking, dedicated, and resilient, demonstrating independence and perseverance in balancing high-level careers with motherhood. The study suggests they can serve as role models for others seeking to combine career and family.
- **Shafi, K. & Mumtaz, S. (2013)** examined "Need For Achievement Between Children Of Working And Non-working Mothers" to determine whether children of working mothers exhibit greater achievement motivation. A purposive sample of 40 students (20 with

working mothers of at least five years' experience and 20 with non-working mothers), equally divided by gender, was surveyed using items adapted from the Edwards Personal Preference Schedule (EPPS, 1959). Data were analyzed with t-tests. The results indicated that children of working mothers show a higher need for achievement, with several contributing factors discussed.

- **Koirala, P., Subba, R. & Lopachan, M. (2016)** studied "Psychological Problems among the School Children of Working and Non-working Mothers" to identify differences in psychosocial symptoms. Using stratified random sampling, 120 ninth- and tenth-grade students (60 with working mothers and 60 with non-working mothers) from two Government higher secondary schools in Bharatpur were assessed with the Youth Pediatric Symptoms Checklist-17. Analyses (means, SD, t-tests, chi-square) in SPSS v20 showed no significant overall difference in psychosocial problems between groups. However, attention problems were slightly higher among children of working mothers, externalizing problems were slightly higher among children of non-working mothers, and overall psychosocial issues were marginally more prevalent in the latter group—suggesting maternal employment is not the sole influencing factor.

## RESEARCH GAP

Existing literature compares children of working and non-working mothers across various populations and regions, often with limited scope. Few studies focus on specific localities, and there is little research on personality traits of such children in North 24 Parganas. Past studies also vary in sampling approaches and may reflect regional or selection biases, indicating a need for focused local research.

## TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

For the present study, the researcher developed a questionnaire titled "A Study of Personality Traits of Children of Working and Non-working Mothers" to collect data from mothers in North 24 Parganas. The instrument contained 20 statements with four response options (Yes, No, Undecided, No comment).

## DATA COLLECTION

Mothers from North 24 Parganas were purposively selected. The target population comprised employed and unemployed women (working and non-working mothers) in the district.

## SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Using random sampling at the block level, the investigator selected Basirhat, Baduria, and Hasnabad blocks and drew a sample of 100 mothers: 50 working and 50 non-working.

## SAMPLE CLASSIFICATION

The study included 50 children of working mothers and 50 of non-working mothers. Each group comprised 25 boys and 25 girls. The children's personality traits were analyzed using mean, standard deviation, percentage, and correlation coefficients to examine differences and relationships between teenagers whose mothers work and those who don't.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

### Objective-1: Table showing Personality Introversion and Extroversion traits of female Children of non-working parents under study

Table: 1			
	Extrovert	Introvert	Total
Female Children	23	2	25

Among 25 female children of non-working mothers, 23 (92%) were classified as extroverts and 2 (8%) as introverts based on the scoring procedure. Mean = 12.5; SD = 4.68. The high proportion of extroversion provides positive support for the hypothesis. The percentage ratio is Positive evidence for acceptance of the hypothesis under study.

### Objective-2 -Table showing Personality Introversion and Extroversion traits of female Children of Working mothers under study

TABLE-2			
	Extrovert	Introvert	Total
Female Children	18	7	25

In pursuance of the test of hypothesis under study, the calculations were performed as under: -

Introversion and Extroversion traits of female Children of Working	
Mean	12.5
SD	3.86

Percentage of personality traits of 25 female children of working mothers

Among 25 female children of working mothers, 18 (72%) were extroverts and 7 (28%) introverts. Mean = 12.5; SD = 3.86. The results similarly support the hypothesis that most female children show extroverted traits. The percentage ratio is Positive evidence for acceptance of the hypothesis under study.

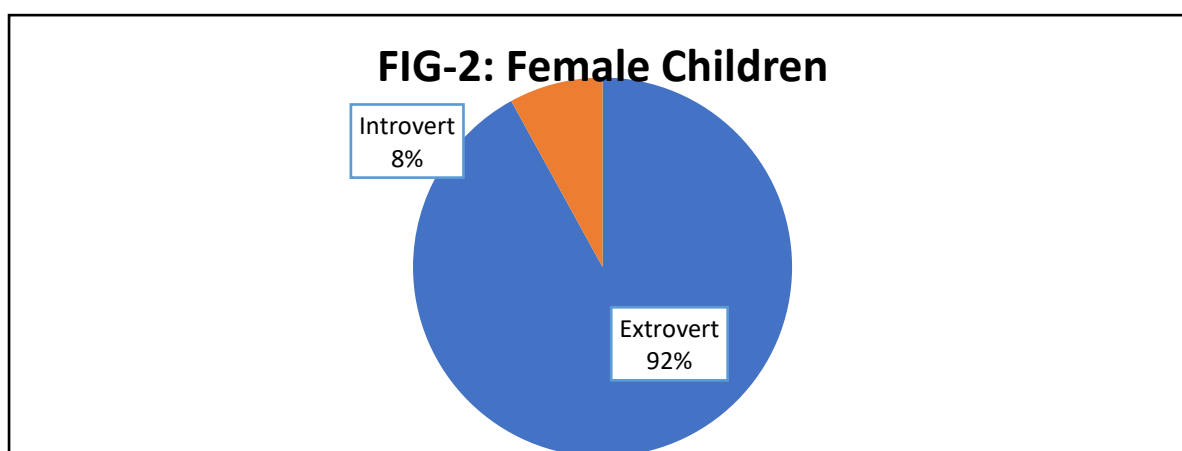
**Objective-3: Table showing Personality Introversion and Extroversion traits of male Children of Non-Working mothers under study.**

Table: 3			
	Extrovert	Introvert	Total
Male Children	16	9	25

Among 25 male children of non-working mothers, 16 (64%)-were extroverts and 9 (36%) introverts. Mean = 12.5; SD = 4.94. This group shows a higher proportion of introversion relative to the female groups, providing negative evidence for the hypothesis.

**Objective 4 -Table showing Personality Introversion and Extroversion traits of male Children of Working mothers under study**

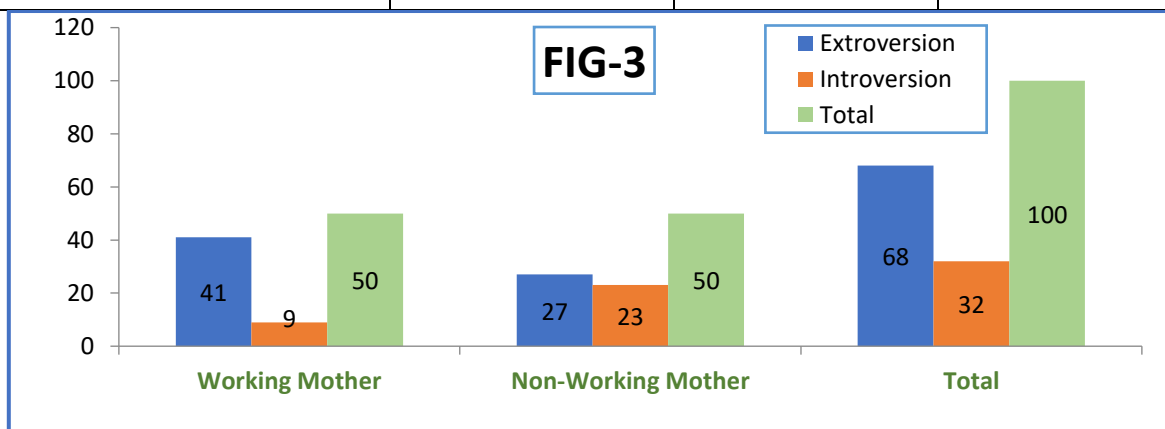
Table: 4			
	Extrovert	Introvert	Total
Male Children	11	14	25



Among 25 male children of working mothers, 11 (44%) were extroverts and 14 (56%) introverts. Mean = 12.5; SD = 1.41. This pattern also provides negative evidence for the hypothesis, with a majority of introversion in this group.

**Ho5: -Table showing Personality Introversion and Extroversion traits of Working Mother and non-working mother under study**

	Extroversion	Introversion	Total
Working Mother	41	9	50
Non-Working Mother	27	23	50
Total	68	32	100



Overall, 68% of the 100 children were extroverts and 32% introverts. Group means are equal ( $M = 50$ ),  $SD = 13.16$ , and the reported correlation coefficient = -1. The hypothesis that maternal employment has no effect on introversion-extroversion is supported by these data, which show no clear differences in this trait between children of working and unemployed mothers.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

- Female children of both working and non-working mothers show high rates of extroversion (92% and 72%, respectively).
- Male children show higher rates of introversion, especially among those of working mothers (56%).
- Combined analysis across 100 children indicates 68% extroversion and 32% introversion, with no significant difference between maternal employment groups.

## SUMMARY

According to research, there is no clear difference in introverted-extroverted attitudes between children of working and non-working mothers. Nevertheless, children of working mothers—both boys and girls—tend to display greater confidence, decision-making independence, and somewhat different social values. These differences appear linked less to employment per se and more to parenting quality, family environment, economic status, and parental attitudes. Thus, maternal employment interacts with parenting style and role modeling to influence certain adolescent personality characteristics, even though it does not substantially change introversion–extroversion overall.

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