

Personality Traits as, A Predictors of, Early Adolescents Well-Being of, Employed and, Unemployed Mothers

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ABSTRACT

Mother is the first teacher to any child. The amount of time that the mothers spend for their children is more crucial for the overall well-being or in other terms personality of any child. As the empowerment of women and family needs make mother to employed either self or in any organization. As early adolescence is an exciting time and children grow stronger and taller and think in more mature way. This age is also most stressful and confusing time for them. And many of children try or addict tobacco alcohol, and even other drugs. Both the parental care is essential at this age. However, mother is the pivot in any family. If the mother is working, she has to manage her time for both work place and home and sometime children may feel they are neglected. One of negative effect of working mother is reduced amount of supervision with their children this may probably increase the opportunity of adverse peer influence on the children especially at early adolescence age. This leads to negative effect on personality traits or characteristics of early adolescents. This study focused on the personality traits as a predictor of early adolescent well-being of unemployed and employed mothers. A sample of 80 early adolescents (40 are the children of employed mothers and another 40 are the children of unemployed mothers) chosen randomly from upper primary schools of Ernakulam District, Kerala, India. NEO Big five personality questionnaire was used and data collected using both online and offline methods. Mean, standard deviation was used for analysis. t- test was conducted to know the variables are significant or not. Result revealed that there is a significant difference exists between in the personality traits of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers. Results also showed that early adolescents of employed mother are more emotionally stable, intelligent, competitive, venturesome, enthusiastic, apprehensive & tense. On other hand early adolescents of unemployed mother are less emotionally stable, less intelligent, inactive, shy, and relaxed.

Keywords: *Early Adolescents, Personality Traits, Well-Being, Employed and Unemployed Mothers, Big Five Personality Test.*

Personality traits are characteristics of a well-being that are the well-organized pattern of one's behavior and attitude which makes him/her distinctive from others. Personality development is a continuous process that occurs the interaction of character and

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temperament with the surrounding or environment. Many studies focused on the problem of working woman but very few studies focused on the different aspects of children of employed woman. The research for the last few decades shows that the mother's employment status is not so robust a variable that the simple comparison of the children of employed and unemployed mothers will reveal meaningful differences. Many studies found that the mother plays an important role in the development of personality of any child. Literature showed both the positive and negative effects of working and non-working mothers which are presented below.

Positive effects of working mother: Some factors such as parental education poverty, and quality child care have positive effects on children social and cognitive development (Booth, 2000). Most of the cases, income of the mother makes the family status above the poverty level. With the income of both husband and the wife make the mother to spend the money for children education and health (Kelly, 2006). According to (Carvel, 2001) improved living standards because of working mothers offset all the negative effects. Parental education also has a positive effect on child's success in the life in terms getting better education and health care (Figes, 2001). Studies also showed that the children of both employed parents achieve greater scores in school with less study pressure (Carvel, 2001) and score better on intelligent tests also (Gershaw, 1998). Research also showed that positive results on the child's cognitive and social development when a child was given a good child care (Figes, 2001).

Negative effects of working mother: Some studies show without mother's presence have a negative impact on the child. Studies of Joseph Rowntree Foundation showed that when mothers employed full time when her child is at pre-school level, children found unemployed 9% more of the time and also suffered with psychological stress at 28% more when compared with the children of unemployed mothers (Carvel, 2001). Studies of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth proved that the child of employed mother showed lower academic performance and language development (American Academy of Pediatrics, 1999).

Positive effects of non-working mother: Survey by American Academy of Pediatrics Division of Child Health Research, resulted that pediatrician's opined that mothers should not work when their child is in infancy and early pre-school age (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2004). This may be because of close connection between the mother and child at early age of a child make a strong bond, which enhances the communication between both mother and child all along the pre-school, middle school, high-school and also later years of life. The moral values, attention and care received from mother model the child in more positive way when they become adults (Gershaw, 1998).

Negative Impacts of nonworking Mothers: Non-working mother generally isolated as compared to the working mothers, who has a greater range of professional and social. This may reflect on child interaction with the surroundings also. Further, meager and tedium daily interactions may also cause disappointing. Non- working women also experiences lack of support from family and/or also from society (Gershaw, 1998). Even though unemployed mother who stays at home can make her children emotionally and academically strong, the actual quality time that mother spends with their children for their all-round development is vital. Mostly time spent by non-working mothers in doing household work and that may not comprise the time spent with her child.

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(Watson 1973) reviewed the effects of mother's employment at different stages of children's life, as infants then preschool children and school age children finally as adolescents. He concluded that if sufficient and substitute care may alleviate all ill effects, whether mother is working or not. Studies of (Kaur and Meenakshi, 2010) revealed that, there is no compelling variation with parental consolation of the children of employed and unemployed mothers. Studies of (Sairozi,2012) found that in the fields of living situations, employment and decision-making adolescent children of employed mothers were much better than that of unemployed mothers. Research of (Hoffman, 2007) showed significant differences between children of non-working and working mothers and also differ in the effects between the boys, girls. (Dhall and Sahni, 2008) found that children who receive greater cognitive stimulation were found better academic achievement than that of who receive lower level of cognitive incentives. (Srivedi and Beena, 2008) found that children of working and non-working mother do not differ in adjustment, but children of employed mother have achieved better than children of unemployed mother.

According to the available literature and authors knowledge very few studies focus on impact of working status of the mother on early adolescent children. As early adolescence is an exciting time and children grow stronger and taller and think in more mature way. This age is also most stressful and confusing time for them. And many of children try or addict tobacco alcohol, and even other drugs. Both the parental care is essential at this age. However, mother is the pivot in any family. If the mother is working, she has to manage her time for both work place and home and sometime children may feel they are neglected. One of negative effect of working mother is reduced amount of supervision which their children this may probably increase the opportunity of adverse peer influence on the children especially at early adolescence age. This leads to negative effect on personality traits or characteristics of early adolescents. Hence the present study focused on the influence of employment status of mother with the personality and psychological wellbeing of her early adolescent children.

Problem statement

Personality traits as a predictor of early adolescent children of employed and unemployed mothers.

Definitions used in this study.

The various definitions used in this work are given below:

- **Working Mother:** Refers to an educated woman with qualifications, graduation and above, working with Government/ Semi-Government or Private job.
- **Non-working Mother:** Refers to an educated woman with qualification, graduation and above, not working in any Government/ Semi-Government or Private job.
- **Personality traits:** Refers to statistically leading set of traits measured with NEO Big five personality theory.
- **Psychological well-being:** Refers to the judgments and evaluations and that an individual makes for improving the quality of life.

Objectives of this study

1. Comparing the personality characteristics or traits of female early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.
2. Comparing the personality characteristics or traits of male early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.

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3. Comparing the personality characteristics or traits of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.

Hypotheses chosen in this study.

- No momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of female early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.
- No momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of male early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.
- No momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.
- No momentous variation between early adolescents psychological well-being of unemployed and employed mothers.
- No momentous relationships between personality characteristics or trait and well-being of early adolescents with unemployed and employed mothers.

METHODOLOGY

1. **Selection of research design:** This study is descriptive nature; survey research method was used.
2. **Selection of the sample:** In the present study 80 early adolescents and working 40 non-working mothers was randomly selected from different parts of the Kochi district. Students of the two Govt. maintained schools and two private institutions located in the Kochi district would constitute the population of the study
Inclusion/exclusion in the selection of the sample.
 - Only two Govt. maintained schools and two private institutions located in the Kochi city were included in the study.
 - Only 80 students of 6th & 7th class or grade of age varying from 10 to 13 years studying at Kochi city were included in the study.
 - Disabled children were excluded from the study.
3. **Data collection:** This involves personal data schedule and Big five personality inventory questionnaire.

Personal data schedule: Personal data schedule was prepared that consists of the socio-demographic information about the subject such as their age, sex, place of residence, family type, birth order, economic status, education of parents, occupation of parents, performance at school, attendance at school etc.

Big five personality inventory: This test has five facets or dimensions of personality characteristics or traits is used for understanding one's personality in the current study. These five facets or dimensions are Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness.

Instructions given to the subject:

1. This form is used to explore one's personality traits.
2. Score 5 means that you strongly agree with given statement, whereas score 1 indicates that you strongly disagree with that statement.
3. In the case of you neither disagree nor agree with that statement then the score should be 3.

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4. Data analysis: Statistical methods used in this study were mean and standard deviation and for the relationship between the variables parenting style, psychological well-being and adjustment was analyzed using Spearman's Correlation method. To determine the momentous variation between the group's 't' test was used.
5. Interpretation of results: Results are interpreted based on t-test values and significance levels both significance levels of 95% and 99% were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The main aim of this study is to analyse the personality traits of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers, in order to have better understanding of personality characteristics and its correlation in each group. To achieve this objective, data collected by various means was analyzed by using mean, standard deviation, and t-tests. Sample for this study is shown the Table.1. Based on selection of sample personal data showing the subject demographic variables such as their age, sex, place of residence, family type, birth order, economic status, education of parents, occupation of parents, performance at school, attendance at school etc. collected and details of unemployed and employed mothers are presented in Table.2 and Table.3. respectively.

Table.1. Study population.

Group	Male	Female	Total
Children of employed women	20	20	40
Children of unemployed women	20	20	40
Total	40	40	80

Table.2. Demographic variables of children of employed women.

Sl. No.	Variables	Category	% of working women
1	Age	10-11	10
		11-12	90
2	Education of parents	Graduates	100
		Post-graduates	0
3	Caste	General	50
		OBC	20
		SC	15
		ST	15
4	Religion	Hindu	35
		Muslim	25
		Christian	20
		Others	20
5	Family type	Joint	40
		Nuclear	60
6	Occupation of parents	Private job	30
		Business	50
		Government Job	20

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Table.3. Demographic variables of children of unemployed women.

Sl. No.	Variables	Category	% of unemployed women
1	Age	10-11	20
		11-12	80
2	Education of parents	Graduates	95
		Post-graduates	5
3	Caste	General	50
		OBC	20
		SC	15
		ST	15
4	Religion	Hindu	70
		Muslim	20
		Christian	10
		Others	0
5	Family type	Joint	30
		Nuclear	70
6	Occupation of parents	Private job	40
		Business	30
		Government Job	30

Analysis of data collected and interpreted based of the chosen hypothesis.

Hypothesis 1: No momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of female early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.

The Table 4, infers that on factors Neuroticism, Openness, Conscientiousness and agreeableness significant variation found between the groups on NEO big five personality inventory. The difference found at 0.01 level significance level for all the factors except Extraversion. In all these four comparisons, the mean difference is higher for EAEM, this means in comparison to EAUEM are more trustable, compliance, competence, dutifulness, self –discipline, depressed and angry on other side EAUEM are less emotionally stable, in active, phlegmatic, sober, relaxed and confident. The hypothesis, there is no momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of female early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers is rejected and an alternate hypothesis was accepted which says there is a significant variation exists between the two groups.

Table 4. Mean comparison of female early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers on different personality traits*.

Personality trait	Group	Mean Value	Standard Deviation	t-value	Significance level
Extraversion	EAUEM	2.72	1.34	0.91	Not significant
	EAEM	2.90	1.45		
Neuroticism	EAUEM	2.33	1.24	3.45	Significant at 0.01 level
	EAEM	2.97	1.38		
Openness	EAUEM	3.92	1.30	5.96	Significant at 0.01 level
	EAEM	4.96	1.16		
Conscientiousness	EAUEM	5.19	1.35	4.68	Significant at 0.01 level
	EAEM	6.10	1.40		
Agreeableness	EAUEM	6.23	2.02	3.49	Significant at 0.01 level
	EAEM	7.17	1.79		

*EAUEM: Early Adolescent of Unemployed Mother

EAEM: Early Adolescent of Employed Mother

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Hypothesis 2: No momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of male early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.

Table.5. Mean comparison of male early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers on different personality traits.

Personality trait	Group	Mean Value	Standard Deviation	t-value	Significance level
Extraversion	EAUEM	2.88	1.40	0.87	Not significant
	EAEM	2.64	1.35		
Neuroticism	EAUEM	2.56	1.33	2.36	Significant at 0.05 level
	EAEM	3.20	1.39		
Openness	EAUEM	3.76	1.35	6.08	Significant at 0.01 level
	EAEM	5.16	0.91		
Conscientiousness	EAUEM	4.80	1.44	3.36	Significant at 0.01 level
	EAEM	5.64	1.03		
Agreeableness	EAUEM	5.48	1.96	1.79	Not significant
	EAEM	6.08	1.32		

From the Table.5 it can be noted that out of 5 personality traits 3 have been found to be significant at 0.1 and 0.05 levels, these traits are neuroticism, Openness and conscientiousness. It is very interesting to note that, in all three comparisons, mean differences favouring to (higher mean values) the EAEM, it means EAEM when compared with EAUEM are more tender minded and intelligent, whereas EAUEM are excitable, emotionally stable, enthusiastic. In this view of these results, hypothesis which is stated as no momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of male early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers not fully accepted.

Hypothesis 3: No momentous variation in the mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.

Table.6. Mean comparison of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers on different personality traits.

Personality trait	Group	Mean Value	Standard Deviation	t-value	Significance level
Extraversion	EAUEM	2.56	1.23	2.16	Significant at 0.05 level
	EAEM	3.16	1.50		
Neuroticism	EAUEM	2.10	1.11	2.59	Significant at 0.05 level
	EAEM	2.74	1.35		
Openness	EAUEM	4.12	1.32	2.40	Significant at 0.05 level
	EAEM	4.76	1.35		
Conscientiousness	EAUEM	5.58	1.14	3.57	Significant at 0.01 level
	EAEM	6.56	1.57		
Agreeableness	EAUEM	7.08	1.65	3.73	Significant, 0.01 level
	EAEM	8.26	1.51		

It is quite interesting to note that from Table .6 all personality traits have been found to be significant either at 0.01 or 0.05 level. This indicates that all the personality traits of EAUEM in comparison to EAEM differ significantly. Therefore, the, hypothesis stating that, no momentous difference in mean scores of personality characteristics or traits of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers is rejected. It is also be noted that mean differences are favour to the EAEM (higher mean values) indicating that improved living

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standards (Carvel, 2001) because of income from both the parents employed mothers boosting the personality trait factors.

Hypothesis 4: No momentous variation between unemployed and employed mothers on their psychological well- being.

Table.7. shows a relation between, the early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers on psychological well- being. It can be noted that, t-value is 2.99 indicating, relation is significant (0.01 significance level). Therefore, there is a significant variation among the EAEM and EAUEM on their psychological well-being. Table.7 also shows higher mean value for EAEM, mean that the well-being of EAEM is superior than the EAUEM. This shows that the parental education and employment has crucial role in overall development of early adolescent (Figes 2001).

Table.7. Mean comparison of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers on psychological well-being.

Group	N	Mean Value	Standard Deviation	t-value	Level of significance
EAUEM	40	4.80	2.02	2.99	Significant, 0.01 level
EAEM	40	5.96	1.86		

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant relationships between personality trait and well-being of early adolescents with unemployed and employed mothers.

Table.8. Relationship between personality trait and psychological well-being of employed mother of early adolescent.

Variable	N	r	Significance level
Personality trait & psychological well-being	80	0.223	0.01

From the Table it is evident that r value of personality trait and psychological well- being of working mother is 0.223 In the other words' correlation between personality trait and psychological well-being of working mother. It is found that the r value is (0.223) is significant. Hence hypothesis rejected. Therefore, there is a positive relationship between personality trait and well-being of early adolescents with employed mothers.

Table.9. Relationship between personality trait and psychological well-being of unemployed mother of early adolescent.

Variable	N	r	Significance level
Personality trait & psychological well-being	80	0.182	0.01

From the Table.9. it is evident that r (0.182) value is significant. Hence hypothesis is rejected. In the other words there is a significant relationship between personality trait and well-being of early adolescents with unemployed mother.

CONCLUSIONS

Current study presents personality traits as predictors of a well-being of early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers. Based on the data collected, its analysis the following conclusions were drawn.

- The study affirmed that EAUEM are more trustable, compliance, competence, dutifulness, self –discipline, depressed and angry on other side EAUEM are less emotionally stable, in active, phlegmatic, sober, relaxed and confident.
- Out of 5 comparison 4 of them found significant either at 0.1 level, showing that EAEM in comparison to female EAUEM differ in personality traits, Neuroticism, Openness and Conscientiousness, Agreeableness.
- Out of 5 comparison 3 of them found significant either at 0.1 or 0.05 level, showing that male EAEM in comparison to male EAUEM differ in personality traits, Neuroticism, Openness and Conscientiousness.
- It is quite interesting to note that from all personality traits found to be significant either at 0.01 or 0.05 level. This indicates that all the personality traits of EAUEM in comparison to EAEM differ significantly in all five personality factors, i.e., Extraversion, Neuroticism, and Openness at 0.05 level, Conscientiousness and Agreeableness at 0.01 level.
- Significant difference found between the EAUEM and EAEM for psychological well-being. shows higher mean value for EAEM, mean that the well-being of EAEM is superior than the EAUEM.
- Clear correlation exists between personality trait and psychological well-being for both early adolescents of unemployed and employed mothers.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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