

“Academic performance of children of educated working class mothers: A study in Imphal West District, Manipur”

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Abstract: *The study was undertaken to find out the academic performance of the children of educated working class mothers in Imphal West District of Manipur. The objective of the study was to find out the academic performance of children of the educated working class mothers in Imphal West District of Manipur. In this study, descriptive survey method was adopted. The sample of the study comprises of 100 (one hundred) children (50 each of boys and girls). Questionnaire, interview and observation method were used as tools for the study. The data were analysed in percentage method. The study found that among the children of the educated working class mothers, the girls have achieved better academic performance than the boys.*

Keywords: *Educated working mother, children, academic performance, Imphal West District.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The home is the house, apartment or place where a child or children live with his or her parents. The fundamental social roles of women are to bear and raise children that will engage in productive task within the household and society at large. Traditionally mothers are expected to participate or involve in social activities or job that could call for her absence in the house environment, that fact is evident in women been employed or engaged in various activities like labour, manual, white collar and civil job. Many parents have dreams of successful life for their children which actually inspired the children to perform better. Working mothers play a dual role both at home and at the work place any differently than that of non-working mothers. With the emergence of a new economic pattern, increasing opportunities for education, rising standard of living and increased modernization, women of the middle and upper class families have also started coming out from their traditional role of a home-maker to join the work force. Working women in the present study shall refer to educated women with educational qualification of graduation and above and are engaged in any government/semi government, or private sector job. The number of working women has been increasing year by year in Imphal west district in Manipur. The increasing number of women in the work force has created many problems to their children. The women who are in full time jobs have necessities of staying away from their families for long hours during the day creating more disturbances to their children. Today more mothers work outside the home than before. Young children are more affected by the mother’s employment than the older children; the girls are more affected than boys within the family. Very few studies have been conducted on academic performance of children of working mothers in Imphal West, Manipur.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Ara, N. (2012) found that educated working mother is in a better position to manage more effectively a pull to work and to take care of children at home. It was concluded that more social interaction and economical assistance of educated working mother make it possible to robust activities and academic performance of primary school children. Ali, A. (2016) found that the working mothers are more conscious and aware about their wards in educational adjustment and academic achievement. So their children are very social and extrovert. They have well adjusted personalities and can perform various tasks and duties effectively in all circumstances. But when we talk about non-working mothers they spend most of the time with their wards, so their wards totally depend on their mothers. Hence they face problems in educational adjustment and academic achievement. Aeri, P. and Jain, D. (2010) found that a mother is particularly important not because she has special skills but because she is with her children for a much greater time than any other person and her instructions reflecting a very strong influence on attitudes, abilities and behaviour of children. Most of those children who are successful and well-adjusted come from homes where parental attitudes are favourable and a wholesome relationship existed between children and parents. Mothers give her children love, affection and care since birth. Child-care has become a major issue in most of the countries of the world. It is a universal truth that children

require the love of mother the most. Almani et al (2012) found that the supporters of mothers work are of the opinion that working mothers create self confidence, social awareness and sense of commitment, struggle and lot of monetary benefits. The opponents argue that by working, mothers deprive their children from early development and training. Hence, it is not immoral for a mother to have a job but it is probably not the encouraging activity for her children.

3. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY:

A woman has multi-dimensional contributions in a family that affect the happiness of all family members. In almost all societies in the world, they are traditionally assigned to be the primary caregivers to infants and children (UNDP, 1995). Activities carried out by women such as preparing food and drinks, fetching water and seeking preventative and curative medical care are crucial for children's health and development. Women also play important roles to supplement family incomes in households as well as in businesses. In a developing state like Manipur, the participation of women is quite essential in most cases for minimum survival of a family. Because of their multi faceted roles as caregivers and providers of family income, women face challenging situations in bringing the right welfare of their children. Working may make them rely on other members of the household to provide proper child care. On the other hand, the additional family income earned from mothers' employment benefits in children's education, in paying tuition fees, purchasing academic accessories etc. and may more than compensate for any reductions in the quantity or quality of care, implying a net improvement in academic outcomes as a result of maternal work.

4. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

To find out academic achievements of working class mothers' children (girls and boys) at elementary level regarding:

- a. Classroom performance
- b. Study habit
- c. Learning Outcomes

5. DELIMITATION:

1. The study was delimited to five private elementary schools' students from class 6th to 8th standard of Imphal west district in Manipur.
2. The study delimited the qualification of mothers' from graduate and above and in working sectors of government/semi and private.

6. METHODOLOGY:

The descriptive survey method was used. The data were collected through simple random technique whereas questionnaire, interview and observation method were used as tools. Five (5) private elementary schools from Imphal west district, Manipur (50 each of boys and girls of educated working mothers) were used as sample. Data were analysed through simple percentage method, bar charts and pie diagrams.

7. DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS:

Table no.1: Class room performance

Class room performance			
Category	Good classroom performance (%)	Average classroom performance (%)	Poor classroom performance (%)
Girls	57.4 %	4.6 %	1.5 %
Boys	30.3 %	3.7%	2.5 %

Table no. 1 revealed that 57.4% of girls and 30.3% of boys were found good in classroom performance whereas 4.6% of girls and 3.7% of boys were found in average performance in classroom and 1.5% girls and 2.5% boys found in poor performance in classroom.

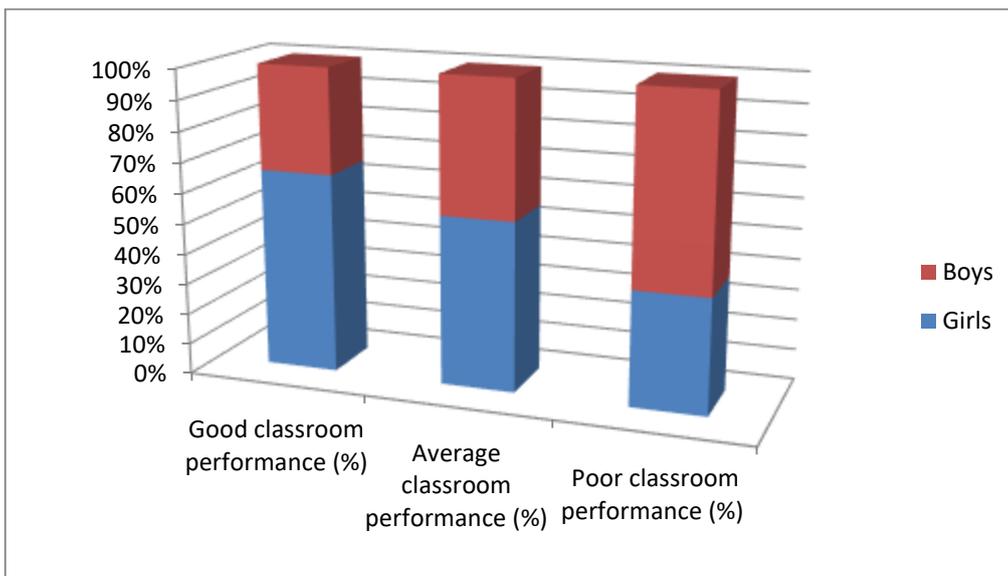


Figure 1: Class room performance

Table no.2: Study habit

Study habit			
Category	Good study habit (%)	Average study habit (%)	Poor study habit (%)
Girls	56.4%	5.6%	1%
Boys	30.2%	3.8%	3%

Table no.2 showed that 56.4% of girls and 30.2% of boys were found in good study habit, 5.6% of girls and 3.8% of boys found in average study habit and 1% of girls and 3% of boys were found in poor study habit.

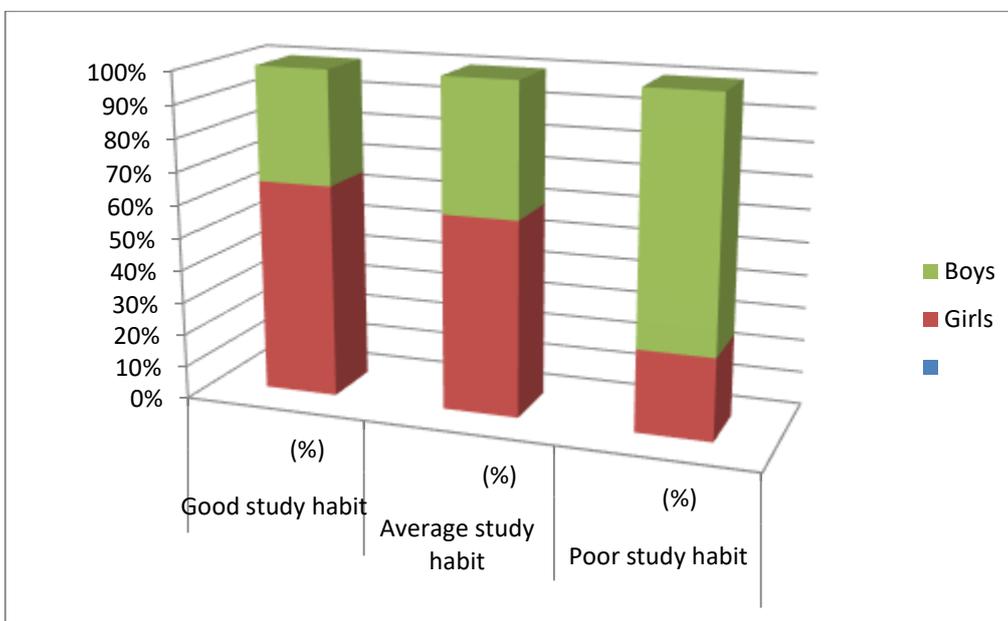


Figure 2: Study habit

Table no. 3: Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes			
Scores	80%-100%	60% -79%	Below 60%
Girls	30%	13.5%	4.5%
Boys	27.3%	19%	5.7%

Table no. 3 shows that 30% of girls and 27.3% of boys scored 80%-100%, 19% of boys and 13.5% of girls scored 60%-79% and 5.7% of boys and 4.5 % of girls scored below 60%.

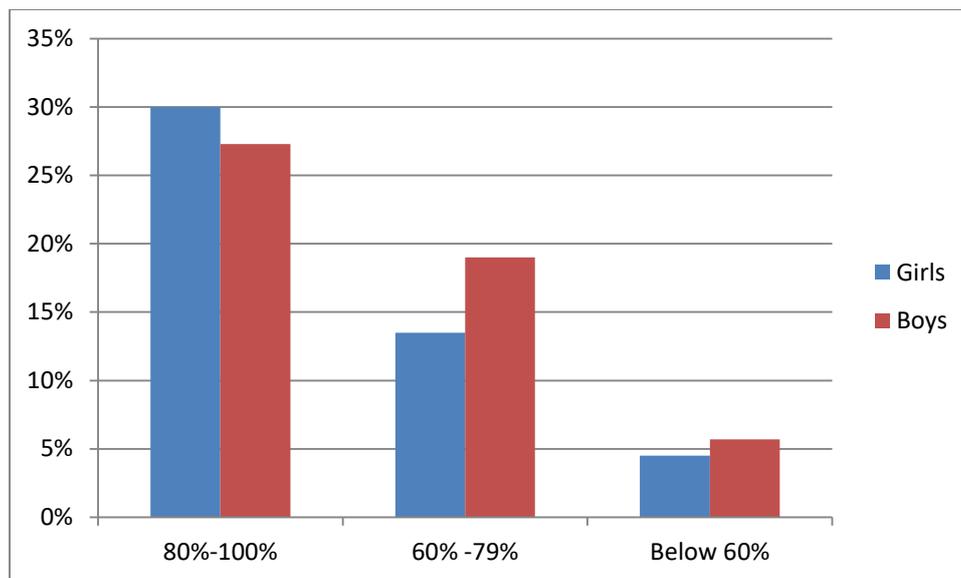


Figure 3: Learning Outcomes

8. SUGGESTIONS:

- The children of working mothers don't get proper care from their mothers even when they return home after completing the day's work. They are usually exhausted and hardly get time to take care for their children. Their children often face crisis just from early age. They face hardships in terms of emotional support and rearing. It is therefore necessary to take care for their children at least for some period of time, otherwise their children would face crisis.
- Working mothers should be sensitized about the problems of their children due to their absence in home.
- There should be proper arrangements of good care takers for children of working mothers. Good care takers are necessary for the children of working mothers so that their proper development will take place.
- The working mother should stay at home more than their working hours. She should stay home for at least three or four hours with her children in day time.
- In dual earning families, working mothers need to talk to their children at least for some time each day to understand their psychological needs and also to help them in their studies. This will help a lot to understand and to sort out their problem.
- The parents should be oriented about the needs of the changing social set up, problems of the children, and various procedures for proper development of the children.
- The government should take proper steps for the benefits of children of working mothers, like by establishing children club, sports centres and libraries in nearby houses.
- Lack of monitoring and supervision is observed in most of the families where mothers are employed. In that case mothers should monitor and supervise the children through phone. They should phone the children after every hour to make children understand that their mothers are with them. Such step of mothers will infuse in children the sense of monitoring. While talking on phone mothers should appreciate and encourage their children.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Teachers, administrators and counsellors should be sensitized about the level of academic problems and coping strategies of children of working mothers so that they would take proper measures for planning, counselling intervention for them.
- The present study is limited to one district of Imphal West district in Manipur state. In order to have some broader and comprehensive perspective, study may be extended to more districts or to other states or other countries.
- Furthermore, the author has to rely on a small size of sample due to time and cost constraints. It would be better to select more schools in the population.

- Studies can also be taken up at various levels i.e. school, college and university level.
- The study has its implications for teachers also. Teachers should try to develop sound educational atmosphere in the class rooms as well as in the schools so that the students do not confront with any adjustment problem. They should act as facilitator for the children of working mothers so that their loneliness at home is supplemented by empathetic attitude of teachers.

10. CONCLUSION:

- Girls were found in better performance than boys because they are not at all shy because they look up to their mothers and the confidence level of girls were more than the boys because girls tends to grasp early as compare to boys.
- Study habit of the girls were good in comparison to the boys because, in spite of working mothers going out for their job and having less time to devote towards their studies due to their workload, yet their command over language, their presence of mind and socialized skills are good which they deliver to their children but girls were more thinking and understanding than the boys.
- Girls' Scoring are more than the boys because the girls were more disciplined in comparison to the boys, this may be because of mothers who bring good environment to their home which girls grasp more than the boys. Boys were more aggressive due to the absence of their mother at home and more adventurous because they wanted superhero games than girls.

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