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To study the Mothers attitude towards child care and family environment according to socio-economic characteristics

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Abstract

Three hundred mothers (150 from urban and 150 from rural areas) having a child of both sexes, studying in II - V classes and aged 8 - 10 years from Mathura district were selected through multistage stratified random sampling technique in the present study. Mothers attitude towards child care and family environment towards children were assessed. Significant differences regarding attitude towards child care and family environment were observed between the mothers having male and female children, belonging to general and others caste and nuclear and joint separately ($p < 0.05$) while no significant differences regarding attitude towards child care and family environment were observed between the mothers belonging to urban and rural areas and their occupational status ($p < 0.05$). However, Significant and insignificant differences regarding attitude towards family environment and child care were noted between the mothers in respect to studying classes of children, number of family members, age and educational level of mothers separately. Significant difference regarding attitude towards child care and non-significant difference regarding attitude towards family environment were also observed between the mothers in respect to their family monthly income.

Keywords: Child care, family environment, socio-economic characteristics

Introduction

The family socialization plays an important role in the development of social behavior as suggested by many cross cultural researchers. Since the mother is considered as the first school of a child, her attitude towards child care and family environment in which the child grows, becomes key for building positive or negative attitude of the child about himself. Right from the birth parents unconsciously start differentiating between a boy and girl, this fact is specially relevant to our Indian Society. Parental attitude towards their children is a vital factor in the development of self-confidence.

Objective

To study the mothers' attitude towards child care and family environment according to socio-economic characteristics.

Methodology

The study was carried out on three hundred mothers (150 from urban and 150 from rural areas) having a child of both sexes, studying in II - V classes and aged 8 - 10 years from Mathura district were selected through multistage stratified random sampling technique in the present study.

Tools of the Study

A self constructed and a standardized tools were used to assessed the mothers' attitude towards child care and family environment in the present study.

1. Mother's attitude towards child care by the Investigator.
2. Attitude scale towards family environment developed by Dr. R.R. Singh.

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Results and Discussion

The collected data were analysed, discussed and presented in the following tables

Table 1: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to area.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Area				Statistical Values	
	Urban (n=150)		Rural (n=150)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	64.25	6.04	65.00	4.54	1.216	>0.05
Family Environment	113.56	12.28	112.86	12.23	0.495	>0.05

The mean score of attitude towards child care was more among the mothers belonging to rural areas as compared to mothers belonging to urban areas while the mean score of attitude towards family environment was more among the mothers belonging to urban areas as compared to mothers belonging to rural areas. Statistically, no significant differences regarding attitude towards child care and family environment were observed between the mothers belonging to

urban and rural areas ($p > 0.05$). Similar findings also reported by Sridevi and Spoorthy (2010) [8] that the mean score of attitude towards family environment was slightly and insignificantly more among mothers of urban areas as compared to rural areas while the attitude towards child care was slightly and insignificantly low among mothers of urban areas as compared to rural areas.

Table 2: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to sex of child.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Sex of Child				Statistical Values	
	Male (n=184)		Female (n=116)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	65.20	5.30	63.72	5.32	2.352	<0.05
Family Environment	115.71	11.98	109.24	11.64	4.605	<0.05

The mean scores of attitude towards child care and family environment were more among the mothers having male child as compared to mothers of female child. Significant differences regarding attitude towards child care and family environment were observed between the mothers of male and female children ($p < 0.05$). It can be concluded that the

mothers of male children had a better attitude towards child care and family environment as compared to mothers of female children. Contrary findings was reported by Thomas and Rolling (1984) [10] that female adolescents were more likely to be influenced by their parent than male adolescents.

Table 3: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to children studying classes.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Children Studying Classes				Statistical Values	
	2 – 3 (n=145)		4 – 5 (n=155)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	65.23	5.50	64.06	5.15	1.903	>0.05
Family Environment	110.45	12.15	115.79	11.79	3.863	<0.05

The mean score of attitude towards child care was more among the mothers whose children were studying in IInd and IIIrd classes as compared to mothers whose children were studying in IVth and Vth classes while the mean score of attitude towards family environment was more among the mothers whose children were studying in IVth and Vth

classes as compared to mothers whose children were studying in IInd and IIIrd classes. Significant difference regarding attitude towards family environment and insignificant difference regarding attitude towards child care were found between the mothers in respect to studying classes of children respectively.

Table 4: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to caste.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Caste				Statistical Values	
	General (n=196)		Others (n=104)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	65.14	3.90	63.66	7.25	2.299	<0.05
Family Environment	114.85	11.31	110.12	13.34	3.235	<0.05

The mean scores of attitude towards child care and family environment were more among the mothers belonging to general caste as compared to mothers of other castes. Significant differences regarding attitude towards child care and family environment were observed between the mothers belonging to general and others caste ($p < 0.05$). It can be concluded that the mothers of general caste had a better

attitude towards child care and family environment as compared to mothers of other castes. Contrary to the findings of the present study, Teneja *et al.* (1988) observed significantly higher attitude towards child care and family environment among the mothers belonging to others caste as compared to general caste.

Table 5: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to family type.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Family Type				Statistical Values	
	Nuclear (n=219)		Joint (n=81)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	65.09	4.74	63.37	6.58	2.495	<0.05
Family Environment	110.60	12.06	120.27	9.75	6.476	<0.05

The mean score of attitude towards child care was more among the mothers belonging to nuclear family as compared to mothers of joint family while the mean score of attitude towards family environment was more among the mothers belonging to joint family as compared to mothers of nuclear family. The mean differences regarding attitude towards child care and family environment were observed significant

between the mothers belonging to nuclear and joint ($p < 0.05$). It can be concluded that the mothers of nuclear families had a better attitude towards child care and family environment as compared to their counterparts. Eachern and Adriana (2002) [2] investigated difference in the family environments of different cultural group and found significant difference according to type of families.

Table 6: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to family members.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Family Members				Statistical Values	
	1 - 5 (n=169)		6 and Above (n=131)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	64.40	5.15	64.92	5.60	0.835	>0.05
Family Environment	108.20	12.00	119.67	9.19	9.071	<0.05

The mean scores of attitude towards child care and family environment were more among the mothers belonging to families having 6 members and above as compared to mothers belonging to families having 1 - 5 members. Significant and insignificant differences regarding attitude towards family environment and child care were noted between the mothers in respect to number of family members separately. Sindhu

and Singh (1991) [7] reported the contrary findings that size of the family had a significant difference regarding attitude of mothers towards family environment while Eachern and Adriana (2002) [2] observed significant difference towards family environments among mothers according to family members.

Table 7: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to their age.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Age of Mothers in Years				Statistical Values	
	Upto 40 (n=165)		40 and Above (n=135)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	64.19	6.23	65.16	3.90	1.574	>0.05
Family Environment	108.87	11.86	118.52	10.53	7.600	<0.05

The data from the above table reveals that the mean scores of attitude towards child care as well as family environment were more among the mothers aged 40 years and above as compared to mothers aged upto 40 years. Significant and insignificant differences regarding attitude towards family environment and child care were observed between the

mothers aged 40 years and 40 years and above. It can be concluded that the mothers aged 40 years and above had a better attitude towards family environment as compared to mothers aged upto 40 years. Body, *et al.* (1997) [1] found that means of family environment were in line of the findings of the present study.

Table 8: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to education.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Education of Mothers				Statistical Values	
	Upto Intermediate (n=185)		Graduate and Above (n=115)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	64.85	5.42	64.26	5.24	0.937	>0.05
Family Environment	111.52	11.98	115.93	12.21	3.077	<0.05

Analysis of the data from the above table reveals that the mean score of attitude towards child care was more among the mothers educated upto intermediate level as compared to mothers educated graduate level and above while the mean score of attitude towards family environment was more among the mothers educated graduate level and above as compared to mothers educated upto intermediate level.

Significant and insignificant mean differences regarding attitude towards family environment and child care were observed between the mothers in respect to their educational level. Similar finding also observed by Devegani (1990) that the parents with different levels of education did not differ significantly with regard to child care.

Table 9: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to occupational status.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Occupational Status of Mothers				Statistical Values	
	Working (n=42)		Non-working (n=258)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	t	p
Child Care	64.86	6.32	64.59	5.18	0.337	>0.05
Family Environment	116.07	14.73	112.74	11.74	1.640	>0.05

The mean scores of attitude towards child care and family environment were more among the working mothers as compared to non-working mothers. No significant mean differences regarding attitude towards child care and family environment were observed between the mothers in respect to

occupational status ($p>0.05$). Sridevi and Spoorthy (2010) [8] found that attitude towards family environment and child care were insignificantly more among the working mothers as compared to non-working mothers.

Table 10: Mean scores of mother's attitude towards child care and family environment according to family monthly income.

Mother's Attitude Towards	Family Monthly Income in Rs.				Statistical Values	
	Upto 15000 (n=146)		15000 and Above (n=154)		t	p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Child Care	65.57	4.23	62.79	5.65	6.532	<0.05
Family Environment	112.20	11.67	113.79	12.77	0.841	>0.05

The mean score of attitude towards child care was more among the mothers belonging to families having monthly income upto Rs. 15000 as compared to mothers belonging to families having monthly income Rs. 15000 and above while the mean score of attitude towards family environment was more among the mothers belonging to families having monthly income Rs. 15000 and above as compared to mothers belonging to families having monthly income upto Rs. 15000. Significant difference regarding attitude towards child care and non-significant difference regarding attitude towards family environment were observed between the mothers in respect to their family monthly income.

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