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Effect of maternal employment on the health status of children

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Abstract
The purpose of this project was to know the effect of maternal employment on health Status. Development of women's education and their subsequent entry into the areas of education and employment hitherto monopolized by men. A gradual change in social values relatively to women's paid employment among the urban middle class, due to growing economic pressure.
The third five year plan has devoted considerable attention to the nutritional status of children and providing increasing opportunity for them. It is widely recognized that the activities of the mother have an important impact on health and nutritional status of children. Analysis of data shows that the malnourished were found to be more among female child of working as women as compared to female child of non-working women.

Keywords: Anthropometric measurements, head circumference, mid upper-arm circumference, height, weight, malnourished, normal and health status

Introduction
Education and Employment of women in India, for a long time was disassociated from the idea of nation building. It was viewed as a process for infusing piety during the ancient period. It was seen as a cultural process, to transmit the accumulated wealth of knowledge, to impart classical value and to build the character of the individuals.
Traditionally women's work has been in or near the home much involved in child rearing. The emancipation of women however has changed this accepted domestic role and encouraged women to seek salaried employment usually distant from their home. As more and more women enter the labour force, it becomes important to gain a thorough understanding of the manner in which the Mother's income earning activities affect the health and nutritional status of young child.
The age of child, order of the birth and household economic status have independent effects on the nutritional status of working women are now more aware of the ill effect of poor feeding practices, so they have particular time for their children.

Methodology
The present study was undertaken with the objective of comparing the use of foods by working and non-working women. The objective of the study were

- To study the general and health profile of children of both working and non-working mothers
- To classify children as normal, malnourished and obese on the basis of anthropometric measurements.

The Procedure and the materials used in the study can be explained under following heads:

- Urban area of Ghaziabad district was the locale of the present study.
- Multistage stratified random sampling techniques was used for the selection of the unit of information.
- Data on the growth of children includes anthropometric measurement, i.e., weight and height.
- The interview schedule was used for securing of information.
- Indices for measurements were height, weight, head circumference, mid upper-arm circumference.

- Statistical tests were used like percentage to study the distribution of both dependent and independent variables

Arithmetic mean was used to study the central value
Standard deviation was used to know the variability among the observations.
Chi-square was used to know the relationship between dependent and independent attribute.
t-test was used to test the mean difference regarding anthropometric measurement and nutrient intakes between male and female children.

Observations

- To study the general and health profile of children of both working and non-working mothers.
- To classify them as the normal, mal-nourished and obese on the basis of anthropometric measurements.

Results and Discussions

To study the health profile and classifying them as the normal, mal-nourished and obese on the basis of anthropometric measurements.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according the tonic given to the children

Tonic given to the children	Women			
	Working		Non-Working	
	No	%	No	%
Yes	97	48.5	47	23.5
No	103	51.5	153	76.5
Total	200	100.0	200	100.0

χ^2=27.127, df=2, p< 0.05

Above table highlights the distribution of the respondents according the tonic given to the children. Out of working women, majority of them (51.5%) reported that they did not give any tonic while remaining (48.5%) gave tonic to their children. Among the non-working women, majority of them (76.5%) reported that they did not give any tonic while remaining (23.5%) gave tonic to the children.
Statistically, significant difference regarding the tonic given to their children was observed between working and non-working women

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according the tonic given to the children.

Type of tonic given to the children	Women			
	Working		Non-Working	
	No	%	No	%
Nutritional shake	12	12.3	0	0.0
Gripe water/baby bliff	21	21.7	17	35.4
Hepatone	34	35.0	12	25.0
Calcium denton/ calcium sundos/osteocalcium	30	31.0	19	39.6
Total	97	100.0	48	100.0

χ^2=27.127, df=2, p<0.05

Above table reveals the distribution of the respondents according to type of given to the children. Out of working women, majority of them (35.0%) were given hepatone, followed by (31.0%) calcium and minimum (12.3%) gave nutritional shakes. Out of the non-working women, majority of them (39.5%) gave, calcium followed by (35.4%) Gripe water and remaining (25.0%) gave hepatone.
Statically, no significant difference was observed regarding the type of tonic given to the children between working and non-working women.

χ^2=0.704, df=2, p>0.05.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to check-up by doctor of the children

Check-up by doctor of the children	Women			
	Working		Non-Working	
	No	%	No	%
Regular	142	71.0	87	43.5
Irregular	58	29.0	113	56.5
Total	200	100.0	200	100.0

χ^2=30.100, df =1, p<0.05

Above table reveals the distribution of the respondents according to check-up by doctor of the children. Out of working women, majority of them (71.0%), were check-up of the children regularly by doctor, remaining (29.0%) were check-up of children irregularly by doctor. Among the non-working women (56.5%) were check-up of the children irregularly by doctor and reaming (43.5%) were check-up of the children regularly by doctor. Statistically, significant difference regarding check-up of the children by doctor was observed between working and non-working women.

Table 4: Mean anthropometric measurements of children among the working and non-working women

Anthropometric measurements of children	Unit	Women					
		Working		Non-Working		Statistical Values	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	T	p
Height	Cms	105.81	14.96	102.95	14.51	1.941	>0.05
Weight	Kgs	16.04	4.84	14.38	3.80	3.815	<0.05
Head Circumference	Cms	49.71	6.81	49.28	6.34	0.654	>0.05
Mid Upper Arm Circumference	Cms	6.08	0.62	6.05	0.55	0.512	>0.05

χ2=30.100, df=1, p<0.05

Above table shows the mean anthropometric measurement among the children of working and non-working women. Mean of height, weight and head circumference were found to be more among the children of working women as compared to children of non-working women; while, the mean of mid-upper arm circumference was found to be more among children of non-working women as compared to children of working women. Statistically significant difference regarding mean weight was observed between the children of working and non-working women. (p< 0.05); however, no significant differences regarding mean of height, head circumference and mid upper-arm circumference were observed between the children of working and non-working women even at 5% level by significance.

Table 5: Health status of children among the working and non-working women

Health status of children	Women					
	Working		Non-Working		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Malnourished	129	64.50	159	79.50	288	72.00
Normal	71	35.50	41	20.50	112	28.00
Total	200	50.00	200	50.00	400	100.00

χ^2=11191, df=1, p< 0.05

Above table shows the health status (using weight /height^2 method) of children among the working and non-working

women. Out of 400 children, majority of them (72.00%) were found mal-nourished and remaining (28.00%) were normal, further analysis of data shows that Malnourished were found to be more among the children of non-working women as compared to children of working women; while, normal were found to be more among the children of working women as compared to the children of non-working women.

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