

# A Study to Assess the Knowledge of Employed and Unemployed Mother on Selected Behavioural Problems and Frequency of Its Occurrence among Their Under Fives

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## ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** Abnormal Behaviors, which are probably undesirable but a normal occurrence at an early stage of development, can be considered pathological when they present at a later age. In the young child many behaviors such as breath-holding or temper tantrums are probably the result of anger and frustration at their inability to control their own environment. For some of these situations it is wise for parents to avoid a punitive response and if possible to remove themselves from the room. It is quite likely that the child will be frightened by the intensity of their own behavior and will need comfort and reassurance.

**OBJECTIVES:** To determine the level of knowledge of employed and unemployed mothers on selected behavioural problems of their under five children. To find the frequency of occurrence of behavioural problem among under five children of employed and unemployed mothers. To compare the level of knowledge of employed and unemployed mothers on behavioural problems of under fives. To find the association between, Level of knowledge of employed mothers and selected demographic variables. To find the association between Level of knowledge of unemployed mothers and selected demographic variables.

**METHODOLY:** A Descriptive approach and comparative design was used for the study. The sample consisted of total 120 mothers with an equal number of employed and unemployed mothers. The sample was selected using purposive sampling technique. The data was collected using a structured knowledge questionnaire and frequency checklist.

**RESULTS:** There was a significant difference ( $t_{(118)}=1.660$ ;  $p<0.05$ ) between the mean (27.58) knowledge score of employed mothers and mean (15.68) knowledge score of unemployed mothers on selected behavioural problems of under-fives. There was no significant association between the knowledge score and any of the selected variables. In frequency of occurrence all behaviour problems are more seen among the children of employed mothers except teeth grinding which is only seen among the children of unemployed mothers

**CONCLUSION:** Findings of the study have shown that the knowledge of employed mothers was higher than the knowledge of unemployed mothers. The frequency of occurrence of behavioural problems is more shown among children of employed mothers. The area wise knowledge on breath holding aspect was higher among employed mothers, whereas unemployed mother's knowledge was more in general behavioural aspect.

**KEYWORDS:** behavioural problem, knowledge, employed, unemployed, mothers

## I. INTRODUCTION:

Children are born with a biologically determined behavioural style or temperament. Although children's inborn temperaments may be changed by the way they are reared. All children at some developmental stage will display repetitive behaviours but whether they may be considered as disorders depends on their frequency and persistence and the effect they have on physical, emotional and social functioning

Every parent at times, when they get frustrated with their children's behaviours, almost all of them have, as a result, found themselves threatening, bribing, or shouting at their kids to get them to do as they are told. You don't like it, and nor do your children. Parents especially mothers who are working in India, have to look after their offspring as well as family obligation which she has to complete. When working demands increase and has to be compromised with role of being a mother, wife and other in-law role. She has to balance between various roles.<sup>7</sup>

The mother's effectiveness in her interaction with her child is also crucial to her own development of self esteem as parent. One area of development that has recently been the focus of research is that of mother child attachment. The rationale for such research is maternal employment particularly before age of 9 months, may interrupt the development of bond between mother and infant. Maternal work during the first 4-5 years of children's life, and look at research investigating linkages between maternal employment and various aspects of children's psychological functioning in these early years or later.

The fact that certain forms of behaviour are common for certain ages does not make them acceptable, nor does it mean that they should be tolerated without any effort to change them. A mother must know about the behaviour, which commonly characterize each different age level, so that she can identify any deviations in child's behaviour in its early stage

The investigator in her own life experience has witnessed and experienced the behavioural problem of children. Investigator felt that behavioural problems among children of employed mothers is more than the children of unemployed mothers, this has motivated the investigator to take up this study.

## II. OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the level of knowledge of employed and unemployed mothers on selected behavioural problems of their under five children using structured knowledge questionnaire.
2. To find the frequency of occurrence of behavioural problem among under five children of employed and unemployed mothers using checklist.
3. To compare the level of knowledge of employed and unemployed mothers on behavioural problems of under fives.
4. To find the association between, level of knowledge of employed mothers and selected

demographic variables like religion, number of children, education of mother, age of mother, and type of family.

5. To find the association between level of knowledge of unemployed mothers and selected demographic variables like religion, number of children, education of mother, age of mother, type of family.

## III. METHODOLOGY:

Descriptive research approach and comparative research design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in a selected rural area of Mangaluru. Sample size of the study comprised of 60 employed and 60 unemployed mothers of under five children selected by purposive sampling technique. Permission was obtained from selected Primary Health Centre authorities and 120 mothers were selected. The data collection instruments included a performance of baseline variables of mothers, structured knowledge questionnaire with 40 items Checklist to find frequency of occurrence of selected behavioural problems of under fives. Content validity of the tool was checked by the experts. Reliability of the knowledge questionnaire was established using split – half technique. (Karl Pearson's correlation method  $r=0.78$ ). The pilot study was conducted and study was found to be feasible and practicable. Formal permission was taken from the District Health Officer. Informed consent was obtained from the mothers prior to the data collected.

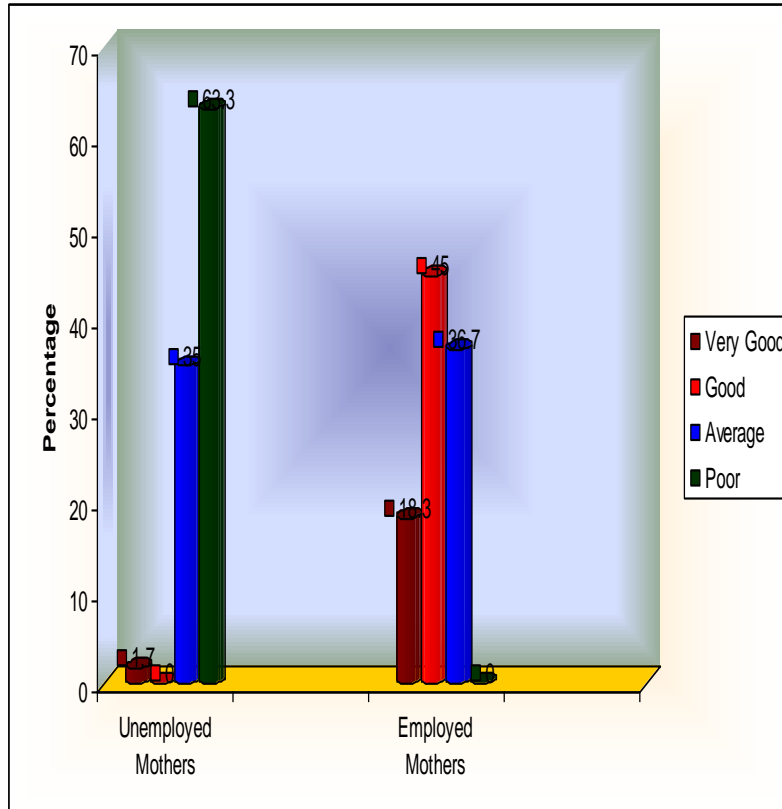
## IV. RESULTS:

### I. Baseline characteristics of Mother

Most of the mothers (53.3% unemployed, 41.7% employed) were in the age group of 25-30 years. None of the mothers were aged below 20 years. Nearly three-quarters of the subjects were Hindu (68.3% unemployed, 60% employed); 26.7% unemployed 23.3% employed mothers were Muslim and 5.0% unemployed 16.7% employed mothers were Christian. Half of the unemployed mothers (53.3%) had primary education and (5%) had graduation were as (24%) employed mothers had Degree and above and (7%), had studied up to High school. More than half of unemployed mothers (51.7%) had two children and (10.0%) had three siblings. Employed mothers (38.3%) had two siblings and (6.7%) had four and above. More than half of unemployed mothers (53.3%) belonged to nuclear family. This a point to conclude that mothers are spending most of their time with children are able to know the behavioural pattern of

the child. whereas (51.7%) of employed mothers belonged to joint family.

## II. Knowledge of Mothers on Behavioural Problems of Under Fives



**Figure 1: Distribution of Mothers According to the Grading of Knowledge Scores.**

Fig 1 shows that Maximum number (63.3%) of the unemployed mothers had poor knowledge on behavioural problems; 35% of them had moderate knowledge. Only 1.7% of the subjects had very good knowledge on behavioural problems. Among the employed mothers nearly half of them (45%) had good knowledge; 36.7% had moderate and 18.3% had very good knowledge.

These findings are supported by the study knowledge of urban and rural mothers on behavioural problems, which estimated 11.67% of urban mothers had high knowledge than mothers of rural area with 1.67% high knowledge.

### Significance of difference between the Mean Knowledge scores of Employed and Unemployed Mothers on Selected Behavioural Problems,

**Table 2: Mean, median difference, standard deviation and 't' value of knowledge score of employed and unemployed mothers**

	Mean	SD	Group	S.E(d)	't' value	
t						
	Unemployed mothers	15.68	4.394	11.90	0.859	13.86*
	Employed mothers	27.58	4.993			

(118)=1.660;(p<0.05) \*=significant

Data in Table 2 shows that the mean knowledge score (27.58) of employed mothers was higher than the mean knowledge score (15.68) of unemployed mothers. The computed ‘t’ value ( $t_{(118)}=13.86$ ) was higher than the table value ( $t_{(118)}=1.660$ ) at 0.05 level of significance.

### III. Area-wise knowledge of mothers on behavioural problems

The area-wise mean percentage of knowledge of the unemployed subjects on behavioural problems shows that the overall knowledge was 39.21 percentages. The knowledge on general behavioural problem was 43.81%; breath holding 42.22%; thumb sucking, nail biting, temper tantrums and sibling rivalry was 40%; head banging and hair pulling 35.95% and 32.78%. had Bed wetting and teeth grinding

Among the employed subjects overall knowledge was 68.96%; breath holding 76.94%; knowledge on general behavioural problem was 73.57%; Sibling rivalry and temper tantrums 73.33% head banging and hair pulling 66.67% thumb sucking, nail biting 63.57% and 59.44%. on bed wetting and teeth grinding

### IV. Association between knowledge score of mothers and selected variables

There was no significant association between the knowledge score of employed as well as unemployed mothers and any of the selected variables.

### V. Baseline characteristics of child

Nearly two third of the unemployed mothers children (47%) were in the age group of 3-4. likewise the children (37%) of employed mothers were also in the age group of 3-4 years there were no children below 1 year in both the groups. More than half of the children were males (55% UE, 63% E) and (45% UE, 37% E) were females. More than half of the children (52%) of unemployed mothers were second in the family. Only (33%) of children of employed mothers were second in the family.

### VI. Occurrence of Selected Behavioural Problems of Under Fives

All behaviour problems are more seen among the children of employed mothers except teeth grinding (6.7%) which is only seen among the children of unemployed mothers. Temper tantrum (71.7%) was seen among the children of employed mothers. The computed ‘z’ value is significant for seven of behavioural problems except for thumb sucking (1.40) and nail biting (1.59) among the under fives.

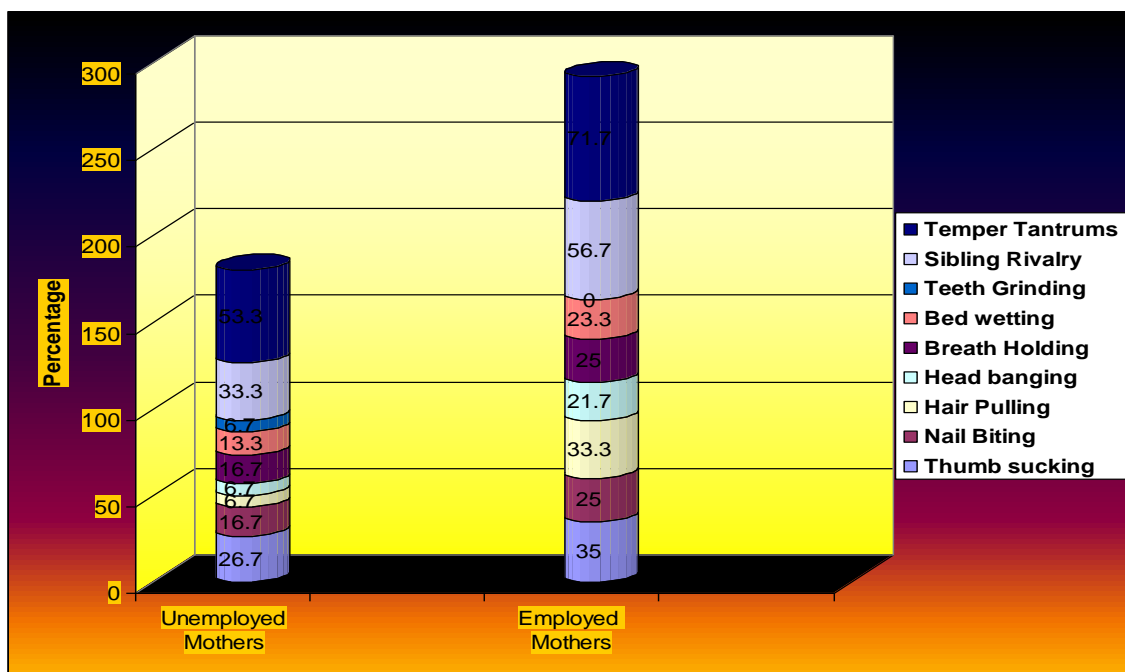


Figure 2 : Frequency and Percentage of Occurrence of Behavioural Problems of Under Fives

### V. DISCUSSION

Maximum number (63.3%) of the unemployed mothers had poor knowledge on behavioural problems; 35% of them had moderate

knowledge. Only 1.7% of the subjects had very good knowledge on behavioural problems. Among the employed mothers nearly half of them (45%)

had good knowledge; 36.7% had moderate and 18.3% had very good knowledge.

These findings are supported by the study knowledge of urban and rural mothers on behavioural problems, which estimated 11.67% of urban mothers had high knowledge than mothers of rural area with 1.67% high knowledge.<sup>27</sup>

#### **Occurrence of Selected Behavioural Problems of Under Fives**

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The findings are supported by the study of prevalence of oral habits in school going children in delhi, which showed 25.5% prevalence of oral habits with 0.7% of children having thumb sucking. These findings are supported by the study on behavioural problems and maternal employment. Perception indicated that early maternal employment was associated with higher level of problems.

#### **VI. CONCLUSION:**

Behavioural problems are common among children. Mothers play an important role in identification and management of behavioural problems of their children. It is the responsibility of nursing personnel to update the knowledge of mothers about behavioural problems.

The mothers can prevent the behavioural problems by early identification. The mothers must play a vital role in changing the children's behaviour in a right way. Mothers are the influential persons to develop and change children's behaviour in an expected manner.

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