



BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS AMONG PRESCHOOL CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS IN SRI LANKA: WITH REFERENCE TO NEGOMBO EDUCATIONAL ZONE

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Preschool period or early childhood is a great time for a child to learn things. But the same period they have more tendency to become easily frustrated. Most of the children suffer from behavioral problems even one time or more throughout their development. Parents have major responsibilities towards their children to make them mentally and physically perfect. Mother is the main character for a child more than others. Therefore figure of mother could affect the behaviour of a child in negative or positive way. Presently a large number of mothers are working in Sri Lanka due to many reasons and most of them fail to devote enough time for their children to make them feel loved and special. It leads to cause some problems in child. Preschool children are dominant figures in determining the future behaviors of children. Preschool behavioral problems may continue into later childhood. Therefore the objectives of this research were to assess the behavioral problems of preschool children among working mothers, to assess the behavioral problems of preschool children among non-working mothers and compare the behavioral problems of preschool children between working and non-working mothers. Selected sample size was 40 pre-school children of working and 40 pre-school children of non- working mothers. Manuel for the Preschool Behaviour Questionnaire (PBQ) was used to gather data. Data were analyzed by using simple statistical methods such as percentages. To show the analyzed data bar charts was used. The findings of this study showed that mild level of behavioral problems of preschool children were reported in 23.2% of working mothers and 79.3% of non-working mothers, whereas 16% of preschool children of non-working mothers and 58% of working mothers reported moderate level. Higher levels of behavioral problems were reported in 18.8% of working mothers children's and 4.7% of non-working mothers children. Therefore, the study concludes that preschool children of working mothers have more behavioral problems than those of non-working mothers.

Keywords: *Behavioral problems, preschool children, working mothers, non-working mothers, level of behavioral problems*