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## Influence of Mother's Employment on Children's Education Case Study of District Poonch Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Laiba Anwar<sup>1</sup> Uzma Rahim<sup>2</sup> Syeda Mahlaqa Hina<sup>3</sup>

**Abstract:** *Recently, there have been increasing numbers of working mothers with young children. The growing trend in the participation of working mothers in the labor force poses challenges for families, particularly in developing countries. One of these challenges concerns both the management of households and their profession since the employment of mothers has a significant impact on the well-being of children. The main aim of the present study was to dig out the influence employed mothers have on the education of their children. The research is based on primary data. The present study was conducted in District Poonch AJK. The qualitative research methodology was applied in the current research. The sample size was 17. An interview guide was used as a tool for collecting the primary study data. The gathered data was thematically analyzed. Findings highlight working mothers can contribute to the development of children. The study has found that the intellectual and economic resources of mothers contribute to the academic and cognitive development of children.*

**Key Words:** Mother's Employment, Cognitive Development, Economic Resource, Managing Household

### Introduction

Mothers serve as a child's first informal institution; thus, they play a significant role in their development. It is a universal reality that motherhood contributes significantly to the advancement of a person, a family, and a country. Mothers who are educated and employed have the necessary information, vital abilities, and desired attitudes to help their children achieve great academic success (Nargis, 2012).

Mother employment is a way to support a mother's lifelong efforts to prepare her kids for better academic success and enhanced educational possibilities, and these educational opportunities help them develop the skills they need to make decisions and have an impact on community change in important areas (Rooth, 2006).

When a woman is educated, working, and financially independent, she is also conscious of the significance of education for the personality development of her children. An employed mother has the financial means to choose a high-quality school on her own. Children who are anxious about participating in extracurricular activities require financial and moral help. A mother's ability to provide for her children ethically and financially will improve if she is educated and works. Therefore, compared to a woman who is jobless, an employed woman finds it easier to maintain her children financially since she is economically independent.

The bulk of previous research concentrated on how mothers' professions affected their children's education and eating. The schooling and nourishment of a kid are significantly influenced by the mother's profession in literature. The engagement of mothers in their children's education is one of the family needs that might be negatively impacted by an increase in female work, according to Heather et al. (2003). Many studies have demonstrated the positive influence employing mothers has on children's educational achievement (Kalmijn, 1994; Chavkin, 1993; Epstein, 1991; Behrman, J. R., 1999).

<sup>1</sup> M.Phil. Scholar, Department, of Sociology, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan.

<sup>2</sup> M.Phil. Scholar, Department, of Sociology, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan.

<sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor, University of Bradford, UK.

▪ **Corresponding Author:** Laiba Anwar ([laiba.Anwar@gmail.com](mailto:laiba.Anwar@gmail.com))

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There is a supposed inverse association between a mother's job and kids, according to some older studies. According to certain research, a child's development may suffer when a mother is not there. The alternative, when the mother is unable to work, is worse. Poverty, parental education, and effective child care are some of these determinants (Booth, [2000](#); Axinn & Barber, [2001](#); Brewster & Rindfuss, [2000](#)). Without the mother's salary, the family would occasionally find themselves struggling to make ends meet. Most adults who have two family incomes will let their families make better dietary and educational options (Essortment, [2002](#)). According to 1998 research (Carvel, [2001](#)), any negative consequences are offset by boosting the living conditions of working moms. A child's achievement has also benefited from parental education. It has been demonstrated that the children of non-working parents "fail to see the point of getting an education" (Figes, [2010](#)). Furthermore, several research revealed that children of working moms felt more competent around their mothers and had fewer conventional gender-role beliefs. Daughters of working mothers have also been shown to set greater goals for themselves (Gottfried, A. E., [1988](#)). Children with working mothers were also thought to feel in control of their surroundings (Gottfried, A. E., [1988](#)).

## Review of literature

This chapter reviews past studies on how a mother's employment affects her children's schooling, nutrition, character development, and cognitive development in terms of financial support. The bulk of the research examined the impact that working mothers' choices on children's nutrition and education. The involvement of mothers in their children's education is one of the family needs that may suffer from more women working, according to Heather et al. ([2003](#)). Many studies have shown the positive impact of mother employment on the educational achievement of children (Chavkin, [1993](#); Kalmijn, [1994](#); Epstein, [1991](#); Behrman, J. R., [1999](#); Hoover-Dempsey & Sandler, 1997).

Research on involvement in the family has looked at the connection between parental conduct and women's responsibilities as teachers of their children. These studies concentrated on social issues like after-school care (Benin & Chong, [1993](#); Brayfield, [1992](#)), the effect of earnings on kids' well-being and college success (Kalmijn, [1994](#); Hoffman & Youngblade, 1999), and the effect of jobs on kids' academic success (Gottfried & Bathurst, [1989](#); Horwood & Fergusson, [1999](#); Kalmijn, [1994](#)).

Spending money on education is almost always positively connected with more assets and gains in terms of revenue effect, according to a 1999 study by Behrman and Knowles.

The benefits of women's income on the educational achievements of their children have also been reported to be larger than those of other household income sources (Glick, [2002](#)). In a similar vein, Duraisamy and Malathy (1991) and Duraisamy (1992) noted that mothers' assets had a positive link with enrolling their children in school. Thomas ([1990](#)) asserts that when a woman handles household finances, investments in the health and education of children increase.

The vast majority of studies revealed that working moms had positive consequences, notably on the economy. Mothers' exposure to opportunities for creating cash has a major influence on children's health (Haddad & Haddinot, [1995](#)). Women's salaries may contribute to reducing poverty and raising the quality of child care, according to Booth ([2000](#)). It has been stressed that the family's financial stability depends on the mother's income. A healthy husband and wife will contribute to the wellness and education of the kids (Essortment, [2002](#)). Thomas, [1990](#); Haddad & Haddinot, [1995](#), among others, have supported the notion that giving women the ability to earn money is beneficial for the well-being of children. However, several studies demonstrate that moms' occupations negatively affect kids, especially girls. Women are favored as alternatives in less developed countries.

Younger siblings' caregivers when their mother is away from the house. Girls' access to alternative care services has previously been pointed to as a major obstacle to their enrolment in schools in developing countries (Nieves [1981](#); Deolalikar [1998](#); Glick & Sahn [2000](#)). There are significant negative effects when a woman works when her kid is under one, especially if she works full-time, according to studies (Han et al., [2001](#); Waldfogel et al., [2002](#); Gunn et al., [2002](#)). Nomaguchi ([2006](#)), on the other hand, said that mother employment has several benefits when the child is four years old, including a decreased level of anxiety and aggression as well as more pragmatist conduct. The research cited above suggests that a child's

development may be influenced by the age at which the mother starts to function. A working mother with young children (under three years old), for example, relies mostly on the care of their children.

In his study on conventional childcare and early childhood education, Belsky (1990) draws a conclusion. The results showed that when low-quality child care and early (before age 1) child care are combined, the chance of problem behavior at preschool age is dramatically enhanced. Some studies examine the relationship between mother work and family involvement in education, and they frequently find a negative relationship. The results of these studies indicate that parenting suffers, particularly for mothers (Hughes & Galinsky, 1989; Voydanoff, 1988; Weiss & Liss, 1988). Another study by Heymann and Earle (2000) revealed that limited parental time and strict work schedules limited low-income moms' options for assisting their academically at-risk children. Muller (1995) also discovered that adolescent mothers who worked full-time did not evaluate their children's schoolwork as frequently as mothers who worked part-time or did not work (Vandell & Corasaniti, 1990). They encountered less acquaintances of their daughters' parents as well. In this study's examination of social and emotional functioning assessments given to mothers, teachers, and kids themselves, these kids' scores were among the lowest.

Stress brought on by moms' jobs has an adverse effect on kids as well. When a working mother's child is unwell, she may typically face challenges. Mom is mostly in charge of taking care of ill kids. As a result, the mother feels bad for not providing her ill children with the required care. In general, being a working mother is harder than being a stay-at-home mother. Stress from working mothers can impair children's mental growth. However, other studies have found that working women are less likely to experience depression than non-working women (Aneshensel, 2014; Kandel, Davies, & Raveis, 1985). Crosby (1991) asserts that persons who play several roles also tend to be less anxious than average. Many studies, including those by Simmons, Thoits, Wethington & Kessler, Crosby & Jaskar, Barnett & Marshall, Wethington & Kessler, and others, have indicated that people who do different responsibilities report less stress-related problems with their mental and physical health. Working women engaged in more educational activities with their children than non-working mothers, according to Gottfried et al. (1989). Even while they frequently anticipated the movement to limit their supervision of schoolwork and quality time spent on educational activities, women who moved into social services usually expected the shift to benefit their children by providing them with higher income and success modeling.

## Methodological Design

The methodology of the research study is covered in this part. The section gives a thorough description of the steps and processes involved in the data collecting and processing operations. The approach for this study was qualitative research. Interviews, a mechanism for creating records, and observation are all used in qualitative research methods (Patton, 1990). The researcher was interested in qualitative methodology because her ontological and epistemological stance was interpretivist. The target population for this study was employed mothers of school-going children. The sample size was 17. For the selection of respondents, a purposive sampling technique was used. Four educational institutions were selected both from the public and private sectors. The interview guide has been used as a tool to collect primary data for the research. The study was conducted in the district of Poonch AJK. The collected data was analyzed thematically.

## Data Analysis and Discussion

In order to explore the influence of mother's employment on children's education, in-depth interviews were conducted with a small number of participants in the locale of the study. The research has explored that women's employment has a great influence on their children's education in the District Poonch AJK.

A number of working women were interviewed for this study. They were questioned on how working women can affect their children's educational possibilities. They were helpful and provided detailed, cheerful responses.

Respondents expressed a variety of opinions in answer to the issue addressing children's school choice. One lady, however, expressed her opinion by stating, *"My children's education has been completed from several institutes. My own opinion is that we should educate them in various schools. I go to the school before enrolling my*



kids. And I choose the school based on each child's ability. My spouse never opposed my choice to enroll my kids in various schools”.

When women are in the public spotlight and are more aware of the outside world and the educational system, their exposure is greatly increased. They can speak with their colleagues to learn more about schools. Choosing a school is a difficult undertaking, and visiting a school is not simple. Observe the school's educational system, consider the available resources, and then decide on the children's school. This procedure will take some time. Working women choose to attend school for their kids rather than juggling two duties.

One participant said that a woman's employment is a significant advantage to the family in response to the question about moral and financial support for extracurricular activities. She said, *"The school where we have enrolled our children requests that we pay an additional 10,000 rupees at the beginning of each month in order to participate in extracurricular activities. My husband pays the monthly price for our kids, and I pay the additional \$10,000 from my paycheck for extracurricular activities. Also, I agree with them ethically. I play with the kids at home when we get a notice from the school that they should practice games at home after the kids compete in events and games. I want my children to be sharp in extra-curricular activities. I, therefore, support them wherever they need."*

The majority of parents claimed to have supported their children's engagement in extracurricular activities both financially and morally. It is essential for children's development, both physically and intellectually. The respondents went on to state that when they pushed their kids to join extracurricular activities, their husbands supported and encouraged them to do so. Mothers must permit their children to take part in school activities since extracurricular activities are essential to children's learning processes. Extracurricular activities also assist teachers in better understanding their pupils by contrasting a student's performance in extracurricular activities with their academic achievement.

Women who work still teach their kids on their own despite having busy schedules. They work hard to provide their children with a good future, but they also tend to pay close attention to their characteristics and watch out for any negative impacts. They are, therefore, teaching their children directly as a result. A working woman completely puts her family and her children's future ahead of herself.

One respondent stated, *"I work in the private sector, and my husband's employment is similarly transitory, in answer to the question about the costs associated with raising children. Two of our girls are. The cost of our girls' schooling has been split between us. One of my daughters' expenditures is entirely covered by myself, while the costs of the other are covered by my spouse. Our daughters have been accepted into private schools. They charge a lot, and since we all work for ourselves, we don't make enough money for one person to cover all of our girls' expenditures. As a result, we shared our revenue”.*

A mother nowadays is crucial to her children's education. Despite having little resources, a working mom wishes to emphasize the education of her children. She controls her household budget to preserve the integrity of the kids' academic efforts. They have two responsibilities for the education of their children.

There were many responses to the question in this research on the impact of women working on the harmony, power, and stability of children. We are trying to help our kids, said a few of the participants. Our finances are sound. For instance, we give our kids the toys, clothes, and food they request. Our children's wants and needs are being met.

Another working mother had similar sentiments, saying, *"When I get back home from work, I have duties to do around the house, and I have to help my kids with their schoolwork. I am unable to spend more time with my kids. I am unable to assist kids with their schoolwork since I have to prepare dinner for the family. I don't have much time to put my children to sleep because of my hectic schedule. The doll that my daughter keeps by her bed. I questioned her about why she does it, and she responded that she sleeps with her doll because I don't have time for her”.*

The investigation shows how, while having their children's best interests in mind, working mothers may fail to give them a secure emotional outlet. They might not want to hear about their children's issues after a long day at the office. Children in these circumstances may claim to have found comfort elsewhere or may just believe that their parents don't care about them. The mother believed that because they are overworked and overwhelmed when they return, they might occasionally have a detrimental effect on their



career. They could also think that when it gets in the way of the time their children want to spend with their mother, their children occasionally detest working together. These negative aspects, meanwhile, did not dominate the moms' testimonials.

One of them said, *"I believe that my work is benefiting my children. My children are self-assured and independent. My kids don't seem to mind much while I'm not home. They handle things independently. When kids arrive home from school, I am typically not home. They get dressed alone and prepare their meal. My kids say they want to be like me since I'm a teacher."*

Children of working mothers are sufficiently confident in themselves. They are more knowledgeable and have more professional options. They must make decisions on their own because of the conditions, and they are able to do the majority of their job alone. All of these things give the youngster courage and self-assurance. The children develop independence since they are unable to locate their moms at home during the day, leaving them with little choice but to do their schoolwork, launch, prepare uniforms, and take care of everything else on their own. By performing all the simple duties that kids can complete on their own, he develops responsibility and independence. He or she is no longer dependent on others for their employment.

Likewise, another working mother said, *"I think my profession as a teacher, which I started doing while expecting, has a significant impact on my child. He has a significantly higher IQ than most kids his age, in my opinion. He is capable of taking independent action. He acts responsibly and makes an effort to help his friends. I believe that my employment may have an effect on the growth of my son"*.

One of the respondents shared, *"As a worker, I'm disciplined at all times. I'm keeping to the schedule. My kids can observe how we set up our everyday routine from dawn to night. Our kids like sticking to our routine when it comes to their everyday lives. They are well-organized and competent in many areas."*

These quotes show that a working mother who feels fulfilled and successful may serve as a positive role model for her kids. Children might find motivation in following their goals and desires. Mothers who manage work and home duties effectively might teach their children a strong work ethic. Women who work must coordinate a number of tasks. When both parents are working, they encourage their children to take responsibility. Children pick up talents that they otherwise wouldn't have.

## Conclusion

This study set out to explore how working women influenced the academic achievement of their children. The study additionally studied earlier research on the impact of women's employment on their children. Numerous research examining the effects of hiring moms on children appear to reveal a recurring pattern. While some studies show that working women have positive benefits for their kids, others show the opposite. Children gain economically from women in a variety of ways, and households with more moms are better able to obtain and retain their mothers' money. While the amount of time mothers spend away from their young children can be considered a factor that affects the development of children.

The study found that mothers' intellectual and financial endowments had an impact on the academic and cognitive growth of their offspring. A trusting attitude toward their children and a desire to do a lot with their own was seen among working mothers. They also recognize in their children the potential for greater learning, such as cognitive development. Overall, it can be said that working parents have an impact on their children's health, both positively and negatively.

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