

# A Comparative Study on Achievement Motivation of Children of Employed and Non-Employed Mothers

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**Abstract:** *The present study aims to study whether the achievement motivation of children of employed mothers differ significantly from children of non-employed mothers. The study further compared the achievement motivation of children of employed and non-employed mothers on the basis of gender. The total sample for the study comprised 200 students selected randomly from 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> classes of different schools of Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The final sample consisted of 100 children of employed mothers and 100 children of non-employed mothers with equal distribution of 50 boys of employed mothers, 50 girls of employed mothers, 50 boys of non-employed mothers and 50 girls of non-employed mothers. Deo-Mohan Achievement Motivation Scale (DAMS) developed by Deo and Mohan was administered to the selected sample to assess their achievement motivation. The obtained data were analyzed by mean, SD and t-test. Analysis of the results revealed that children of employed mothers had higher achievement motivation compared to the children of non-employed mothers. Further findings indicated that adolescent girls scored higher on achievement motivation compared to adolescent boys.*

**Keywords:** Achievement Motivation, Employed mothers and Non-employed mothers, Adolescent boys and adolescent girls

## 1. Introduction

In recent years owing to spread of education, search of the identity and introduction of technological changes, increasingly large number of women in India are entering the job market. Rapid expansion in women's education in the post independence period has improved the possibility of their employment. Today there is no profession which women have not entered.

According to 2011 census in India, there were 149 million female workers as against to the female population of 587 million. Women's work is not only a means of effective economy and raising the standard of living of the people, it derives a sense of satisfaction in being considered valued members of the society (Anuradha Sharma, 1999). Higher levels of female entrepreneurial activity in turn have been associated with stronger economic growth. Indeed, Esteve-Volart (2004) uses panel data on Indian states to show that the ratio of female to male workers (and managers) is positively correlated with both growth and living standards. There are also provisions for facilities such as childcare at worksites, so as to reduce the barriers to women's participation (Government of India, 2014).

A mother is particularly important not because she has special skills but because she is with her children for a much greater time than any other person and her instructions reflects a very strong influence on attitudes, abilities and behaviour of children. Most of those children who are successful and well-adjusted come from homes where parental attitudes are favorable and a wholesome relationship existed between children and parents (Priyanka Aeri and Devina Jain 2010). According to Lyn Cragge (2006), those mothers who are high educated and working are more sensitive to their children.

Mancini and Pasqua (2012) have studied on mothers' actual time spending with their children. Results shown that working mothers, with respect to non-working ones, tend to reduce the "basic care" time, but not "quality care" time devoted to their children (reading stories or helping them with homework, taking their children to a museum or to theatre). Therefore, even if working, they may be able not to reduce the time devoted to activities which are more likely to positively influence the school results of their children. Saini (2005) conducted a study on family environment and academic achievement of children of working and non-working mothers. Major findings of the study revealed that children of working mothers were more independent than children of non-working mothers and children of working mothers were higher in academic score than those of the children of non-working mothers.

Linnenbrink and Pintrich (2002) examined research pertaining to student motivation and four key components that included academic self-efficacy, attributions, intrinsic motivation, and achievement goals. Males and females were found to have different competence-related beliefs during childhood and adolescence (Wigfield & Eccles, 2002). Results revealed that boys had higher competence beliefs in sports activities and math compared to girls. However, girls had higher competence beliefs in reading, English, and social activities compared to boys. Linnenbrink and Pintrich posited that competence beliefs are important because they predict performance and task choice. These beliefs also affect the student's motivation to succeed and achieve a goal. Other researchers have investigated gender differences in future orientation and motivation (Greene & DeBacker, 2004). This meta-analysis examined differences in orientation and motivation across several studies. They concluded that females typically pursue a greater array of goals compared to males.

## 2. Objectives

- 1) To compare the achievement motivation of children of employed and non-employed mothers.
- 2) To compare the achievement motivation of sons of employed and non-employed mothers.
- 3) To compare the achievement motivation of daughters of employed and non-employed mothers.
- 4) To compare the achievement motivation of sons and daughters of employed mothers.
- 5) To compare the achievement motivation of adolescent boys and girls.

## 3. Hypotheses

- 1) There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of children of employed and non-employed mothers.
- 2) There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of sons of employed and non-employed mothers.
- 3) There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of daughters of employed and non-employed mothers.
- 4) There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of sons and daughters of employed mothers.
- 5) There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of adolescent boys and girls.

## 4. Sample of the Study

The total sample for the study comprised 200 students selected randomly from 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> classes of different schools of constituted population of Tirupati. The final sample consisted of 100 children of employed mothers and 100 children of non-employed mothers.

**Table 1: Sex wise distribution of the sample**

Employed mothers		Non-employed mothers	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
50	50	50	50
Total = 100		Total = 100	

## 5. Tool

Deo-Mohan Achievement Motivation Scale (DAMS) developed by Deo and Mohan (1985) was used to measure the achievement motivation of the students.

## 6. Data Collection

The tool was administered on the selected students of 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> standards in secondary schools. The scale was pre-tested on children to check the understandability of the items. The data for the present research was collected personally by the investigator from different schools included in the sample.

## 7. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The response received was analyzed through statistical applications using mean, Standard Deviation and t-test to test different hypotheses.

**Table 2: Means, SDs and „t“ values of children of employed and non-employed mothers on achievement motivation**

Achievement Motivation	Children of Employed mothers (n = 100)		Children of non-employed mothers (n = 100)		„t“ value	„p“ value	Level of significance
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	198.67	18.00	192.32	17.26			

\* Significant at 0.05 level

Table 2 shows that there are significant differences between the children of employed and non-employed mothers regarding their achievement motivation as the obtained t-value (2.546) is significant at 0.05 level. The Mean values of the children of employed and non-employed mothers on the achievement motivation are 198.67 and 192.32 respectively. It reveals that the children of employed mothers are having

high achievement motivation than the children of non-employed mothers. Hence it leads to rejection of the first hypotheses i.e. “There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of children of employed and non-employed mothers”.

**Table 3: Means, SDs and „t“ values of Sons of employed and non-employed mothers on achievement motivation**

Achievement Motivation	Sons of Employed mothers (n = 50)		Sons of non-employed mothers (n = 50)		„t“ value	„p“ value	Level of significance
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	193.72	19.46	191.76	17.00			

@ Not Significant

Table 3 shows that sons of employed and non-employed mothers did not differ significantly. The obtained t-value is 0.536 and the Mean values of sons of employed mothers is 193.72 and sons of non-employed mothers is 191.76 respectively. It reveals that the second hypotheses “There

would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of sons of employed and non-employed mothers” is accepted.

**Table 4:** Means, SDs and „t“ values of Daughters of employed and non-employed mothers on achievement motivation

Achievement Motivation	Daughters of Employed mothers (n = 50)		Daughters of non-employed mothers (n = 50)		„t“ value	„p“ value	Level of significance
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	203.62	15.04	192.88	17.67			

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level

Table 4 indicates that daughters of employed and non-employed mothers differ significantly at 0.01 level on achievement motivation. Daughters of employed mothers scored higher on achievement motivation compared to the daughters of non-employed mothers. The obtained t-value (3.273) is significant at 0.01 level. The mean values of the daughters of employed and non-employed mothers on the

achievement motivation are 203.62 and 192.88 respectively. So it leads to rejection of the third hypotheses i.e. “There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of daughters of employed and non-employed mothers”.

**Table 5:** Means, SDs and „t“ values of Sons and Daughters of employed mothers on achievement motivation

Achievement Motivation	Sons of Employed mothers (n = 50)		Daughters of employed mothers (n = 50)		„t“ value	„p“ value	Level of significance
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	193.72	19.46	203.62	15.04			

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level

Table 5 shows that there are significant differences between sons and daughters of employed mothers regarding their achievement motivation as the obtained t-value (2.84) is significant at 0.01 level. The Mean values of sons and daughters of employed mothers on the achievement motivation are 193.72 and 203.62 respectively. It reveals that the daughters of employed mothers scored higher achievement motivation compared to the sons of employed mothers. Hence it leads to rejection of the fourth hypotheses i.e. “There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of sons and daughters of employed mothers”.

- 4) Daughters of employed mothers scored higher on achievement motivation compared to the daughters of non-employed mothers.
- 5) Daughters of employed mothers found better than the sons of employed mothers on achievement motivation.
- 6) Adolescent girls scored higher on achievement motivation compared to adolescent boys.

**Table 6:** Means, SDs and „t“ values of adolescent Boys and Girls

Achievement Motivation	Gender (n = 100)	Mean	SD	„t“ value	„p“ value	Level of significance
	Boys	192.74	18.20	2.20	0.02	
	Girls	198.25	17.19	2.20		

\* Significant at 0.05 level

Table 6 shows that adolescent boys and girls differ significantly at 0.05 level on achievement motivation. Adolescent girls scored higher on achievement motivation compared to the adolescent boys. The obtained t-value (2.20) is significant at 0.05 level and the Mean value of adolescent girls is 198.25 and adolescent boys is 192.74 respectively. Hence it leads to the rejection of the fifth hypotheses i.e. “There would be no significant difference in achievement motivation of adolescent boys and girls”.

## 8. Conclusion

- 1) The findings clearly indicated that maternal employment had positive impact on achievement motivation of the children.
- 2) Children of employed mothers had higher achievement motivation compared to the children of non-employed mothers.
- 3) There is no significant difference found in sons of employed and non-employed mothers.

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