The Social and Psychological Impact of Women's Empowerment in Child Education: Rethinking Motherhood

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ABSTRACT

This paper exhibits new empirical evidence of women's Empowerment regarding child education. It examines the impacts of women's Empowerment in social and psychological child education, focusing specifically on motherhood. It also criticizes the fragile bonding between mothers and children regarding women's Empowerment. The researchers use descriptive research design and qualitative methods to conduct interviews to get the expected output of the research from the selected population. The findings of this study present the handicaps of mothers who are engaged in jobs in terms of parenting. Most of the mothers opined that employed mothers can earn money, which gives them a positive vibe, but they fail to manage proper nourishment for their children to educate them properly. So their children face immense difficulties from social and psychological perspectives while unemployed mothers can manage sufficient time to nurture their children. Despite having some visible benefits of women's Empowerment, the researchers mainly focus on the mental gap between children and employed mothers and the potential negative outcome of a mother-child mental gap from sociological and psychological perspectives.

Keywords: Social impact, psychological impact, women's Empowerment, child education, mother

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1.   INTRODUCTION

In the sphere of human life, the presence of a woman is inevitable. For the assurance of a woman's participation in every phase of life, "Women Empowerment" was introduced in 1985 at the UN's Third World Conference on the matter of women in Nairobi, and this was to mainly explicate the economic and social values in favor of women (Gayfer, 1986; MEHTA & BHATTACHARJEE, 2021). At this conference, the "Advancement of Women" is one of the central topics of the discussion (Zinsser, 2002). This advancement refers mainly to their psychological and social development. Most of the prominent scholars also gave their views on this critical point. One of the prominent scholars, Duflo, appreciates Dr. Marecek's opinion on women's Empowerment. They both define women's Empowerment as women's ability to have personal autonomy that affects their well-being and ability to influence the course of events and make decisions as well as their personal lives (Duflo, 2012; Marecek, 2003).

Along with this, some psychologists also share their views. Dr. Miller (1986), along with her colleagues, formed the Relational-Cultural Theory (RCT), which is based on women's growth and Empowerment - women's Empowerment is achieved through the development of mutually empowering relationships, creating settings where women can get hope to express their personalities and challenging cultural norms and structures that maintain gender inequalities. From this definition, it is clear that women's Empowerment is a reassuring concept that gives women a social position and makes them psychologically strong. This RCT concept can be helpful for a mother to ensure fair education for her child because a mother is considered the central advisor of a child. In this regard, Adamu (1996) mentioned Osuala's (1987) statement that women as mothers are educators within their families; what they learn, they transmit to their children and their upcoming generations. So, regarding children's education, the mother's attachment is the most important thing to provide them with proper education. Motherly attachment is established and developed between mother and baby through proper interaction and communication, contributing to a child's development of mental and physical health (Karakaş & Dağlı, 2019). If a mother cannot give sufficient time or keep her child far from her motherly touch, this may lead a child to generate worse habits. According to Sperling and Berman (1994), an irregular relationship between the mother and the child might cultivate an anxious-preoccupied attachment style. Some scholarly works present the adverse effects of the lack of mother-child attachment because the mother is estimated to create a suitable attachment, beginning before birth and maintaining it afterward (Karakas & Dağlı, 2019). Therefore, the central fact is to elucidate briefly that even if they have socially and psychologically positive views of women's Empowerment, mothers should have a less active role in raising their children because of their social and economic engagement. This paper argues that the inadequate care of the mother for engaging herself in the empowering process may hamper child education. The research questions are a) how do employed women balance their work and family responsibilities?, b) how do they manage quality time for the children to avoid them being unsocial and psychologically sick?, c) how do they balance their social status through their commitment and engagement in their works on the one hand and ensuring proper methodic education to the children on the other hand?, d) How do they cover the relative absence of the motherly touch and the potential mental gap between themselves and their children?

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The Objectives of the Research are 1) examine the challenges employed women face in balancing work and family responsibilities. b) to explore the difficulties facing working women in maintaining workplace ethics and providing quality time to the children simultaneously to ensure the children's social and psychological health, c) To justify the working women's inability to balance their social status and ensure proper methodic education for the children; 4. To explore the mental and social gap between empowered mothers and their children.

Literature Review

The role of women as mothers is significant and multifunctional during a child's education period. It has become very influential in psychological development, education, and improving social life (Erawati, 2016). In this regard, women's Empowerment has positive vibes regarding social and psychological child education. Women's Empowerment has a profound positive impact on child education, contributing to the overall development of societies. Numerous studies and research have consistently highlighted the correlation between women's Empowerment and improved educational outcomes for children. The study of Bassok and Rorem (2014) discusses the role of empowered parents, particularly mothers, in creating supportive learning environments for their children. They also emphasize that empowered mothers tend to be more actively involved in their children's education, providing resources and support and creating enriching learning experiences at home, contributing to a more supportive and stimulating learning environment for children. Another study by Gertler et al. (2012) that has been published in the Journal of Development Economics investigates the impact of a maternal empowerment program on children's educational outcomes in rural Mexico which aimed to empower mothers through education, training, and community engagement because the findings reveal that empowered mothers actively created supportive learning environments for their children, leading to improved educational outcomes. This is to happen when an empowered woman spends a sufficient amount on her child.

Reversely, an empowered woman who excessively engages in social and economic work cannot manage adequate time for their children. Rose (2017) opined in his article that employed mothers of the 21st century face enormous challenges in finding ample time to meet work and family commitments. These challenges may be connected socially and psychologically.

Social Challenges

During a child's life, a responsible mother makes key contributions through her valuable instructions (Bishoni et al., 2020). The first three years of a child's life merely depend on how the mother prepares her child for socialization (Ritzer & Stepnisky, 2017). In this period, a child learns to interact, trust, and share problems with the parents, particularly the mother (Almani et al., 2012). When mothers go outside to work in the early period of their children, it causes disruptive behavioral problems in their children (Pelcovilz, 2013) because the child cannot get proper guidance to act justly. As a result, the child may be seen arguing with the members of his family on minimal things and turn incontrollable and rude (Almani et al., 2012) because the collaboration between parent and child is an essential factor in the language development of a child (Safwat, 2014). Then, the long-time absence of the mothers makes the children mistrust their mothers (Hallian, 1979), and they become helpless, socially weak, bizarre, and have an inferiority complex (Safiri, 1998). An inferiority complex defines feelings of inadequacy or inferiority and may lead to depression (Shrivastava, 2023). These factors hinder the natural socialization process of the children and make them unsocial. So, they distract from social values and norms and are gradually involved in antisocial

work. According to Erawati (2016), children who get more attention from their mothers are more educated than children who receive less attention. That means they become more social in their personalities (Erawati, 2016) and activities.

Psychological Defects

There lies an intimate connection between children's cognitive development and children-mother interaction (Papalia & Martorell, 2014; Stevens, 1971), which helps a child get the proper education. Spending less time with other people harms the mother-child relationship and grounds long-term significance on the child's growth (Kagan, 1978). Along with this, less time allocation by the mother hinders potential mother-child interaction and has an immense effect on the child's cognitive development (Blau, Grossberg. 1990; Rapoport et al., 2008; Stewart, 2010) as well as educational development. For this reason, the natural development of a child is hampered by the means of primary education. Another negative factor of child education is domestic violence. In rural and urban settings of India and Bangladesh, researchers have found women's participation in employment that results in more excellent reporting of domestic violence (Rahman et al., 2011; Johnson & Kishor, 2004; Verma & Columbine, 2003). Domestic violence makes a child psychologically defective and fails to maintain academic success. On the contrary, well-adjusted children are more successful, have a positive attitude, and have constructive relationships with their parents, especially mothers (Aeri et al., 2010), which helps them achieve a positive outcome.

In addition, usually, the employed mother goes out to earn money and keeps her child at home alone or with family members. However, they mainly recruit a housemaid to care for the child (Moazzam & Haroon, 2019). There, we may find practical drawbacks like the home maid in the case of child education. The irresponsible nature of the housemaid results in disruptive behaviors of the child (Moazzam & Haroon, 2019), and the abusive nature of the housemaid turns the child into arrogant or rude in the future (Al-Binali, 2011). Even more than their mother, the love of the housemaids decreases the intimacy between mother and child (Moazzam & Haroon, 2019).Therefore, an empowered mother's giving insufficient quality time to her child may impede the proper educational development of the child socially and psychologically.

2. METHOD

Methodologies function for how investigations should run to identify the problems, how to fabric a problem to be explored, how to improve appropriate data-fed generation, and how to categorize the logical collaboration between the problem, analysis, conclusions, and inferences (Jackson et al., 2007). To take this into account, the researchers have discussed the qualitative methods in the section on research design. Then, they documented the details of the participants, tools, and data collection procedure.

Research design

The researchers use the descriptive research design. Descriptive research designs answer the questions of who, what, when, where, and how connected to a particular research problem (Anastas, 1999). Along with this, the investigators have used qualitative methods. In qualitative research, interviewing is a set of procedures to produce data from individuals and groups using structured, semi-structured, or unstructured questioning formats (Jackson et al., 2007). To achieve the study's goal, the researchers prepared questionnaires to receive the different views and opinions from the

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empowered mothers, where they offered both open-ended and close-ended questions. Finally, they collected the required information to follow a systematic and methodical approach.

Participants

In this research, the researchers interviewed 30 (Thirty) educated mothers from various districts of Bangladesh, including homemakers and job holders who engage them in educational institutions, social organizations, national organizations, trades, banks, and so on.

Data Collection Procedure

This is a process of collecting the required data from the target population (Taherdoost, 2021). The researchers prepared the questionnaires where they offered ten questions – eight open-ended and two close-ended- to meet with the selected population for interviews. The questions are to explore the objectives of this research. They started it on 9th July and completed it on 16th July. They used two different ways- online and offline to collect the requisite information via interviews. In the case of online, they prepared a Google Form, shared it with educated mothers, and took interviews physically. Some participants played an active and cooperative role, but some were reluctant. Though it was not easy, the researchers could finally do the survey and collect the essential information for the inquiry.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter of the study presents the survey findings. Then, a brief discussion of this study is added by the researchers.

Results

The survey results are shown graphically using innovative art and pie charts. The results of the findings are noted below-
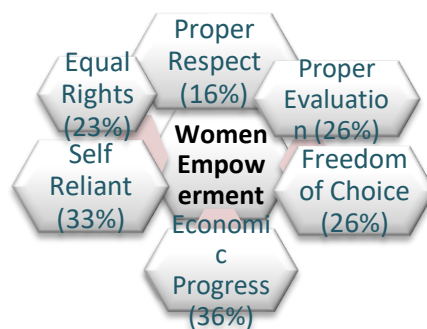

Figure 1. Most relevant expressions regarding women's Empowerment

This Figure presents the critical factors of Women's Empowerment based on the opinions of the selected population.
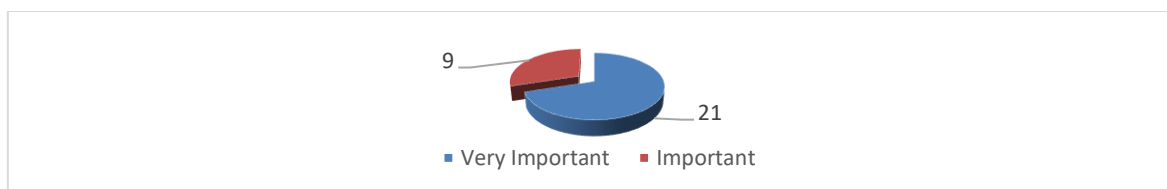

Figure 2. Importance of touch of a mother

Nearly 70% of participants said that a mother's touch for her child is essential, whereas 30% said it is necessary, but there was no one to say less important or unimportant.
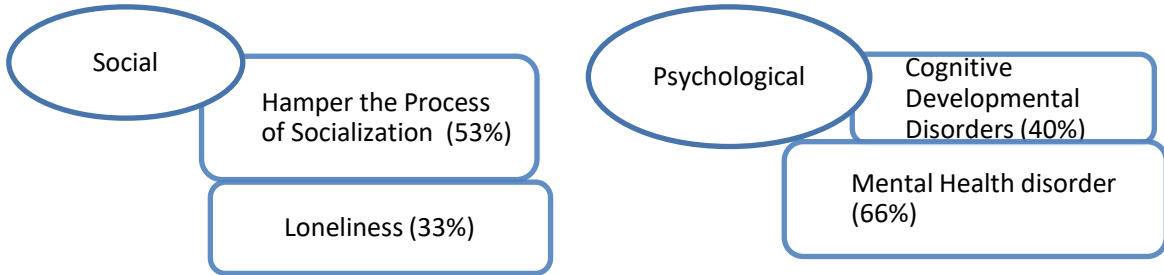

Figure 3: Impact on children from social and psychological perspectives for being absent of their employed mother for a long time

This is to show the opinion of the participants regarding the social and mental situation of the children in the constant absence of their employed mother for a long time.
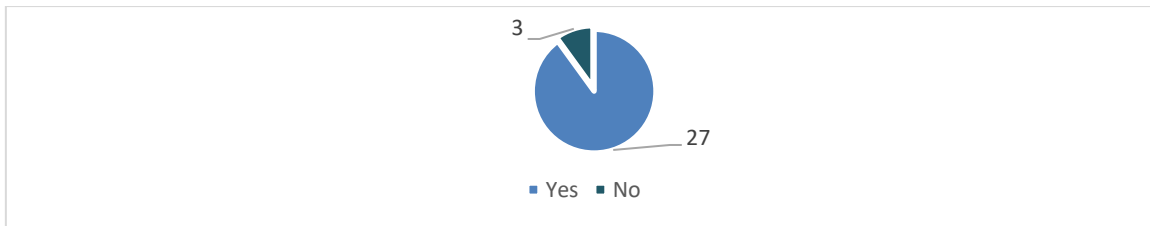

Figure 4. Making a gap between child and mother by employment

Around 90% of the people admitted firmly that employment creates a gap between the child and the mother, while 30% said negatively.
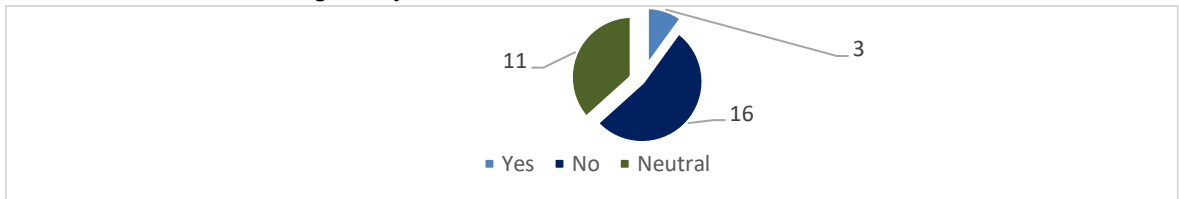

Figure 5. Women's Empowerment as a Curse for Child Education

About 50% of the population said yes, while 35% of them said no, and 15% of them were in a neutral position.
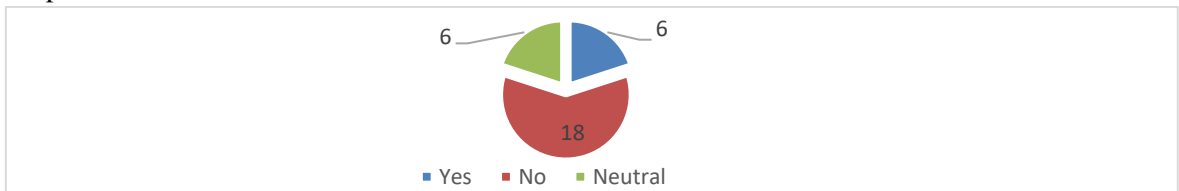

Figure 6. Women's Empowerment as a natural development to keep the children far from the motherly touch

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Around 20% of the participants opined positively, whereas 60% denied it, saying that it is an actual development to keep the children far from the motherly touch, and 20% remained neutral.

Discussion

This study mainly deals with the complexities of empowered women in nurturing their children properly. To find these challenges, the researcher received various opinions regarding women's Empowerment from the selected working mothers. In reply, most women emphasize being stable economically to be self-reliant. However, a significant portion of them admitted that a mother's touch for her child is vital. They also pointed out some critical roles of an ideal mother-
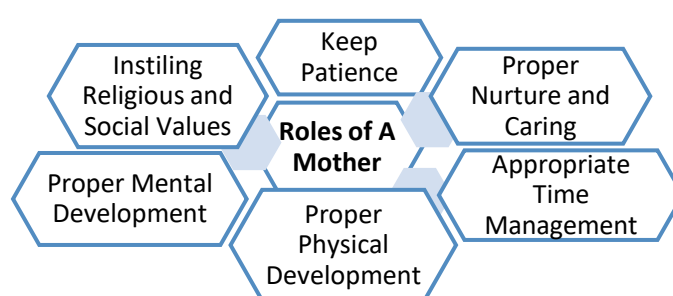

Figure 7. Roles of a mother

However, the problem is that employed mothers remain busy with their official work, so most of them fail to balance their time management skills to play the proper role of an ideal mother. This creates a gap between them and their children (figure 4). As a result, the children may suffer from social and psychological problems. Most of the interviewed mothers opined that these children are deprived of proper socialization processes and suffer from mental health disorders- Insecurity, anxiety, depression, etc. (figure: 3). Despite facing these problems, most of them did not agree that women's Empowerment is a curse. However, they admitted that it is also not an ideal situation for women in terms of their roles in the development process of the children (Figures 5 and 6). In the present world, women's Empowerment is an eminent term that ensures women's rights and economic and social participation. Generally, working-class women always play a versatile role because they must manage the family and the profession. In their profession, they have to spend a large portion of their time doing their professional work.

For this reason, they fail to manage quality time for their family, especially for their children. In the findings, the researchers showed this less time attachment of the mother to their children. There, they tried to focus on the role of working-class mothers to their children. Most participants know their responsibilities towards their children but cannot make an equilibrium. To fill this gap, they recruit housemaids, and in the process, they face many problems, such as the children needing proper social education.

Along with this, the absence of the mother hinders a child's cognitive development. As a result, they become scattered, unstable, depressed, anxious, mentally sick, and so on because they fail to share their feelings and personal problems (figure 3). The researchers attempt to introduce these

problems so that we can come forward to find a proper way to solve this issue. This study will help us remind working-class women about their family responsibilities and their children's impairments for their absence or creating a gap between them.

We may find several articles on the importance of women's Empowerment. The researchers of those articles encourage women to be empowered, but they need to discuss the matter involving empowered mother and child relationships. So, the researchers of this article specify some significant matters on motherhood, especially for employed mothers, which will help them balance their job and motherly responsibilities to their children.

4.   CONCLUSION

Women's Empowerment is related to the economic development and proper rights and position of women. This idea works like insurance for women because they get a better scope to show their worth, but employed mothers cannot balance the family and job or social work together. When a mother keeps herself aloof from the family, especially from the child, the child's socialization process and mental development are hampered considerably. Most mothers admitted that adequately educating children is impossible, leaving them alone for a long time. Proper time allotment, observation, and instructions are vitally important to educate the children appropriately. A jobholder mother can only provide some of these things properly, while a jobless mother can do everything for her child. Considering this challenging issue, the concept of women's Empowerment should be redefined, reshaped, and reconstructed so that a mother can perfectly accomplish the work and her child together.

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