

THE EFFECT OF TRADITIONAL AND NON- TRADITIONAL MOTHERS' WORK ON THEIR CHILDREN' PSYCHOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

Thesis Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the
Doctorate Degree in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing

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تأثير عمل الأمهات التقليدي وغير التقليدي علي الحالة النفسية لأطفالهن

رسالة مقدمة للحصول علي درجة الدكتوراه في علوم التمريض

(الصحة النفسية و التمريض النفسي)

من

أميمة عزت محمود

ماجستير الصحة النفسية والتمريض النفسي

كلية التمريض

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Abstract

When mothers work non-traditional or nonstandard shifts, traditional family roles are disrupted, with likely effects on children's psychological outcomes. This study aim was to investigate the effects of traditional and nontraditional mothers' work on their children psychological outcomes. The study was carried out on 40 children whose mothers had nontraditional jobs and another 40 with mothers having traditional jobs, in the nursery of Kasr EL-Aini University Hospital. The tools of data collection were a family cultural and socioeconomic level scale, Ain-Shams scale for aggressive behavior filled through interviewing child and mother, and the Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD) scale for children filled by mother or caregiver and teacher or nursery supervisor independently. The results revealed that children of non-traditional mothers' work had significantly more verbal ($p=0.006$) and total ($p=0.005$) aggression. They also had significantly more hyperactive impulsive ($p=0.001$) and obsessional deviant disorder ($p<0.001$). Statistically significant positive weak to moderate correlations were revealed between the aggression and ADHD scores, with the strongest correlation between aggression and obsessional deviant disorder ($r=0.639$). In conclusion, children in the nontraditional group have higher rates of both verbal and total aggression as well as ADHD behavioral manifestations. It is recommended that high quality nurseries be provided to the mothers who work, especially in non-traditional jobs. A psychiatric mental health nurse should be included in the nurseries team. Further research is needed to assess the effectiveness of nursing interventions on the psychological outcomes of children of women with non-traditional jobs.

Key words: nontraditional mother work, aggression, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders

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INTRODUCTION

In the last decades of the 20th century, there is a witness of a major change in women's and children's rights; nature and frequency of mothers' work; demographic and social characteristics of working women; the extent of financial strain imposed on them; availability of day-time, night or rotating shifts work many of which might well be reflected in the outcomes of mothers work; and availability and affordability of good quality child-care, center-based, institutionalized or family-based. These factors have serious implications on how mothers' work might affect children psychological outcomes (*Blaskó, 2008*). Not only does poor child health have contemporaneous economic consequences, such as health care expenditures and utilization, but poor health may also hinder a child's psychological outcomes (*Currie et al., 2007*).

According to *Labor Statistics report (2006)*, in 1975, 54.9% of women with children were in the civilian labor force. By 2001, that number had risen to 76.4 and to 79.9 in 2005. In Egypt, women are the backbones of their families, caregivers of young and old. They can and must play a powerful role in fostering sustainable development and are expected to be the