The broad objective of the study was to access the parental disciplinary measures, parent-child relationship, adjustment and anxiety among adolescents with working and non-working mothers from different social strata. There were six well-defined specific objectives and fourteen hypotheses. In order to achieve the specific objectives of the present study, data were collected from 460 adolescents (220 boys and 240 girls) with the help of one semi-structured questionnaire and four standardized psychological tests after local adaptation.

Findings revealed that the adolescents were more comfortable with their mothers as compared to their fathers in all sorts of inhibition free communication. Gender-wise analysis of the data revealed that the girls received more time from their parents as compared to the boys. Mothers were found to score high in all the aspects of spending quality time with their wards.

Younger aged adolescents were somewhat more inclined towards their siblings but gradually as the age increased the inclination shifted towards the peer group. Maximum attachment to the peers was found in the age group of 17 - 18 years and the boys seemed to be more inclined to the peers than the girls.

Further analysis in terms of socio-economic status revealed that the parents belonging to the middle socio-economic class provide the maximum quality times to their adolescents as compared to parents of lower and upper socio-economic strata in Kolkata.

The non-working mothers were able to afford maximum time to the adolescent boys (69.9%) and girls (72.2%). Among the working group, the mothers holding non-government job comparatively were found to spend more time with the girls (12.3%).

Although the discipline as a whole was permissive, but in case of the girls the mothers exhibited authoritative kind of discipline. The parents were more protective about the girl child in Indian society. Authoritative discipline was found to exist in the middle socio-
economic level because of the present day concern about the career development of the child.

Parental disciplinary measures of the adolescents having working and non-working mothers, irrespective of gender, medium and socio-economic background, differed significantly (P<.01).

Working mothers were found to provide more object reward to the adolescents while non-working mothers preferred to extend symbolic reward to adolescents. At the same time, the non-working mothers were more rejecting in nature as compared to working mothers. The parent-child relationship of working and non-working mothers, irrespective of gender, medium and socio-economic background differed significantly in case of three domains rejecting, symbolic and object reward.

So far as anxiety component is concerned, gender and medium of education-wise significant difference was observed (P<.01). Again, the adolescents belonging to various socio-economic strata (high, middle and low) differed significantly (F-value significant at 0.00 level) in terms of trait anxiety. The adolescents of working mothers revealed more anxiety as compared to that of non-working group (P<.01).

Coming to the adjustment aspect of adolescents, the data revealed gender and socio-economic status-wise significant difference. Adolescents of working mothers were found to be more independent and confident. Adjustment of adolescents having working and non-working mothers, irrespective of gender, medium and socio-economic background differed significantly (P<.01).

The findings of the present study suggest that there should be training for effective parenting and child rearing practices. School authorities should organize periodic meetings with the parents regarding the necessity of improving parent child relationship. Last but not the least special programs should be organized for the adolescents as to how to cope with stressful situation and develop better communication with parents. Programs should also teach them the ways to resist different kinds of peer pressure and how to be assertive in behavior.