Adolescence is a turbulent as well as dynamic period of one’s life. It can be defined as the transitional stage of development between childhood and adulthood, representing the period of time during which a person is biological adult but emotionally not at full maturity. Major physiological, cognitive and behavioral changes take place during this period. These changes are often accompanied by emotional tensions. The adolescence is exposed to new social situations, patterns of behavior and societal expectations, which brings a sense of insecurity. It increases the incidence of depression. They show the tendency of impulsive urge to take immediate actions, which often leads to risk taking behavior. Their body image can bring a sense of fun, pride, shyness or unhappiness, changes in habitual pattern of behavior, attitude and personality. There are marked changes in social interest. They use new set of values in selection of friends and social grouping. Along with these changes, adolescence also brings in negative syndrome like self centered, showing off, emotional immaturity, stubbornness, irritability, unsatisfactory relationship with the family members and others and conflict with family and others. The period shows rapid shift between self confidence and insecurity. Psychologists have consistently proved that the proper development of the child is impossible without a good environment in the family. In this modern society, which is changing and passing through a transitory period, the women have started seeking employment out of their homes in order to supplement their family income but due to this their household work, which is also a full time job for them is neglected.

Various socio-economic factors have brought out a newly emerging middle class women working in India. Family which plays an important role in the personality development of adolescents is undergoing structural, emotional and interactional transformation. The contribution of mother in shaping the personality of their children can not be ignored. During this stage, he/she needs the company and guidance from parents, especially mother, with whom they can share their thoughts and emotions freely. Hence the proper guidance at this crucial phase in life is all the
more important for enhancing their self concept and self confidence, enhancing their knowledge and skills in decision making, conflict resolution and management of emotions. Maternal employment not only influences the physical health but also affects the psychological health in both directions i.e. positive as well as negative. Keeping all this mind, the present investigation was carried out to compare the emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity amongst adolescent children of working and non-working mothers. The following objectives were formulated.

**OBJECTIVES**

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To assess and compare the level of emotional maturity amongst adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.

2. To assess and compare the level of self confidence amongst adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.

3. To assess and compare the level of insecurity amongst adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.

4. To assess and compare the gender differences of emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity amongst adolescent children of working mothers.

5. To assess and compare the gender differences of emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity amongst adolescent children of non-working mothers.

**HYPOTHESES**

The following hypotheses were formulated.

1. There would be a significant difference between the level of emotional maturity of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.

2. There would be a significant difference between the level of self confidence of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.

3. There would be a significant difference between the level of insecurity of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers.

4. There would be a significant difference between the level of emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity amongst male and female adolescent children of working mothers.

5. There would be a significant difference between the level of emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity amongst male and female adolescent children of non-working mothers.
Summary

For investigating these hypotheses, a two group design was adopted in the present study. Group I comprised of adolescent children of working mothers. Group II consisted of adolescent children of non-working mothers. A purposive sample of 260 adolescent students of 10th, 11th and 12th standards was selected for present study. Out of 260 students, 130 students in each group (65 males and 65 females) were taken from different private schools affiliated to CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) of Rohtak city on the basis of availability. The working mothers were employed as teachers, nurses, bank employees, in administrative jobs etc. The non-working mothers were the housewives. The age range of the participants was 15-18 years with a mean of 16.31 years. Emotional maturity scale, self confidence inventory and security-insecurity inventory were administered on the subjects individually. The obtained data was analyzed by applying the t-test.

The results indicated that the adolescent children of working mothers have significant higher emotional maturity than the adolescent children of non-working mothers. This difference may be due to the mother’s employment outside the house which makes their children to be adjustable, independent, responsible and mature to look after themselves at the early stage of life. Thus the first hypothesis stating that there would be a significant difference between level of emotional maturity of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers has been verified here.

The adolescent children of working and non-working mothers were further compared on five board factors of emotional immaturity of emotional maturity scale. The significant difference on emotional unstability indicated that the subjects of Group I are more emotionally stable than the subjects of Group II. The significant difference on emotional regression indicated that adolescent children of non-working mothers have feeling of insecurity, restlessness, hostility, self dissatisfaction and self centeredness compared to adolescent children of working mothers. Taking in to account the social maladjustment factor, the difference between the means of two groups was insignificant. This indicates that both the groups have almost equal degree of social adaptability. Regarding the personality disintegration, the insignificant mean difference indicates that both the groups are more or less adjusted to their environment and have low aggressive tendencies. On the factor lack of independence the difference between two means was found to be insignificant.
The statistical significant difference between the adolescent children of working and non-working mothers indicated that adolescent children of working mothers have high level of self confidence than their counterparts. Thus the second hypothesis stating that there would be a significant different between the level of self confidence of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers has been verified here.

On insecurity variable, the adolescent children of non-working mothers experience significantly higher level of insecurity than the adolescent children of working mothers. Thus the third hypothesis stating there would be a significant difference between the level of insecurity of adolescent children of working and non-working mothers has been verified.

Further significant gender differences were observed in emotional maturity and self confidence of male and female adolescent children of working mothers. Females were more mature emotionally than males whereas males were more confident. Insecurity did not differ significantly. The results show that there is a significant between the level of two variables undertaken i.e. emotional maturity and self confidence. Thus the fourth hypothesis stating that there would be a significant difference between the level of emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity amongst male and female adolescent children of working mothers has been partially proved.

In case of adolescent children of non-working mothers significant gender differences were observed in the emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity. Again females were more emotionally matured as found in case of working mothers. But unlike the females belonging to working mothers, females belonging to non-working mothers had higher level of self confidence. However, feeling of security was more amongst the male children. Thus, the fifth hypothesis stating that there would be a significant difference between the level of emotional maturity, self confidence and insecurity amongst male and female adolescent children of non-working mothers has been verified in the present study.

The results indicate that the stereotype thinking and inhibitions regarding the working mothers need to be shed off and awareness should be created among the present generation about the other factors which help in the holistic development of children.