INTRODUCTION

The growth and development of an individual is a continuous process starting in the family and there is no demarcation to indicate when the childhood terminates into the adolescence. Adolescent is a grown up child. Chronologically, an individual acquires adolescence approximately at the age of 11 or 12 years and remains in the period of adolescence till the age of 18 or 19 years.

In fact, adolescence is that period of growth and development when the individual becomes mature intellectually, socially, emotionally and sexually. Psychologically, he is neither a child nor an adult; he is an emotionally unstable individual who does not hesitate to express his feelings openly in his own group of adolescents.

Adolescence, no doubt, is the most important period of a person’s life but at the same time it is the most critical period. Adolescence is the phase of development and the transitional period, which run between childhood and adulthood.

Role of Family in the Development of an Adolescent:

The family is the most important factor for child’s emergence into adolescence. This is because of members of the family constitute the child’s first environment and are the most significant people during the formative period of his development. From the contacts with family members, children lay the foundations for the attitude towards people, and things, both material and non-material.

Role of Mother:

Role of mother in the development of child’s adjustment is very important because she is his first teacher in his life. The role of mother during the transition period of child’s entry to the adolescence period is the deciding factor of the ability of adjustment and other characteristics of an adolescent’s personality.

Working Mothers: Due to increasing educational and vocational opportunities and financial emergencies, increasing number of mothers are opting jobs out of their homes for approximately 6 to 8 hours per day.
Those mothers who stay at home they may or may not be financially independent.

A child’s attitude is formed in his family. If his mother is attentive and pays full attention to the education, the child’s attitude for educational achievement will be positive. This is possible in case of non-working mothers as they get full time to live with the child. On the other side, a working mother has two fold job i.e. household and occupational, and therefore, she pays less attention for developing the attitude for academic achievement of her children. In such cases, the educational achievement of children of working mothers may not be so good. It can be assumed that educational achievement of children of non-working mothers may be good as they get more attention from their mother. On other hand, working parental involvement and parent’s interest in children’s education is an important influence on children’s educational outcomes (Hill & Taylor, 2004).

Statement of the Problem:- To study the academic achievement in relation to academic adjustment of adolescents of working and non-working mothers.

The problem has one independent variable and one dependent variable.

The independent variable is:

(a) Academic Adjustment

The Dependent Variables is:

(a) Academic Achievement

Academic Achievement:

One of the important factors that determine a student’s success in his career is the academic achievement. Once he gets good marks in his school examination, he is encouraged to work harder and learn more and more for future achievements. Achievement is the term which denotes one’s level of learning at the time of examination. In a wider sense, academic achievement refers to one’s educational development in all aspects.

The distressing phenomenon of poor academic achievement and rising number of failures among students at various levels has started posing a big challenge to educationists for the full-
development and utilization of individual differential of all along the various stages of education. It is found that there is a complex of causes which may be considered responsible for high and low achievement of the students. Broadly, these factors may be categorized as below:

1. Subjective factors
2. Objective factors

Subjective Factors:

(a) Study-habits
(b) Interest
(c) Motivation of aspiration
(d) Attitude towards course
(e) Perception of school
(f) Socio-economic status
(g) Aptitude

Objective factors:

(a) Personal background
(b) Teaching system
(c) Examination system
(d) Medium of instruction
(e) Educational facilities

Academic Adjustment:

Adjustment is the characteristic of one’s personality that helps him to interact with him-self, his environment and his social circumstances successfully. It is one’s ability by which he strives to cope with his inner needs, tensions, conflicts and frustrations to bring harmony in relation to the claims of his external environment. For this, he selects appropriate and effective measures to meet the demands of his environment while maintaining a healthy attitude towards his inner needs.
How a student adjusts himself with his school environment in the light of his own physical and mental capacities and health is the most serious problem of modern education. The Academic Adjustment aim of the proposed study is to provide a possible solution of this problem.

There are four areas of adjustment to be measured in the proposed study:

1. **Home Adjustment**: It is a common belief that harmonious relations are learnt by an adolescent in his home environment. The function of the family is to provide a loving environment for nurturing and for supporting its members.

2. **Health adjustment**: Health in its broadest aspect is essential to a well-balanced personality. It is not without any reason to say that a healthy mind lives in a healthy body. It depends on an ideal life and happiness of an individual. People in poor health are lacking in self-control and are pessimistically oriented towards poor self-concept.

3. **Social adjustment**: In our Indian culture, a high value is accorded to social adjustment. As man is a social being, his relationship with others is very important. Social adjustment means how far an adolescent is acquainted with other members of the society.

4. **Emotional adjustment**: Emotional adjustment is another aspect of adjustment. The expressions of the emotion in a desirable way determine man’s nature, whether he is civilized or not. Emotion means state of mental condition. The violent emotions like anger, fear, jealousy etc. affect the nervous system seriously. It may give a setback to thinking, reasoning and learning. Uncontrolled emotion is a menace in society.