INTRODUCTION

The paternal practices are facing many challenges in the fast changing world of Indian society, particularly in the urban sector. Today there are a large number of women seeking job outside their homes either purely for financial reason or for self satisfaction or realization. This type of exposure has also influenced the pattern of family interaction, parenting style and marital adjustment of employed mothers. It is believed that if both parents are working they get very less time to look after their children. Children are left in the hand of servant, if available, or alone. However the child care happens to be only mothers’ responsibility as mothers are also away from home for considerable period of time due to job requirement. The entry of the increasing number of the women to the job market is creating changes in the family ecology which has important implications for social and personality development of the children.

Women of India represent 48.3% of the total population today, making themselves a major part of the emerging Indian society. Women in India have slowly emerged out from a system which was oppressed and exploited them for centuries altogether. Today they have pervaded every conceivable sector of the national activity and have their indelible impression in various fields which have so far been considered as the exclusive rights of men. Some mothers may choose to stay at home and adopt the traditional homemaker role. Others might prefer to work outside home, living life to its full potential. When choosing between staying at home and working outside, mothers tend to analyze what’s best for their children. There can be both negative and positive effects of working mothers on their children. While working moms can teach their children some invaluable life skills, they can also make the child feel neglected at times.

A mother is particularly important not because she has special skills but because she is with her children for a much greater time than any other person and her instructions reflects a very strong influence on attitudes, abilities and behavior of children. Most of those children who are successful and well-adjusted come from homes where parental attitudes are favorable and a wholesome relationship existed between children and parents. Mothers give her children love, affection and care since birth. Child-care has become a major issue in most of the countries of the world. It is a universal truth that children require the love of mother the most.
It is seen that a child might face a number of problems like inferiority, frustrations, isolations and other educational problems as well, leading to concentration problems also. Employed women are those who spend their time out from their house in order to gain financially. It is observed that a child might not get the kind of emotional fulfillment that he/she requires when in need. A child faces so many problems in the school at the age of 12-18 where in he/she needs to share and discuss, which if not taken care of seriously might lead to emotional, social and educational instability. It is quite possible that children who do not get enough time with their mothers might not be comparatively that good as a child whose mother is a home maker.

Working mothers might feel over-burdened and weary of trying to balance work and family. If mothers bring their frustration home, children could develop a negative attitude. They could perceive her work as a source of distress for their family.

Mothers, in spite of having their kid’s best interests at heart, might fail to provide their kids a safe emotional outlet. They might not be enthusiastic to hear their kids’ issues after a hectic day at work. Kids in such cases could resort to finding an outlet elsewhere or simply feel that their parents are not interested in their lives.

Problems can arise between parents over the mother’s employment. Such parental conflict can adversely affect children. It could damage their self-esteem and make them insecure.

A stay-at-home mother who is unhappy about her situation cannot be an ideal mother either on the other hand, many mothers would find contentment in staying at home with their kids. The most important factors of a child’s development and well-being are the mother’s sense of fulfillment and quality of time spent together.

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life. -Abraham Lincoln

The adjustment problems of the students play an important role in the total development of the children. As the mothers are not able to cater the basic need of a child i.e. TIME, not forgetting the other needs as well, warmth and protection.
The basic requirements of a child are not satisfied leading to adjustment problems such as personal, social, emotional etc.

These problems not only affect the child and his family, but also affect the school, community and finally the entire society.

It is said that family is the first school of a child and the mother is the first tutor. Every member of the family occupies a vital position in the interaction map of a child but among them the role of mother is very important and varied as the child spends most of his time with his mother. The nurturing a mother provides is unparallel and a vital part of child’s care. Difference in views of various people are observed saying that the children of working mothers are sufferers and are neglected where as some are of the opinion that children of working mothers are self confident, obedient and punctual, more mature hence…..

This study aims at finding out the views of children between the age group of 12-18 years whose mothers are employed and are not able to spend sufficient time with them. The study will particularly be based on the Educational, Emotional and Social problems faced by the children of working mothers.