

**Effect of Maternal Employment on Child-Upbringing Practices in Abeokuta South and North Local Government Areas of Ogun State.**

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**Abstract**

*The study investigated the effects of maternal employment on child-upbringing practices in Abeokuta South and North Local Government Areas of Ogun state. Description research designs of survey method was adopted. A simple random sampling technique was employed and 500 subjects drawn from a population of 449,088. Three research objectives were raised and two hypotheses formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The findings were: that there was significant relationship between the traditional and modern child-upbringing practices tested with the paired t-test, while maternal employment affected child-upbringing practices. It was recommended among others was that employed mothers should integrate and use the positive traditional and modern child-upbringing practices for a better development of the children.*

**Key:** *Maternal Employment, Child, Up- bringing Practises.*

**Introduction**

Historically women play diverse roles, such as housewives, homemakers as well as mothers in charge of the operations at home, (Jessica, 2013). In the past, the woman's position was restricted to the home and she accepted her place and modeled her life accordingly. She was regarded as the director of home production in the economy which was mainly agricultural. The traditional view of the family pictured the woman as the helpmate of the male bread winner.

However, the major change in the pre-occupation of women was their movement into labor force. This movement which began in the twentieth century was greatly accelerated following the two world wars between 1918-1920 and 1935-1945, (Hofferth 1999 and Lyle2004). The result of these two wars made women to leave their homes and took over certain functions that were hitherto the exclusive roles of men and still performed their roles of childbearing and upbringing. Through the art of homemaking women nursed and raised children, inculcating in them the types of values, social norms and good habits of sound attitudes of the various ethnic groups within their societies. Today however, the current generation of mothers in Nigeria represents a new breed in child-upbringing practices, because of the quest for gainful employment outside the home, as a result of changes in family structure.

Children are regarded as assets to be valued, as it is believed that they are gifts and blessings from God who will succeed their parents to maintain continuity of their society (Judy,2021). In a family, each child is exposed to unique interpersonal and family traditions made up of interactions which includes parents, siblings and to a more general environment in which the family lives and functions. The responsibility of child-upbringing in the traditional family has not been limited entirely to the nuclear family, rather extended family members, relatives, as well as neighbours have always contributed to shape the child socially, mentally, physically, emotionally, and to an extend equip him with vocational skills for his functioning and survival in the society.

Child-upbringing practices are important obligations of mothers because among all living things, the human species is the epitome of God's creation, created in God's own image, (Genesis 1:27). The greatest task before man therefore, is to perpetuate this great legacy by raising the progeny which is worthy of succeeding him. Child-bearing is a natural quality which all living things possess, but perhaps harder than the monetary pangs of childbirth, is the process of upbringing. This point becomes significant, when the fact is considered that children are helpless at birth and cannot survive without parental care, (Mark, 2016). It is rational then to assume that child-upbringing for a typical Nigerian child continues throughout life and only ends at death of parents or child, hence the child is a subject to the environment he/she finds himself/herself in the process of upbringing.

### **Objectives**

The main Objectives of the study was to determine the effect of maternal employment on child-upbringing practices in Abeokuta South and North Local Government Areas of Ogun State.

The specific objectives are to:

- 1: Identify factors that influence mothers to pick up paid jobs outside the home.
- 2: Identify modern and traditional child-upbringing practices of employed mothers in the two Local Government Areas of Ogun State.

### **Research Questions**

What are the factors that influence mothers to join labor force in Abeokuta South and North LGA?

1. How can maternal employment affect child-upbringing practices of Two Local Government Areas.
2. What are the child-upbringing practices adopted by mothers in the Two Local Government Areas.

3. What are the types of modern upbringing practices adopted by mothers in the two Local Government Areas.
4. What influence does maternal employment have on child – upbringing.
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### **Hypothesis**

1. There is no significant difference between modern and traditional child-upbringing practice of employed mothers in the Two Local Government Areas.
2. There is no significant relationship between maternal employment and child-upbringing practice in the Two Local Government Areas.

The two hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

### **Methodology**

#### **Design and Area of Study**

The study adopted a descriptive research design and used a survey method. The area of study was Abeokuta south and North of Ogun State due to the number of working class mothers in the two Local Government Areas.

#### **Population for the Study**

The population for the study comprised of all the employed mothers in the LGA. The estimated population stood at 449, 088 which was obtained directly from state payrolls of the two LGAs .

#### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

A simple random sampling technique was used to draw a sample size of 500 subjects from the populations within the two Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Abeokuta Town.

#### **Instrument for Data Collection**

To obtain the data, a designed questionnaire based on the objectives and research questions of the study was used entitle: "Effects of Maternal Employment on Child- upbringing Practices in Abeokuta South and North Local Government Area of Ogun State. A rating scale format was adopted to design the questions. The questionnaire consisted of four sections, each addressing specific areas of the study.

**Reliability of Instrument:** A half split method using Spearman's correlation statistic was used to correlate the data retrieved from 30 subjects in one of the LGAs. A reliability index of 0.81 was obtained hence, the instrument was deemed reliable for the study.

**Data Collection and Analysis Techniques**

Five hundred (500) copies of questionnaires were administered to working mothers and retrieved by the researcher with the help of two trained assistants which lasted for three weeks. Four hundred and eighty six were properly filled, analyzed and subjected to various statistical methods of frequencies, simple percentage, means and t-test. The two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

**Findings of the Study**

The following findings were made;

**Research Question one: How can maternal employment affect child-upbringing practices of Two Local Government Areas.**

Table 1: Factors influencing mothers to work outside the home

S/N	FACTORS	AGREE		DISAGREE		Mean
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
1	I want to earn money to support my husband	477	98.2	9	1.8	3.775
2	I want to earn money to empower myself	341	70.2	145	29.8	2.786
3	My husband and children give me respect because I work	354	72.8	132	27.2	2.922
4	Work outside home gives me personal satisfaction	448	92.2	38	7.8	3.3319
5	I work to feel useful and fulfilled	452	93.0	34	7.0	3.315
6	My work gives me opportunity to meet with people outside home	202	41.5	284	58.5	2.377
7	I work to make friends	147	30.2	339	69.8	2.121
8	I work to interact with colleagues	262	53.9	244	46.1	2.484
AGGREGATE MEAN SCORE OF THE TABLE						2.885

Field Source 2022

Most mothers 477 (98.2%) joined the labor force to earn money to support their husbands, some 452 (93.0%) to feel useful and fulfilled, others 448 (92.2%) for personal satisfaction. Item seven on the table rated the least with 147 (30.2%) as women disagreed that their work outside the home is not to make friends. All the other items on the table rated above average.

**Research Question Two: What are the child-upbringing practices adopted by mothers in the Two Local Government Areas.**

Table 2: Responses score of respondents for opinions on traditional child-upbringing practices

S/N	TRADITIONAL CHILD REARING PRACTICES	AGREE		DISAGREE		MEAN
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
1	Take care of child and maintain homes	447	92.0	39	8.0	3.405
2	Help husband in breadwinning	434	89.3	52	10.7	3.55
3	Breastfeed children without restriction	446	91.8	40	8.2	3.19
4	Wean children at age 2 or 3 years	440	90.5	46	9.5	3.243
5	Use cane to discipline children	419	86.2	67	13.8	3.099
6	Train children for toileting at 4 months	342	70.4	144	29.6	2.992
7	Sleep on the same bed with younger children	403	82.9	83	17.1	3.023
8	Train children to respect elders and laws of the society	468	96.2	18	3.8	3.358
9	Train children to participate in all household work	454	93.4	32	6.6	3.377
10	Spend most time with children at home	403	82.9	83	17.1	3.193
AGGREGATE MEAN SCORE OF THE TABLE						3.206

Field Source 2022

Table 2 revealed that all items from 1-10 rated high, with the highest 468 (96.2%) training children to respect elders and societal laws, the least scored in the items had 342 respondents with 70.4%. other items scores ranged from 454(93.4%) for participation in household work, 447(92.0%) care of children and maintenance of homes. Helping husband in breadwinning and breastfeeding children without restriction had 446(91.8%) and 440(90.5%) respectively.

**Research Question Three: What are the types of modern upbringing practices adopted by mothers in the two Local Government Areas.**

Table 3: Responses on modern child-upbringing practices

S/N	MODERN UPBRINGING PRACTICES	AGREE		DISAGREE		Mean
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
1	Engaged housemaids to take care of my children	440	90.5	410	9.5	3.440
2	Have fewer number of children	451	92.8	35	7.5	3.235
3	I am a breadwinner	392	80.7	94	19.3	3.097
4	Practice both bottle and breastfeeding	432	88.9	54	11.1	3.210
5	Wean my children before one year	374	77.0	112	23.0	2.905
6	Schedules children’s feed because of outside work	436	89.7	50	10.3	3.140
7	Train children on the use of potty and toilet	452	93.0	34	7.0	3.126
8	Do not apply corporal punishment on any children	330	67.9	156	32.1	2.745
9	Do not teach children to respect societal values	146	30.1	340	69.9	2.183
10	Enroll children in school at the age of three	446	91.8	40	8.2	3.309
11	Do not sleep on the same bed with younger children	410	84.4	76	15.6	3.097
12	Away from home for many hours to work	388	78.9	98	20.2	3.092
13	Send my children to good schools	467	96.1	19	3.9	3.492
14	A greater part of my resources is used to train my children	476	98.0	10	2.0	3.545
15	A good standard of living enhanced by my income	458	94.2	28	5.8	3.374

16	Engaged children in useful and productive skills	452	93.0	34	7.0	3.212
17	Free educational discussion with my children	418	95.0	20	4.1	3.317
AGGREGATE MEAN SCORE OF THE TABLE						3.149

FieldSource 2022

Table 3 revealed that among the modern child-upbringing practices were engagement of nannies 90.5%, 92.8% had fewer children, breast and bottle feeding 88.9% all in agreement. Most responds 69.9 did not agree that children were not trained to respect societal values, but 146(30.1%) agreed with that opinion. All the other items were rated highly in agreement for such practices.

**Research Question four: What influence does maternal employment have on child – upbringing.**

Table 4: Influence of maternal employment on child-upbringing practices

S/N	EFFECTS OF MATERNAL EMPLOYMENT	AGREE		DISAGREE		MEAN
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
1	Inadequate monitoring and supervision	387	79.7	99	20.3	3.121
2	Indiscipline among children	380	78.2	106	21.8	3.025
3	Deprivation of maternal love and care	387	79.6	99	20.4	3.132
4	Little time spent with children	389	80.0	97	20.0	3.016
5	Gender role confusion	261	53.7	225	46.3	2.529
6	Children’s need met and problems solved	441	90.8	45	9.2	3.311
7	Being away from home has made my children to be self reliant	284	58.4	202	41.6	2.545
8	I love my work more than my children	55	11.3	431	88.7	1.757
SOCIAL VICES THAT CHILDREN MAY ENGAGE INTO IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MOTHER						
9	Drunkenness	397	81.7	89	18.3	3.134

10	Drug abuse	402	82.7	84	17.3	3.097
11	Sexual immorality/teenage pregnancy	411	86.6	75	15.4	3.185
12	Occultism	388	79.8	98	20.2	3.045
13	Disrespect for elders and societal laws	376	77.4	110	22.6	2.959
14	Juvenile delinquencies	388	79.8	98	20.2	3.045
15	Fighting/ stealing	402	82.7	84	17.3	3.101
16	Truancy/ school drop out	392	80.7	94	19.3	3.123
AGGREGATE MEAN SCORE						2.945

Field Source 2022

Table 4 The frequency scores of the items 1-7 in table, showed that most of the respondents were in agreement that mothers employment outside the home has negative impact on child-upbringing with regards to discipline 380 (78.2%) monitoring and supervision 387 (79.70%). Respondents 431 (88.7%) disagreed that they loved their work more than their children. It was the agreement of all the respondents that their being away to work led their children to engage in various social vices as shown on the table.

**Test of Hypotheses**

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant difference between the traditional and modern practices of child-upbringing.

Table 5: Paired t-test between modern and traditional upbringing practices by employed mothers.

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Standard error	Degree of freedom	T-value	P-value
Traditional	3.2043	0.4430	0.020	483	7.78	0.000
Modern	3.0412	0.3780	0.017			

(Critical value of t is 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance)

The observed t-value was greater than the critical value of 1.96 and the observed significant level was lower than 0.05 level of significance (P<0.05). The null hypothesis was rejected.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant relationship between maternal employments on child-upbringing practices.

Table 6: Correlation between mother’s employment and its effect on their child-upbringing practices.

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Degree of freedom	R	P-value
Employment	2.5640	0.9358	482	0.0913	0.043
Upbringing practices	2.8492	0.3942			

The result of the test in Table 6 showed that maternal employment had significant relationship on child-upbringing practices, ( $P < 0.05$ ). The observed correlation coefficient for the relationship between the two variables was 0.0919 and the observed significant level was 0.043. the null hypothesis was rejected at 0.05 level of significance.

**Discussion**

The study was designed to investigate maternal employment on child-upbringing practices Abeokuta South and North Local Government Areas of Ogun state. Two hypotheses were stated and tested. The summary statistics of frequencies, percentages and means were used in the presentation of the result of the findings.

Among the objectives of the study were the determination of effect of maternal employment on child-upbringing practices, identification of traditional and modern child-upbringing practices adopted by employed mothers in the LGA and the factors that influenced mothers out of the home for paid employment.

The findings revealed that most mothers joined the labor force to earn money to support their families (98.2%) for self-satisfaction (92.2%) and to empower themselves (70.2%) were among other reasons. This is supported by the findings of Makhtar, (2015) that women who worked out of the home to support their families and end poverty.

One of the objectives of the study was the identification of traditional and modern child-upbringing practices. In the analysis of data, it was observed that traditionally, mothers breastfed their children exclusively 91.8%, had enough time to be with their children 82.8%, and trained their children to respect elders 96.20%. Other practices included sleeping with younger children on the same bed 82.9% and training children to participate in household activities. The modern child-upbringing adopted by employed mothers were bottle feeding of children 98.7%, fewer numbers of children 92.8% sent children to good schools, and engaged their children in useful and productive educational schools 93.0%. The other practices included

toilet training, good living standards and the engagement of nannies to care for children 90.5%. The modern child-upbringing practices agreed with the findings of Abebe *et al* (2019) that due to changes in lifestyles, employed mothers opted for bottle feeding practice.

The third objective determined the effects of maternal employment on child-upbringing practices. Most of these effects were negative and a few others positive. Among the negative upbringing practices cited were inadequate monitoring and supervision of children 79.9%, and deprivation of love, attention and care for children 79.6%. The positive effect that rated high was meeting the needs of children as a result of employment 90.8%. The respondents opinions on some vices resulting from mother's absence from home showed their agreement that it affected their children negatively. Some of these social vices were drug abuse, sexual immorality, juvenile delinquencies, truancy and school drop-out, which all rated above 70%. Maria *et al* (2020) reported that absence of employed mothers from home adversely affected the care and protection of children.

### **Conclusion**

Maternal employment is a source of economic empowerment for harnessing family living standard, and employed mothers are waving out most traditional child-upbringing practices for modern ones in order to have more time for side hussle. Hence, the positive sides of modern and traditional upbringing practices should be merged and embraced for the convenience of employed mothers and their children for the social, moral, emotional and physical development of family members.

### **Recommendations**

The following are recommendations of the study:

1. Conditions of service for employed mothers for personal satisfaction and self-fulfillment should be improved
2. Husbands should be encouraged to actively participate in child-upbringing practices
3. Wives should be encouraged to be educated through attending workshops and Seminars to widen their knowledge on child-upbringing practices, through the provision of scholarship by the three tiers of government.

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