

## THE ROLE OF MOTHER'S PROFESSION ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

*It is a universal fact that the education and profession of the mother is an essential input for the development of an individual, society, and nation. Mother education and profession provide adequate knowledge, afford important abilities, and develops an appropriate mindset to attain the excessive educational overall performance in their children. This study focused on University-going Students and the impact of professional mothers on their academic achievements. The researchers attempted to find out the association among a mother's profession and the academic performance of the students. The study Determine, whether the association depends on gender or not. However, the area of the study was four public and private universities in Islamabad. The unit of the study was Students from different selected Universities. The questionnaire was pretested on 10 respondents to validate the selected questionnaire. Non-random convenience sampling was used and 195 students from different universities were selected for collecting data. It was a quantitative research study and used a questionnaire for data collection. The data was analyzed through SPSS for descriptive and inferential results. Moreover, the study's major finding is that the mother profession has a positive impact on the academics of the students, especially female students. The major role that influences academics was the mother's involvement which should be further addressed.*

**Keywords:** Mothers' Profession, Academic Performance, University Students

### INTRODUCTION

The basic indicator of receiving knowledge is education, but academic performance indicates scholastic training and success in schools, colleges, and universities to obtain specified marks, results, grades, positions, and up-gradation to the next level in education, also to find a job in the future. Awan and Bilal (2015) elaborated the major aspect of education is human resource development that supports constructiveness and enlightened the public generating opportunities for poor segments of society such as socially, mentally and economically. The philosophy of education emphasizes learning methods through wisdom, expertise, skills, and intelligence are passed from generation to generation via learning, coaching, training, teaching, schooling, research, and enhancement which in long run imitate the socio-economic development of society. Education induces the behaviours of people and officials working for poverty easing, a basic change in sociality, and justifiable economic enhancement that is a key to development.

Only educated human resources equipped with updated skills can contest with the modern world. The academic performance of students and the increasing rate of graduation has been the emerging interest for higher education institutions. The numerous research on different aspects that may or May not affect the achievements of university level students become a hard area and a core attention in the community of higher education. The latest researches were conducted to investigate different aspects affecting the students' academic performance at the university level. Hanson (2000) concluded that the learning abilities, gender and race are the major factors affecting the performance of students. According to Simmons et al. (2005) the earnings of Parents, attendance of students, getting scholarship have statistically major effects on the devotion to college between the age group of college students.

Garton et al., (2000) investigated the productivity of student training approach and university entrance variables in foreseeing students' educational achievements and memory. Act composite score,

secondary school center GPA, and learning style were utilized as indicators. Results indicated that centre GPA and Act score were the best indicators for foreseeing students' performance in the first year. Another, study conducted in Australian university on the performance of first-year students, the indicators were psychosocial, cognitive and demography. The finding reveals the earlier academic achievements were highly recognized as the important indicators of university performance (Mckenzie & Schweitzer, 2001). The additional indicators of university performance were integration, personal motivation in university, and employment accountabilities. Hijazi and Naqvi (2006) investigated the aspects that affect the achievement of college students. The core interest was to explore the different associations with students' performance in the secondary examination. Which indicates the approach of students towards attendance, timetable, family socioeconomic condition, mother's age and her education were major aspects that influence achievement in private colleges. However, the parental profession can also influence the academic performance of students at any level.

According to Marrnot (2005) that occupations are organized on a hierarchal basis, some are most prestigious while others are less prestigious. The professions are categorized in high and low-ranks, physicians, surgeons, lawyers, chemical & biomedical engineers, communication analysts, cook, receptionist, bartenders, helpers, dishwashers, janitors, maids, security guard, driver, and parking lot attendants respectively. The jobs with high status demand a high level of work, talent, and control over job responsibilities. While the less prestigious jobs paid less and demand more physical labour, risk, and less independence. Gachathi (1976) concluded that occupational power and prestige are the factors of high status that involve earning and academic achievement. Furthermore, he concluded that the working status is the indicator of academic achievement which involved a job and the level of income. The children's whose parents have prestigious occupations acquired quality education. Parents who provided socioeconomic, psychological, and emotional support to their children, which makes them good in academics performance.

Moreover, Memo et al., (2010) conducted a study at higher secondary school in district Malir, Karachi that investigate the effect of socioeconomic status on students' academic achievement. The study indicated the strong association among Parental profession and students' educational achievement at High school examinations. Students having fathers with high-status occupations performed well in matric examinations than those having low status in rank. Parent's financial stability is a major indicator in children's moral, intellectual, spiritual, and psychological wellbeing. While parents with financial instability are failed to provide sufficient grounds to improve the education of their children's. However, the mother's profession also affects the educational achievements of the students. It was also investigated that the students having mothers with a prestigious occupation were good in matric examinations than those having mothers with low-rank occupations. Moreover, Okioga (2013) says that occupations evaluate the social status, which explained the features of job such as decision power, skills, command, and cognitive ability. According to Kainuwa and Najeemah (2018) the financial condition of children's school enrolment was investigated by survey in Tanzania. The only affecting indicator against their children's education was an economic problem. Ahmar and Ehtesham (2013) conducted a study in Lukhnow city in India that analyzed the gender and economic condition of the parents in the educational performance of higher secondary students. They find out the students both male and female were good in academic performance in class from those whose parents having financial instability. Parents with prestigious backgrounds grant basic services of education and health to their children. Moreover, they understand the problems of the adolescent period that influence academic performance. Qaiser et al., (2012) investigated secondary level student's achievement in District Karak, Pakistan in a relationship to the parent's socioeconomic status. The researchers classified the parents' occupation into four categories, I, II, III, IV respectively. The study concluded that the students whose parents belong to class I secured good grades than others. Further, the Students whose parents belong to class II are better than class III, similarly class III are good than class IV.

Al-Matalaka (2014) investigated the effect of parent's occupation with the education of children's in Jordan. The study concluded, that in some aspects the association of parental profession and their involvement at home was positive. The findings indicate, parents having well-known profession are more likely to understand the problems and its possible solution of their children. They provide them with all the basic facilities for learning development and help them in their studies. The prestigious profession indicates the income level which influences academic performance. The parents

with prestigious professions indicate the income stability that helps them to make enough provisions for the learning development of children.

Moreover, the study by Usaini and Norsuhaily (2015) also noted the parental occupation has major influence on the attainment of students. The researcher selected three different colleges in district Gujarat for data collection. Findings of the study revealed that the government job holder's children attained higher marks (60.02%) as compare to private employees. Government jobs are more secure than private and families with government jobs are more peaceful than those having private jobs. While the occupation of the mother also has an impact on children's educational enhancement. Findings of the study revealed that students had a maximum percentage (64.5%) whose mothers were government employees.

While specifically looking at Pakistan and the studies conducted here also showed that the parent's occupation plays vital role in students' educational enhancement. The researchers found, the parents with high profession afford the basic requirements for the development of children's education. They also provide a healthy environment to support and encourage their children towards educational achievement. While students whose parents have less prestigious occupations faced a lot of disadvantages than those who have parents with a prestigious occupation. They are suffering from difficulties both at home and school which affects their academic performance directly and indirectly. However, the relationship between parental occupation, involvement and particularly the mother engagement in the academic performance of university students still need to explore. That may investigate the relationship between the mother's profession and their children's academic performance at the university. Furthermore, it will also analyze the performance based on the gender of students.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **Educated Vs Non-Educated Mother**

The impression of literate and illiterate mothers upon the performance and academic achievements of their children was probed by Awan and Bilal (2015). The study showed that both educated and uneducated mothers take a keen interest in the education of their children. However, financial hurdles were a problem for most of the uneducated mothers' children. The education of mothers plays a key role and greatly affects the performance of children and an educated mother influences her children positively as compared to an uneducated mother. Also, it was observed that extracurricular activities shape the personality development of the children. They must be provided with religious education as well. Parents must give quality time to their children and take regular updates from the children and help them with their homework.

Researcher highlights a new indicator of educated Mother. Educated mother could develop the future of her children through proper socialization. She could also contribute in the reduction of dropout rate and could be factor in improving the literacy rate. She can properly manage the household expenses and could give her inputs in savings. The savings further could be beneficial for the attainment of quality education. Apart from this she also knows the importance of hygiene, proper diet, and could rise a healthy child than an uneducated mother. The health of child is directly link with child wellbeing and his/ her performance in education. It is truly said' "*if you educate a woman, you educate a nation*" Previously there is no significant work on it.

### **Employed Unemployed Mother**

Another study by Awan and Kauser (2015) showed that there is a strong connection between the child-raising practices of employed and household mothers concerning the academic attainment of their children. Looking at the results, it was figured out that the role of the mother, either employed or household is very crucial in their children's academic performance. However, there is no significant difference in final examination marks of children of an employed mother or a household mother. Both the mothers invested greatly in the academic attainment of their children. The environment for their children and developed emotional bonding in terms of academics made their children high achievers.

### **Mother's Employment**

Few recent studies show that infants face negative outcomes because of their working mothers. Maternal employment is not positive especially during the child's infancy when mothers are putting efforts to work (James-Burdumy, 2005). However, the study by Haddad and Hoffman (1998) shows that the mother's employment plays a positive role in a child's well-being in terms of economic support. The income-generating opportunities if accessible to the mothers positively impact the child's growth.

A mother can bear expenses and provide children with a better future through extra monetary support. When both father and mother are working, it becomes inevitable for a child to grow in a better way. McIntosh (2006) believe that parents can be a factor in a child's education and nutrition in a better way if both are working.

### **Working Mother**

If we see a few years back, a lot of research has been conducted on this issue. Various variables were studied and investigated by researchers to see their connection with the children's growth, development, and wellbeing. One of the first and different research done in Bangladesh studied the effects of a mother's profession on her child's academic achievements at the primary level. Exploring the family background as one of the factors affecting the child's academic outcomes along with the mother's profession, Hoque et al., (2017) found that the child's achievements are entirely based on the nature of the mother's job.

Hoque et al., (2017) conducted research in Denmark through which he associates child's well-being and their academic achievements and performance overall at school with the mother's employment. The study showed significant positive impacts of maternal employment on children's school grades. However, the duty hours or nature of the job affects their performance differently. A mother working for fewer hours helps produce her children better grades as compared to mothers working for more hours. On contrary, no clear evidence was found of a negative effect between a child's grades and a mother's employment. Overall a positive correlation was found between both.

Mothers who are employed full-time get to spend less time with their infants as compared to the mothers who work part-time or are unemployed and are housewives. However, this effect is no longer significant if a mother is educated and also along with the age of the child (Hoffman, 1998). He states that this particular impact also lessens when the nature of her interaction with the children is studied. The data from his study indicates that the lack of time by the working mothers for their children is compensated by them through the quality time they spend with the children on weekends and during the non-working hours. The recompense for their absence in the amount is direct interaction with their children. Several studies were done concerning behavioural observations of mother-children interaction. Many showed that the working mothers as compared to the non-working mothers have higher levels of interaction, especially in terms of verbal stimulation with their children. Moreover, no difference was found regarding the mother's sensitivity toward interaction with their children between working and non-working mothers (Hoque et al 2017).

### **Educated and Working Mother**

Another study shows that the mother's education and profession both add positively to the children's academic performance. Raychowdhuri et al., (2010) conducted a study that shows that an educated mother affects the academic growth of her children positively. The study proved that an educated, as well as working woman, can take care of her children in a more suitable way. The coefficient value from the study depicted a significant and positive relationship between the mother's education and profession with the children's academic achievements.

### **Working Mothers and Insecure Attachments**

Since 1980, a new dynamic concerning mother-infant attachment has evolved which studied the comparison of maternal employment in this regard. Most of the studies showed no prominent difference in mother-infant attachment among full-time employed and part-time employed mothers. However, Warshak (2014) conducted research and concluded that although in most cases the full-time employed mothers had secure mother-infant attachments, the number of insecure attachments was higher as compared to half time employed mothers. Moreover, when it comes to the comparison between the duration of mother's employment, full-time employed mothers had more insecurely attached infants than the half time or non-employed mothers.

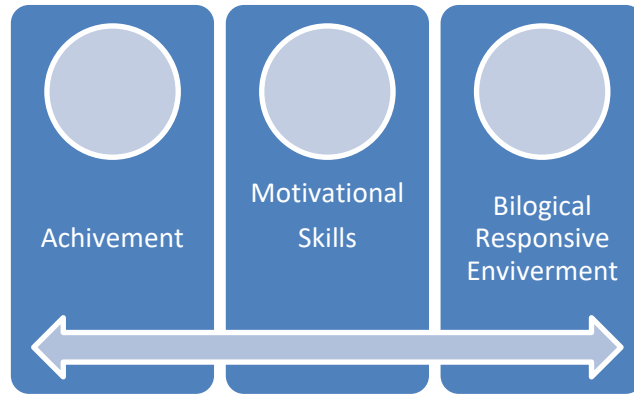
### **Historical review of Children's Performance**

Six studies conducted, upon 40,000 children in the last 40 years, when analyzed showed that there is no connection between mothers being employed and misbehaving their children show. A decline of 2% was seen in the seventies to early nineties regarding the performance of children born to career-oriented mothers regarding literacy and numeracy skills (Hoque et al., 2017).

### **Theoretical Framework**

The Martin Ford's motivational system theory which is also known as (MTS) is the direct descendant of Sigmund Freud's theory. In this framework, the case is individual while theorize it biologically,

socially and environmentally, which are the key in development. Motivational System theory try to explain the event of the full person-in-context. Socio-ecology of person is also known as social context, from where he/she had been socialized and learn culture. Also, his/her interaction with other and between groups and institution. According to this definition, a person's context in life is a result of his/her experiences. Campbell, (2007) proposed an easy scientific measurable principle which tries to compile all these indicators in one model. The formula for effective person-in-context functioning is:  $Achievement = (Motivation \times Skill) / Biological \times Responsive Environment$

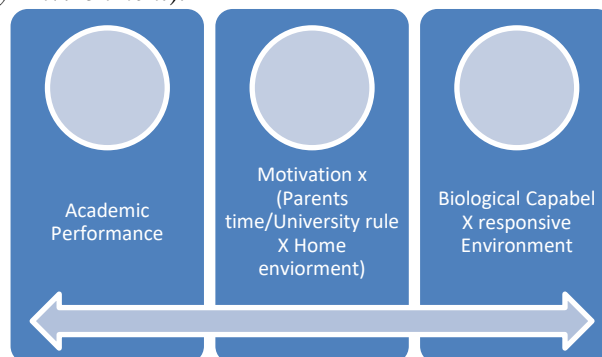


**Fig.3.1 Motivation**

The actual purpose of the formula is that "Success and ability are the product of inspired, competent, mentally fit individual interacting with a responsive environment" (Campbell, 2007). The Motivational systems theory doesn't decide to replace any of the present theories. Instead, it tries to prepare the varied motivational constructs from totally different theories into one model. Many concepts develop self-efficacy beliefs, the role of expectancy, and goal orientation. Self-efficacy defines person's belief in his/her capability to perform actions that achieve particular performance. (Bandura, 1997). The principle indicates the four basic necessary for effective functioning. This model attempts to provide inclusive theory of motivation and propose achievement and performance are the production of a motivated, skilful, and biologically capable person interacting within responsive surroundings.

**Theory Application**

This study is concerned with the academic performance of the students and the mother profession. The achievements and performance of students are based on the environment provided by the parents at home and university. Students learned and are motivated directly by parents, and teachers, and Indirectly from the home environment, University environment in this study home environment indicates parents' time in general and mother time in particular to their children. Parent's education mother profession and university environment indicated rules, regulations teaching pedagogue, methodologies and grading system. Which as a result motivates students and affects their academic performance.  $Academic Performance = Motivation \times Parents\ time / University\ rules,\ regulation \times Home\ Environment / University\ Environment$ .



**Fig 3.2. Motivation System Model**

**METHODOLOGY**

The research design followed the quantitative research design. The public and private universities of Islamabad were the universes of this research. Moreover, the researcher specifically chooses Rifah international university, Quaid-I-Azam University, Bahria University, and the Air University of

Islamabad owing to reasons associated with data collection. The students at selected universities in Islamabad were the unit of analysis. This research was carried out among male and female students with above intermediate and above educational levels. The reason behind selecting respondents above the intermediate level was to get more accurate results using a questionnaire. Furthermore, respondents were aged between 20 and 30 years. The age of 20 to 30 was selected because at this age the individuals experienced many social and psychological changes in/her life.

It was not possible to get a sampling frame of the students due to covid-19 related problems. So, non-random convenience sampling was used for collecting data. As a population of the students of different universities in Islamabad. The students of the four universities are not possible to target for data collection. For convenience, the sampling researcher selected 195 respondents for this study. This research is quantitative in nature and time is quite short. The online questionnaire was used to collect quantitative information from respondents. A questionnaire is the best tool to collect quantitative data and primary quantitative. Furthermore, it is very helpful in collecting a large amount of quantitative data in a short period and then results can be calculated easily and quickly.

Keeping in view the quantitative nature of the study, time constraint, large population, and geography of study, the survey method technique was used for data collection. Furthermore, due to covid-19 barriers, an online survey was employed to maintain health safety standards. Pretesting is very essential before initiating full proper field data collection. Before data collection, the questionnaire was pretested on 10 respondents to validate the selected questionnaire. Data were analyzed through SPSS (statistical package for social sciences). It is very easy to enter data into SPSS, and it also gives a variety of descriptive and inferential results. Ethical consideration is one of the important components of the research. Participation in this research was voluntary basis and respondents were given free hand to withdraw their participation at any moment. Furthermore, while conducting this research, the researcher was ensured the privacy and anonymity of respondents.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher discusses the result and finding to understand the mother profession's impact on children's academic performance in 4 different universities in Islamabad Pakistan. Furthermore, the researcher interpreted the views and experiences of Students about the mother profession and tried to find out the result of the mother profession. The Questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part of the data discussed the demographic information of the participants and the second part presents the categories. However, the researchers have given mentioned some important findings in the form of general tables of frequencies, cross-tabulation and chi-square to support the collected evidence strongly in a numeric way. However, every statistical table has its value to present the collected data from the field as well as the given tables are portraying the research objectives.

**Table No. 1 Respondent University**

Category	Frequencies	Percentages
No Response	26	13.3
Air University of Islamabad	24	12.3
Bahria university	15	13.9
Quaid-I-Azam university	51	26.2
Rafah international university	67	34.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table No. 1 showed the respondents' Universities whereas 13.3% of the respondents have not responded to the university, 12.3% have the respondents are from Air University of Islamabad, 13.9% of the respondents are from Bahria University, 26.2% of the respondents are from Quaid-I-Azam University and 34.4% of the respondents are from Rafah International University. In the conclusion of the table, the majority of the respondents are from Rafah International University.

**Table No. 2 Mother Profession**

Category	Frequencies	Percentages
No response	8	4.1
Employed	138	70.8
Homemaker/Housewife	49	25.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table No.2 showed the respondent's mother profession where 4.1% of the respondents have not responded to the question, 70.8% of the respondents have responded to mother employment and 25.1% of the respondents have responded to Housemaker/housewife in the conclusion of the table the majorities of the respondents have responded to mother employments.

**Table No. 3 CGPA/ Percentage of the respondents**

Category	Frequencies	Percentages
No response	4	2.0
2.0 to 3.0 CGPA	26	13.3
3.1 to 3.5 CGPA	54	27.6
3.6 to 4.0 CGPA	58	29.7
60 to70 Percentage	16	8.2
71to 80 Percentage	32	16.4
81 to 90 percentage	4	2.0
91 to 95 percentage	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table No. 3 showed the respondents' academic performance in a form of percentage and CGPA where 2.0% of the respondents have not responded to the question,13.3% of the respondents have responded with 2.0 to 3.0 CGPA,27.6% of the respondents have responded with 3.1 to 3.5 CGPA,29.7% of the respondents have responded with 3.6 to 4.0 CGPA, 8.2% of the respondents have responded with 60 to 70 percentage, 16.4% of the respondents have responded with 71 to 80 percentage, 2.0% of the respondent have responded with 81 to 90 percentage,0.5% of the respondents have responded with 91 to95 percentage. So, in the conclusion of the table, the majority of the respondents have responded with 3.6 to 4.0 CGPA.

**Table No. 4 Cross-tabulation between Mother's profession and Children's academic performance**

What is your CGPA OR Percentage?	What is your mother's profession?			Total
		Homemaker/ Housewife	Employed	
2.0 to 3.0 CGPA	1	10	15	26
3.1 TO3.5 CGPA	0	24	30	54
3.6 TO 4.0 CGPA	1	13	45	59
60 TO 70 Percentage	2	0	14	16
71to 80 Percentage	2	1	29	32
81 to 90 percentage	3	0	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>191</b>

This table illustrates the association between the mother's profession and the academic performance of the students. Out of 191 respondents, 138 (70 percent) of the mother were employed. On the other hand, 49 mothers (25 percent) were housewives. 45 (76 percent) employed mothers' children secured the CGPA in the range of 3.6 to 4. On the other hand, 13 (22 percent) housewife mothers' children secured the CGPA in the range of 3.6 to 4 CGPA. This means that the academic performance of the employed mothers' children is more likely good as compared to the housemother's children. Employed mothers usually have a good education and are involved in the academic activities of their children. This is why employed mothers' children are academically good performance.

**Table No. 5 Chi-Square test for Mother Profession and CGPA**

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	75.446 <sup>a</sup>	10	.000
Likelihood Ratio	54.095	10	.000
N of Valid Cases	191		

a. 9 cells (50.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.19.

According to the person chi-square test, the value is 75.446 and the degree of freedom is 10 whereas Asymp. Sig value was less than 0.05 .and we can analyze that the analogy was a significant relationship between the CGPA and Percentage of the students and mother education. The overall majority of the respondents had responded that the professional mother had a good which impact on the mother’s academic performance, so the Alternative Hypothesis is accepted, and the Null Hypothesis is rejected. After Hypothesis testing the result is higher it means that the mother profession has increased and also increase the children's academic performance.

**Table No. 6 Cross-tabulation between sex and CGPA or Percentage**

Sex	What is your CGPA OR Percentage?						Total
	2.0 to 30 CGPA	3.1 TO3.5 CGPA	3.6 TO 4.0 CGPA	60 TO 70 Percentage	71to 80 Percentage	81 to 90 percentage	
Female	15	36	47	10	21	4	133
Male	11	18	11	6	11	0	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>190</b>

This table illustrates the respondent’s sex and academic performance in a form of a percentage. Out of 190 133 (68 percent) were female and 57 (29 percent) were male students from four universities. 47 females had secured CGPA between 3.6 to 4.0 CGPA which means 35 percent prevalence of academic performance. On the other hand, 11 (19 percent) had secured the CGPA in the range of 3.6 to 4 CGPA. These statistics usually match the previous literature that females are more likely good in academics as compared to male students. Females spend time in their houses or in touch with their parents and on the other hand, their parents are more involved in their studies as compared to the male students. This is why females of the respective universities are more likely good in academic performance as compared to the males.

**Table No. 7 Chi-Square tests for association between sex and academic performance**

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.959 <sup>a</sup>	5	.159
Likelihood Ratio	9.262	5	.099
Linear-by-Linear Association	.855	1	.355
N of Valid Cases	190		

a. 3 cells (25.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.20.

According to the person chi-square test, the value is 7.959 and the degree of freedom is 5 whereas Asymp. Sig value was more than 0.05 .and we can analyze that the analogy was no significant relationship between the sex and academic performance of the students. The overall majority of the respondents had responded that gender had no significant impact on their academic performance, so the Alternative Hypothesis is rejected, and the Null Hypothesis is accepted. The major finding of this study was 70 percent of the respondent's mothers were employed while 25 percent were not employed. About 78 percent of the students secured above 3CGPA while 13 percent of students secured below 3CGPA. Dwell-being al (2010) conducted research in Denmark through which he associates child's well-being and their academic achievements and performance overall at school with the mother's employment. The study showed significant positive impacts of maternal employment on children's school grades. Another study shows that the mother's education and profession both add positively to the children's academic performance. Raychowdhuri et al (2010) conducted a study that shows that an educated mother affects the academic growth of her children positively. Thus, the results indicate that mother employment has a positive impact on students' academic performance.

**CONCLUSION**

The focus of this study was to determine the relationship between the mother's profession and their children's academic performance at the university level students and analyze the performance based on the gender of students in the four universities of Islamabad Pakistan. The level of the mother's profession demonstrated a statistically significant relationship with the academic performance of the students. Moreover, their relationship was positive. This means the increase in the mother's profession was associated with the increased academic performance of the children. This finding stresses the



education level and profession of the mother. Mothers' education and profession both add positively to the student's academic performance which showed that an educated mother affects the academic growth of her children positively. This study proved that an educated, as well as working woman, can take care of her children in a more suitable way. The coefficient value from this study depicted a significant and positive relationship between the mother's education and profession with the children's academic achievements. However, the study also concluded that the impact of the mother profession was statically more significant on female students' performance than male students. The study showed that the female students spent most of the time at home or in connection with their mothers through calls. Which revealed that the relationship of the mother profession was found positive in the female gender. On contrary, no clear evidence was found of a negative effect of the mother profession on male students. Furthermore, the current study did not address the engagement and experiences of university students and professional mothers and their impact on their academic performance due to the limitation of the objective and time constrain. Similarly, it is important to conduct a qualitative study in the future to address the engagement and experiences of university students and professional mothers and their impact on academic performance. Such areas should be addressed and further investigate.

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