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Influence of Maternal Employment on the Self-Esteem of Adolescents: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT Mothers' participation in the workforce is a significant social and economic phenomenon that influences family functioning and adolescent development. This study examines the impact of maternal employment on adolescent self-esteem, with particular attention to gender differences. Using an exploratory research design, data were collected from 201 adolescents (104 with working mothers and 97 with non-working mothers) from the Jorhat district of Assam, employing the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. The findings reveal that adolescents of working mothers demonstrate significantly higher self-esteem than those of non-working mothers, likely due to greater independence, exposure to role models, and enhanced social interactions. Additionally, male adolescents of working mothers reported higher self-esteem than female adolescents, while no significant gender differences were observed among adolescents of non-working mothers. These results suggest that societal expectations and gender norms may shape self-esteem development differently. The study highlights the important role of maternal employment in fostering adolescent self-confidence and underscores the need for supportive interventions to promote positive self-esteem among adolescents regardless of maternal work status.