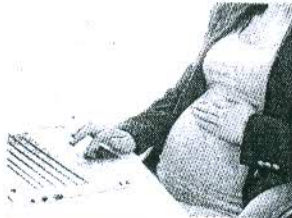


## FAMILY PLANNING

**'Working mothers avoid a second child'**

An ASSOCHAM survey finds around 35% urban women prefer a single child



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**VIRENDRA PANDIT**

Ahmedabad, May 12

Increasing expenditure, together with maintaining work-life balance are key reasons why as many as 35 per cent working mothers in urban India avoid considering a second child, a survey suggested on Friday.

A just-concluded survey conducted by ASSOCHAM Social Development Foundation suggested that stresses of modern marriage, job pressures, and cost of raising

children are key reasons why many mothers want to stop after their first child and decide not to add members to their family.

A random survey of 1,500 working mothers of single children, conducted ahead of Mother's Day, celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of May, was carried out in 10 cities - Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai - dur-

**Impact on job, promotion, undivided attention to children cited as major reasons**

ing the past one month. The survey gauged how much time working mothers generally spent with their son/daughter, and their plans and reason for having/not having another child.

Of over 500 respondents, who do not want to have another child, many said they hesitated as their job/promotion might get jeopardised if they take another maternity leave.

Many respondents said they did not want another child to ensure undivided attention to their child, more

so as gender is a common reason for favouring one child over another.

Interestingly, a majority of those who do not want another child said their spouse does not support their decision of stopping at one.

"The government should provide certain supportive measures/incentive such as reducing taxes for families/parents with a single child, so that single-child policy can be carried out in a better way," opined many of these respondents.

But about 65 per cent of working women said they do not want their children to become lonely misfits and would rather make their kids understand the joys of sharing and companionship with a sibling.

## 65% working women want more than one child: Assocham study

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, MAY 12

AS MANY as 65 per cent of working women across the major cities of India, including Ahmedabad, are in favour of raising more than one child to make them "understand the joy of sharing and companionship with a sibling." This was found in a survey,

conducted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) last month. The apex trade body declared the results on Friday.

According to the survey, conducted by Assocham's Social Development Foundation, only 35 per cent of working women went for single child owing to "increasing expenditure and job pressure".

Those in favour of more than

one, did not want their single child to be "lonely misfits".

"Of over 500 respondents, who do not want to have another child, many even said that they hesitate knowing that their job or promotion might get jeopardised if they take another maternity leave," the survey noted. "Interestingly, a majority of them said their spouses do not support their decision."

The survey covered over 1,500 working mothers in 10 cities — Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai.

It was conducted to find out how much time working mothers spent on their children and their plans for having or not having a second child and the reason for it.



DNA Anchor Assocham conducts survey in 10 cities of India

## 'Working moms not keen on 2nd kid'

One of the reasons is urban women do not want to jeopardise job prospects: Survey

Ahmedabad: Around 35 per cent working mothers in urban India avoid going for a second child owing to the increasing expenditure and the need to devote more time and energy in taking care of parents and raising kids, according to a survey done by leading industry body Assocham.

The random survey, conducted by Assocham Social Development Foundation, finds that over 500 respondents do not want to have second child, while many say that they hesitate in order not to jeop-



A mother-child expo in the city

Karanshik Parmar, DNA

ardise their job or promotion prospect if they take another maternity leave.

The survey was carried out in 10 cities of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kol-

kata, Lucknow and Mumbai during the course of the past one month to find out how much time working mothers generally spent with their son or daughter and their plans to have or not to have another

child and the reason for it.

"The stress associated with modern marriage, job pressure and cost of raising children are the key reasons why many mothers want to put a stop after their first child and decide not to add to their family," according to the random survey of 1,500 working mothers of only children.

Favouritism is another important reason why many respondents say that they do not want another child to ensure that attention does not get divided, the survey reveals.

The government should provide certain supportive measures such as reducing taxes for families with a single child, so that the single-child policy can be better carried out, many of the respondents felt.

PTI



# Working women want just 1 kid

Study shows stress associated with modern marriage, job pressure and cost of raising children are the key reasons

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**A**round 35 per cent working mothers in urban India are old going for a second child owing to the increasing expenditure and the need to devote more time and energy in taking care of parents and raising kids, according to a survey done by leading industry body ASSOCHAM. The survey was conducted in 10 cities: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai.

"The stress associated with modern marriage, job pressure and cost of raising children are the key reasons why many mothers want to put a stop after their first child and decide not to add to their family," according to the random survey of 1,500 working mothers of only children.

Parenting Counsellor Keshu Chitrag Patel, 27, who is a mother to a 3-year-old child said: "I have neither decided nor am I planning on a second child. Personally, I am very happy with one kid and I don't see any pro-



blem in the growth of a child if he/she does not have a sibling, being a parenting counsellor myself, I have seen many cases where working women manage two or three children efficiently and whole-heartedly. It totally depends on the mutual decision of the couple."

Over 500 respondents do not want to have second child, while many say that they hesitate in order not to jeopardise their job or promotion pro-

spect if they take another maternity leave. Majority of those who do not want another child said their spouse does not support their decision of stopping at one. Nehal, 34, businesswoman, mother of one child, shared: "I think having a child is both the mother's and the father's decision, as well as responsibility. If the couple can split responsibilities, then things will not change drastically for both the parents. The mentality that a baby is only

**"If the couple can split responsibilities then things will not change drastically for both the parents."**



Nehal, businesswoman

a mother's responsibility is archaic and working mothers know that today."

Shruti Shal, 32, HR advisor at an event-management company in the city, is a mother to a child. She said: "I know working women with three children who handle professional and personal lives perfectly well. As far as expenses such as education are concerned, there are different types of schools available. If I want to have another child, I will not think about my work-life but rather my personal life as that is more important in this case. It's all about how you manage your life."

"I think that as long as your work-

**"I think that as long as your work-place and husband are supportive of your pregnancy then it should not be a problem. Having a supportive work-place is essential, especially in case of the second child. As a mother, I feel that my children need me to be physically present for the first year or so and so I should stay at home and the company should support the fact,"** said Anu Sutaria, 45, HR professional at CEPT and mother of two children.



Anu Sutaria, HR Professional

"Government should provide certain supportive measures/incentives such as reducing taxes for families/parents with a single child, so that single-child policy can be better carried out," opined many of these respondents.



