

Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Father Involvement in Parenthood among Fathers of under Five Children.

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ABSTRACT

At each developmental stage of a child, father plays a very important role, sometimes referred as Fatherhood. The present study was aimed to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding father involvement in parenthood among fathers of under five children in selected areas of Meerut. Quantitative research approach was adopted. And research design was Descriptive research design and Purposive sampling technique was used to collect 30 fathers of children under five years of age, living in Swami Dayanand Bhavan area in Subharti University. Structured knowledge questionnaire and modified attitude scale was used to assess the knowledge and attitude of fathers of under 5 children regarding parenthood. The result shown that majority subjects (53.4%) had moderate knowledge 43.3% subjects had inadequate knowledge while 3.3% subjects had adequate knowledge. Maximum subjects (83.3%) had a more favorable attitude, 16.7% had a favorable attitude and 0% had a less favorable attitude towards parenthood. There was significant association between level of knowledge of subjects in their age, religion and number of children in their family.

Key Words: Assess; Knowledge; Attitude; Father Involvement; Parenthood; Fathers of under five;

1 Introduction

The general expectation of Gender Role is to produce males and females behaviour. Parental involvement, Socialization; highly impact the behaviour, completion, and gender role development.

As a general conception, a mother's role is to take care of the children - raise and take care of them. However, it's been proved that a father's role in the family can also directly or indirectly impact the health of the children. First, a father can indirectly affect their children's physical well-being by ensuring that the mothers stay healthy. Secondly, a child is more likely to develop a health problem in the absence of the father.

2 Statement Of The Problem

A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding father involvement in parenthood among fathers of under five children in selected areas of Meerut.

3 Objectives

- To assess the level of knowledge of fathers regarding their involvement in parenthood.
- To assess the attitude among fathers regarding their involvement in parenthood.
- To determine association between level of knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables.

4 Research Methodology

In view of the nature of the problem under study and to accomplish objectives of the study **quantitative research approach** which is exploratory in nature was considered appropriate to assess the knowledge and attitude of fathers of under five children in a selected area in Meerut. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. Purposive sampling technique was used to collect 30 fathers of children under five years of age, living in Swami Dayanand Bhavan area in Subharti University, Meerut and belonging to various social classes, age groups and having different educational and cultural background. Questionnaire method was used to collect the data and structured questionnaire and modified attitude scale was developed to assess the knowledge and attitude of fathers of under 5 children regarding parenthood.

5 Results & Discussion

Section 1: Analysis of Subjects Characteristics Regarding Demographic Variables In Terms Of Frequency and Percentage Distribution

Majority of subjects belonged to the age group of above 34 years (40%). All the subjects were Hindus (100%). 40% of subjects have qualified secondary standard education. Most of them were private employees (63%). Mostly were from nuclear family (57%). Majority of them had a monthly family income of Rs.5000-10,000 (50%). Most of the subjects had 2 children in their family (37 %).

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Section 2: Knowledge Score of Fathers of Under Five Regarding Parenthood.

Table: 1 Frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge among fathers of under five N=30

Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
Inadequate	13	43.3%	15.46	5.2
Moderate	16	53.4%		
Adequate	01	3.3%		

Data presented in table 1 shows that majority subjects (53.4%) had moderate knowledge 43.3% subjects had inadequate knowledge while 3.3% subjects had adequate knowledge.

Section 3: Attitude Score of Fathers of Under Five Regarding Parenthood.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of level of attitude among fathers of under-five N=30

Level of attitude	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
Less favourable	00	00%	38.7	5.78
Favourable	05	16.7%		
More favourable	25	83.3%		

Data presented in table 2 shows that maximum subjects (83.3%) had a more favourable attitude, 16.7% had a favourable attitude and 0% had a less favourable attitude towards parenthood.

Section 4: Association between Level of Knowledge and Attitude among Fathers of Under Five Regarding Parenthood And Demographic Variables

There was significant association between level of knowledge of subjects in their age, religion and number of children in their family. It shows that fathers of under five knowledge were influenced by their age, religion and with father has more than one children. There was no significant association between levels of attitude with demographic variables.

A community based cross- sectional study conducted to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice regarding child care among the fathers of under 5 children in Ramnagar area. Structured questionnaire was used to gather data and it was pretested before administration. The result shown that majority of fathers (52%) had a good knowledge, (26.5%) had average knowledge and only 21.5% had a poor knowledge. In attitude

majority of father (80.5%) had a positive attitude while 19.5% had average attitude towards child care. Regarding practice, majority of father (45.5%) did poor practice, (30.5%) were on average and only (24%) did good practice. There was a significant association in the level of knowledge and attitude with age, socio-economic status and education at 0.05 level of significance. The study concluded that majority of the fathers were having good knowledge and attitude regarding child care but they were not much involved in child care practices.[3]

Another study was undertaken to assess the Impact of father’s involvement in child care and development. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 120 subjects in South City, Rajni Khand, Ruchi Khand and Bangla bajar in Lucknow city. Interview schedule was used to collect data. The result shown that there was much impact on father’s involvement in child care and development as researcher found significant association with father’s education and occupation.[4]

A study was conducted to assess perceptions of fatherhood among Greek fathers in rural and urban areas. 80 fathers were selected from two community area. Fathers were asked to explain their own perception in preparations before and after child birth and involvement in child play in daily activities. The results shown that father living in urban areas involves more in above aspects as compared to rural area.[5]

An explorative study conducted to identify the nature of paternal involvement in early child-rearing adopting a social developmental perspective in the southwest of England. 14,701 children parents were enrolled for the study. Factor analysis was used to analyse father response in participation, understanding and feeling about their child early upbringing. The study concluded that paternal involvement in children’s early upbringing influence positive psychological and emotional behaviour. New fathers see themselves as parents and try to adjust in their role which give strong influence in children behaviour.[6]

6 Conclusion

In the present study majority of fathers had a poor knowledge regarding their role in parenthood and had a more favorable attitude regarding parenthood. There was a significant association between level of knowledge of fathers and their age, religion and number of children in the family. There was no association between level of attitude of fathers and demographic variables. Although the fathers’ attitude is favorable towards parenthood but they lack knowledge regarding their role in child care. There is an ever increasing need to improve the knowledge of fathers regarding their role in parenthood.

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