



A CORRELATIONAL STUDY ON FATHERS KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR ROLE IN CHILD CARE

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Children are the brightest treasures brought forth into this world because they comprise major assets of the national human resource of any country, their adequate care and development is not only important to them but also an indicator that reflects the health status of a given country. Currently India has the highest number of children in the world. The total population of India as recorded by Census 2011 is 1.2 billion. Approximately 40% of the nation's population is children. The country has a very high rate of neonatal deaths (around 35%) in the world. It also accounts for around 40 % of child malnutrition in the developing world. 1 More than anything in the world, children want their parent's attention and love. Fathers tend to take on more of the breadwinning responsibilities, while mothers take on more of the household responsibilities. However, literature shows that when both parents take proper childcare responsibilities the health status of the children improves. 2 Studies consistently show that children with involved, loving fathers are much more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy, good social behavior, avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy and delinquent activity than children who have uninvolved fathers. 3 The aim of this study was to assess fathers knowledge and attitude towards their role in child care. Objectives of the study are, to assess the father's knowledge & attitude regarding their role in child care, and to identify the correlation between the father's knowledge and attitude towards their role in child care, & also to find out an association between the father's Knowledge towards their role in child care and their socio-demographic variable A Quantitative exploratory survey approach was used and the design opted for this study was non-experimental descriptive co relational research design, which consisted of 100 samples that were selected by using purposive sampling technique. Data was collected by using socio-demographic data; Structured Knowledge questionnaire and Structured attitude scale, to assess the knowledge and attitude of Father's related to their role in child care. Out of 100 samples, maximum number of fathers had average knowledge (69%), while 25 had good knowledge (25%) and only 06 had poor knowledge (6%) regarding child care. Out of 100 samples, maximum number of father's (60) had positive attitude (60%), and only 40 had negative attitude (40%) regarding child care. There was a strong positive correlation (0.92) between the knowledge and attitude scores of father's related to child care. Out of 08 demographic variables, only occupation showed the significant association between the knowledge score and the occupation of the father, as the calculated value (tcal- 12.633) is higher than the tabulated value (ttab- 12.50). The study concluded that there is a strong positive correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores regarding their role in child care. Majority of fathers had average knowledge and 60 % had positive attitude while 40 % had negative attitude regarding the care of children which highlights the importance of teaching and emphasizing fathers on their role in child care.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge; attitude; fathers role; child care

Introduction of the study

In today's modern and fast changing society, families are becoming nuclear; mothers are professionally oriented and having busy jobs. Father's participation in child care is necessary due to progressive involvement of mothers in jobs outside the home. Hence, the responsibility of child rearing has extended to fathers also.

Ancient time onwards it is believed that the father's role is to protect the family. Child rearing and taking care of children during illness is always considered to be mother's responsibility. The parent's role is changing as a result of changing economy. Most of the women are in labor force so father's role is also changing. So now a day's child rearing is not only the responsibility of mothers but also fathers. An active involvement of the father in infant rearing is important for family's health and well-being. Fathers can play and interact in different ways that shows their love and affection to their children. As a father they should know their child's likes, dislikes and routines. Fathers are the important people in their child life like friends, teachers, and coaches. They connect with their children on an emotional and spiritual level and their willingness and active participation is necessary for a proper child. 4 The under five children are the most vulnerable population in the community since fatality cases are high among them due to dehydration caused by diarrhea, malnutrition, infectious diseases, ARIs, congenital anomalies, pneumonia, accidents etc. Parents can control these conditions by

measures like Nutritional supplementation, Immunization, Oral rehydration, growth monitoring, and care in illness. 5

Need For The Study

A Korean based study by Jung explored the possible antecedents of paternal child rearing in middle-class, two parents, Korean families by addressing the intergenerational similarities and differences in child rearing practices and attitudes. The study concluded with the finding that paternal job satisfaction ($p < 0.01$), and relationship with their own mother ($p < 0.001$), as well as paternal educational attainment ($p < 0.05$) predicted fathering behaviors with respect to child sexuality and parental rules ($p < 0.001$). 6

Father involvement in child rearing activities indeed has a positive impact on child development. Children become easygoing and more obedient towards rule than other kids whom the father is not present. 7 Moreover, father involvement also has a positive impact on mothers. A father who helps mothers toward child rearing activities tend to be a good friend for mother and committed to fulfill a mother's need. On the other hand, by showing cooperation on parenting, father will have a good quality time with mother. 8

Cooperation on child rearing activities is an ideal image of parenting, nevertheless it is difficult to implement. For instance, cooperation is harder when mother believes that mothers are more capable to rearing a child than the father. 17 Another theory from Lamb & Beitel stated that

mother has gatekeeping role, which mother determine to accommodate or to prevent father to involve in child rearing activities. Although there are several theories concerning about father and mother's attitude toward father involvement, especially in Indonesia.⁹

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A Quantitative, exploratory survey approach was used to identify the correlation on father's knowledge and attitude towards their role in child care at selected areas of Kolhapur. A descriptive, correlational survey research design research design was adopted for the study. The research variable is to identify the correlation on father's knowledge and attitude towards their role in child care. The study was conducted at selected hospitals of Kolhapur. Inclusion criteria were, fathers of under 5 year old children only, who can understand English or Marathi, who were willing to participate in the study. The exclusion criteria was the parents those were not available at the time of study. The methodology of non-probability purposive sampling technique was used to select 100 fathers of under 5 year children at selected areas of Kolhapur. The data collection tool was prepared with comprehensive analysis of the literature and opinions of experts. The tool consists of three sections namely : Section A included the socio-demographic data, Section B included structured knowledge Questionnaire on child care and Section C included structured rating scale related to father's attitude towards child care. Formal permission from concerned authority was taken prior to study. The participants were selected based upon the criteria. Written informed consent form was taken from the participants before the administering of the tool. The collected data was kept confidential.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The collected data was classified, organized and analyzed under following sections based on the objectives of the study

Section I- Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables.

Section II- Frequency and Percentage distribution of knowledge scores regarding child care.

Section III- Frequency and Percentage distribution of attitude scores regarding child care.

Section IV- Descriptive statistics of father's knowledge and attitude scores.

Section V- Testing of hypotheses.

Table No I Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables. n=100

Variables	Groups	Freq.	Percent.
Age in yrs	25 to 35	58	58
	35 to 46	42	42
	47 and above	0	0
Education	Professional & honors	37	37
	Graduate	17	17
	Intermediate or Diploma	21	21
	Highschool Certificate	19	19
	Primary certificate	06	06
Occupation	Senior official & manager	17	17
	Professional	57	57
	Technicians	20	20
	Clerk	06	06
Monthly Income Rs.	18497 to 30830	13	13
	30831 to 46128	29	29
	46129 to 61662	38	38
	61663 to 123221	20	20
Religion	Hindu	72	72
	Christian	12	12
	Other	16	16
Years of marriage	1 year	06	06
	2 to 4 years	45	45
	Above 5 years	49	49
No. of children	One	60	60
	Two	40	40
Type of family	Nuclear	59	59
	Joint	41	41
Any illness or congenital anomalies	Yes	0	0
	No	100	100

Table No IIFrequency and Percentage (%) distribution of knowledge scores of fathers regarding child care. n=100

Knowledge Scores	Frequency	Percentage %
Good (0-6)	25	25
Average (7-13)	69	69
Poor (14-21)	06	06

The above table indicates that maximum number of fathers 69 (69%) had average knowledge, while 25(25%) had good knowledge and only 06 (06%) had poor knowledge regarding child care.

Table No III Frequency and Percentage (%) distribution of attitude scores of fathers regarding child care. n=100

Knowledge Scores	Frequency	Percentage %
Negative (37-58)	40	40
Positive (59-115)	60	60

The above table indicates that maximum number of fathers 60(60%) had positive attitude, and only 40(40%) had negative attitude regarding child care.

Table No IVFindings of correlation between father's knowledge and attitude score.

Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)	P-value
Knowledge & attitude score	0.924	0.248

The above table indicates that there is a strong positive correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores of father's related to child care by Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient test.

Table no VAssociation between knowledge score with their socio-demographic variables. n=100

Variables	Groups	Cal. Value	Tab. Value
Age in yrs df = 02	25 to 35	0.589	5.99
	35 to 46		
	47 and above		
Education df = 08	Professional & honors	7.22	15.50
	Graduate		
	Intermediate or Diploma		
	Highschool Certificate		
	Primary certificate		
Occupation df = 06	Senior official & manager	12.63	12.59
	Professional		
	Technicians		
	Clerk		
Monthly Income Rs. df = 06	18497 to 30830	5.07	12.59
	30831 to 46128		
	46129 to 61662		
	61663 to 123221		
Religion df = 04	Hindu	7.72	9.48
	Christian		
	Other		
Years of marriage df = 04	1 year	8.35	9.48
	2 to 4 years		
	Above 5 years		
No. of children df = 02	One	3.94	5.99
	Two		
Type of family df = 02	Nuclear	3.98	5.99
	Joint		
Any illness/ congenital anomalies df = 02	Yes	3.45	5.99
	No		

The major findings are summarized as follows:

1. Out of 100 samples, maximum number of fathers (69) had average knowledge (69%), while 25 had good knowledge (25%) and only 06 had poor knowledge (6%) regarding child care.
2. Out of 100 samples, maximum number of fathers (60) had positive attitude (60%), and only 40 had negative attitude (40%) regarding child care.
3. After analysis of knowledge scores among fathers regarding child

care; mean was 10.4, median was 09, mode was 08, SD was 4.16 and range was 14. After analysis of attitude scores among fathers regarding child care; mean was 65.6, median was 60, mode was 60, SD was 19.5 and range was 75.

4. There was a strong positive correlation (0.92) between the knowledge and attitude scores of father's related to child care.
5. Out of 09 demographic variables, only occupation shows the significant association between the knowledge score and the occupation of the father, as the calculated value (t_{cal} - 12.633) is higher than the tabulated value (t_{tab} - 12.50).

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that there is a strong positive correlation between the knowledge and attitude scores regarding their role in child care. Majority of fathers had average knowledge and negative attitude regarding the care of children which highlights the importance of teaching and emphasizing Fathers' on their role in child care.

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Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest involved.

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