

A Correlational Study on Father's Involvement in Child Rearing During Infancy Period and Well-Being Among Mothers Residing in Selected Areas of Derabassi, District Mohali Punjab

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Abstract

Introduction : Child rearing is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child aside from the biological relationship.

Methodology : The research design used was Non-Experimental Correlational Research Design. The total sample was 80 mothers of infant, which are selected by purposive sampling technique. The tool selected for present study was divided into three sections: i.e Demographic variables, three-point rating scale and likert scale to assess father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period. The tool was validated by 10 nursing experts for establishing the content validity the internal consistency of the tool was assessed by the value of r , that was calculated using Karl Pearson correlation coefficient formula. Reliability of the tool rating scale and likert scale was found to be $r = 0.8$ in each, which indicated that the tool are highly reliable.

Results : The major analysis revealed that Majority of the fathers, 68% were moderately involved in child rearing during infancy period. Majority, 70% of the respondents had average level of well-being due to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period. Well-being of mothers was more in the areas of emotional (66.74%) and physical (66.38%). There was fairly positive correlation ($r = 0.77$) between fathers' involvement in child rearing during infancy period and well-being of mothers. Significant association was found between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period among mothers and demographic variables age ($F = 3.044$), type of family ($t = 3.381$) and number of children ($F = 4.29$) at $p < 0.05$ level.

Conclusions : There was fairly positive correlation between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and well-being among mothers. Significant association was found between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and demographic variables age, type of family and number of children.

Keywords : Correlational Study, Child rearing, Infancy

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Introduction

Child rearing is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child aside from the biological relationship. Parenting is an activity rooted not only in one's own childhood experiences, but in culture one grew up and lives in.

Culture can have a powerful effect on parenting style and practices. For example, a culture in which the father is expected to be a stern disciplinarian and breadwinner will have a different effect on child rearing practices than one in which both parents work full time and parenting responsibilities are shared. These cultural practices are designed to shape and mould the growing baby to fit, with the least amount of friction, into the community's specific habitat as well as norms of being in that particular society. When a baby arrives in a home, it is a moment of joy and a found new status that is being of parent. Mothers had always acknowledged for their role in raising the child but fathers seldom get acknowledged. Fathers also play a major role in bringing up a child. They also share the responsibilities with the mother.

In India, child rearing is not recognized as an independent job -it is just one of the house hold chores. Its methodology is adopted by every mother as a part of the knowledge inherited from the older generation. Women are expected to be ideal wives and mothers as though husbands and fathers have no obligations or roles to play. If father participate in all child care activities mothers get enough time for her like rest and sleep, took meal on time, exercise, do her daily activities on time and due to this health condition of mother is improved. When fathers' attitude toward involvement in child rearing is positive than the mother and father marital satisfaction is increased.

Objectives :

- ✓ To assess father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and well-being among mothers.
- ✓ To find correlation between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and well-being among mothers.
- ✓ To find association between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period among mothers and their selected demographic variables.

Methodology

Research Approach : The choice of the appropriate research approach depends upon the purpose of the study. The quantitative research approach was adopted for the study.

Research Design : The research design adopted for the study was Non-Experimental Correlational Research Design where researcher examines the relationship between two or more variables in a natural setting without manipulation or control.

Research Setting : The present study was conducted at Bhankarpur and Mubarikpur areas of Dera Bassi, Dist. Mohali, Punjab.

Target Population : The target population for the present study was all the mothers of infant residing in selected areas of Dera Bassi, Dist. Mohali, Punjab.

Inclusion Criteria :

Mothers of infant who were -

- Willing to participate in the study
- Staying along with their husband in the same house
- Can read and write English/Hindi/Punjabi

Exclusion Criteria

Mothers of infant who -

- Had twin babies
- Were not present at the time of data collection
- Were illiterate

Sample Size : The sample size for the present study was 80, 40 from Mubarikpur area and 40 from Bhankarpur area.

Sampling Technique : Sample selected by using purposive sampling technique. In this type of sampling technique, subjects are chosen to be part of study with a specific purpose in mind.

Development and Description of the Tool : In the present study, rating scale was developed to assess father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and likert scale was used to assess well- being of mothers.

The tool was divided into three sections -

Section A : Demographic variables

Section B : Consisted of three-point rating scale (Always, Sometime and Never) to assess father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period which consisted of 28 statements.

Section C : Likert scale which consisted of 27 items: 9 items related to physical well-being, 11 items related to emotional well-being and 7 items related to social and spiritual well-being which was used to assess well-being of mothers due to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period according to their degree of agreement i.e. strongly agree, somewhat agree, uncertain, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree.

Reliability of the Tool : Reliability of the tool rating scale and likert scale was found to be $r = 0.8$ in each, which indicated that the tool are highly reliable.

Pilot Study : Pilot study was conducted in the month of august 2023 .Prior written permission was taken from Sarpanch of village Bhankarpur and Director of Muncipal Corporation, Dera Bassi, Dist. Mohali, Punjab.

Results

The analyzed data was organized according to the objectives and presented under the following sections.

Section A : Sample characteristics.

Section B : Findings related to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period.

Section C : Findings related to well-being of mothers due to father's involvement in child rearing.

Section D : Findings related to correlation between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and well-being among mothers.

Section E : Findings related to association between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period among mothers and their selected demographic variables.

Section - A

Sample Characteristics

Table - 1: Percentage distribution of Sample characteristics

N = 80

Sample Characteristics	n	Percentage (%)
Age (In years)		
21-25	27	33.75
26-30	36	45
31-35	10	12.50
36-40	7	8.75
Education of mother		
Primary	0	0

Middle	18	22.50
Secondary	19	23.75
Senior Secondary	24	30
Graduation and above	19	23.75
Education of father		
Primary	0	0
Middle	12	15
Secondary	17	21.25
Senior secondary	24	30
Graduation and above	27	33.75
Occupation of mother		
Home maker	74	92.50
Daily Wager	0	0
Farmer	0	0
Own business	0	0
Government job	2	2.50
Private job	4	5.00
Occupation of father		
Unemployed	0	0
Daily Wager	15	18.75
Farmer	10	12.50
Own business	22	27.50
Government job	2	2.50
Private job	31	38.75
Religion		
Hindu	63	78.75
Muslim	1	1.20
Sikh	15	18.75
Christian	1	1.20
Area of residence		
Rural	40	50
Urban	40	50
Type of family		
Joint	39	48.75
Nuclear	41	51.25
Extended	0	0
Monthly family income (in Rupees)		
Rs. 15000	46	57.50

15000-30000	18	22.50
30001-45000	10	12.50
Rs. 45000	6	7.50
Number of children in family		
One	20	25
Two	42	52.50
Three and above	18	22.50
Gender of infant		
Male	40	50
Female	40	50
Age of infant (in months)		
0-3	13	16.25
4-6	23	28.75
7-9	16	20
10-12	28	35

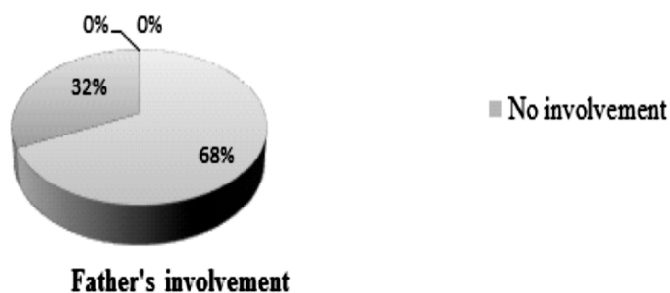


Fig. 1: Percentage distribution of subjects according to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period.

Table - 2 Mean and standard deviation of father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period among mothers.

N=80

	Mean	±SD
Father's involvement in child rearing	34.85	2.11

Minimum score = 0

Maximum score = 56

Section B : Findings related to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period among mothers.

N=80

Table-3 (a) Item wise frequency and percentage distribution of subjects related to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period.

N=80

Items of father's involvement	Always		Sometime		Never	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
- Assists in routine activities of infant like bathing, bottle feeding, exercise etc.	0	0	80	0	0	0
- Changes the diaper whenever he is around	5	6.25	75	93.75	0	0
- Assists in preparation of weaning	0	0	80	100	0	0
- Plays with the child	0	0	80	100	0	0
- Takes the child for outing	18	22.50	62	77.50	0	0
- Holds the child when I am finishing household chores	0	0	80	100	0	0
- Changes the clothes of child when dirty	0	0	80	100	0	0
- Does all the baby's laundry whenever he is free	0	0	80	100	0	0
- Holds the baby when he gets home from work, no matter how he is tired	13	16.25	67	83.75	0	0
- Response quickly when child cries	1	1.25	79	98.75	0	0
- Wake-up to take shifts in the middle of night when anything is needed for the baby	36	45	44	55	0	0
- Makes sure that child is secure in place when unattended	12	15	68	85	0	0

Table-3 (b) : Item wise frequency and percentage distribution of subjects related to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period.**N=80**

Items of father's involvement	Always		Sometime		Never	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
- Takes the baby off as soon as nurse	0	00.0	80	100	0	0
- Accompanies to hospital when child is sick	17	21.25	63	78.75	0	0
- Accompanies for immunization	14	17.50	66	82.50	0	0
- Takes day off when child is sick	49	61.25	31	38.75	0	0
- Hug, cuddle and sing song to the baby	40	50	40	50	0	0
- Talk, touch and rock the baby	5	6.25	75	93.75	0	0
- Spare time to spend with child	57	71.25	23	28.75	0	0
- Calm the baby when in distress by offering a bottle or pacifier	1	1.25	79	98.75	0	0
- Separates some amount of money for purchasing the child care items like diaper, milk etc.	26	32.50	54	67.50	0	0
- Make sure that baby things like diaper is in stock	52	65	28	35	0	0
- Clears the hospital medical bill when child is sick	67	83.75	13	16.25	0	0
- Invests money for securing he future of child in form of insurance, gold etc.	10	12.50	70	87.50	0	0

Table-3 (c) : Item wise frequency and percentage distribution of subjects related to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period.**N=80**

Items of father's involvement	Always		Sometime		Never	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
- Takes child to religious place	14	17.50	66	82.50	0	0
- Attend religious services or events along with child	13	16.25	67	80	0	0
- Visits friends/relatives along with child	51	63.75	29	36.25	0	0
- Attends family functions along with child	47	58.75	33	41.25	0	0

Section - C : Findings related to well-being of mothers due to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period

Table - 4 : Mean and standard deviation of well-being of mothers due to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period**N=80**

	Mean	±SD
Well-being of mothers	89.35	3.42

Minimum score = 27**Maximum score = 135****Table - 5: Mean, mean percentage and Rank order of areas of well-being of mothers due to father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period.****N=80**

Areas of well-being	Max score	Mean	Mean %	Rank Order
Physical	45	29.87	66.38	2
Emotional	55	36.71	66.74	1
Social & Spiritual	35	22.78	65.08	3

Section D : Findings related to correlation between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and well-being among mothers.

Table - 6 : Correlation between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period and well-being among mothers.

N=80

Variables	Mean	Coefficient Correlation (r)
Father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period	34.85	0.77
Well-being of mothers	89.35	

Section - E : Findings related to association between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period among mothers and their selected demographic variables.

Table - 7 : Association between father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period among mothers and their selected demographic variables.

N=80

Demographic variable	n	mean	±SD	df	F/t value	P value
Age (In years)						
21-25	27	33.92	1.94	3,76	3.044*(F)	0.0335
26-30	36	44.19	7.67			
31-35	10	43.10	7.75			
36-40	7	42.14	7.74			
Education of mother						
Primary	0	0.0	0.0	3,76	0.1076NS(F)	0.955
Middle	18	35.00	2.249			
Secondary	19	34.63	2.290			
Senior secondary	24	34.83	2.119			
Graduation and above	19	34.94	1.975			
Education of father						
Primary	0	0.0	0.0			
Middle	12	43.92	6.33	3,76	1.522NS(F)	0.216
Secondary	17	42.88	8.13			
Senior secondary	24	41.13	7.67			
Graduation and above	27	45.37	6.46			
Occupation of mother						
Home maker	74	43.13	7.32	2,77	0.6024NS(F)	0.527
Daily wager	0	0.0				
Farmer	0	0.0				
Own Business	0	0.0				
Government job	2	43.50	10.60			
Private job	4	47.25	5.31			

Occupation of father						
Unemployed	0	0.0	0.0	4,75	0.5898NS(F)	0.674
Daily wager	15	41.0	67.35			
Farmer	10	42.80	7.09			
Own business	22	43.90	6.95			
Government job	2	44.50	2.12			
Private job	31	44.35	7.78			
Religion						
Hindu	63	34.9	52.19	2,77	0.578NS(F)	0.5604
Sikh	15	34.60	1.80			
Christian#	1	33.50	2.12			
Muslim#			1			
Area of residence						
Rural	40	34.70	1.97	78	0.398NS(t)	0.529
Urban	40	35.00	2.26			
Type of family						
Joint	39	34.41	2.035	78	3.381*(t)	0.0698
Nuclear	41	35.26	2.133			
Extended	0	0.0				
Monthly family income						
Rs. 15000	46	34.71	2.24	3,76	0.377NS(F)	0.769
15000-30000	18	35.11	1.64			
30001-45000	10	34.60	2.41			
Rs. 45000	6	35.50	2.16			
No. of children in family						
One	20	34.30	2.17	2,77	4.29*(F)	0.0166
Two	42	35.4	71.99			
Three and above	18	34.00	1.97			
Gender of infant						
Male	40	34.90	1.97	78	0.0441NS(t)	.834
Female	40	34.80	2.27			
Age of infant (in months)						
0-3	13	34.46	2.14	3,76	0.775NS(F)	0.510
4-6	23	34.47	1.72			
7-9	16	35.37	2.15			
10-12	28	35.03	2.38			

NS- Non Significant *Significant at p value ? 0.05

Recommendations of the present study

- The study can be replicated by using large sample size.
- Comparative study can be carried out to assess father's involvement in child rearing during infancy period in rural and urban areas.
- Comparative study can be carried to assess well-being of working and non-working mothers of infants.
- Exploratory study can be conducted on involvement of fathers in child rearing and its effect on growth and development of children.
- Descriptive study on father's knowledge and attitude towards their role in child care during infancy period can be conducted.

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