

Determinants of Paternal Involvement in Child-Care Aspects

Shalini N. Singh and Shakuntala Punia

In this study, an attempt is made to investigate the paternal involvement in child-care aspects and also factors affecting the paternal support in development of the child.

METHODOLOGY

The participants were fathers of two children, elder one in age group up to six years from Hisar city in Haryana. Families were contacted through door to door approach, that were having the two children. In the sample of study, 150 fathers constituted the sample. A self-structured interview schedule was used to get information on socio-economic variables. Malhotra and Randhawa (1983), in an Indian study, had suggested that a structured interview schedule was more suitable than a self-administered questionnaire. Inventory to judge the type and extent of parents involvement was developed and used. Frequencies were calculated to see the paternal involvement in child-care and chi-square was used to see impact of different socio-economic variables on paternal involvement.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the paternal involvement for the child-care aspects. The results indicate that fathers revealed high involvement in the health-care (58%), habit formation-disciplining the child (44%).

In the activities of feeding-weaning of child,

Table 1: Paternal involvement for child-care aspects N = 150

Child care aspects	Level of involvement		
	Low	Moderate	High
Feeding - weaning	44 (29.33)	50 (33.33)	56 (37.33)
Toileting-bathing-dressing up	44 (29.33)	54 (36.00)	52 (34.67)
Health-care	29 (19.33)	34 (22.67)	87 (58.00)
Habit formation-disciplining the child	49 (32.67)	35 (23.33)	66 (44.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

fathers to the tune of 37.33 and 33.33 per cent were falling in high and moderate category involvement and in the toileting-bathing-dressing up of child 36 per cent of fathers were moderately involved followed by 34 per cent whose involvement was of high level and almost 1/3 of fathers were in low involvement category regarding the activities related to feeding-weaning, toileting, bathing and dressing up of child.

Table 2 reveals the association of paternal involvement level for selected child-care aspects with educational status of fathers. The results indicate that father's educational status had significant association with feeding-weaning ($\chi^2=28.7^*$), toileting-bathing-dressing up ($\chi^2=51.8^*$), health-care ($\chi^2=47.4^*$), habit-formation-discipline ($\chi^2=39.7^*$). Frequency distribution reveals that fathers who were graduate or above, showed high involvement in feeding-weaning, toileting-bathing-dressing up of child, whereas fathers who had educational level up to senior secondary also showed their involvement.

Table 2: Association of paternal involvement level for child-care aspects with educational status of fathers N = 150

Involvement level	Educational status			χ^2
	Primary	Matric	Graduate	
<i>Feeding-weaning</i>				
Low	20	9	8	28.7*
Moderate	23	14	10	
High	7	27	32	
<i>Toileting-bathing-dressing up</i>				
Low	26	5	6	51.8*
Moderate	20	13	8	
High	4	32	36	
<i>Health-care</i>				
Low	25	5	7	47.4*
Moderate	20	9	12	
High	5	36	31	
<i>Habit formation-disciplining the child</i>				
Low	29	6	8	39.7*
Moderate	12	8	11	
High	9	36	31	

*Significant at 5% level

A positive association is depicted from frequency distribution showing a better involvement in child-care by educated fathers than their counterparts who were less educated.

Table 3 highlights significant association of paternal involvement with family occupation. Frequency distribution revealed that fathers providing the better involvement belonged to professional class while labour class fathers showed less involvement in child-care. Family occupation was also found to be significantly associated with paternal involvement in feeding-weaning ($\chi^2=96.8^*$), toileting-bathing-dressing up ($\chi^2=100.8^*$), health-care ($\chi^2=39.6^*$), habit formation-discipline ($\chi^2=60.9^*$).

Table 3: Association of paternal involvement level for selected child-care aspects with occupation of family N = 150

Involvement level	Occupation			χ^2
	Labourer	Ministerial	Professional	
<i>Feeding-weaning</i>				
Low	41	5	3	96.8*
Moderate	5	21	7	
High	4	24	40	
<i>Toileting-bathing-dressing up</i>				
Low	42	5	4	100.8*
Moderate	5	20	5	
High	3	25	41	
<i>Health-care</i>				
Low	45	3	2	39.6*
Moderate	3	22	9	
High	2	25	39	
<i>Habit formation-disciplining the child</i>				
Low	46	3	2	60.9*
Moderate	3	25	5	
High	1	22	43	

*Significant at 5% level

A close perusal of table 4 depicts that there was significant association between socio-economic status of family with paternal involvement level for feeding-weaning ($\chi^2=26.3^*$), toileting-bathing-dressing up ($\chi^2=28.1^*$), health care ($\chi^2=29.1^*$), habit formation-discipline ($\chi^2=25.0^*$). It is remarkable that the parents possessing high socio-economic status have better educational status and economically sound, hence provide their children better educational

Table 4: Association of paternal involvement level for selected child-care aspects with socio-economic status of family N = 150

Involvement level	Socio-economic status			χ^2
	Low	Middle	High	
<i>Feeding-weaning</i>				
Low	40	2	2	26.3*
Moderate	10	16	13	
High	1	30	36	
<i>Toileting-bathing-dressing up</i>				
Low	40	2	2	28.1*
Moderate	10	17	12	
High	1	30	36	
<i>Health-care</i>				
Low	40	2	2	29.1*
Moderate	10	18	11	
High	2	29	36	
<i>Habit formation-disciplining the child</i>				
Low	40	3	1	25.0*
Moderate	9	15	14	
High	1	29	38	

*Significant at 5% level

material and also the multimedia facilities at their home.

DISCUSSION

Results of the present study indicate that fathers showed high involvement in health-care and habit formation-disciplining the child. These findings are consistent with Ramu's study (1989) which reported that though fathers provided care to their children when they are sick, activities related to personal care of infant are uniformly resisted. Fathers have been found to spend large proportion of time in health-care and habit-formation of child. In a study conducted by Flynn (1994), it was found that there is strong normative support for physical punishment of children among fathers. The finding of this investigation got strength from findings of Hart and Robinson (1994) who, suggested fathers to be using more power assertive disciplining strategies. Roopnarine et al. (1989) also reported that fathers are chief disciplinarians in India and through guidance encourage the growth of social competence. Today, the fathers are sharing the responsibility of child-care especially in those families where the mother is working. They showed their much involvement in health-care and

disciplining the child (Baruch et al., 1986).

To find out the association of paternal involvement level for selected child-care aspects with educational status of fathers, occupation, socio-economic status of family, the results indicate that all above mentioned variables, i.e. educational status, occupation, socio-economic status may have significant association with child-care aspects. Regarding educational status of fathers, who were highly educated may show involvement in care of their children. The findings are in corroboration with findings of Kuntala (1996) that educated parents were socially active and have much knowledge about the significance of providing better care and meaningful interaction to their children. Regarding the family occupation fathers who belonged to professional class showed high involvement in child-care as compared to labour class.

The results of the present study reveal that fathers who have high socio-economic status may contribute more towards the care of child. They are more aware of needs of their children than their counterparts belonging to a low socio-economic status. The findings are in consistent with findings of Jas (1992). She depicts that higher SES parents are more likely to stress happiness, creativity, ambition, independence, curiosity and self-control.

KEY WORDS Paternal Involvement, Child-care Aspects, Feeding-weaning, Toileting-bathing-dressing up, Health-care, Habit Formation-discipline.

ABSTRACT Hisar city was purposively selected from Haryana State. One fifty fathers having two children, elder one in age group up to six year participated in present study. A self-structured, pretested "Parental involvement inventory" and SES Scale of Trivedi (1963) was used for collecting the data. The result of this study indicated that fathers were more involved in care practices related to health, habit formation and disciplining of child than feeding-weaning, toileting-bathing and dressing up of child. The statistical analysis divulges that in the antecedent variables father's educational status, occupation, socio-economic status of the family were significantly associated with paternal involvement.

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Authors' Address: Shalini N. Singh and Shakuntala Punia, Department of Child Development, College of Home Science, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar 125 004, India