

PERCEPTION OF FATHERS ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN CHILDCARE

By

Chitra Chowdhury
ID: 21155002

A thesis submitted to Brac Institute of Educational Development in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science in Early Childhood Development

Brac Institute of Educational Development
Brac University
December, 2022

Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The thesis submitted is my own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The thesis does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The thesis does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I have acknowledged all main sources of help.

Student's Full Name & Signature:

Chitra Chowdhury
Student ID: 21155002

Approval

The thesis titled “**Perception of Fathers About Their Role in Childcare**”

submitted by

Chitra Chowdhury
Student ID-21155002

of Spring, 2021 has been accepted as satisfactory in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science in Early Childhood Development in December 2022.

Examining Committee:

Supervisor:
(Member)

Sayda Fareha Shaheeda Islam
Senior Lecturer, Early Childhood Development
Brac Institute of Educational Development,
Brac University

Program Coordinator:
(Member)

Ferdousi Khanom
Senior Lecturer, MEd Academic Program
Brac Institute of Educational Development,
Brac University

External Expert Examiner:
(Member)

Sima Rani Sarker
Lecturer, MEd Academic Program
Brac Institute of Educational Development,
Brac University

Departmental Head:
(Chair)

Dr. Erum Mariam
Executive Director
Brac Institute of Educational Development,
Brac University

Ethics Statement

Title of Thesis Topic: Perception of fathers about their role in childcare

Student name: Chitra Chowdhury

1. Source of population: Fathers who meet minimum education level with having one or two Children age 3 to 5 years old.

2. Does the study involve (yes, or no)

- a) Physical risk to the subjects
- b) Social risk
- c) Psychological risk to subjects
- d) discomfort to subjects
- e) Invasion of privacy

3. Will subjects be clearly informed about (yes or no)

- a) Nature and purpose of the study
- b) Procedures to be followed
- c) Physical risk
- d) Sensitive questions
- e) Benefits to be derived
- f) Right to refuse to participate or to withdraw from the study
- g) Confidential handling of data
- h) Compensation and/or treatment where there are risks or privacy is involved

4. Will Signed verbal consent for be required (yes or no)

- a) from study participants
- b) from parents or guardian
- c) Will precautions be taken to protect anonymity of subjects?

5. Check documents being submitted herewith to Committee:

- a) Proposal
- b) Consent Form
- c) Questionnaire or interview schedule

Ethical Review Committee:

Authorized by:
(chair/co-chair/other)

Dr. Erum Mariam
Executive Director
Brac Institute of Educational Development,
Brac University

Abstract

Even if they believed they were better dads than their own in terms of engagement, knowledge, awareness, and caring, fathers still tend to see fatherhood in the conventional sense. In this study, fathers talked about their perception of fatherhood, ideal fathers and their traits, the responsibilities of mothers and fathers, their behaviors, and activities with their kids. With the exception of the caretaker position, they mainly saw themselves as supporters, decision-makers, and financial providers, with little engagement every day and direct upbringing of their kids. Traditional female childcare duties like feeding and washing the infant, among others, are not regarded as being under the definition of their engagement in fatherhood.

They believed themselves to be a part of the outside-the-home activities, while moms would provide direct care and help around the house for the kids. The dads discussed their degrees of dedication to parenting; normally, they want to raise their kids well, want to see them go to school, and want to invest as much time, money, and effort as they can. The most significant barriers to active engagement cited by dads were found to be a lack of time, stability, confidence, and a supportive social environment. The clear majority of men held the opinion that mothers should take on more responsibility for raising children because they are better equipped to do so, whether the moms were at home or at work. This idea is a reflection of how society has traditionally viewed the father and mother's responsibilities in raising children. Fathers voiced their concerns about the potential negative impacts on children by keeping children in the primary care of domestic helpers if the mothers undertake income-generating activities along with the fathers.

The necessity for legislation to foster responsible fatherhood, as is now the case in the neighboring country of India is one of the policy implications of this study's findings. To emphasize that men have a vital role to play, gaps in fathers' ideas and behaviors on

fatherhood need to be closed. Children must have access to daycare facilities while both parents are employed. Together, government organizations (GOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can construct the infrastructure and capacity needed to manage daycare facilities. It will take a lot of work to break down cultural barriers and modify men's attitudes in order to get them ready for the new fathering duty. Additionally, there is a need to look at domestic helper training options and construct public-government programs to promote awareness and modify perceptions of domestic help, which will in turn assist to create a respectful generation in the future.

Keywords: Father's role; childcare

Dedication

I dedicate my dissertation work to my beloved husband Palash Das and my child Priyanti & Ethan. A special feeling of gratitude to my honorable Supervisor, Syeda Fareha Shaheeda Islam whose words encouraged me and pushed for tenacity ring in my ears.

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List of Acronyms

IDI	In Depth Review
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
WHO	World Health Organization

Chapter I: Introduction

Introduction

The research is all about the perception of fathers about their role in child care considering the perspective of Bangladeshi fathers. There are a lot of studies have been done regarding this topic but this research is slightly different because it represents a result that was not revealed before in any other research and it helps to find a lot of problems along with solutions that can reduce some essential problems of our society for becoming modernization. That's why I am interested to perform this research.

Like some other social characters, men experience fatherhood diversely in various contexts. It is a complex, socio-culture element and persistently developing because of social-monetary and social changes (Aditi, 2019). Development of fatherhood as an exploration issue is relatively another peculiarity and just began after the 1970s. During the 1990s, greater and mixed sociology written works on various parts of fatherhood were delivered (Marsiglio, 2000).

The intimate relationship between a father and his children is said to have many positive effects on youngsters. The involvement of fathers in child care might also affect students' academic success (Taylor, 2019). According to Trahan & Cheung (2018), fathers who have strong relationships with their kids in the early years are more likely to have positive relationships with them later in life, both in terms of quantity and quality, because of the emotional bond (Trahan & Cheung, 2018). Therefore, the absence of a father's care might result in a stressful upbringing, which could have an adverse effect on the kid as an adult (Anderson, 2015).

To comprehend the responsibilities of fathers in childcare and development, this study applied the Family Centered Care (FCC) paradigm. The family-centered care hypothesis is a cooperation

and cooperative approach to the child's healthcare decision-making. In other words, a positive result occurs when the father and mother work together as partners in the care of a kid. The best evidence for the effectiveness of FCC is the effective use of resources at a low expense in supporting the health, mental health, and well-being of the children when parents are working together, according to studies looking at family roles and degrees of parental engagement (Kuhlthau et al., 2015).

The degree to which fathers participate in childcare depends on a variety of contextual factors, including cultural values, the father's communication style, and skills, gender norms, ethnicity, fathers' knowledge and attitudes regarding care giving, fathers' religious affiliation, and family values. A large number of these insightful ventures have validated with the exact information that the 'dominant motif' of fatherhood and fathering jobs have gone through many periods of progress (Aditi, 2019).

This research is needed for many reasons like the outcome of this research is completely unique and the solution will be identified after completing the analysis as there were no such research conducted before. The result may give a solution to the problem statement to improve the overall social situation like how to overcome the gaps.

Statement of the problem

The problem is basically to identify the gap in the perception of the fathers about their role in child care. The problem is affecting society continuously as a chain process. Today's children are tomorrow's future. So, it is necessary to secure their future. Many researches showed that there is a gap in the perception of fathers regarding their role in child care and it may depend on the

culture of that particular society such as fathers from developed cities and urban areas have noticeable differences (Saladino et al., 2020).

It is affecting continuously the society like creating a chain system from one generation to another generation. The education rate is increasing day by day and people are moving toward the city. The problem begins from here because the lifestyle in modern cities is completely different compared to the urban areas. Fathers are always busy with their work and jobs, as a result, the role of fathers is changing in child care and it is spreading continuously (Jones & Mosher, 2013; Van Lissa & Keizer, 2020).

This problem is directly impacting to their academic life. A recent study showed that the children who don't perform well academically, most of them stay far from their fathers' care. It hampers the academic career directly of those particular children (Roopnarine, Krishna kumar & Vadgama, 2013).

The economic growth after the COVID- 19 pandemic is decreasing all over the world, Bangladesh is also facing such a situation after the pandemic and it is affecting the economic status of every family in Bangladesh (World Bank, 2021). Varieties between rural versus urban fathers might cover Socio-Economic Status (SES) contrasts, and SES might be a more significant logical impact on Bengali fathers than somewhere else because practically a large portion of the number of inhabitants in Bangladesh lives in neediness (Shwalb, 2014). Albeit conduct investigations of Bengali fathering are uncommon in terms of their economic status like rural and urban middle-class Bangladeshi fathers might be somewhat conventional in their mentalities toward the jobs in contrast with metropolitan, instructed, and higher SES fathers who are all the more frequently populist inside the family. Men in rural joint families helped with childrearing

while metropolitan fathers in family units must by need take on more close-to-home childcare obligations themselves (Hossain, 2013).

Fatherhood is a significant part to find out men's virility in Bangladesh. It is a mind-boggling, continuous socio-social development that various men experience in their manners in different familial and social settings. It is tracked down that in Bangladesh the fathers from a youthful age perform parenthood uniquely in contrast to fathers from the more established age in light of their changed financial setting. Most fathers from more established ages followed accommodating youngsters' schooling, well-being, and different necessities as the principal obligation of any father (Shwalb, 2014). More youthful fathers perform fatherhood more dependent on feeling as opposed to commitments. New fathers include the contemporary culture of fatherhood as a part of empathy, emotionality, and commitment which centers more on how they feel doing certain fathering jobs as opposed to what they do. Age difference in fatherhood in Bangladesh depicts one of the biggest challenges that can be categorized in social constraints (Aditi, 2019).

Moreover, in Bangladesh, maternity leave though present in every sector (Govt. & Non-Govt.) but paternity leave is not like maternity leave in Bangladesh. It is because of cultural constraints because society thinks someone will be with a mother all the time during maternity leave. But the increasing number of unit families depicts the idea completely wrong (Ball, 2010). And for a working father, it becomes very difficult to take care of his child at a very early period. Fathers who work extended periods are bound to feel over-burden and be less tolerant of their juvenile youngsters in the family and it is a common scenario in families. The blend of long working hours and job over-burden anticipated this relationship quality (Hossain, 2013).

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to analyze the information, and approaches of fathers from the middle-class socioeconomic background on fatherhood. The main focus of this research is to understand the perception of fathers about their role in childcare. Besides that, the specific objectives are listed below:

- To know fathers' understanding or knowledge about their role in parenting.
- To know about the practices of the fathers in their role in childcare
- To identify the challenges the fathers face in their parenting role as a father

Significance of the study

The roles of fathers are important in parenting for children's holistic development and well-being. Moreover, it is also clear that fatherhood has a greater impact on Early Childhood Development (ECD). To understand the perception of fathers about their role in childcare of urban fathers in Dhaka city a study is necessary. Research should be conducted to find out how they (urban fathers) understand the term "Fatherhood", what they do with their children and for their children's well-being, how they manage their time with their jobs and family life. This kind of study helps to improve the perceptions and perspectives of fathers about their role in childcare. The new idea of the job of the father and the discernment of fatherhood should be made an interpretation into training to help and strengthening the father-child relationship and to lean toward fathers' involvement in children's early life.

The fathers' views and perceptions regarding their present and potential responsibilities in more direct kind of connection with their children is the main subject of this study on fathers' attitudes

in Bangladesh. Taking care of their children on a daily basis, playing with them, and going on outings with them are just a few examples. Strong family ties and established family structures may serve as effective channels for instilling fathers' duties. To enhance children's learning and development, it is vital to instill certain sorts of responsibilities. Early Childhood Care and Development is really given top attention by the Bangladeshi government (ECCD)

This paper attempts to grasp the unique situation - the explicit experience of the fatherhood of single-wage fathers and dual income fathers (where spouses also earn) in urban Bangladesh.

This study is expected to increase the inclusion of fathers' opinions and ideas in parenting programs. However, this is by no means the only way to increase paternal engagement. Other approaches to improving father engagement in healthy child development, particularly those that concentrate on fathers' personal beliefs, attitudes, and actions, may be more effective. To promote and enhance the father-child connection and to encourage fathers' engagement early in their children's lives, the emerging notion of the role of the father and the perspective of fatherhood need to be put into reality.

Research Questions

RQ1: What is the perception of the fathers about their role as a father in parenting?

RQ 2: What are the practices of fathers in their role in childcare?

RQ3: What are the challenges fathers faces in their parenting role as a father?

Operational Definition

Child: A young person especially between infancy and puberty is known as a child which is usually defined as 3 to 5 years old (Early Childhood Care and Education, 2017).

Childcare: The care of children especially as a service while parents are working and busy with their jobs. In the other sense, the supervision of the father or mother or even both of the child means the childcare term but the roles and environment may be different with particular manners.

Childcare is defined as the monitoring and nourishing care given by parents or other caregivers. In terms of social development, daycare supports a child's feeling of trust through fostering interpersonal ties that promote emotional security.

Chapter II: Literature Review

Sufficient literature has been reviewed to get an understanding of the perception of fathers regarding their role in child care under the following themes.

The perceptions of fathers about their role as a father

An investigation of fathers' perception of fatherhood for Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Bangladesh has shown that fathers' information and perspectives demonstrate that 44% of urban fathers know nothing about the requirement for mental consideration as measures for child improvement. Just 14% of the fathers knew how to give intelligent consideration to animate the child and just 18% recognized playing or strolling with the youngster as enacts in which they could partake and add to the psychological improvement of their children. The degree to which fathers participate in childcare depends on a variety of contextual factors, including cultural values, the father's communication style, and skills, gender norms, ethnicity, fathers' knowledge and attitudes regarding care giving, fathers' religious affiliation, and family values (Ekpo et al., 2019).

The practices of fathers in their role in childcare

Fathers who care for, support, and play with their infants bring up youngsters with higher IQs and with better language and intellectual abilities. A shred of research evidence indicates the direct effect of Fathers' involvement develop the children's Cognitive Cluster, Academic Cluster, Psychological-Emotional Cluster, and Social-Interaction Cluster (Gurkan, 2021). Fathers' discussion with little children is described by more wh-(for example "what", where" and so

forth) questions, which expect youngsters to accept more informative accountability in the association (Hossain, 2013). Fatherless children are, on average, more likely to have academic problems. For instance, they are bound to have lower scores on accomplishment tests, lower scores on scholarly capacity and insight tests, have below-point midpoints, be scholastic underachievers working underneath grade level (Gurkan, 2021), have lower scholastic execution, experience difficulty tackling complex numerical and puzzle errands, or spend a normal of 3.5 hours less each week examining. Fatherhood is a sex-explicit rendition of the term parenthood (Ball, 2010).

There have been few studies that have examined other facets of fathers' engagement in their children's lives, and the majority of this research has focused on fathers of kids who have particular and significant health issues like autism, obesity, or psychiatric or behavioral issues. This research emphasized the role that fathers have in preventing child health issues. Different studies have emphasized the role of fathers in inspiring children to pursue education and preparing them for school, while other studies have demonstrated the beneficial effects of fathers' support for breastfeeding, such as verbal encouragement and active participation in breast-feeding activities. The father typically supports the mother, according to a systematic evaluation of longitudinal studies and one cross-sectional research. Mothers often take on the major care giving role (Neander, 2019).

Over the last 20 years, scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and the media have all increased their scrutiny of Bangladesh's father culture. There are currently several websites devoted to this subject as well as worldwide forums and conferences on the subject of fatherhood. The connections between fatherhood research and social and organizational policy continue to spark interest. Importantly, there have also been a number of national assessments of fatherhood in

America and Europe that have concentrated on evaluations of research, policies, and practices and have also tried to offer guidance for future research and practice (Aditi, 2019).

There has been a noticeable increase in fatherhood-related activity recently in the field of child development. This activity includes initiatives to define fatherhood's multifaceted character, pinpoint its contextual factors, and offer proof of its positive impact on children's development. The worldwide concept of "father participation" has received a lot of attention in the literature now in print. This concept has often been used to describe how much time fathers spend with their kids or the scope of their care giving duties. A fatherhood development curriculum was a part of a pilot project for fathers that were carried out in six American cities. The majority of participants (91%) thought that the fatherhood curriculum helped them learn parenting techniques and strengthen their relationships with their children. Different developmental outcomes and paternal-family traits have been associated with the quantity of care giving and attention to children's needs that fathers provide. According to research, toddlers with two supportive parents outperformed all other kids with two unsupportive parents on the Bayley Mental Development Index (MDI) at the ages of 24 and 36 months. Because different circumstances may have an impact on each of them, it is crucial to take engagement in care giving and paternal sensitivity into distinct consideration (Anderson, 2015).

The challenges fathers face in their parenting role as a father

There is an assortment of family structures among Bengalis joint, broadened, and family units), and as indicated by Hossain (2013), this assortment of family structures prompts a variety of fathering jobs and personal conduct standards. Bangladesh is a perplexing society where

facultative fathering is identified with metropolitan/country area, SES, religion, nationality, and family qualities. Hossain (2013, p. 105), given his spearheading investigations of men in Bangladesh, depicted Bengali fathers' degree of involvement with their children as "moderate". Hossain likewise made three primary concerns in an overall depiction of fathering in Bangladesh. In the first place, as in each of the five social orders, Hossain noticed that mothers were the essential guardians for youngsters, in both provincial and metropolitan Bengali families. Second, his information showed that fathers spent an equivalent measure of time with children. Third, men's experience with youngsters included more play than providing care. According to Hossain the pattern of Father Care in Bangladesh are 4 types which are Family Fathering, Isolated Fathering, Sibling Fathering, and Lone Fathering (Hossain, 2013).

This study will help to explore the way Bangladeshi fathers in particular experience fatherhood. This research will also help to make a reasonable assumption that Bangladeshi men who are the only earning person and fathers and mothers who are both earning person are more likely to experience fatherhood in a different way because of the changed familial, socio-legal, cultural, and economic context. The parental role as father is also likely to differ within this situation as the sole construction of their parental identity is more likely to change with time. Finally, conducting the literature review I can say that my research will be different from the previous studies.

Chapter III: Methodology

Research Approach and Design

This research followed a qualitative research design. Qualitative methodology assists with catching the inside and out and complex implications of fatherhood and insight of fathers through cooperation in the interview system because without their cooperation the information cannot be achieved and it is one of the main procedures to perform qualitative research.

Research Site

The research was conducted in Dhaka city. The researcher studied the participants in their natural settings like at their homes or at their offices.

Research Participants

A purposive sampling technique was applied for this qualitative research. The study population included only working fathers and fathers with wage-earning wives. The families were chosen from a middle-class socioeconomic background in Dhaka city who have 1 and more than 1 child aged 3-5 years. The minimum educational requirement of the participant was at least graduation. Both nuclear and joint families were in consideration.

Sampling Procedure

The sample size was 10 fathers who reside in Dhaka city. IDI was conducted with 4 fathers and a group of 6 fathers was selected for FGD.

Criteria based on earning	Number
Only father	2 fathers
Father & mother	2 fathers

Table 1: IDI sampling procedure

Criteria based on earning	Number
Only father	6 fathers

Table 2: FGD sampling procedure

Data Collection Method and Procedure

First, an In-Depth Interview and Focus Group Discussion guidelines were developed and reviewed by the supervisor and the academic experts.

For the In-depth Interview (IDI), the participants were chosen very carefully. The researcher built up a good rapport with them for the quality of harmony, recognition, and mutual acceptance so that they were at ease during the interview. Before the interview, they were briefed clearly about the research topic and asked for their permission with respect. These interviews were held face to face at their home or their office depending on the participants' convenience. The meetings were planned for 1 hour.

The FGD was conducted with having middle class socioeconomic background as well as an equal wage-earning group of fathers which was held for approximately one and half hours. It was ensured that the members of the discussion group were academically educated, appeared to be family-oriented, and concerned about their children's holistic development and well-being. Both the IDI and FGD were recorded with the consent of the participants and the voice records were transcribed into a detailed narrative. The participants were selected through personal contacts of

the researcher. The researcher concluded the interview and discussion by thanking the participants at the end.

Data Management and Analysis

The Content Analysis technique was used in this study. In Qualitative Research, Content Analysis is an ongoing process. It started as soon as the researcher entered the field and finished once the final report was completed. Content Analysis gives a controlled and productive examination inside the setting by utilizing step-by-step models to organize and extract significance from the gathered data by classifying, dissecting, and completing the information (Mariette, 2016). One of the very important parts of Content Analysis is that it maintains the content sequence in order concerning Research Questions.

Validity & Reliability

Guidelines for In-depth Interviews (IDI), and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) were used for this study. To understand the perception of fathers regarding their role in child care among urban fathers the researcher developed an in-depth Interview (IDI) guideline which was semi-structured, open questions for collecting the data. The questionnaire was divided into three parts which are:

- i) Perception
- ii) Practices
- iii) Challenges

These parts are closely associated with Research Questions and Research Objectives. The researcher prepared a topic guide with the help of the Research Supervisor to create the IDI Questionnaires and FGD to ensure the reliability and validity of these questions and discussions.

As the study progressed, the guideline evolved in time which provided a new understanding. The tools were reviewed by the supervisor and other Academic Committee members of BRAC IED.

Ethical Issues

All ethical issues connected with research were addressed by the rules framed by the Verbal consent taken before recording from every member prior to the In-depth Interview (IDI) and the FGD. The participants' confidentiality were maintained strictly. The study proposal was reviewed by the supervisor and Academic Committee of BRAC IED BRAC University.

Limitations of the study

The limitation of this was the member blend enlisted to partake in the study. The mother's view on the father's role in childcare would have additionally enriched the study. The study was conducted only on fathers. The inclusion of mothers in the study would have given more comprehensive findings. Moreover, due to some personal issues of the fathers, only a group of six fathers could hardly be arranged for the FGD.

Chapter IV: Results/Findings & Discussion

Results

This section is based on the collected data from IDI and FGD interviews. Data was first assembled from In-depth-Interview, and the Group Discussion conducted physically. The themes were categorized & coded, following the research questions.

Fathers' Demographic Details

The age range of fathers was between 30 to 35 years of age. Two of the fathers have 2 children and rest of them have single child. Educational qualification levels of fathers were from undergrad to MS. All of them were from Dhaka city. Some of them were from nuclear families. Age range of the children was 3 to 5 years old.

In-Depth Interview Demographic:

Respondent No	Educational Qualification	Age	Family type	No of child	Child's Age	Sex
1	MBA	34	joint	2	5,3	M, F
2	MBA	32	nuclear	2	5,3	M, F
3	MS	31	joint	1	5	F
4	MBA	35	nuclear	2	5,3	M, F

Group Discussion Demographic:

Respondent No	Educational Qualification	Age	Family type	No of child	Child's Age	Sex
1	BBA	31	nuclear	2	3	M, F
2	BA	33	joint	2	4	M, F
3	BSc	35	nuclear	1	2	F
4	MBA	32	nuclear	1	5	M
5	MA	30	joint	1	5	M
6	BBA	34	joint	2	3	M, F

Theme 1: Perceptions of urban fathers on fatherhood

The following subsections represent perceptions of urban fathers on fatherhood from some different angles such as the role of a father, spending quality time, father-child relationship, etc.

1.1 Role of a father in child development

Almost all of the participants said that raising, providing financially, educating, teaching social behaviours and values, offering advice, making decisions, punishing, taking care of, conserving money, and supporting health care and nourishment were all important aspects of fatherhood.

Three out of 6 individuals, or 7%, highlighted the genetic and blood ties to their children while characterizing fatherhood. Two individuals made the explicit statement that finding and

presenting their daughters to a suitable suitor is an important aspect of parenthood. The focus group talks and the in-depth interviews participants' perspectives on fatherhood were comparable. (FGD #1, 09-10-22)

With the exception of a few individuals who noted that fatherhood also involves sharing child-rearing duties with their wives, there were no group variations in opinions. A father who has a spouse who is also employed said, "Being a father comes with a lot of duty; from the moment she is born until the day I die, I must take care of her by paying for her food, clothes, bills, education, upbringing, and welfare. Being a father means I have to look after everyone and give them all the advice they need." (IDI #2, 04-10-22)

1.2 Opinion on the qualities of an ideal father

On VIPP cards, each focus group member was asked to list the three major characteristics they believed an ideal parent should have. The attributes that people most appreciated in an ideal father were responsibility, compassion, education, ideology, honesty, high standards of social and moral behaviour, and friendliness. The characteristics of ideal dads that were also stated were being religious, enforcing rules, nurturing, financially stable, knowledgeable, health conscious, fun, well-behaved, trustworthy, truthful, strong civic sense, and visionary. (FGD #1, 09-10-22)

The great majority of participants said that the following characteristics best described them as fathers: being loving, responsible, providing for others, religious, social, educated, spending time with family, patient, and understanding. The list of qualities also included being financially stable, loving and affectionate, well-behaved, friendly, health-conscious and seeking medical advice, saving money, giving material things, providing material goods, ideological and honest,

having the ability to discipline, and having the capacity to think about potential future opportunities. Along with the variety of other attributes identified by the FGD participants above, the majority of participants valued education, religiosity, and financial security during the in-depth interviews as self-qualities of a parent and qualities of an ideal father. (IDI #1, 03-10-22)

All participants agreed that there are obstacles to becoming the perfect father, regardless of wage position. Business, the economic crisis, the nature of work, and time were highlighted as hurdles by the majority of participants. They listed obstacles to becoming the best fathers as the social environment, lack of safety and security, access to play areas, family issues, and a lack of trust in everyday childcare activities. With the exception of a parent who is married to a wage earner, all of the participants in the in-depth interviews spoke of comparable obstacles to being an ideal father. “The essential issue is having an ideal father mindset,” he stated. “Economic and social obstacles are not obstacles. The notion that poor financial status prevents you from being an ideal father is untrue. I don't have any obstacles in my quest to be the best father possible due to my financial situation.” (FGD #1, 09-10-22)

The majority of participants said that they are doing or have taken actions to overcome the above-described hurdles by managing, trying their best, and working hard. A number of them indicated that they had coped with household assistants, cut back on buddy time, and avoided unhealthy habits like smoking. Only a few (three) participants said that they shared chores with their spouses. In-depth interviews on obstacles and solving problems revealed a pattern in participant replies. (IDI #3, 05-10-22)

Regarding the characteristics of an ideal father, one's own abilities as a parent, and obstacles to being an ideal father, there were no differences between groups between fathers who worked alone and fathers who had a wage-earning partner.

1.3 Father-child relationship

Almost all of the participants characterized their connections with their children as amicable when asked how they perceived them. However, only a small percentage of individuals stated that they saw their connection with their own children as unrestricted, nurturing, disciplinarian, learning role model, and pupil-teacher. The in-depth interview subjects had similar patterns of replies.

“It must be a teacher-student connection when you assist her with her teachings. As a teacher, you should convey your points of view. You must treat them with affection while you care for them. She acts according to her needs, and as a parent, teacher, or playmate, you must respond similarly. You must give her time and participate in her play; doing so will motivate her to grow and acquire new abilities.” The basic message is that you must be adaptable and adapt to their demands while maintaining a cordial connection. (From a parent who makes one salary) (FGD #1, 09-10-22)

Almost all interviewees said that father-child relationships have both positive and bad consequences on children. The kid may share everything with their dads, not keep anything from them, listen to what the father has to say, be well-behaved, and succeed in their own lives and in school as positive outcomes of a connection. There was a long list of drawbacks if the father-child bond is dysfunctional.

Participants noted that children can lose their way, have a tendency to be dishonest and not share with their fathers, are un-respectful of others, will not receive an education, may engage in drug use and bad company, society will be negatively impacted, their cognitive and physical

development will be hindered, and may even go so far as to engage in terrorism and hijacking. The in-depth interview participants' comments spanned the same spectrum of advantages and disadvantages of father-child relationships that are successful or ineffective. According to one participant, "If you have a pleasant connection, the youngster will accurately inform their guardian what he or she is doing or going." And if he lets me know what he needs or where he wants to go, I may provide it to him or permit it. If you don't get along with him, you won't know what he needs or where he's headed, which causes problems. If the connection is amicable, he will be honest and won't lie, allowing me to observe all of his actions. You must monitor all actions, including what he says, what he does, and if he follows through on what he has promised to do for me. You cannot allow a void in your connection. Regarding opinions on relationships with their own children and the good and bad impacts such relationships have on their kids, there were no differences between the groups of dads who are sole wage earners and fathers who had a wage-earning spouse. (FGD #1, 09-10-22)

1.4 Their role as a father in parenting

Most of the participants consider and feel that fathers and mothers play different roles in raising children. A few respondents expressed their inability to provide for their children in the same ways that mothers do. A woman is more nurturing to children than a man. As, my child is not kept clean, and I am unable to feed her as her mother does. She crafts dolls and narrates stories to the kid if she doesn't want to eat in order to nourish her with love, something I am unable to do. She prepares various foods for her to eat, but I'm unable to do it either. (IDI #3, 05-10-22)

Participants believe that, in contrast to mother roles, father roles entail taking on a provider role, supporting their spouse financially, taking kids to the park, zoo, or other outdoor activities,

choosing schools, teachers, and doctors, disciplining their kids, and guiding and supervising their spouse. “I will decide and the mother will execute my choice, I will determine what to eat and she will feed him,” a parent with one income remarked. “I will select the school for him, and his mother will transport him there.” (FGD #1, 09-10-22)

Participants in in-depth interviews reported that fathers and mothers play similar responsibilities in raising children. "Child upbringing and care, all these duties must be carried out by the mother," remarked one participant who was the lone income earner. “It is a father's responsibility to meet the needs whenever and however they arise, including those for food, money, and other items. In case the kid becomes unwell, the mother will contact the father, who will then take the child to the doctor.” (IDI #4, 01-10-22)

Only 4 out of 6 participants agreed that there are no roles. Despite the fact that dads can participate in everyday care giving duties, mothers and fathers share equal responsibility for raising children, according to studies on the subject. They also thought that part of their responsibilities included spending time with the family and engaging in regular acts of caring.

Regarding mothers' duties in child care and child upbringing, there were no differences in the groups of dads who work alone and fathers who have a wage-earning spouse, with the exception of a small number of participants who claimed that child rearing is a responsibility shared by both parents.

1.5 Views about child care if both parents are working

Nearly all participants said that having both parents working causes challenges for them and does have an impact on their children. They have to rely on domestic helpers who don't understand children to take care of their kids; they can't spend enough time with them; they don't provide sufficient care for the kids; their link and relationship with the kids don't get stronger, and the kids don't get enough love and attention. Children miss their parents, mealtimes are impeded, and there are safety concerns. Participants stated that these issues have a negative impact on their children, including the following: children mix with bad people; they get tired, feel neglected, and misbehave around domestic help; they are unable to get the food they want; domestic helpers teach them inappropriate language and behavior; they suffer from poor hygiene and become ill easily; they become misguided and lonely. (FGD #1, 03-10-22)

The fact that they rely on the grandmother and domestic assistants to take care of their children has been stated by a very small percentage of participants, who do not perceive any issues with both parents working. Participants in the in-depth interviews reported similar issues and the detrimental consequences that both parents working had on their children. The absence of parents is a big issue, according to a father of a two-year-old kid who also has a spouse who works. The mother plays an unparalleled role in raising children. Since my kid was not given breast milk when he was supposed to, he was raised on powdered milk. His mother would not have given him feeder milk if she had been present. If I could have, I would not have permitted my wife to work. We have to leave him with a domestic assistant or another person while we leave for work. The issue is that your youngster is impacted by the attitude of the domestic assistant. (IDI #1, 03-10-22)

I don't raise, cherish, or care for my son the same way someone else would. Most kids don't eat, so if we were home, we could feed him in any way we wanted or give him anything he desired. If he doesn't eat, it's okay with the domestic worker and she won't worry if he eats or not! No one else will do it either!

Regarding their opinions on the effects of both money-earning parents on children, there were no variations in opinions between dads who were single wage earners and fathers who had a wage-earning spouse.

1.6 Opinion on spending quality time with the child

Some are living in a joint family and some are from the nuclear family, and their children get good quality time; such as they can play and listen to stories from their grandparents, spend much time with their mother as she is a housewife and also learn how to take care of the elders; meaning their grandparents. On vacation, they go out for a long drive with all the family members and very often the children celebrate a picnic with their grandparents at the rooftop. Most of the families shared their opinion that they enjoy the quality time that they spent with their children.

The findings of theme 1 can be summarized as being a father is not so easy, fathers need to perform a lot of activities for their children such as spending quality time and how the relationship should be between father and children for child development.

Theme 2: The practices of urban fathers in their role as a father

The following subsection represents the practices of urban fathers in their role as a father such as how they spend time with the child, their parenting system, etc.

2.1 Time spent with the child every day

Those who are business people stated that depending on their working activities, they used to routinely spend at least 4 to 6 hours with their kids, but sometimes they spend a longer amount of time. They consider themselves fortunate because, compared to other people, including their friends and family, as a businessman, they spend much more time with their kids. More time spent with the kids feels like it will make them happy forever. Their understanding of this is that fathers should spend as much time with their children as possible since doing so will help them develop sound minds. Although job-holder fathers are also responsible to spend quality time with their children according to their interviews this study has revealed that business people usually get much time to spend with their kids. (IDI #2, 03-10-22)

2.2 Role of a father in parenting their child

The majority of participants stated that they spend two to three hours a day with their kids and that this time can increase to six hours on the weekends and public holidays. Three participants said that since they have to take care of their businesses on the weekends, they are unable to spend any time with their kids. Similarly, some participants indicated that they only spend less than two hours a day with their kids owing to the nature of their employment and businesses. Whether the father was a single parent or had a job, there were no changes in the daily time spent with the kids. (IDI #2, 03-10-22)

The majority of participants mentioned that they engage in daily caring and rearing activities. These activities primarily include purchasing toys, books, and food items; taking children on walks; taking them to parks, zoos, and markets; reading to them; conversing with them; watching

for cleanliness and hygiene. Some participants stated that they also assist children with hands-on duties including bathing, feeding, helping them brush their teeth, helping with schoolwork and putting together school bags, clothing the child, and tying their shoes. (FGD #1, 09-10-22)

Very few participants stated they did not feel comfortable engaging in hands-on child-rearing activities, but they do participate in training and directing their spouse, reprimanding the kids, and teaching social skills. Participants in in-depth interviews revealed a similar pattern in the amount of time spent with their kids daily and on weekends. They also take part in comparable kinds of care tasks that are typically not physically demanding. A member who has a spouse who makes a living said, "Every day I bring some food for my child." I feed them first, then I sit with books, show pictures of animals, birds, plants, and trees, and read about them. I then leave. Regarding the quantity of time spent with their children and their engagement in caring activities, there were no differences between the groups of dads who worked alone and fathers who had a wage-earning partner. (IDI #1, 03-10-22)

2.3 Daily activities with the child that he is involved in (Focusing on cognitive, physical, socio-emotional, and language development activities)

According to their statement, they take care of the children's homework, make sure they are brushing their teeth properly, and have their meals properly and regularly. They also monitor their children's nutrition chart along with their mother so they can have a balanced diet daily and regularly. They believe sound physical health ensures healthy and good mental health. At least 3 days in a week, they do mild exercise with the children in the morning so they are physically fit and strong. They always talk to their children and listen to what they want to say so that their

language develops in a proper way. They always make sure their home environment is calm and their children have a good socio-emotional bond with everyone. (IDI #1, 03-10-22)

2.4 Playing activities with their child

Almost every father stated that they spend time with the children by telling stories, playing ludo, chess and, watching cartoons on television. Most of them try to avoid giving mobile phones to their children as they complained some of their colleagues used to do this to avoid playing with the children but it hampers their mental health and creates an extreme level of mobile addiction.

The findings of theme 2 can be summarized as there are lots of practices of urban fathers in their role as a father such as daily activities like cognitive, physical, socio-emotional, and language development activities and some activities for entertainment also like playing games, watching cartoons, etc.

Theme 3: The challenges urban fathers face in their role as a father

The following subsection represents the challenges urban fathers face in their role as a father such as how they maintain work and family life together, regarding social barriers while taking care of the child, etc.

3.1 The challenges while balancing work and family life

Almost every father thinks that there is no challenge in being a father. It is because they are self-employed, the children's mother is a housewife and they live in a joint family where the other

members of the family can take proper care of and provide enough time for their children's well-being; especially their ECD and ECE. But the thing is it may sometimes become a challenge for nuclear families. Parents struggle a lot to take care of their children but somehow, they don't feel the challenges as they stated in their statements.

3.2 Facing any social barriers while taking care of the child

In this portion, everyone agrees with one word that they don't feel any social barrier while taking care of the child.

3.3 Comments or suggestions regarding this topic

Most of the participants appreciate this topic as the outcome of this research will find a significant result. Everyone expressed their comments during this session in a positive manner. Only a few fathers did not comment on anything. One of the fathers stated, "Being a father it is my duty to develop my children in every aspect with proper care. We should not be limited only to bookish knowledge. A child should explore the world with proper knowledge. I don't advise my children; I create examples and they follow them." (IDI #1, 03-10-22).

The findings suggest that being a father is challenging in every aspect to grow up the child in a proper manner and the fathers did not face any social barriers while taking care of the child.

Discussion

Being named "father" for the first time by their children was a highlighted joyful event for the participants. Becoming a father gave the wonderful moments that were anticipated with the role of parenthood. Themes found via analysis of the research tools indicate that, in general, the majority of participants were psychologically ready for parenthood. Relatives and the community will anticipate children as an indication that the marriage has been successful as part of Bangladeshi cultural traditions and societal expectations.

The participants' perceptions of fatherhood were oriented toward disciplining children, giving material goods, conserving money, and supporting the family's health and nutritional needs. They also believed that fathers should educate their children and earn for the family.

Contrary to findings, the majority of men believed that fatherhood and its responsibilities included providing for the family, serving as instructors and/or role models for the kids, and encouraging fathers to have a specific role in their children's education (Gillies 2009).

Role of a father in child development

Men's family duties have been modified throughout history by social, economic, and cultural pressures, giving rise to a distinct conception of fatherhood in every community and culture. In Bangladesh, dads traditionally serve as the family's decision-maker and do so without consulting anybody else. In Bangladesh, fathers are beginning to deviate from the customary cultural and familial expectations of fatherhood and the position of the only decision-maker. This tendency is supported by changes in the responsibilities of the family guardian and the economic provider (Summers, Boller, Schiffman & Reikes, 2006). The opinions on fatherhood are evolving as a result of industrialization and the shifting perceptions of society. The east and west have many

similarities in how they see fatherhood; in the west, dads are a source of stability. As a "being there" person who offers support, as a mentor and teacher who shapes values and instructs young people, as a physical caregiver who interacts with others and gives care, and as a nurturer who offers emotional support and affection (Summers, Boller, Schiffman & Raikes, 2006).

The gap results from fathers seeing themselves as the head of the family, and their understanding of fatherhood needs to go beyond the current conceptions of fatherhood and its role that are also advantageous for children to include the daily activities of caring for children, engaging in hands-on activities, providing emotional support, and engaging in physical interactions.

Opinion on the qualities of an ideal father

The majority of the dads who participated in this study ranked responsibility, caring, education, ideology, honesty, possessing social and moral values, and friendliness as the most important traits in a parent. These results echo those of other research projects done with Indian dads (Saraff et al, 2008). Western studies, however, define a decent man as a loving, caring father who accepts responsibility for his actions both within and outside the house, speaks up for his partner while she is pregnant and after, and supports her in all of her endeavors (Johnston-Pitt & Jil, 1996). Fathers have historically had one of four basic roles: moral leader, provider of financial support, sex role model, and most recently, nurturer, according to Lamb (2000). Participant-identified traits of the perfect parent were responsibility, compassion, and education. These particular traits may result from fathers' realization of current social demands, such as the need for children to receive an education in order to survive and find a good job in the future, the need to provide for their physical and material needs, and the father's assumption of responsibility for all family matters.

The desire in the participants' sub-conscious mind to raise their children well in order to help eradicate corruption, dishonesty, malpractices, unhealthy competition, disrespect, and a lack of moral values in people in contemporary Bangladeshi society may have led them to prioritize traits like ideology, honesty, and having social and moral values for an ideal father. It is conceivable that parents now desire to teach these virtues to their kids so that society may one day be able to resolve the pressing problems facing the country today. The participants' relationship with their own fathers is to be replaced by the new addition of attributes of an ideal father, which may include *Friendliness* in the father-child relationship. The desire to possess this sort of feature may have been sparked by self-awareness and evolving viewpoints on father-child interactions. The majority of participants thought of themselves as "average ideal fathers," possessing traits like being caring, responsible, able to provide for their families, religious, social, educated, spending time with them, patient and understanding, having good parenting skills, having money to support their families, and having a vision for the future. Participants have included "religiousness" in accordance with their ideas of the perfect parent; this also suggests a need to address a broad, enduring social expectation.

The dedication to family responsibilities and the belief that their economic circumstances put them in a better position to meet the requirements of children and raise them properly may be the reasons why spending time with family and making a living are included as attributes of the ideal father. This may be connected to studies showing that becoming a parent stimulates men to spend more time with their extended families, engage in charitable activities, and earn more money (Knoester & Eggebean, 2006; Lerman & Sorensen, 2000).

In this study, the dads identified time constraints as their biggest obstacles to becoming the best fathers. This may be a result of the nature of their profession, the distance to their place of

employment, or the daily traffic jams they encountered traveling to and from the office. The economic crisis was also cited by participants as a barrier that allowed them to send their spouses out to work and make a living, work longer hours, and engage in other income-generating activities. Due to the need to hunt for possibilities to earn more money, which may have taken time away from spending time with their children and families, time limitations may also be connected to the economic crisis. The living conditions, safety, and social unrest, according to participants, are not always conducive to engaging in the activities with their kids. They are unable to let their kids play outside since there are so few playgrounds or other places where kids may run about. Families can't let their kids play freely since they live in tiny homes or flats. Parents, who frequently experience a sense of insecurity in their local areas, are also quite concerned about child trafficking and road safety.

Beyond the obstacles listed above, the traits the dads cited show that they want to do more to support a more balanced upbringing for their children. The dads' traits of being an active playmate, storyteller, and nurturer would help their children's healthy and holistic upbringing. However, the focus needs to be more on the child's engagement and any time spent with their children should be quality time.

The father-child relationship

The findings demonstrate that participants view their relationship with their kids as a "friendly relationship" with the belief that as a result of this relationship, there will be positive outcomes on their kids, such as better education; they will be under control and well disciplined; and the kids would share everything with them. The importance of this viewpoint comes from the fact that it appears that Bangladeshi fathers' perspective has begun to diverge from their conventional conceptions of the father-child bond. Their personal goals and purposes are obviously connected

to the belief that it is for the benefit of their children to properly educate, govern, and discipline them.

It is uncommon to discover an outward manifestation of a strong father-child relationship or the father acting like a friend to the kid in many regions of Asia, where the traditional father typically tends to be absent from child-rearing because it is viewed as one of the mother's tasks (Huang et al., 2001). This result demonstrates that the dads in the research group are actively connected with their kids and have a favorable opinion of their relationships. The results of this study support the notion that dads who are actively involved are more likely to pay close attention to their children's growth and to the development of their connections with them (Lamb, 1987; Snarey, 1993).

In addition to focusing on institutional education, this deeper father-child relationship may be utilized as a foundation for teaching other aspects of child development. Dads who desire to remain actively involved in their children's lives may need to change both their personal habits and how they view themselves as responsible fathers. Overall, this would lead to a deep and rewarding connection and increased participation and accessibility to their children.

The participants' description of their connection with their children as "friendly" may have been influenced by their level of education. According to data currently available, a father's education and connection with his spouse are good indicators of his dedication to and engagement in his kid (Cabrera, Shannon, West, & Brooks-Gunn, 2006; Cook, Jones, Dick & Singh, 2005; Cummings, Goeke-Morey, & Raymond, 2004; Pleck, 1997, Tamis-LeMonds et al., 2004). This perspective of relationships is flawed because dads continue to see it as a one-way freedom. Where they anticipate their kids sharing absolutely everything with them. This may be connected to the conventional methods used by dads or parents to raise and discipline their children. This

research group appears to have a limited understanding of and familiarity with the advantages of good father-child relationships for children's development. This sends a strong message that this group of fathers is aware of their responsibilities as fathers and that future outcomes for their child are linked to the relationship they have with their children. However, the study group demonstrated a keen understanding of the positive and negative effects of having a strong father-child relationship. This knowledge may be put to use to generally make children's and families' lives better.

Parenting roles as a father

The participants' strong opinions on the different responsibilities that mothers and dads play in raising children are a reflection of their intuitive knowledge of such duties within the framework of Bangladeshi family structures and societal norms. The common perceptions about women and their duties in raising children include that they are patient, have more time for them, understand them better, are more compassionate toward them, know how to feed them, and communicate the fathers' clear opinions about the mother's role in raising children. These opinions are consistent with what dads often think. According to research, males are traditionally expected to work hard and earn money to provide for and protect their families, exhibit filial piety, and respect their parents in many regions of Asia.

The benefit of this knowledge is that dads appreciate and value the talents and skills of mothers in raising children. According to the participants, men's tasks in raising children include giving material items, financial assistance, taking kids on outings, making decisions about their education, doctors, and teachers, as well as punishing kids and directing and monitoring moms. These results are comparable to the research on Indian dads, which found seven characteristics of

the ideal father: a supplier of care, a guarantor, a playmate and friend, a role model, the head of the household, and a resource.

Working long and arduous hours to support a kid and family with the money earned is another crucial method for men to show how much they care and how they see themselves as 'positively active' fathers. However, in Bangladesh, the fathers' ideas and attitudes were centered on their actual and potential responsibilities in more direct kinds of interaction with their kids, such as helping out around the house on a regular basis, playing with them, and going on outings with them. It appears that fathers' responsibilities go beyond the customary ones of providing financial assistance and making decisions for the family and the children of the preceding generation. As part of their perceived duties, they are thinking of taking their kids to the zoo, park, museums, and other attractions to keep them entertained, provide chances for discovery, and break up the routine of spending all day at home. It will eventually help their children's mental and cognitive growth.

Even though half of the participants' spouses work outside the home, the dads still saw the mothers' principal responsibilities as caring for their children, including feeding, bathing, nursing, cleaning, and domestic duties. This may be directly impacted by the dominating female roles that are seen in everyday life as well as present social structures and conventional roles that continue to play a negative role in society. The idea that dads are less active in raising children than mothers is supported by research findings in many different cultures. Even if he has the best of intentions; fathers typically lack the same level of confidence in intense childcare as their spouses. The philosophy that proper child upbringing is "emotionally taxing" is known as intensive mothering. It is labor- and financially intensive and women should bear the bulk of the responsibility. Participants have witnessed their moms and grandparents acting out these parts,

leaving them with vivid memories that have shaped their present way of thinking, beliefs, and values.

Opinion on spending quality time with the child

It is quite gratifying to observe that participants spend around three hours a day caring for and rearing their children throughout the week, with the amount of time varying over the weekend depending on the nature of the fathers' occupations. This is undoubtedly showcasing fathers' growing dedication to their kids. This amount of time exceeds past research findings that dads in Bangladesh spent, on average, less than an hour a day with their children. The participants' high levels of education, money, and self-awareness about parenting and family issues may have contributed to this development by motivating them to proactively make extra time to spend with their kids.

In addition to giving their children material items, dads choose to spend time reading to their kids, engaging with them, monitoring their cleanliness, and taking them on outdoor adventures. Fathers often make the majority of parenting recommendations and decisions. The dads placed a strong emphasis on correcting their kids, teaching social behaviors, and educating and directing their spouses, which is a typical way for a father to express his desire to provide for his family. This point of view also emphasizes how moms often give children more direct care, whilst dads typically take a more active role in their upbringing and education.

Men are the family heads and moral instructors, according to research. It was believed that fathers had more influence and responsibility over their children than mothers. The fact that the

participants read to children and interact with them shows that they are able to engage in caring activities. Another unmistakable message from these fathers is that an essential part of their responsibility as fathers is to teach and shape their children. For some people, this meant placing a strong emphasis on education and social skills, such as how to get along with people.

The idea of "spending time" and bringing their kids on trips also had an underlying educational goal within the problem of being more directly involved and hands-on with childcare. Fathers were also acutely conscious of the role models they served as for their children and the educational impact of their presence. Participants held the view that if parents are not active and do not carry out their tasks effectively, their children may struggle at school, become dishonest, engage in anti-social behavior, show disdain for others, and have their cognitive and physical development hampered. This shows that they are highly conscious of their interactions with kids.

The participants' emphasis on education, instilling values, and showing respect for others implies that these abilities and traits may be witnessed and ingested through involvement in caring activities. The fact that these fathers want to increase their ability to interact directly with their kids is encouraging.

The challenges while balancing work and family life

Participants indicated worries about kids and the kind of care they would receive if both parents were working, demonstrating a significant degree of worry for their kids and a desire to do more if they could. It also highlights their lack of confidence. Concern and anxiety about leaving their kids at home, especially when domestic assistance will be looking after them. Expressing generalized dislike and unhappiness toward domestic workers may have a variety of

implications. These domestic assistants are recruited or organized from extremely underprivileged and disadvantaged homes where they experience poverty, family strife, societal prejudice, and lack of education as children. The household staff could become more concerned with meeting their own demands (income generation, for example). Since they were treated the same way and do not know any better, they may think that how they act with small children is okay. The fact that the majorities of these domestic assistants are from slums and villages and speak various languages and dialects with the children they look after is typically not acknowledged by the more educated and wealthier segments of society.

Views about child care if both parents are working

The ability and understanding of fathers need to be developed around the idea of spending quality time with their children, regardless of whether they are single or dual-wage earners. The focus should be on what they do and how they do it, not how long they spend doing it, and it should ideally be offered by both parents. The Bayley Mental Development Index (MDI) scores of toddlers with two supportive parents were higher than those of all other children with two unsupportive parents at the ages of 24 and 36 months, according to research.

However, dads who have younger spouses encourage them to enter employment in order to improve the family's financial status, which ultimately supports the kids.

It was not unexpected to learn that there were no variations in how single wage-earning fathers and fathers without wage-earning spouses saw and practiced parenthood. The fact that males are often the "breadwinner," the provider, and the family decision-makers reflect the underlying practices of parenting by dads. This is consistent with studies that demonstrate how dads and society see fatherhood and the functions that it plays. The breadwinner (or economic) aspect of

dad is discovered to be important in many civilizations when focused on the social construction of fatherhood. In general, Bangladeshi society still believes that caring for children and doing household chores are the mother's responsibilities and that the father's role is to offer support and engage in outside-the-home activities. This belief is supported by research from other cultures, where it has been found that fathers are less involved than mothers in the upbringing of children.

Despite participants' statements that they are significantly better than their own dads, they spend more time with the family and children and make more contributions to the household. and they get along well with their kids, yet there is still a disconnect between what they believe and what they do. Some participants said that they occasionally provide direct care in the absence of moms, something that has to become a regular practice. Then, regardless of whether a family has one income earner or several pay earners, the children and family as a whole will gain. Men's participation with their children and the welfare of their cognitive, emotional, relational, and physical development are strongly correlated, according to research.

Conclusion

The overall goal of this study was to comprehend the many conceptions and behaviors of fatherhood that are common among urban dads from middle-class, single-income and both earning families. Even though the study's sample size was somewhat tiny, it nevertheless offers valuable insight into how fatherhood is seen.

Dads continue to view and conduct parenthood in the conventional sense and think of themselves as superior than their own fathers. The perceptions and behaviors they saw, with the exception of the caregiver position, were predominantly those of "supporter," "decision maker," and "economic provider," with little engagement in the everyday or direct care of their children. Their engagement in parenthood is not thought to include traditional female childcare duties like feeding and washing the child. It will take a lot of work to break down cultural barriers and modify men's mindsets in order to get them ready for the new fathering duty.

The study's participants showed a clear and unwavering dedication to their kids. The most significant difficulties mentioned by dads were found to be a lack of time, insecurity, and the demands of the social environment. However, there was a favorable correlation between the dads' accessibility to their kids and the kids' sense of their fathers' engagement in their lives.

In Bangladesh, middle-class households do not provide their children with adequate attention from both parents. Fathers are still coming to terms with the significance of their position and the ties they have with their kids. Overall, it's still unclear to what full extent active parenting may aid in their children's overall development. Programs supporting dads must be designed in order to raise knowledge of and engagement in childrearing activities and promote the best possible development of a child. There is a disconnect between how fathers are perceived and how they

actually interact with, care for, and nurture their children in ways that promote healthy child development.

Future studies should examine men's understanding of fathering and evaluate the effects that a greater understanding would have on paternal behavior in order to close this gap and ensure male participation in childcare. To improve the lives of children and families in Bangladesh, policymakers and service providers must devise effective strategies to support these fathers.

Recommendation

The main goal of the current exploratory study was to investigate how middle-class fathers who are single-wage earners and fathers who have a wage-earner spouse view fatherhood and their fathering behaviors. I have looked at these beliefs and behaviors in my analysis in two different ways: as beliefs and as behaviors.

For dads to comprehend child-focused interactions and to model healthy father-child relationships, the media must offer outstanding role models on how to care for children directly. The significance of assisting fathers in their one-on-one interactions with their children and boosting their self-assurance in practical childrearing must be highlighted. Previous studies have shown that new dads identify with the "trial-and-error" learning process with their new babies (Steinberg, Kruckman & Steinberg, 2000). In order for fathers to participate in these activities, their spouses must support and encourage them. Additionally, this fits within a larger "moral makeover of dads," who are taking a more active role in raising their children and who place a higher value on the chance to do so (Doucet, 2007). This might be achieved by include men more prominently in parental assistance programs, publications, and television programs. Given that parenting services are predominantly provided by women, as Fagan and Palm (2004) have shown, dads are often less confident when expressing their own requirements for information or asking for assistance. Fathers must thus be involved in developing and defining the programs and services that cater to their needs.

Despite their obligations to their jobs and their lack of confidence, this study reveals that Bangladeshi dads are willing to provide more for their children. It is clear that dads want to be more active in their children's lives, which is consistent with prior data (Daly 1996; Russell and

Hwang 2004). The equal participation of men and women in all aspects of family and home duties, including as family planning, childrearing, and housekeeping, was one of these areas, and the local government should support and promote it.

The results of this study can guide future research and may be helpful when deciding on program and policy efforts. Those who are already eager to participate in family activities will feel encouraged and those who are not yet driven will feel reinforced if there is a policy to help dads. It's important to close the gap between fatherhood attitudes and behaviors. It makes sense to develop public campaigns and activities to raise knowledge of the health advantages of active father involvement in order to further promote father involvement in their children's lives.

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Appendix A

In Depth Review

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to analyze the information, and approaches of fathers from the middle-class socioeconomic background on fatherhood. The main focus of this research is to understand the perception of fathers about their role in childcare. Besides that, the specific objectives are listed below:

- To know fathers' understanding or knowledge about their role in parenting.
- To know about the practices of the fathers in their role in childcare
- To identify the challenges the fathers face in their parenting role as a father

RESEARCH QUESTION

- RQ1: What is the perception of the fathers about their role as a father in parenting?
- RQ 2: What are the practices of fathers in their role in childcare?
- RQ3: What are the challenges fathers faces in their parenting role as a father?

IDI Questionnaires

Date of interview:

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Section A: Demographic Information

Name of father: _____ Age: _____

Education: _____ Occupation: _____

No. of children: _____ Boy: _____ Girl: _____

Section B: Fathers' understanding about their role in parenting

1. In your opinion, what should be the role of a father in child care?
2. How do you perceive the father-child relationship?
3. What do you think about your role as a father in parenting? Please share your opinion.
4. Share your views about child care if both parents are working.
5. What is your opinion on spending quality time with your child?

Section C: The practices of urban fathers in their role as a father

1. How much time do you spend with your child every day? Do you think the time you spend, is enough? If yes, why? If no, why not?
2. As a father, what is your role in parenting your child?
3. What are the daily activities of your child you are involved in? (Focus on cognitive, physical, socio-emotional, and language development activities)
4. What are the play activities you do usually with your child?
5. How do you spend quality time with your child?

Section D: The challenges urban fathers' face in their role as a father

1. Do you face challenges while balancing work and family life? If yes, what are the problems? If not, can you share your experiences? In your opinion, how do you overcome those challenges?
2. Do you face any social barriers while taking care of your child?
3. Do you have any comments or suggestions in this regard?

FGD Questionnaires

1. In your opinion, what should be the role of a father in child care?
2. How do you perceive the father-child relationship?
3. Share your views about child care if both parents are working.
4. As a father, what is your role in parenting your child?
5. How much time do you spend with your child every day? Do you think the time you spend, is enough? If yes, why? If no, why not?
6. What are the daily activities of your child you are involved in?(Focus on cognitive, physical, socio-emotional, and language development activities)
7. Do you face challenges while balancing work and family life? If yes, what are the problems? If not, can you share your experiences? In your opinion, how do you overcome those challenges?
8. Do you face any social barriers while taking care of your child?
9. Do you have any comments or suggestions in this regard?

IDI

সাক্ষাৎকারের প্রশ্ন সমূহ

সাক্ষাৎকারের তারিখ:

শুরুর সময়: _____ শেষ সময়: _____

অধ্যায় ক: জনসংখ্যা সংক্রান্ত তথ্য

পিতার নাম: _____ বয়স: _____

শিক্ষ্যাগত যোগ্যতা: _____ পেশা: _____

সন্তানের সংখ্যা: _____ ছেলে: _____ মেয়ে: _____

অধ্যায় খ: পিতৃত্ব বলতে শহুরে বাবাদের উপলব্ধি

১) আপনার মতে, শিশু যত্নে বাবার ভূমিকা কি হওয়া উচিত?

২) পিতা-সন্তানের সম্পর্কে আপনি কিভাবে দেখেন?

৩) অভিভাবকত্বে বাবা হিসেবে আপনার ভূমিকা সম্পর্কে আপনি কি মনে করেন? আপনার মতামত শেয়ার করুন।

৪) পিতা-মাতা দুইজনই যদি চাকরিজীবী হন তাহলে শিশু যত্নের প্রতি আপনার মতামত দিন।

৫) আপনার সন্তানের সাথে গুণমান সময় পার করার ব্যাপারে আপনার মতামত কি?

অধ্যায় গ: বাবা হিসাবে শহুরে বাবাদের ভূমিকা

- ১) প্রতিদিন আপনি আপনার সন্তানের সাথে কতটুকু সময় ব্যয় করেন? আপনি কি মনে করেন এই সময়টা আদর্শ? যদি উত্তর হ্যাঁ হয় তবে তা কেন? যদি উত্তর না হয় তবে তা কেন?
- ২) বাবা হিসাবে সন্তানের লালন পালনের প্রক্রিয়ায় আপনার ভূমিকা কি?
- ৩) আপনার সন্তানের দৈনন্দিন যত্নে আপনি কি কি করেন?
- ৪) আপনি আপনার সন্তানের সাথে কি কি খেলার কার্যক্রম করেন?
- ৫) কিভাবে আপনি আপনার সন্তানের সাথে মানসম্পন্ন সময় কাটাবেন?

অধ্যায় ঘ: শহুরে বাবারা পিতা হিসাবে যেসব সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হন

- ১) আপনি কি আপনার চাকরী এবং পারিবারিক জীবনের সাথে ভারসম্য আনতে সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হন? যদি হ্যাঁ হয়, সমস্যা গুলো কি? যদি না হয়, তবে কি আপনি আপনার অভিজ্ঞতা বলবেন? আপনার মতে এই সমস্যা গুলো কিভাবে সমাধান করা সম্ভব?
- ২) সন্তান লালন পালনের ক্ষেত্রে আপনি কি কোন সামাজিক বাধার সম্মুখীন হন?
- ৩) আপনার কি এই বিষয়ে কোন মত অথবা পরামর্শ আছে?

FGD

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- ১) অভিভাবকত্বে পিতা হিসাবে তাদের ভূমিকা সম্পর্কে পিতাদের উপলব্ধি বলতে আপনি কি বুঝেন?
- ২) পিতা-সন্তানের সম্পর্কে আপনি কিভাবে দেখেন?
- ৩) পিতা-মাতা দুইজনই যদি চাকরিজীবী হন তাহলে শিশু যত্নের প্রতি আপনার মতামত দিন।
- ৪) অভিভাবকত্বে বাবা হিসেবে আপনার ভূমিকা সম্পর্কে আপনি কী মনে করেন?এ ব্যাপারে আপনার মতামত দিন।
- ৫)প্রতিদিন আপনি আপনার সন্তানের সাথে কতটুকু সময় ব্যয় করেন? আপনি কি মনে করেন এই সময়টা আদর্শ? যদি উত্তর হ্যা হয় তবে তা কেন? যদি উত্তর না হয় তবে তা কেন?
- ৬) আপনার সন্তানের দৈনন্দিন যত্নে আপনি কি কি করেন?
- ৭) আপনি কি আপনার চাকরী এবং পরিবার জীবনের সাথে ভারসম্য আনতে সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হন? যদি হ্যা হয়, সমস্যা গুলো কি? যদি না হয়, তবে কি আপনি আপনার অভিজ্ঞতা বলবেন? আপনার মতে এই সমস্যাগুলো কিভাবে সমাধান করা সম্ভব?
- ৮) সন্তান লালন পালনের ক্ষেত্রে আপনি কি কোন সামাজিক বাধার সম্মুখীন হন?
- ৯) আপনার কি এই বিষয়ে কোন মত অথবা পরামর্শ আছে?