

**CURRENT ROLE OF URBAN FATHERS IN CHILD REARING
PRACTICES IN EARLY YEARS**

By

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A thesis submitted to BRAC IED, BRAC University in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Science in Early Childhood Development

BRAC IED
BRAC University
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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The thesis submitted is my 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/We have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Approval

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Ethics Statement

Title of Thesis Topic: Current Role of Urban Fathers In Child Rearing Practice In Early Years

Student name: Bipasha Laboni

1. Source of population

Fathers of Karail Slum who are the beneficiaries of two programs one is BRAC Education Program and another is Jago Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Check documents being submitted herewith to Committee:

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

Ethical Review Committee:

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Executive Summary

This study focuses on to know the current role of urban fathers in child rearing practices in early years. Most of the fathers and mothers in this study could define the term child development and they mentioned it is a growing process. Some of them relate child development with physical and brain development and also gave emphasis on nutrition. Most of the fathers relate fathers' role in a child's cognitive, social and emotional development. It has found out that fathers' play caregivers role when their wives are working outside. For housewives the fathers mostly spend time with their children by playing, taking them outside, buying thing, or trying to give quality time on free times. The study also found out that the area where fathers could be more involved is taking care of their children's study. Both in FGD and IDI the fathers gave priority to their children and family.

Dedication

This is dedicated to my father who is considered a life-support to me because he always shows me the way to find out peace and happiness. My father is like that Banyan tree who always keeps me under his shadow; make myself feel secured, provide all necessities with lots of love and affection. Furthermore, the things that I have achieved in my life are because of his. I have never seen such an amiable and supportive father in this world.

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List of Acronyms

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
ICDDR	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
DMA	Dhaka Metropolitan Area
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IDI	In-depth Interview
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EECD	Early Childhood Care and Development
NGO	Non-government Organization
INGO	International Non-government Organization

Chapter I

Introduction & Background

1.1 Background

Fatherhood is the state or time of being a father (Cambridge dictionary). Fatherhood is a lifelong responsibility. A father is male partner of a child where he meant to be spending times, playing, feeding, and raising up, nurturing, moving around with him/her. Society provides multiple understanding of father from the traditional breadwinner and disciplinarian to the new age nurturing father (Coltren, 20007; Lamb, 2000; Pleck & Pleck 1997). Into the fatherhood research field, the utmost puissant definition of father involvement has come from Lamb, Pleck, Charnov and Levine in 1987. Their classification characterizes father complicity as interaction, availability and responsibility. This is actually shared activities between a father and child, certain as playing or feeding.

Availability refers to the physical and psychological availability of fathers. Responsibility is the anxiety, worry, contingency planning that fathers engage in about their children (as cited in B. Denise Hodgins, 2007). Fatherhood shows a lot of potentials to promote Early Childhood Development in recent years. Comparing 1965 with 2011, fathers more than doubled their time spent on housework (4 vs 10 hours/ week) and child care (2.5 vs 7 hours/ week) (as cited in Michael Yogman, MD et al., 2016). Researchers point to this increase as evidence of a subgroup of “new fathers” who appear to preserve time with children, likely by cutting back on, or incorporating their children into, their leisure time, especially on weekends (as cited in Michael Yogman, MD et al., 2016) In many developing countries, fathers spend most of their time on income and food provisioning and this happens when food and health security are low. From a study it is observed that every family live in a slum in unhygienic environment in poor condition. The slum dwellers work as garments workers

(24.2%), household workers (13.7%), rickshaw pullers (19.2%), street hawkers, day laborers, masons etc. The range of household income of slum dwellers was about Tk 6,000 - 10,000 and they spent most of their money on food (61.39% of income). (Mahmuda Binte Latif et al., 2016) Under such circumstances, direct child-focused activities is very stiff for fathers. The families in Bangladesh are now transforming from extended to nuclear families through migration and urbanization. As the families have been transforming, the importance of father's involvement for children's development has increased.

Slum life means a sub-human life being that deprived from fundamental constitutional rights. Slum dwellers are not facilitated of important fundamental rights like housing and health facilities, job opportunities, sanitation facilities, education etc. (Mahmuda Binte Latif et al., 2016)

Bangladesh is one of the largest populated countries. According to BBS (2010) Bangladesh has an urban population of around 28% of its total population. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is the largest city in the country. It comprises 34 percent of the overall national urban population and is unrivalled among Bangladeshi cities in terms of its economic, social and political opportunities. Dhaka has been growing very rapidly over the last five decades, particularly due to rural-urban migration, urbanization and incorporation of erstwhile outlying areas. Slums have existed in Dhaka City for a long time but their growth accelerated after the liberation of the country in 1971 and is mainly, due to mass migration by the rural poor. A survey was conducted by CUS in the Dhaka Metropolitan Area in 1991 for ICDDR, B. This study recovered a slum population of 718,143 in some 2,156 slums and squatter clusters. CUS conducted yet another survey in 1996 in the same area (the DMA) for the Asian Development Bank and found the total slum population to be 1.5 million in 3,007 clusters (Urban Slums of Bangladesh). According this survey, the slum population has increased with a noticeable number. In UNICEF report on Child Care for Growth and

Development it has found out that Bangladesh parents and caregivers of children less than three are often just occupied with health and nutritional needs, but they should urgently priorities stimulation to ensure development. Though nuclear families are replaced with join family and parents are going for work outside, so children get less time to spend with families. But on the other hand children get parent's attention.

1.2 Changing family roles

Family structures of all kinds changed now-a-days with dads stepping up to the plate and taking on a myriad of roles. Fathers may play specific and important roles, with men in some cultures having clearly defined roles as playmates to their children. (Charlie Lewis & Michael E. Lamb, 2003). Recently the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development study_exhibit that fathers are more engaged in caretaking than ever before. The reasons for this are varied, but they include: mothers working more hours and receiving higher salaries, fathers working less, more psychological consciousness, coping skills, mental illness intervention, self-worth issues, intimacy in marriage, social connection, and better role modelling for children. Research also indicates that fathers are as important as mothers in their respective roles as caregivers, protectors, financial supporters, and most importantly, models for social and emotional behavior.

1.3 Fathers' role in child development

Fathers play a surprisingly large role in their children's development, from language and cognitive growth in toddlerhood to social skills in fifth grade, according to new findings from Michigan State University scholars (Science Daily, 2016).

Father involvement in the early childhood years is associated with positive child developmental and psychological outcomes over time, although most studies do not differentiate the benefits of having 2 parents from a specifically male presence as the second parent. For example, at 3 years of age, father-child communication was a significant and unique predictor of advanced language development in the child but mother-child communication was not (as cited in Michael Yogman et al, 2016)

Infants from birth to 7 months of age were exposed to significantly more language from mothers compared with fathers. Mothers tailor word choice to the child's known vocabulary, whereas fathers are more likely to introduce new words. Child health care providers have an opportunity to encourage fathers to speak to their infants more (as cited in Michael Yogman et al, 2016).

In a prospective study, when fathers were more involved (caring, playing, communicating) in infancy, children had decreased mental health symptomatology at 9 years of age (as cited in Michael Yogman et al, 2016). Fathers engaged in more roughhouse play, and their involvement in play with preschoolers predicted decreased externalizing and internalizing behavior problems and enhanced social competence (as cited in Michael Yogman et al, 2016). In a nationally representative household sample, positive father involvement was inversely associated with child behavior trajectories, such that more involvement was accompanied by less child maladaptive behavior; furthermore, the influence of maternal depressive symptoms on child problem behaviors varied by the level of the father's positive involvement (as cited in Michael Yogman et al, 2016). This information suggests that the influence of involved fathers may compensate for the negative influence of maternal

depression (e.g. reduced responsiveness to a child's socio-emotional needs), thereby reducing the risk of child problem behaviors and development.

Studies have shown that when fathers are affectionate and supportive, it greatly affects a child's cognitive and social development. It also instills an overall sense of well-being and self-confidence (Pediatric Associates of Franklin).

Fathers as playmates sometimes take the lead and make suggestions and other times serve as cooperative play partners (as cited in Dolores J. Appl et al., 2008).

When a father teaches or guides his child is called direct interaction. To be effective in this role fathers must be aware of what their children can do independently and what they can do with assistance. The teaching or guiding role is similar to Vygotsky's concept of the zone of proximal development (ZPD), which is the "hypothetical, dynamic region in which learning and development take place." ZPD is further "defined by the distance between what a child can accomplish during independent problem solving and what he or she can accomplish with the help of an adult or more competent member of the culture" (as cited in Dolores J. Appl et al., 2008).

Many research shows that, there are many positive and direct impact on child development if father's are involved, e.g. cognitive cluster (enhanced cognitive functioning, higher IQ), academic cluster (better academic achievement, school connectedness, higher educational attainment), psychological-emotional cluster (resiliency, lower levels of depression, life satisfaction, greater self-acceptance, less stress), social – interactional cluster (attachment, supportive social networks, positive peer relations, empathy, conformity to rules, conventions, values, ethical standards, less delinquent behavior).

It is assumed that the fathers of Bangladesh typically continue in their role as father even their children reached their adulthood, therefore fatherhood does not finish even a child is matured.

From the moment a child is born, the care of both of the parents is important for the child's development and growth. Sharing parenting responsibilities brings the father closer to his child and partner – in turn, the child grows up in a loving environment where parents work as a team. A baby learns to absorb information about their surroundings through responsive interaction with their parents. A father plays a big role here; his active engagement with the baby – through nurture and play – has positive effects on the baby's development and cognitive ability. Understanding the importance of fathers' presence during the early days of infants' lives, BRAC has introduced a new paternity leave policy for its male employees. It allows them to take paid paternity leave for one month, which can be availed within six months (from the date of delivery or from the date of adoption of the child). (Reflections on Paternity Leave on Father's Day, 2019)

1.4 Statement of The problem

Optimum child development and growth of young children needs mother/caregiver's warmth and affection, sensitivity, responsiveness, cognitive stimulation as well as good nutrition and freedom from infection (as cited in Nahar et al., 2012).

In Bangladesh parenting practices also differ in urban and rural contexts. The fathers were younger, poorer, less educated, and more likely to have low paid jobs (Nahar B et al., 2010). Such features are also likely to be linked with child care and parenting practices.

In low-income countries young children are exposed to multiple developmental risk factors including poverty, malnutrition, poor stimulation at home, and lack of care that adversely affect the ability to reach their developmental potential (as cited in Nahar et al., 2012).

Parents often have little awareness about early child stimulation and parent-child interaction. Poverty and lack of adequate nutritional and developmental knowledge of the parents leads to malnutrition in over 50 % of children; approximately ten million children are not achieving their developmental potential. With various programs and public health education campaigns, parenting practices are gradually improving and more and more parents are adopting more beneficial parenting behaviors. However, more optimum practices are yet to be achieved (Hamadani, Jena & Tofail, Fahmida, 2013).

Fatherhood is an important element of the in the construction of our patriotic society. Now a days it is observed that conventional parenting part are changing and father involve in direct child care. According The daily sun reports that in Bangladesh the utmost responsibility of childcare are fulfilled by mother. But little is known about parenting practices of Bangladeshi mothers. Also father's has the responsibility to take care of both mother and their child. Father plays an ultimate role for their child which brings the development of their children. The latest research indicates that fathers who are actively involved in raising their children can make a positive and lasting difference in their lives. So father has also responsibility of child care parallel to mother.

In Bangladesh, also most man value their child highly, fathers appears to places active involvement in caring for and raising their youngsters fairly low on their hierarchy of identifies dimensions. Traditionally in Bangladesh, fathers are not directly involved directly in the daily care of their children and do not contribute substantially to their children's growth and

development. Participation of Bangladeshi fathers in child rearing activities appears to be remarkably low regardless of socio-economic status race and ethnicity. Like many other developing countries, in Bangladesh most of the children are falling to reach their optimal developmental potential due to many factors (Shantimoy Chakma, 2010).

1.5 Purpose of the Study

The main objective of this study is to know the current role of urban fathers in child rearing practices in early years.

➤ Specific objectives:

- To know the current role of urban slum fathers in child rearing practices in early years
- To find out the ways in which fathers of urban slum can become more involved in parenting in early years.

Research Questions

- What is the current role of fathers in child rearing practices in early years?
- Which is the way fathers can become more involved in parenting in early years?

1.6 Significance of the Study

Since the 1960s, suburbanization has increased at an annual rate of 6%. Families incline to be smaller in cities and the nuclear family group is becoming more common. Now it has been noticed that traditional parenting roles has been changing as well, often including more involvement of fathers even in direct care of children. However, there has been less researches on the country's changing demography, social and environmental contexts with respect to the implications for father's abilities to fulfill their roles. These circumstances offer a rich opportunity for research to understand fatherhood and fathering in Bangladesh and to anticipate how fatherhood is likely to change, given the highly gendered roles of mothers and fathers, the Islamic and Bengali values underlying those roles, and the resistance of various forms of joint, extended, and village-level family groupings (Jessica Ball and Muhammad Obaidullah Khan Wahedi, 2012). Due to demographic change and rapid urbanization there has been a change in family dynamics which requires fathers to create more scope in rearing their children in their early lives. However, there is a need to further explore the opportunities for father to become more involved in the early lives of their children.

Chapter II

2.1 Literature Review

The concept of child care has always been perceived as of mother's duty. However, studies have shown that when fathers are involved in caring for their children, the children develop better social and emotional skills and do better at school.

According to Dr Louis Weiss (2017), of the Alliance for Early Childhood

“A generation or so ago, the role of fathers was more narrowly defined.”

Fagan and Palm (2004) illustrates in an interview with a father,

“Fathers should be as involved with everything as mothers” (as cited in Dolores J. Appl et al., 2008)

An important developmental stage during infancy is building resilience and moving away from reliance on the primary caregiver as the sole buffer against external environmental stress. Studies suggest that secure infant father attachment and paternal play are related to cognitive and social development encouraging active, autonomous, curious and safe exploratory attitudes and behavior, rather than avoidance of new social situations (as cited in Paquette et al., 2003)

Although there is a link between parenting and children's development, fathers' influence has not been studied to the extent of mothers' influence (Brooks-Gunn et al. 2000; Fitzgerald and Montanez 2001). Yet, researchers are showing increased interest in investigating fathers. For instance, fathers from an Early Head Start study conducted by Fitzgerald and Montanez (2001) were found to be very involved in their children's lives, including active play, language interactions, routine caregiving, and participation in social and community

engagements. Similar to the father interviewed by Fagan and Palm, these men stated that fathers should be equally involved with mothers in childrearing. Furthermore, they emphasized the rewarding nature of fatherhood. Additional evidence of the positive role that fathers play in children's development has been presented in two different literature reviews. Rump (2002) reported that, when fathers are involved, children tend to "exhibit less violent behavior, have better impulse control, are more socially adept, and may demonstrate higher than average IQ".

Fathers with wives who are not committed to full time work force, appeared to be more sensitive to their infants when they were highly involved in child care (Grych & Clark 1999). Father-child relationship in dual earner families becomes more positive beyond infancy. Also it appears that, fathers have closer relationship with the children of dual learner families (as cited in Charlie Lewis and Michael E. Lamb 2003). Men are less available to, interact less, and care for their children less, and thus the apparent maternal advantage seems to reflect this different parental roles (Charlie Lewis and Michael E. Lamb 2003).

Mothers, who have become full-time financial providers, the father's role has been altered. Many people argue this change gives fathers the opportunity to be more involved in rearing their children. However, studies have shown that while fathers have increased their childcare involvement, fathers spend significantly less time than mothers caring for children, even when their wives work full-time (as cited in Rex E. Culp et al., 2000).

The relationship between the mother and non-residential biological father is positively and significantly associated with the child's report of his or her mother's and father's involvement. Improving the relationship between the two parents may be a promising

strategy to maintain or increase parental involvement in the lives of children after the dissolution of their parents' relationship. Interventions focusing not only on children but also on the parental relationship (Sandra L. Hofferth et al., 2009). Research also shows that mothers in families in which father involvement is high may have a more positive outlook regarding their child's behaviour than do mothers in families in which father involvement is low (Dr. Rex E. Culp, et al., 2000).

In Bangladesh men are the key decision maker and they also play the key role in social and economic issues related to family matters. A secondary analysis of a sub-sample of fathers in an early childhood development study by Haider (2003) on their knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP study, 2001) indicated that, 44% of urban fathers are unaware of the need for mental care as measures for child development. Only 14% of the fathers knew how to provide interactive care to stimulate the child and only 18% identified playing or walking with the child as activities in which they could participate and contribute to the mental development of their child. That study also illustrated that, in Bangladesh, fathers on average, spend less than one hour a day with their children and they believe that the influence of their roles amounts to only 5% of all the influences that shape a child's learning (Haider (2003). An exploratory set of interviews by Golam (ARNEC, 2009) shows the beginning of an interest in fatherhood in Bangladesh. How fathers perceive their roles in child rearing, caring activities, and the barriers to increased involvement are yet to be explored in Bangladesh. There is virtually no research-based literature on fathers of young children in Bangladesh and also there is a lack of information about how increased involvement of mothers, the primary caregivers of children, in outside jobs for income generation influence parenting practices, particularly in urban societies (as cited in Shantimoy Chakma, 2010).

The father usually spend about three hours per day involved in child rearing and participate in activities which include buying toys ,books and food items, taking them for a walk, to the park, zoo or market place , reading to them, playing, looking after them and maintaining hygiene standards. Also they rarely participated in the hands-on daily caring activities such as bathing and feeding of the children (Shantimoy Chakma , 2010).

Chapter III

Methodology

3.1 Study Design: In this study researcher use qualitative method. The primary purpose to choose Qualitative Research approach is to gather in-depth understanding of both fathers and mothers about fathers' involvement in child rearing practices in early years.

3.2 Participants and participant selection – 6 fathers and 6 working mothers (I assume that most the mothers of urban slum are working mothers) will be selected purposively from Korail slum of Dhaka city.

3.3 Data collection tools- In this study 3 FGD guidelines (one with 6 fathers, one with 6 mothers and another will be mother and father mixed group of 6) to be done to collect data and 4 In Depth Interview (IDI) with 2 mothers and 2 fathers will be done.

3.4 Data Collection Procedure–Data will be collected thorough FGD and in-depth-interviews with fathers and mothers. Socio economic background information will be collected from both fathers and mothers through FGD s' and in depth interview both. All the participants will be selected purposively. Meanwhile, surrounding environments will also be observed to gain understanding about the situation and aspects. Tape recorder will be used to record data. Field note and journal will also use as document for data.

3.5 Data Analysis Plan - Data will be managed and analyzed through content analysis method. It is one of the popularly used techniques to analyze data. By following those simple steps content analysis will be done -

- Transcribing and organizing data–After collecting data its need to transcribe and categorize it through its method.

- Review the data – Then its needed to read the data several times and also highlight data that corresponds directly with the research
- Identifying Theme and Sub-theme – After reviewing the data the next step will be find out the different themes and issues which can be emerging from the data.
- Interpreting data - Then data will be summarized. Data from Interview and observation will be summarized separately at first. Summery from Journal and field notes will be also done. Memos from field notes will also be organized.
- Disseminating finding – In the next and final steps, information will be triangulated from data derived from both fathers and mothers. The scopes of fatherhood, knowledge and practice will be observed and analyzed as theme.

3.6 Ethics

This study will conduct following the guideline of BRAC University. At first research participants will informed about why, how when and where the Focus Group Discussion and in-depth interview will be conducted. Participants were also informed on who will conduct the interview and what will be discussed there. Oral consent and sings in consent from will be taken for voluntary involvement of the both fathers and mothers will obtain. Also, researcher will ensure them about the confidentiality of information. No one’s name, address will not be used publically or in any publication will be mentioned. Researcher also informed that there will be no mental harm involved in this study and they can withdraw themselves from participation at any point of the research.

3.7 Validity & Reliability

To face the validity all the tools was checked with the help of expert opinion. After preparing the focus group discussion and in-depth interview questionnaire both in English and in Bangla, opinion from experts were sought for checking the face validity of the tools and guidelines. Then the feedback was incorporated in the questionnaire. The reliability was ensured by pilot testing of a focus group discussion with the six fathers from Korail slum.

3.8 Limitations

- Only one category of participants from particular socio-economic background is studied. So the findings cannot be generalized.
- The sample size is small.
- Most of the participants were busy in day time so it was difficult to get them involved.
- Data collection period was short

Chapter IV

4 Findings & Discussion

This study presents findings that emerged from data collection and analysis of fathers and mothers' in-depth interviews (IDIs) and 3 Focus Group Discussion (FGDs). The findings found out fathers' and mother's perception about early child development and fathers' role in child rearing practices in early years. The findings are divided into several dominant themes which are discussed in this section.

4.1 Demographic Information

In this study all the participants are live in Korail slum of Dhaka city. All of those are selected purposively through Jago Foundation and BEP School of Korail. Those participants socio-economic level is lower class and the education level of 8 out of 9 fathers are not above then then H. S.C. and 2 of them are not educated. Only one father has completed his M.S. In the same way all of the mother's education level not more than H.S.C. Between fathers 2 fathers is doing contractor, 2 is service holder, 3 is running their own business, and another 2 is driver. Most of the mothers (5 out of 9) are house wife, 2 is garments worker, 1 is health worker and another one is doing work in people's home. Their salary level is not more than 10,00 - 20,000 taka.

Table: 01

Participant	Participant -Age	Participant - Education	Participant – Job Status
Participant -1 Father	28	H.S.C.	Night Guard
Participant -2 Father	30	Class -5	Contractor
Participant -3 Father	26	M.S.	Company Job
Participant -4 Father	32	0	Rickshaw Puller
Participant -5 Father	40	0	Auto Driver
Participant -6 Father	42	Class -3	Hotel Business

Participant	Participant -Age	Participant - Education	Participant – Job Status
Participant -7 Father	45	Class -7	Grocery storekeeper
Participant -8 Father	35	Class -8	Hotel Business
Participant -9 Father	29	S.S.C.	Contractor
Participant -10 Mother	29	H.S.C.	BRAC Health Worker
Participant -11 Mother	20	Class -8	Garments Worker
Participant -12 Mother	27	Class -5	House Wife
Participant -13 Mother	33	H.S.C.	Garments Worker
Participant -14 Mother	31	Class -8	House Wife
Participant -15 Mother	25	Class -2	House Wife
Participant -16 Mother	25	S.S.C.	House Wife
Participant -17 Mother	23	Class -5	Maid
Participant -18 Mother	27	Class -3	House Wife

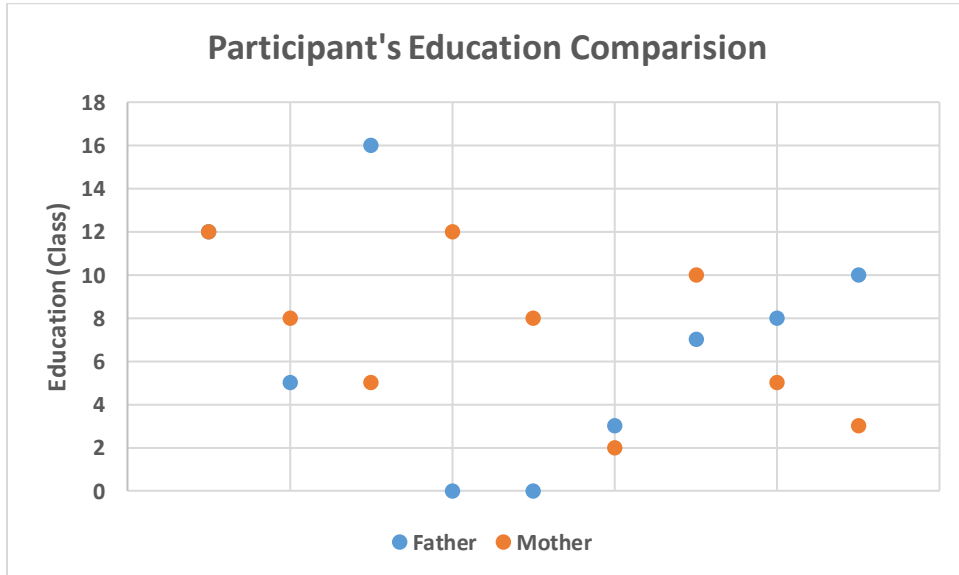


Figure: 01

Fathers' and Mothers' job status:

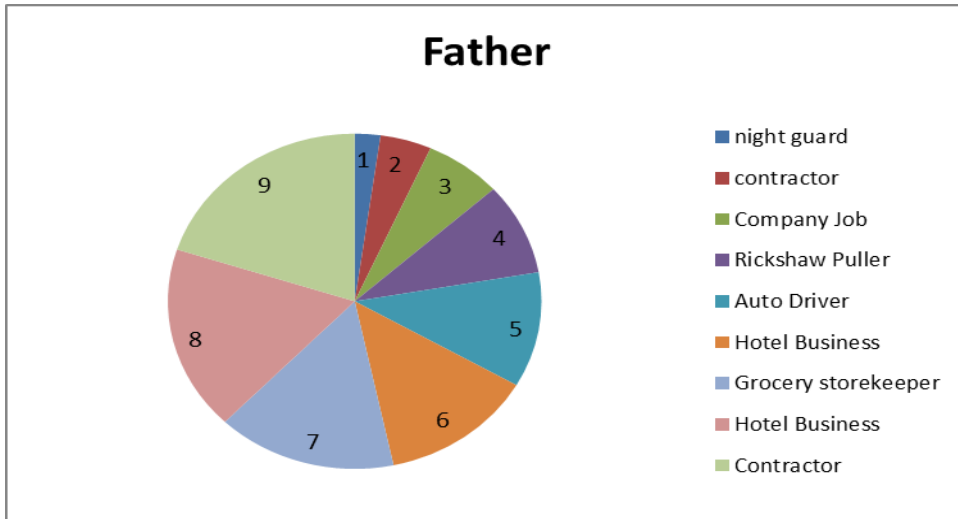


Figure: 02

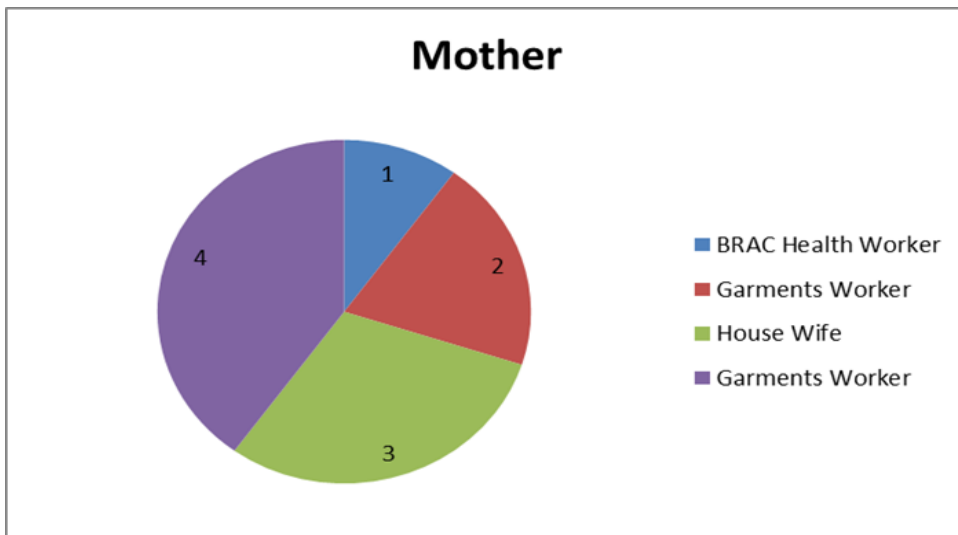


Figure: 03

4.2 Findings

This study presents a summary of the themes that emerged from the analysis of community participants including fathers and mothers in-depth interviews (IDIs) and focus group discussion (FGDs). It derives from four IDIs and three FGDs conducted by the researcher.

The findings found father’s and mother’s concept about early child development and fathers’ role. The findings are divided into several dominant themes which are discussed in this section

4.2.1 Theme 1: Concept about child development

In the FGD with the fathers it has been found out that one father explained child development from a child's caring and rearing point of view. He mentioned about taking care of his child is child development e.g. helping his child in study, feeding, keeping him neat and clean are the key to child development. He emphasized on how we teach our children e.g. how we teach them to talk, teach them about what is good and what is bad. In the long run the thing that he learnt from the family will mold his behavior.

Positive role that fathers play in children's development has been presented in two different literature reviews. Rump (2002) reported that, when fathers are involved, children tend to "exhibit less violent behavior, have better impulse control, are more socially adept, and may demonstrate higher than average IQ".

Under this similar theme some fathers (3 out of 9) mentioned that when a child is young if child development occurs then one can manage one's own life and they can get along with people easily.

Most of the fathers (4 out of 9) think about child development is the way a child grows, the way they gradually grow bigger and when they start talking and calling out the names of fathers, mothers and even grandparents are actually the examples of child development.

They clearly mentioned that in growing process e.g. a child first tries to crawl, then he/she tries to stand up, step forward one by one, give smiles when parents do some funny things or speak with him/her nicely are actually child development. A father's note on this is

"It seems, in the growing up process a child used his /her both hands and feet to moved forward, wants to walk, tries to catch something." We speak in Bangla as our

mother tongue and children also learn to speak in this language. We address others as their respective ways and they captured all those in their brain and become proficient in that language. This way their development occurs. (Fathers)

Some fathers (4 out of 9) also told that child development is, when a child come to the world, sees the world, started crawling, try to catch some things or able to catch, try to stand up or step forward .They believe that when a child born she or he become inconsolable. Day by day they grow up, get familiar with his or her surroundings. Their physical appearance has been changed.

Couple of fathers (2 out of 9) relate child development with brain development and they also give emphasis on nutrition for brain development. They believe that if they speak with their children in a nice way their brain will be developed. But if parents speak roughly or scold their children then their brain development gets restricted.

Parents should be talk with children with smiley face. If there are elder siblings they also speak with children in a soft and playful voice. If we talk with them bearish way then it can be hampered their brain development. (Fathers)

An important developmental stage during infancy is building resilience and moving away from reliance on the primary caregiver as the sole buffer against external environmental stress. Studies suggest that secure infant father attachment and paternal play are related to cognitive and social development encouraging active, autonomous, curious and safe exploratory attitudes and behavior, rather than avoidance of new social situations (as cited in Paquette et al., 2003)

Some mothers (3 out of 9) told, child development is when a mother conceive and that baby is increased in her womb. Gradually physical changes are happened. After baby's birth they

cannot do anything so we have to take care of them. When a baby is born the sign of his/her good health is crying, urinate. Also we have to make sure that before 6 month not a single drop of water or honey or other things are feed. Only breast milk should give.

If child doesn't cry how can I become sure that child is ok? It's natural that child will be cry, passing stools. Day by day child will be growing up. Till then only breast milk should be given. (Mothers)

Most of the mothers (6 out of 9) agreed in this point at the question – what is child development is to grow up, getting physical changes , like – can able to sit, try to give step forward to walk, imitate what others do. Also the development is to address surrounding people as their respective ways, learning manners and behave that way. They think children learn most of the things from their surroundings, basically from family. What they see, listen or experience its set on their brain and they act that way in letter life.

The main development of the children is to recognize his /her family. After that when six months are completed children can hear what we talk or do. Then she/he learns to walk, can call father, mother, grand-father, grand-mother and how to behave with them. (Mothers)

We are leave in densely populated area which is not much good for children. So well behaviour, proper communication, giving respect to elders, way to choose companion –all these are taught by parents and children's development are starts from here. (Mothers)

Intellectual development also mentioned by some mothers (2 out of 9). They said that after six months of age children can learn to eat and choose to eat. They can tests different foods

and select which one s/he going to eat or not. Also children starts to follow what parents do, like wearing sandal at outside, wearing 'genji' like father etc.

One mother of IDI also mentioned about brain development and physical development. She explained how a child achieves his/ her development step by step. Like –first a child begins to recognize his / her family members , then at 6 months age s/he starts to move his /her hands and feet, learns to laugh ,cries, speaks to others, try to crawl forward. After that they develop taste bud, pick something with two figures, and can wear shoes, dresses.

Through intellectual development children watch us and do the same way. They test food that way as we do, take it in his or mouth and decide should she/ he going to eat this or not. Also apprehend that we wear shoes and then he/she wants to wear that too or sees me to wear a genji then demands for that. (Mothers)

They also mentioned that after 2 years children can have that ability to get understand what is right or what is wrong. Also children learn discipline when they started to go to school at age five. In this time they became habitual to get up early in the morning for school and have eagerness to study.

One of the fathers in mix group FGD said that, child development is children's physical and cognitive development. If a child is physically and mentally healthy then we can say that that particular child's development is on track and that child will have a good future. He also said that children can act as per the situation and capture all kinds of knowledge from the external environment. He says some incident about his girl child, like -

Few days ago I took my daughter at shop. There one of her neighbor grand-father smokes and she noticed. After a while she told to him, 'Grandpa, you're trying to kill people. 'I don't get that why she says like that. Then she go to him and said 'Grandpa, you are smoking but I'm here too'. So this is development. She can understand about the difference between right and wrong. (Father)

One mother stated that development is able to learn something quickly and can apply it when needed. She explains that today's generations are quick learner. Children can catch something very quickly because their IQ is much more active than older generations.

Today's children memory is too much sharp. They can catch something quickly though that is wrong or right. We don't have enough knowledge about mobile or computer but look, they can easily use those. (Mother)

4.2.2 Theme 2: Father's role in child development

Mothers, who have become full-time financial providers, the father's role have been altered. Many people argue this change gives fathers the opportunity to be more involved in rearing their children. However, studies have shown that while fathers have increased their childcare involvement, fathers spend significantly less time than mothers caring for children, even when their wives work full-time (as cited in Rex E. Culp et al., 2000).

On the other hand one mother says that her husband doesn't care about all these responsibilities. He never takes care of his children, never go to the parents meeting, and does not take any care if his children take food or not.

Some fathers (4 out of 9) and mothers (3 out of 9) both say that fathers teach children how to speak, how to call out someone in proper way, they also teach name of vegetables or fruits when they take their children to market or also teach names of things in their surroundings.

Again, it has been observed that if the parents call their child slowly as mom/ dad (ammu/abbu), child will also learn to call gradually. This will be normal action.

(Fathers)

Sometimes I bring jackfruit or eggplant from market. My child eagerly watches all these and asked me what is it and then I told him, 'it's jackfruit or eggplant.' (Fathers)

All of the fathers (9 out of 9) said that they have a crucial role to play in the cognitive, social, and emotional development of their children. An involved father is one who is engaged, available, and responsible. When children's fathers are involved they are much more socially and emotionally developed.

My child communicates with me and others even if I do not respond; I understand that he is getting hurt. He can express love, anger and sadness and it has happened due to my involvement with him from the earlier (Father).

Most of the fathers (7 out of 9) said that it is now established that fathers play an essential role in upbringing their children. He also mentioned that fathers can take care of their children and they are as good as mothers. If a father can participate in child rearing and build a good relationship with his child then that has a continuous impact on a child's cognitive, social and emotional development.

Father-child play is important for children because it is physical and highly stimulating, which allows the child to experience the activation and regulation of arousal. It also helps children understand and test boundaries in a safe environment, which helps them in countless ways as they figure out the world (Father)

Some of the fathers said children whose fathers are active participants in their lives do better across the spectrum of learning competence—interaction, norms, values etc.

Some of the fathers said that helping children master new challenges also encourages them to take responsibility for their own actions. And the sense of control they gain helps them feel in control of their own successes and failures rather than attributing them to other people, events, or circumstances.

The more time fathers spend with their children, the better they understand their cues. And the better they understand the cues, the stronger an attachment they create. When fathers are engaged in taking care of their infants, the positive results are clear. Children become more securely attached to their fathers, are more resilient and curious, and they are more confident to branch out and explore (Father).

Some of the fathers said that when young children play with their fathers, they are figuring out the world and beginning to understand how to relate to others. They learn about limits and boundaries, while also developing problem-solving skills. Not only that, but play also allows toddlers to experience a range of emotions, such as happiness, frustration, and excitement. It gives them the opportunity to practice feeling and regulating these emotions in the context of a safe, trusted, and attached relationship. These skills developed in toddlerhood carry through to later life.

Children with involved fathers say they're happier and less anxious. They have better relationships with their siblings and peers. Their relationships are less negative, more generous, and fraught with less conflict (Father).

In children, feeling close to a father and frequently doing things with him can cut risk of antisocial behavior, hyperactivity, and behavior problems (Father).

4.2.3 Theme 3: Current practices of father

Most of the fathers in this study (5 out of 9) stated that they play main caregiver's role for their children. They clean their children's poo, feed them, and make them sleep, cook for them sometimes and also take care of their children when their wives are not at home or at office.

At the very first parents raise up their children, mom and dad give his/her kisses, clean their toilets. (Fathers)

Almost all the fathers (7 out of 9) commented that they used to spend time with their children by taking them outside or play in the afternoon, help them to explore different places, take them to market and buy them titbit "moja", sometimes drop and pick them up from schools. Fathers do all this not as their responsibility but they like to do this also. They think this will make their bond stronger and this way they can understand their child very well and keep them away from bad company.

There is a lot of difference between going around with a father and walking with a friend. When I am at home I tell my child to go for a walk and he or she agrees. If they want to play, then play and I join. It is important to play. When a child gets his father he demands to plays. Play with friends and play with dad but there is a lot of

difference. It increases interest in the child. When I take them around, the interest in sports will increase (Father).

The father usually spend about three hours per day involved in child rearing and participate in activities which include buying toys ,books and food items, taking them for a walk, to the park, zoo or market place , reading to them, playing, looking after them and maintaining hygiene standards. Also they rarely participated in the hands-on daily caring activities such as bathing and feeding of the children (Shantimoy Chakma , 2010).

Regarding the importance of playing the role of good and responsible father almost all of the fathers (7 out of 9) are admitted that they give priorities to their children and families. If there are any emergencies come they can manage their work and faces the sudden situations. In between some fathers who are working at home and have dual earner families they said that they never leave their child alone behind while their wives are not around their children.

You know, I run my family by driving. One day I got a phone call where I informed my younger daughter having high fever. I came to rush at house, took her to the doctor. Doctor checks her, give medicine. I am watering on her head. Give her medicine as per doctor instructed. I was sitting next to her for two hours, leaving work, checked her temperature continuously. Children are come first than work. Then after she was healed, I went to work. (Father)

Fathers with wives who are not committed to full time work force, appeared to be more sensitive to their infants when they were highly involved in child care (Grych & Clark 1999). Father-child relationship in dual earner families becomes more positive beyond infancy. Also it appears that,

fathers have closer relationship with the children of dual learner families (as cited in Charlie Lewis and Michael E. Lamb 2003). (LR)

Most of the fathers (5 out of 9) said that it's their common practice to inquire their children's everyday school work and home work, progress of the study, what they learnt from teacher, how the teachers approach with them. Fathers' are also sit with their child and help them to prepare homework and next classes lessons.

After coming home I asked my child – 'did you go to school, what was taught today, do you show your homework to your mother or brother or sister. Let me see what you have done.' If he able to complete it properly then I say ok to him. (Father)

Today's parents work together hand in hand. Fathers are found more cooperative with mothers and household chores in the FGD. Fathers and mothers both accepted this fact. Most of the fathers (8 out of 9) mentioned that they do household chores, like – buying vegetables from market, cutting fishes, cooking for the family, taking care of their children, bathing them, feeding them and helping the children to fall asleep. Sometimes fathers allow their wives to take rest after she come from work.

Sometimes after coming home if she says – 'I'm not feeling well today' then think I'm the cook for that day. I bring vegetables, fish from market, cut and wash those and made meal for all. Sometimes children's mother asks our children, do they take any food or not then they said, 'yes, we do. Father gives us food, buy 'moja' for us also gives us cold drinks.' (Father)

According to mothers (5 out of 9), now a days fathers are also playing an important role in their everyday life hood, like – at house hold chores, taking care of children, giving support at pregnancy time and after pregnancy.

My husband does all sorts of household chores, like- washing dishes, cooking. If my child become sick then his father take care of him and he prefers to keep his son by himself. (Mother)

Though I'm pregnant, he was washing my clothes that day too. He also make me bath. He cooks for me before going to office and feed me too. Also he used to make some other foods for me if I feel hungry. Even he drops and picks our first born from school. From marriage to now I never wash my cloths, he does. Also he washes our child's cloths too. This is not funny thing; actually he tries to help me. (Mothers)

Also most of the fathers share that they try to give quality time to their children at holidays and free times. When fathers are asked about the reason of this most of them replied that to them it's the responsibility of parents. By this children mind will be refresh and development of brain will be increased. They also believe that if they give time to their child as a result, children learn sociality.

Every Friday I used to take my both child to walk on a big lake side. There is lots of Lily bloom which I used to show them and they become happy. (Father)

When father stays at home my child likes to stay with her dad. Her father feed her sometimes because she is very young now and it would be helpful for me also. Then sometimes they go outside to move or play together at home. Also her father sits with her at her study time. It seems it takes half an hour for a dad to teach but for mom, takes an hour to read. . (Father)

Both fathers and mothers are admit that there will be some problems if fathers don't participate in child rearing or don't get involve with child from very little. To them this will

make a child chaotic, hampers his/ her overall development, lead them to intoxication and drugs. But if fathers give time to their child then they will not.

Sometimes it seems that father left his child because of rearing- caring. In that case that child doesn't get attachment from a father. He/ she never get chance to admit a school and don't get any love, can't have food properly. In that case that child gets involved in bad things. (Mother)

4.2.4 Theme 4: How Fathers' can be more involve

Most of the fathers (7 out of 9) mentioned that if they get more time they can be involved themselves in their children's study. Through this their children can get more time from them, their bonding will be stronger. Also they can keep far their children from bad company and make their future good.

The way a child wants to grow up has to allow him or her. Father has to train his child with intelligence and patient and teach his /her properly. In this case father's interest should be more. Whether the child is a boy or a girl, the interest of the father must be greater. Fathers' need to find out the best ways for his children and have to lead them that way. This way children will stays good always. (Fathers)

Most of the mothers say (7 out of 9) that if father give more time to teach or in school work of their children it will be helpful. Side by side if fathers teach their children social manners and norms that will be helpful to build their character. Children can be more social and successful in their life.

Fathers' involvement is very important. Generally, I do more of the explicit nurturing, while tend to be more involved in play, particularly physical play. Besides, I do much

more hands-on caregiving — getting up at night, taking children to the doctor, taking them to school etc. (Mothers)

Fathers' plays an important role in a child's life and through this FGD researcher finds this too. Now fathers are aware that not only mother fathers are also need to cooperate to nurture a child properly and they should give them quality time. Some fathers (4 out of 9) say that they can be more involved in parenting by taking their boy child at mosque at Fridays and teach him religious and social norms. Also they can be involved themselves by teaching their child about personal hygiene, how to grooming themselves ,like- cutting hair, nails, shaves properly and aware them about the physical changes according to ages.

We are their parents and parents are the first teacher. If we don't teach our children how to make themselves clean, how to move and behave and wear clothes etc.

(Father)

Most of the parents express their concern about children's companions, friends or with whom they are hang out. Though they are live in an informal settlement of urban area of Dhaka city so it's their big concern whether their children are on the right track or not.

I always keep an eye on my child, does he get attached by those child who are habitual to smoke or taking drugs or with whom he /she playing around.

4.3 Discussion

The primary purpose of the study is to find the current role of urban father in child rearing practices in early years. The study also tried to explore how a father could be more involved in child rearing practices in early years of a child's life.

4.3.1 Concept about child development

To explore the current practices of fathers in child rearing in early years the study first tried to explore whether fathers understand the concept of child development. In IDI and FGD with fathers it has been found out that some could relate child rearing practices (feeding a child, keeping a child neat and clean etc.) with child development and 60% of fathers related child development with what a child could do in respect to his or her age. Fathers also relate child development with the changes that occur in a child, e.g. - physical structure (from a small child they grow bigger), and different motor developments that developed over time – picking something, hold something, try to stand up, crawling, try to step forward etc. Some of them also mentioned about brain development. They believe that to rear up a child with healthy brain development they should behave with their child in a nice way, talk to them politely and don't roebuck them. And for these healthy development proper nutrition is important. Researcher found through the FGD with father that from very first parents should be aware about children's nutrition.

All mothers could relate child development from womb and how gradually a child grows after s/he is born. When mothers are asked about child development almost all of them could relate child development with what a child can do according to his or her age. They

emphasized on behaving nicely, talk to them politely are actually helpful for brain development of a child. Nutrition is also important for health development of a child. Some mothers relate child development with cognitive development.

After knowing about parents' knowledge on child development the study tried to relate father's role in child development and tried to get answer from both mothers and fathers.

4.3.2 Father's role in child development

All the way through the history every society and in every culture men's family roles are shaped by social, economic and cultural pressure which present a unique image of father in front of us. In the context of Bangladeshi socio-economic perspective, fathers are the head of the family. They meant to be fulfill all the responsibility and earn money but not taking care children.

All the fathers who were the participants in the study felt that the role of father is very important and who cannot give time to their children felt that they should give more time and they also mentioned the ways they can be more involved in taking care of their children for instance they can play with their children, taking care of their studies and discuss about religious and social norms with their children. Studies of the effects of father involvement suggest that involved, nurturing fathers are positively associated with the social competence, locus of control, intellectual and empathetic abilities of their children (Amato, 1994; Gottfried, Gottfried, & Bathurst, 1988). The limited research that has attentive in particular on children's self-competence indicates that vicinity with the father is an important factor in fostering self-confidence, while paternal deprivation has been associated with feelings of personal rickety and poor self-concept (Biller, 1993). (as cited in Rex E. Culp et al., 2000).

Children learn from his/her home first. So it's their opinion that, family members need to act that way what they want to teach their child. This means directly or indirectly parents are transferring these attitudes and behaviors to their children. Positive parenting, especially positive fatherhood influences children socio-emotional development. In the research paper of **“The Relationship Between Father Involvement and Child Problem Behavior in Infant Families: A 7 year Cross-Legged Study”** said that those children whose father stays home with them have less emotional and behavior problems than non-residential fathers.

Fathers have an ultimate part to play in the cognitive, social, and emotional development of their children. An in-laid father is engaged, available, and responsible. When their fathers are attached, children are much more socially and emotionally developed.

4.3.3 Current practices of father

In this study all the participants are live in a slum and most of the fathers do that kind of jobs which can barely fulfil daily live hood. The study also found out that the busy fathers can give time to their children during weekends or after their office hours whereas in the families where both parents are working there has been a balance in child rearing practices there. Both fathers and mothers admitted that, they do take care of their children equally. In some cases some fathers demanded that they plays the main care giver role for their children. Because some mothers are doing work at outside so in that case fathers stays home and take care the child. Also some fathers are doing job from home like- shopkeeper, running hotel, and contractor. So they stays at home or do their works near at the home from where they can take care their children easily. These findings are the same with “A closer look indicates that fathers’ childcare participation vary by type of involvement. For example, Lamb, Pleck, Charnov, and Levine (1987) reported that fathers in dual-career families spend more time in

direct interaction and being accessible than do fathers from single-career families. (as cited in Rex E. Culp et al., 2000).

On the other hand those mothers who work all day long and fathers do business or contractual jobs they willingly finished all the house hold chores, make sure that their child taking foods properly, finished all the daily works properly, sleep well. Though the role of father and mother is quite different but fathers tries to give hand to reduce the pressure which is very approvable. This is very positive side that fathers are capable and have the quality to child rear.

Both in dual and single earner family in this study fathers spent their time with their children. Playing with the children, telling stories, having fun with them or help them to do his/her study is the common scenario now. Even in the holidays they take their children to visit different places, like - sisupark, zoo, at the river bank, hatirjhil or relative house. Fathers with wives who are not committed to full time work force, appeared to be more sensitive to their infants when they were highly involved in child care (Grych & Clark 1999). Father-child relationship in dual earner families becomes more positive beyond infancy. Also it appears that, fathers have closer relationship with the children of dual learner families (as cited in Charlie Lewis and Michael E. Lamb 2003). (LR)

Researcher also found that, fathers are being helpful in the house hold chores with mothers or without mothers. They also give their wives support and take care of them when they are carrying baby in their womb. One mother says that, *‘Though I’m pregnant, he was washing my clothes that day too. He also make me bath. He cooks for me before going to office and feed me too. Also he used to make some other foods for me if I feel hungry. Even he drops and picks our first born from school. From marriage to now I never wash my cloths, he does. Also he wash our child’s cloths too. This is not funny thing, actually he tries to help me.’*

Fathers have an important role to teach his children social norms and behaviors. Most of the participant says that fathers take their boy child at mosque on Friday, teach their child how to behave with others people, what is the difference right or wrong, and help them to choose right companions.

In this study all the participants live in one of the slums of Dhaka city and the kind of job most of the fathers which can barely requite full day jobs so they can give time to their children. The study also found out that the busy fathers can give time to their children during weekends or after their office hours whereas in the families where both parents are working there has been a balance in child rearing practices there. Both fathers and mothers mentioned that, they take care of their children equally. In some cases some fathers demanded that they play the main care giver's role for their children as their wives work and fathers stay more than mothers at home. Also some fathers are doing job from home like- shopkeeper, running hotel, and as contractor. So they stays at home for longer hours and take care of their children easily. Lamb, Pleck, Charnov, and Levine (1987) reported that fathers in dual-career families spend more time in direct interaction and being accessible than do fathers from single-career families (as cited in Rex E. Culp et al., 2000).

4.3.4 How Fathers' can be more involve

Through the interview researcher found that, the slum fathers are aware that if they do not guide their children properly then their child will be misled.

According to the both father and mother groups they mention that father should give quality time to their children. This will help children to keep trust on their father and make their bond stronger.

Most of the fathers in this study is found as a caring, responsible, having social and moral values, approachability and have prioritized quality as a perfect father. It is told that, “thirty years ago, fathers were described as ‘forgotten contributor of child development’ . (Lamb.1975)” (as cited in Charlie Lewis and Michael E. Lamb 2003) . But now the scenario has been changed a lot. Now fathers are more involved and aware about their roles as a “Father”.

Spending time with family and children is very common role for today’s father. Fathers love to spent their free time or holidays with their children. According to the participants in these days fathers passes time by gossiping, playing or doing naughty, take the children outside of the hose to help him/her explore the world, go to market place together for buying vegetables, teach children personal hygiene, religious norms, socialization and so on.

4.4 Conclusion

Early childhood spans is from birth to age 8 years. This is a time of critical change and development of a child who attains the physical and mental skills. Neurological research shows that the early years play a key role in children’s brain development. Children’s early experiences – the bonds they form with their parents especially with father and their first learning experiences – deeply affect their future physical, cognitive, emotional and social development. In this research it is found that now slum fathers are also conscious about their child and try their best to rear him/her with all necessities. And to be his/her friend who protects them and assure them that he will stay with them always.

4.5 Recommendations

From the study it has been observed that fathers are either very much involved or not much involved but both the cases they understand the importance of involvement of fathers in child rearing. Mothers also shared in IDI/FGD that fathers of these days are more aware and involved in taking care of their children.

The initiatives that are addressing to involve fathers need to be strengthened with more evidence based support and if these can be disseminated properly then fathers' involvement in taking care of their children can be increased. Children can be grown up in a more stable and balanced environment which will eventually help a child to become a complete person in his later life and they will be carrying this from generation after generation and the nation will be getting complete person. Here some recommendation by which fathers' involvement and fathers' importance in a child's life can be increases.

More researches need to be carried out on current practices of fathers and how they can be more involved which can support their roles and find out best ways to reach fathers.

Fund and resources to be allotted for ECCD program by the Government, NGOs and INGOs.

Acknowledging fathers current role and set examples through evidence based initiatives and disseminate those in large forum

Fathers should be involved in the development of ECCD curriculum, materials and training program of government and NGOs to become equipped with ECCD knowledge.

More advocacy needs to be done and engage fathers as advocate for their involvement

A large scale of study should be held especially for urban slum fathers to come up with the right picture of their child rearing practices and how much they involve in their parenting role.

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Annex -A

Questionnaire for IDI

- 1) What do you mean by child development?
- 2) Father plays an important role in child development – what do you think about this?
- 3) How long are you staying out of the house?
- 4) How much time you can give your child while you stays at home? What do you do with your child at that time?
- 5) Do you think that father plays any important role to raise a child perfectly and make them educated properly does father plays important role?
- 6) How is your relationship with your children?
- 7) Do you spend time with your children? If yes, then how? And if no, then don't you think you should spend more time with children?
- 8) Do you help your family member in household chores?
- 9) How many members are there in your family? Do they know the importance of father's role in child development?
- 10) If there is any emergency situation in your house where your child is staying, can you then manage time to meet the emergency?
- 11) Do you spent free time or holidays with your child? What do you do with them?

- 12) Do you help child's mother in raising the children? /Does child's father help you to raise up children?
- 13) If there arises any problem to raise up your children as father do you think this affects child development?
- 14) We all want to become a successful /ideal father, but due to some difficulties or obstacles ,we could not/cannot play that role to the fullest, so in this case ,did you /do you face any such obstacles? If you do ,then what do you think are the reasons?(probe about social reasons, personal reasons, financial, gender related or family related reasons – the child's mother or your wife doesn't let you do it for example.)
- 15) How do you think you can participate more in raising a child?
- 16) If you participate more in child rearing practice then what could be the benefits?

Annex – B

Questionnaire for FGD

1. What do you mean by child development?
2. Father plays an important role in child development – what do you think about this?
3. How much time can you give your child while you stay at home? What do you do with your child at that time?
4. Do you spend time with your child? If yes, then how? And if no, then don't you think you should spend more time with children?
5. If there is any emergency in your house where of your child is staying can you manage any time to meet the emergency?
6. Do you help child's mother in raising children? /Does child's father help you to raise children?
7. Do you spend free time or holidays with your child? What do you do with them?
8. How do you think you can participate more in raising a child?
9. If you participate more in child rearing practice then what could be the benefits to the children?

Annex - C

Voluntary Consent Form

BRAC IED

Title of the Research Protocol: Current Role of Urban Fathers in Child Rearing Practices In Early Years

Principal Investigator: Bipasha Laboni

A research initiative in your area has been taken as part of Master's course BRAC, IED. The title of this research is – “Current Role of Urban Fathers in Child Rearing Practices in Early Years”. The aim of this research is to know the father's current role towards their children and how they participate in this. Before recruiting into the study, the study subject must be informed about the objectives, procedures, potential benefits and risks involved in the study. Children will be benefited through this study. Details of all procedures must provide including their risks, utility, duration, frequencies, privacy, anonymity and confidential. All question of the subject must be answered with consummation which indicates his/her pure voluntary participation. The participants must be sign or give thumb printing on this form as the indication of his/her acceptance.

Introduction

Fathers play a surprisingly large role in their children's development. In Bangladeshi context the role of father involvement particularly in early years of child life is very crucial. Now a

day it is observed that traditional parenting roles are changing and father involve in direct child care which is significantly associated with children's mental, physical, social and cognitive development.

Purpose of the research

I am from BRAC IED, department of ECD (Early Childhood Development) from BRAC University. I am conducting a research to know the current role of urban fathers in child rearing practices in early years.

Why selected

I am screening both fathers and mothers, where fathers who are committed to full time work force and mothers are also doing jobs to fulfill the needs of the family. You will be invited in a group of discussion to share your knowledge, practices and attitudes about child rear in early years.

What is expected from the respondent?

If you agree to participate you will be expected to share your knowledge, roles, practices and attitudes about fatherhood with other fathers and mothers like you for three sessions of 40 to 50 minutes in length. Also it is expected from you to sit for an interview for a short time.

Risks and benefits

There is no risk to you for participating in this study. Both parents and children will be benefited in future if any intervention programs incorporate your experiences and views of fatherhood in early years of Bangladesh.

Privacy, anonymity and confidentiality

All information collected from you will remain strictly confidential. We would be happy to answer your questions about the study and you are welcome to contact me; Bipasha Laboni at Institute of BRAC IED (cell # 01749550971) or anytime required.

Future use of information

Some of the information collected from this study may be kept for future use however in such cases information and data supplied to other researchers, will not conflict with or violate the maintenance of privacy, anonymity and confidentiality of information identifying participants in any way.

Right not to participate and withdraw

Your participation in the study is voluntary, and you are the sole authority to decide for and against your participation in this study. Refusal to take part in the study will involve no penalty.

If you agree to my proposal of enrolling yourself in my study, please indicate that by putting your signature or your left thumb impression at the specified space below

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Signature of Investigator
Date :

Signature of the Participant
Date :

