

Original article

# A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON CHILD REARING PRACTICES AMONG FATHERS OF HOSPITALISED CHILDREN OF 1-6 YEARS OF AGE, IN KASTURBA HOSPITAL, MANIPAL

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**Abstract:****Objective :** To assess the knowledge and attitude on child rearing practices among fathers of hospitalised children of 1-6 years of age.**Materials and method :** A descriptive correlational survey was done among conveniently selected 150 fathers of hospitalised children of 1-6 years of age at Kasturba Hospital, Manipal. The knowledge and attitude in childrearing practices were assessed using a demographic proforma, knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale.**Result :** The findings showed that fathers' had satisfactory knowledge and favourable attitude in childrearing practices. The study also revealed that there was a significant association between knowledge and type of family ( $p= 0.015$ ) and that there was no significant association between attitude in childrearing practices and demographic variables.**Conclusion:** The study concluded that there is no relationship between knowledge and attitude on child rearing practices among fathers and fathers' had satisfactory knowledge and favourable attitude in childrearing practices.**Keywords :** Knowledge, Attitude, Child rearing practices, Hospitalised children**Introduction :**

The most important factor in a child's healthy development is to have at least one strong relationship (attachment) with a caring adult who values the well-being of the child. A father is an involved father if his relationship with his child can be described as being sensitive, warm, close, friendly, supportive, intimate, nurturing, affectionate, encouraging, comforting, and accepting. In addition, fathers are classified as being involved if their child has developed a strong, secure attachment to them. The role of the father in

child rearing is limited, whereas mothers assume primary responsibility for childcare duties. However, recent social and demographic changes as well as increasing full time employment of wives

increase pressure for fathers to become more actively involved in child rearing.<sup>1</sup>

Palkovitz (1997) broadened the conceptualization of childrearing with reference to 15 categories of paternal involvement that included: Communication (listening, talking, showing love); Teaching (role modeling, encouraging activities and interests); Monitoring (friends, homework); Cognitive processes (worrying, planning, praying); Errands; Caregiving, (feeding, bathing); Shared interests (reading together); Availability; Planning (activities, birthdays); Shared activities (shopping, playing together); Providing (food, clothing); Affection; Protection; and Supporting emotionality (encouraging the child).<sup>2</sup>

A Korean based study by Jung (2000) explored the possible antecedents of paternal child rearing in middle-class, two-parent, Korean families by addressing the intergenerational similarities and differences in child

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rearing practices and attitudes. The study concluded with the finding that paternal job satisfaction ( $p < 0.01$ ), and relationship with their own mother ( $p < 0.001$ ), as well as paternal educational attainment ( $p < 0.05$ ) predicted fathering behaviors with respect to child sexuality and parental rules ( $p < 0.001$ ).<sup>3</sup>

A comparative study was conducted by Rodolfo in 2005 about parenting knowledge in a sample 70 married Brazilian couples in Rio De Janeiro. Snowball sampling technique was used to select the participants. Knowledge on infant development inventory was collected and a sociodemographic questionnaire was distributed and hierarchical regression analysis was used to know whether gender, education status predicted the knowledge scores. The study found out that the average knowledge scores in mothers was found to be significantly higher than that of father's knowledge scores and that in mothers, the education [ $F(1,69) - 15.13$ ] and child's age [ $F(2,69)-3.92$ ] predicted knowledge score, that is older mothers with more education and older children had higher knowledge scores but for fathers only education predicted knowledge score.<sup>4</sup>

Although fathers became a topic of interest and research, few Indian studies have specifically examined fathers knowledge and attitude in child rearing. Understanding the parent-child relationship is fundamental to nursing of children and families. Fathers have a key role in the development of a child and their attitude and involvement in child rearing brings about sociopsychological changes in the child's growing periods.

The investigator's clinical and personal experience provided rich insight into the problem. Studies regarding paternal attitude in childrearing are studied less in Indian population. This study is undertaken since studies on paternal knowledge, attitude and perceived paternal involvement in childrearing are few in number.

The purpose of the study was to assess the knowledge and attitude of fathers in childrearing practices. The findings of the study would help to identify the ways to

improve the role of the father in childrearing. Child rearing practices mainly include practices related to nutrition, health, milestone development, immunization, accidents, toilet training and the strategies to meet the physical, socio-economical and cognitive needs of children as they develop. The information gained will help the health care personnel in planning educational activities for the father in the future.

#### Materials and method:

A descriptive correlational survey was done among conveniently selected 150 fathers of hospitalised children of 1-6 years of age from the Paediatric out patient department and Paediatric medicine wards of Kasturba Hospital, Manipal

A demographic proforma was used which had ten items that were divided into two sections namely; data related to the father such as age, religion, type of family, number of children, monthly income of family, education and occupation and data related to the child such as age, gender and birth order.

The knowledge questionnaire had thirty items under different areas of child rearing practices namely nutrition, health, milestone development, immunization, accidents and toilet training with four response options for each question and the correct response was assigned a score of one and the incorrect item was assigned a score of zero. According to the scores obtained, the fathers were categorized into having poor knowledge with scores between (1-10), satisfactory knowledge with scores between (11-20) and good knowledge with scores between (21-30).

The attitude rating scale had thirteen items with four responses to each item ranging from always, sometimes, rarely and never. According to the scores obtained, the fathers were categorized into having unfavourable attitude with scores between (13-25), moderately favourable attitude with scores between (26-38) and favourable attitude with scores between (39-52).

The tools were validated by seven experts. Reliability of

Knowledge questionnaire was done by split half method and r value was 0.87, Attitude scale was done by cronbach's alpha method and r value was 0.7. Hence the tools were found reliable.

After obtaining the ethical approval from the institutional ethical committee Kasturba Hospital, Manipal data was collected. The subject information sheet about the study and informed consent were given to the fathers. After obtaining informed consent, the four tools were administered. The fathers were asked to read the instructions of each tool and complete each item accordingly.

#### Results :

##### Sample Characteristics

The data was analysed based on the objectives and hypotheses of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics.

It was observed that majority 79 (52.7 %) of the fathers belonged to the age group of 30-36 years, majority 114 (76 %) of the fathers were Hindus, majority of the fathers 117 (78 %) belonged to nuclear family and majority 76 (50.7 %) of the fathers had only one child. Regarding the family income, majority 63 (42%) found income between Rs 7001-9000. The study results showed that majority 42 (28%) of the fathers had secondary level of education and majority of the fathers 50 (33.3%) were in the skilled group. It was also observed that the majority 97 (64.7%) of the children were between the age of 1-3 years, majority 90 (60%) of the children were girls whereas 60 (40%) were boys and majority 93 (62%) of the children established the first birth order. (Table No.1 &2)

##### Description of Knowledge and attitude scores

The mean knowledge score on childrearing practices was 19.34 +/- 2.471 and the mean attitude score on childrearing practices was 40.99 +/- 2.955 (Table 3)

The study findings also revealed that majority 100 (66.1%) of the fathers had satisfactory knowledge in childrearing practices (figure1) and majority 116 (77.3%) of the fathers had favourable attitude on childrearing practices (figure 2)

##### Relationship between Knowledge and attitude

Pearson's correlation coefficient was computed to find the relationship between knowledge and attitude in child rearing practices. It revealed that there was no relationship between knowledge and attitude in childrearing practices. (Table 4)

##### Association between Knowledge, attitude and selected demographic variables

It was found that there is significant association between knowledge and type of family ( $\chi^2_{(1)} = 5.973, p = 0.015$ ). (Table 5)

The p-value obtained for the association between attitude and demographic variables is more than 0.05, there is no significant association between attitude in child rearing practices and selected demographic variables. (Table 6)

##### Discussion :

The present study shows that a majority 100 (66.1%) of the fathers had satisfactory knowledge in child rearing practices with a mean knowledge score on childrearing practices of 19.34 +/- 2.471. Similar to the present findings, a comparative study conducted by Rodolfo in 2005 about parenting knowledge in a sample 70 married Brazilian couples in Rio De Janeiro found out that the average knowledge scores in mothers (M= 0.69, SD= 0.09) was found to be significantly higher than that of father's knowledge scores (M=0.64, SD=0.09).<sup>4</sup>

The present study findings showed that there is no association between attitude and demographic variables on childrearing practices. The present study findings are supported by a comparative study conducted by Lewis in 2000 to examine the sociodemographic characteristics and attitudes of primary care giving fathers and non-primary care giving fathers and the quality of their interaction with their infants. It was observed that the primary care giving fathers had lower occupational status and earned a smaller proportion of the family income but did not differ in educational level or attitudes compared with non primary care giving fathers.<sup>5</sup>

The present study shows that there is no association between attitude and educational level of the father ,this finding is contraindicated in a Korean based survey by Jung explored the possible antecedents of paternal child rearing in middle-class, two-parent, Korean families by addressing the intergenerational similarities and differences in child rearing practices and attitudes . The study concluded with the finding that paternal job satisfaction ( $p < 0.01$ ), and relationship with their own mother ( $p < .001$ ), as well as paternal educational attainment ( $p < 0.05$ ) predicted fathering behaviors with respect to child sexuality and parental rules ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion :**

The present study shows that majority of the fathers had satisfactory knowledge in childrearing practices and had

favourable attitude in childrearing practices.. From this study it can be inferred that there is no relationship between knowledge and attitude of fathers on child rearing. The study also shows that there is significant association between knowledge and type of family, thus it can be interpreted that knowledge is dependent on type of family and independent of other variables.

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Table 1 : Demographic characteristics of fathers' of hospitalized children (n=150)

Demographic variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (in years)	24- 29	39	26.0
	30- 35	79	52.7
	36-42	32	21.3
Religion	Hindu	114	76
	Muslim	20	13.3
	Christian	16	10.7
Type of family	Nuclear	117	78
	Joint	33	22
Number of children	One	76	50.7
	Two	66	44
	Three	8	5.3
Monthly family income (in rupees)	3000-5000	11	7.3
	5000-7000	32	21.3
	7001-9000	63	42
	>9001	44	29.3
Education	Upper primary	14	9.3
	Secondary	42	28
	Higher secondary	40	26.7
	Diploma	27	18
	Graduate	23	15.3
	Postgraduate	4	2.7
Occupation	Professional	15	10
	Non professional	24	16
	Skilled	50	33.3
	Semiskilled	22	14.7
	Unskilled	39	26

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of children (n=150)

Demographic variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (in years)	1-3	97	64.7
	>3-6	53	35.3
Gender	Female	90	60
	Male	60	40
Birth order	First	93	62
	Second	50	33.3
	Third	7	4.7

Table 3: Mean, Median, Standard deviation of knowledge, attitude and involvement score (n=150)

Variables	Mean	Median	Standard deviation
Knowledge	19.34	19.00	2.471
Attitude	40.99	41.00	2.955

Table 4: Correlation between knowledge and attitude in child rearing practices (n=150)

Variable	Correlation coefficient(r)	p-value
Knowledge	0.055	0.507
Attitude		

Table 5 : Association between knowledge in child rearing practices and selected demographic variables. (n=150)

Demographic variables	Knowledge		χ <sup>2</sup>	df	p-value
	< 19	>19			
Age					
24-29	19	20			
30-35	42	37	1.391	2	0.499
36-42	20	12			
Religion					
Hindu	62	52			
Muslim	10	10	0.168	2	0.919
Christian	9	7			
Type of family					
Nuclear	57	60			
Joint	24	9	5.973	1	0.015
Number of children					
One	41	35			
Two	36	30	0.006	2	0.971
Three	4	4			
Monthly family income					
Below 7000 (in rupees)	23	20			
Above 7000 (in rupees)	58	49	2.016	1	0.936
Education					
Below Diploma	56	40			
Above Diploma	25	29	0.472	1	0.156
Occupation					
Skilled	46	43			
Unskilled	35	26	0.017	1	0.492
Age of the child					
Below 3 years	52	45			
Above 3 years	29	24	0.736	1	0.896
Birth order					
First	49	44			
Second	29	21	0.060	2	0.692
Third	3	4			

\*-significant

Figure 1: Pie diagram showing father's knowledge on of child rearing practices N=150

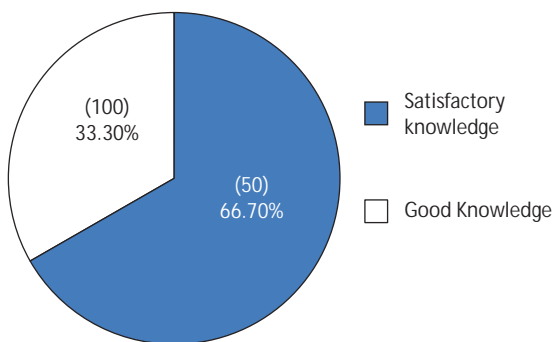
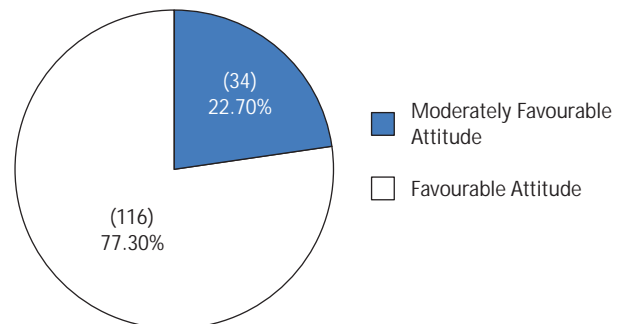


Table 6: Association between attitude in child rearing practices and selected demographic variables. (n=150)

Demographic variables	Attitude		χ <sup>2</sup>	df	p-value
	Moderately Favourable	Favourable			
Age					
24-29	4	35			
30-35	21	58	4.662	2	0.097
36-42	9	23			
Religion					
Hindu	23	91			
Muslim	5	15	2.474	2	0.290
Christian	6	10			
Type of family					
Nuclear	25	92			
Joint	9	24	0.512	1	0.474
Number of children					
One	16	60			
Two	14	52	3.602	2	0.165
Three	4	4			
Age of the child					
Below 3 years	23	74			
Above 3 years	11	42	0.171	1	0.945
Gender					
Female	20	70			
Male	14	46	0.025	1	0.679

Figure 2: Pie diagram showing father's attitude on child rearing practices N=150



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