

Thesis Title : Parental practice of parental role responsibilities in child care and child rearing

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#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to study the practice of fathers and mothers in parental role responsibilities in child care and child rearing, to compare their practice and to clarify whether the family background have any influences on their practice.

The study is focused on the parents who had 4 - 6 year-old-child and had brought them to the Children's Hospital between 15 March 1985 and 30 April 1985. The data were collected by interviewing 497 parents which 251 were fathers and 246 were mothers. They were selected by selection quota sampling technic.

Parental role responsibilities were studied on 9 aspects such as teaching of cognitive development, handling of emotions, social skills, norms and social values, physical health and personal

hygiene, Basic needs; meeting the emotional needs of the child and love expression, interface role; between child and social institutions, between child and family.

The results revealed that fathers and mothers practiced most of their role lower than desirable level especially on the aspect of teaching of physical health that they were poor practice.

In comparing the practice of parental role responsibilities between group of fathers and group of mothers the result showed no statistical significant difference. But when classified them in different educational level the result showed that in the group of middle level of education (8 - 12 years) mothers had more practiced than fathers at ( $p$ -value  $< 0.001$ ) but there was no statistical significant difference between two groups in high (13 years and above) and low education (0 - 7 years).

Concerning the relationship of family background and the practice of parental role responsibilities, it was found that in the group of mothers, the education, family income and age were positively related to their practice but number of living children was negatively related to their practice of parental role responsibilities. Mothers with high and middle level of education had more practice than the low but there was no statistical significant difference between those with high and middle level of education. Mothers whose occupation were professional had more practiced than those whose occupation were unskilled ( $p$ -value  $< 0.05$ ). But there was no statistical significant difference between

the groups of professional and skilled, skilled and housewives, professional and housewives.

In group of fathers the results showed that education, family income, age were positively related to father's practice but number of living children was negatively related to father's practice of parental role responsibilities.

Fathers with high level of education had more practiced than the middle and low but there was no statistical significant between fathers with middle and low level of education.

Fathers whose occupation were professional had more practiced than those whose occupation were skilled and unskilled but no statistical significant difference between fathers skilled and unskilled.

Sex of the child and type of family had no effect in the fathers' and mothers' practice of parental role responsibilities in child care and child rearing.