

EXPLORATION OF FATHER'S PERCEPTION AND PRACTICES REGARDING CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT IN BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT:

Early child development starts establishing a country from zero. The main assets of a country are its inhabitants. If the children of a country pass through a favourable early child development in their childhood, their base strengthens and the whole nation succeeds.

Father involvement plays a very essential role in child development during early years. Father's involvement can affect academic achievements and formal education of the children. This research explored the father's perception and practices regarding child care and development in Balochistan. A semi structured guideline was used to interview the fathers. Lots of research has been done on role of Fathers however, very limited data available about Pakistan.. This research was conducted in capital of Balochistan Quetta city. Five IDIs and one FGD were conducted with group of fathers, investigator interviewed the participants individually and, conducted FGD which contained ten participants. Each interview contained one and half hour and FGD took approximately two hour. Exploratory

research study design was used to understand the knowledge, perceptions and practices of fathers.

Father has significant and considerable role and responsibilities in child development reported by participants. Therefore, father should play his role and perform his responsibilities in child care in order to build up his children physically, socially, emotionally and mentally, shared by fathers. Furthermore, father is critical to the optimal development and well-being of a child. Father's role is more than that of economic provider of the past and now includes nurturing, care giving, and emotional support in both obvious and subtle ways. (Margaret Mead 2002)

This study's findings will help Government to develop policy or for NGO to do interventions for fathers regarding child care and development in Balochistan.

Key words: Early Childhood Development, Child Cognitive Development, Child Emotional Development, Perception and Practices, Child Social Development, Child Physical Development, Child Care Development, Father and Child.