

00119 Factors Influencing Fathers' Involvement in Mothers' Breastfeeding Process: A Descriptive Correlational Study

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Aims: The aim of this research study was to investigate the factors influencing fathers' involvement in their wives' breastfeeding process in Singapore. Recognizing these factors will allow healthcare professionals to consider fathers' needs and what they would like to acquire. Interventions could then be tailored to target these factors, to facilitate greater fathers' involvement, thereby promote breastfeeding sustainability in Singapore, reaping greater health benefits for both mothers and infants.

Methodology: Data were collected from 151 fathers using two sets of self constructed questionnaires. The first set was administered to the fathers upon recruitment after their wives' childbirth examining fathers' knowledge regarding breastfeeding and involvement, attitudes towards breastfeeding and involvement as well as marital relationship. Two weeks later, the second set was administered, examining fathers' perceived improvement of knowledge and attitudes, perception on the subjective norms surrounding their involvement, perceived behaviour control for their involvement and fathers' breastfeeding involvement.

Result: Data were entered and analysed using IBM SPSS 24.0. Fathers' involvement yielded a mean score of 126.58 over 160. Pearson Product Moment Correlation conducted revealed that fathers' involvement was positively and significantly correlated with all examined outcome variables. Multiple linear regression revealed that five significant factors that could influence fathers' breastfeeding involvement namely fathers' knowledge, marital relationship, perceived improvement of knowledge and attitudes at two weeks after childbirth, perceived approval of significant others in their breastfeeding involvement and perceived behaviour control for their breastfeeding involvement.

Conclusion: The study provided evidence on significant factors that influenced fathers' involvement in their wives' breastfeeding process, which can guide healthcare professionals in providing appropriate interventions to facilitate fathers' involvement. Future studies should develop comprehensive programs involving whole extended family to achieve optimal breastfeeding outcomes.