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Japanese American Father Involvement: An Exploratory Model

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. The authors worked together to design the study and write the protocol. Author GS supervised the work. Author SUD collected the data and assisted author GS to perform the statistical analysis. Author GS managed the analyses of the study. Both authors worked on the construction of the manuscript through the points of initial drafts to the final approved manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine factors influencing Japanese-American father involvement with their children based upon a model put forth by Doherty, Kouneski, & Erickson [1]. Japanese-American males were recruited from the Honolulu area and surrounding neighborhoods in Hawaii. Sixty-eight fathers met the criterion for inclusion in the study. Statistically significant relationships were found between father involvement and (a) non-family extended support, (b) father role salience, and (c) the ethnicity of the father's partner. Implications of these findings for practice and future research are discussed.

Keywords: Fatherhood; japanese-american; involvement; role saliency.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Until recently, family research has tended to focus on the mother's relationship with her children. Historically, research that did include fathers was generally based on children's perceptions of fathering roles and behaviors or based upon mothers' description of fathering behaviors [2]. Recently, efforts to pursue research directly with fathers has increased, due to the numerous changes that have occurred in family structure family and growing interest in the role that fathers play in child development [3-5].

While there has been an increasing amount of research on fathers, there is sparse research on the father-child bond among various minority cultural groups in the United States. In particular, Asian-American fathers have been examined in only a limited number of studies. Qin and Chang [6], in a review of relevant fathering research, noted that there needs to be focused research inclusive of Asian-American fathers rather than generalizations gathered from cross-cultural research. From this observation it should not be surprising that there are even fewer studies that explore the role of fathers in Japanese-American families [7,8]. What is known about Japanese-American fathering practices has largely come from studies of fathers in Japan. While it is difficult to generalize these findings to Japanese-American fathers, it is important to consider what this research has found. There continues to be the popular image of the Japanese father (in both the United States and Japan) as a man who is devoted to his work in such a way that he has little or no time left for his children [6]. However, the scant empirical research that is available suggests that Japanese fathers do in fact value their leisure time and see it as an opportunity to spend time with their school-aged children. Research suggests that these fathers see this as a major part of their parental role [9].

Other studies have suggested that Japanese men are also committed to their work and have the pressures of upholding the "breadwinner" role in the family. According to Ishii-Kuntz, Makino, Kato, Tsuchiya [10], this is evident through their long workdays, which has led to an increase in the psychological bond between Japanese mothers and children. Despite these findings, it should not be assumed that Japanese families are "fatherless." Research has shown that although fathers may have minimum direct authority over children, fathers' authority is still "psychologically" present [10].

There are a few studies that explore how similar or dissimilar Japanese fathers living in Japan are from American Japanese fathers. In a study by Ishii-Kuntz [11] that compared American and Japanese families, Japanese-American children reported spending more time with their fathers than children in Japan in activities such as eating dinner together, engaging in sports and recreation, and working on homework together. Eating breakfast with the children was the only activity Japanese fathers were reportedly more involved than American Japanese fathers.

It seems clear that there are very few studies of Japanese-American fathers in the United States [6]. It is not clear how the special situation of Japanese American fathers may be affected by cultural influences from their Japanese heritage as well as the dominant culture in the United States. There is also sparse research on these fathers that uses an overarching theoretical model to explain and better understand the factors that influence Japanese-American father involvement with their children.

The primary purpose of the current study is to explore the applicability of a fathering model to explain Japanese-American father involvement with their children. In order to address Japanese-American father involvement in a systematic manner, the authors will use a model of father involvement developed by Doherty, Kouneski, and Erickson [1]. This model will be tested to ascertain whether the concepts put forth by these authors create a good "fit" when understanding the involvement levels of Japanese-American fathers. In the next section, the relevant concepts within this model will be discussed and efforts will be made to connect the model to Japanese-American fathering practices.

1.1 Doherty, Kouneski, & Erickson Fathering Model

Researchers have commonly explored individual variables that may or may not affect father involvement without using a broad overarching explanatory system such as a theory or model [3]. The Doherty et al. [1] model of father involvement does provide a comprehensive theoretical framework from which to evaluate and explore father involvement. This framework includes fathering inside or outside marriage and regardless of co-residence with the child [12].

The model explores mother, father, and child individual factors; mother-father relationship factors; and other contextual factors in the environment (see Fig. 1). Within each of these factors, the model outlines a number of specific factors that may influence father involvement. The purpose of the current study is to explore the applicability of this model to explain Japanese-American father involvement with their children. The following sections will explore the various concepts within the model and detail the variables that were used in this study to serve as indicators of these concepts.

1.1.1 Factors within the coparental relationship

Research has consistently suggested that the level of support for coparenting efforts given by the mother to the father can affect the level of father involvement [13]. It is speculated that this will hold true for Japanese-American fathers as well.

1.1.1.1 Factors about the mother

Doherty et al. [1] assert that “among external influences on fathering, the role of the mother has particular salience because mothers serve as partners and sometimes as gatekeepers in the father-child relationship, both inside and outside marriage.” They also note that mother factors in the model interrelate with the coparental relationship because the mother's feelings about the father affect the coparental rapport. There is evidence that, even within satisfactory marital relationships, a father's involvement with his children is often dependent on the mother's attitudes toward, expectations of, and support for the father, as well as the extent of her involvement in the labor force [14]. Based upon these findings, the current study explores the “degree of support offered by the mother” and “employment characteristics.” It has also been noted that cultural issues can impact views on the role of the father [15]; therefore the “ethnicity” of the mother was also included as an indicator of cultural views in “mother factors.”

1.1.1.2 Contextual factors

Doherty et al. [1] note that fathering is more vulnerable to contextual and institutional forces than mothering. Lack of income and poor occupational opportunities appear to have a particularly harmful influence on fathering [16]. The supportive nature of the extended non-family

support and work environment for fathering may also affect father involvement [3]. The current study focused on extended non-family support, work environment support, and socioeconomic status as the primary contextual factors.

1.1.1.3 Factors about the children

Doherty et al. [1] state that “individual child factors are included in the model for completeness, but the child factors studied in the research literature do not appear to be as important as the other dimensions in influencing fathering” (p. 284). However, a study by Flouri and Buchanan [17] found that fathers were more likely to spend time with their sons than their daughters and that difference became even more pronounced as children grew into adolescents. Given these findings, the current study focused on the gender and ages of the child as child factors to consider for the model.

1.1.1.4 Factors about the father

According to Doherty et al. [1], “fathers' role identification, skills, and commitment are important influences on fathering” (p. 285). They also note the importance of such factors as father's sense of being capable as a parent as well as the father's psychological well-being. The current study focused on “identification with a parenting role” through the exploration of “father role salience.” Stryker [18] defines salience as “the probability of evoking a given identity across or within situations of interaction” (p. 23). In a study of father in intact families by Bruce & Fox [19], a positive relationship was found between father role salience and father involvement. In addition to saliency, the current study examined the father's view on his ability as a father through the exploration of the concept of “self-efficacy.” This term refers to the belief in one's ability to successfully perform a particular behavior [20]. It is believed that fathers who feel more efficacious will be more likely to engage in the fathering role [21].

Doherty et al. [1] also discuss the importance of the “mother-child” relationship in terms of its effect on father involvement. While this may be an important aspect of the overall theory, it was beyond the scope and ability of the current study to evaluate this issue.

While the present study is unable to measure variables in all of the domains within the original model, there is reason to believe that the results

obtained will still assist in the theory-building process. In summary, the present study attempted to explore the applicability of a “modified” version of Doherty et al. [1] model of influences on responsible fathering to Japanese American fathers living in Hawaii.

1.2 Research Question

This correlational study utilized a cross sectional survey to evaluate the association among variables relevant to the involvement of Japanese-American fathers with their children. The primary research question that was investigated was “What factors influence the level of father involvement among Japanese-American fathers?” We wanted to verify the following assumptions: are higher levels of coparental support positively correlated with higher levels of father involvement? Are higher levels of support by mothers for fathers to engage in fathering positively correlated to higher levels of father involvement? Is mother’s employment, either full-time or part-time, positively correlated to higher levels of father involvement? Is the ethnicity/culture of the mother correlated with father involvement? Are fathers more involved with their sons than daughters and are they more involved with older children than younger children? Are higher levels of work and non-family support for fathers positively correlated with higher levels of father involvement? Are higher levels of role salience in fathers positively correlated with higher levels of father involvement? And, are higher levels of parenting self-efficacy in fathers positively correlated to higher levels of father involvement?

2. METHODOLOGY

This correlational study utilized a cross sectional survey to evaluate the association among variables relevant to the involvement of Japanese-American fathers with their children. The primary research question that was investigated was “What factors influence the level of father involvement among Japanese-American fathers?”

2.1 Participants

Participants were 68 Japanese American fathers from various cities and towns in Hawaii on the island of Oahu, which has a population of just over one million. To participate in the study, men met the following criteria: (a) full Japanese, (b) the biological father of at least one child between

the age of 4-18, (c) living with their child, and (d) living with their child’s biological mother. The average age of participants was 45.45, nearly ¾ of the sample were third generation Japanese, who had been married an average of 15.66 years (see Table 1).

2.2 Procedures

Approximately 200 surveys were distributed throughout businesses, neighborhoods, and schools; approximately 150 surveys were returned, representing a return rate of 76%. Of those who returned surveys, only 68 met the selection criterion for inclusion in the study.

Each participant was given a packet consisting of consent and confidentiality form, instructions, measures, and a self-addressed return envelope. They were asked to return the surveys within two weeks. Surveys took approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. Participants were instructed to refrain from putting their name anywhere on the survey in order to ensure anonymity.

2.3 Variables

2.3.1 Demographic measures

A series of demographic questions were used to assess the age of each father and his child, gender of the child, SES, working status of parents, marital status, and ethnicity of the father and mother of his child. It is important to note that only the first child that met the criteria was analyzed. Fathers were instructed to select a child who was the oldest in their family in order to maintain consistency across the sample. Mother’s employment was measured with the question “Is your wife gainfully employed?” “And if yes, does she work part-time or full-time?” (“0” = employed, “1”= not employed). Father’s employment was measured in the same manner. An estimate of the participants’ household annual income was collected. The ethnicity of the father and his partner was also collected. In order to simplify data analysis, ethnicity was coded as either “0” full Japanese or “1” other. “Other” included any racial group that was not full Japanese.

2.3.2 Extended support

Extended support was used as an indicator of “Contextual Support” for father involvement and was assessed using the “Encouragement from Others Measure” [22]. Fathers were asked to

rate the level of support they receive from people in their lives from “very encouraging” to “very discouraging” of involvement with children. An

example of the list included co-workers, parents, boss, and so on. The Cronbach’s alpha for this measure was .81.

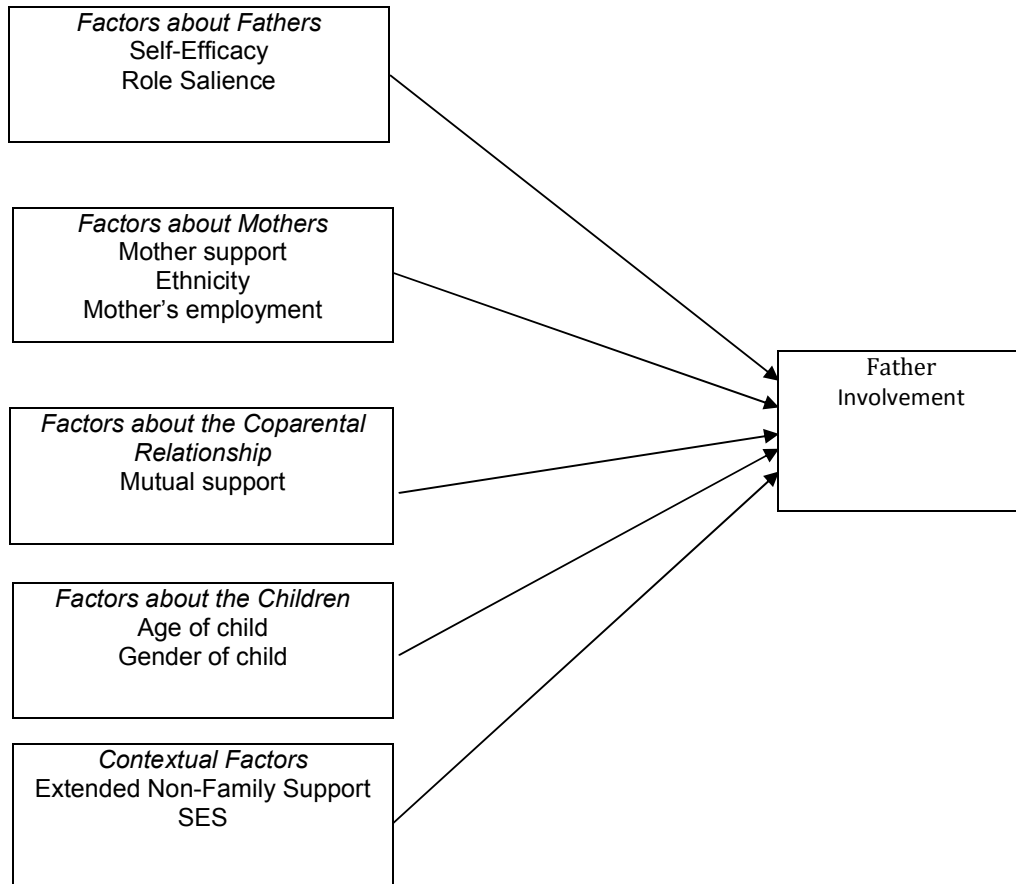


Fig. 1. Representation of Doherty et al. (1998) [1] “model of influences on responsible fathering”

Table 1. Father demographic characteristics (n=68)

Income	N	Percent		Range	Mean	S.D.
\$21,000 - \$40,999	6	8.8	Age	32-61	45.43	.30
\$41,000 - \$60,999	17	25.0	Marital duration	2-33	15.66	.97
\$61,000 - \$80,999	19	27.9	Number of children	1-5	2.24	.83
\$81,000 or more	25	36.8				
Generation						
Second generation	5	7.4				
Third generation	52	76.5				
Fourth generation	11	16.1				
Race of spouse						
Japanese only	45	66.2				
Other	23	33.8				

2.3.3 Mother's support

Mother's support for father involvement was used as an indicator of "Factors about Mothers" impacting father involvement and was assessed through a one-item measure on the "Encouragement from Others Measure" [22]. In addition to the individuals listed in the previous section, "spouse" was also listed and fathers were asked to rate her level of support for their fathering efforts, with ranges from "very discouraging" to "very encouraging." The test-retest reliability for this item was calculated by Ihinger-Tallman et al. [22] by using the weighted kappa coefficient and found to be acceptable at .83.

2.3.4 Coparental relationship

A one-item measure was used to assess the father's perception of the encouragement he received from his spouse in their coparental relationship, and thus served as an indicator for "Factors about the Coparental Relationship" within the Doherty et al. [1] model. Since most coparental measures are designed for divorced couples, a measure was devised for this study based on a variation of an item used in the Dyadic Adjustment Scale [23]. Fathers were asked to "circle the number which best describes the degree of coparental support, all things considered, in your relationship." The options ranged from 0 to 6, with zero corresponding to "extremely low" and six corresponding to "perfect." The test-retest reliability for this item was calculated by the authors of this study using the weighted kappa coefficient and found to be acceptable at .74.

2.3.5 Self-efficacy

Self-efficacy was measured as an indicator of "Factors about Fathers" within the Doherty et al. [1] model and was assessed using the Efficacy Scale developed by Johnston & Mash [24]. This scale is a subscale of the Parenting Sense of Competence Scale (PSOC). This 8-item measure will consist of a 6-point Likert Scale, with ranges from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree". An example of an item from this scale is "I meet my own personal expectations for expertise in caring for my child." The authors of the scale report an internal consistency of .76,

while the current study found a Cronbach's alpha of .87.

2.3.6 Father role saliency

Saliency was measured as an indicator of "Factors about Fathers" within the Doherty et al. [1] model. It was measured through the use of the "Father Role Saliency Scale" developed by Bruce & Fox [19]. This 10-item consisted of a 5-point Likert Scale, with ranges from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree" and a "neutral" mid-point rating. The authors of the scale report a Cronbach's alpha of .95 for the scale.

2.3.7 Father involvement

The primary outcome variable, "level of father involvement," was measured using the "Frequency of Participation" scale constructed by Klein [25]. In this scale, fathers are asked to rate the frequency of their participation across 22 items that measure involvement in basic care giving, recreation, emotional support, religion or ethics, and school-related activities. The scaled responses are from 1 to 5, and range from "never" to "very often." Examples of items include: "dressing and grooming your child," "playing quiet games with your child such as cards, drawing, reading," and "including your child in household tasks." The current study found a Cronbach's alpha of .88 for this scale.

2.4 Data Analysis Techniques

Data was analyzed with SPSS 18.0. Means and standard deviations were computed for each variable of interest. Stepwise multiple regression was also used as a data analysis technique. Separate regression equations were computed for the dependent variable. Two-tailed t-tests were also used throughout the data analysis to determine the level of significance. For the bivariate analysis, a p value of .05 or less was used as the level of significance. The multiple regression analysis was performed with more lenient significance levels, with a P value of .15 or less being permitted for items to load. This more liberal p value is consistent with the suggestions by Schumm, Southerly, & Figley [26] for exploratory research. The correlation matrix for the variables included in the regression analysis is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Correlations and descriptive statistics for variables used in multivariate analysis

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.Father involvement	1.00	-.098	.189	.133	-.018	.000	.048	-	.300*	.150
2.Efficacy		1.00	.091	.111	.057	-.033	.090	.123	-.107	.240*
3.Salience			1.00	.032	-.118	-.049	.155	.066	.056	-.121
4.Parent support				1.00	-.005	.118	-.175	.033	.416**	-.091
5.Spouse work ^a					1.00	.017	-.111	-	.017	.026
6.Co-Parental support						1.00	-.054	.039	.206	-.226
7.Child age							1.00	-	-.115	.247*
8.Child gender ^b								1.00	-.016	.056
9.Non family support									1.00	.011
10.Ethnicity of spouse ^c										1.00
Mean	78.79	33.26	39.88	1.17	-	4.27	12.13	-	4.98	-
SD	11.10	6.81	4.11	.81	-	1.13	4.11	-	3.53	-

* $P < .05$ (two tailed); ** $P < .01$ (two tailed);^a This is a dummy variable representing mother work;^b This is a dummy variable for gender;^c This is a dummy variable representing non-Japanese or full Japanese spouse

3. RESULTS

3.1 Bivariate Analyses of Data

The analysis of the bivariate level data revealed no correlation of the following variables with father involvement: level of coparental support, mothers' employment, ethnicity of the mother, child age or gender, level of role salience in fathers, and level of self-efficacy in fathers.

Level of support offered by mothers for fathers to engage in fathering ($r = .296, P = 0.04$) and level of non-family support for fathers ($r = .300, P = .013$) were both positively correlated with higher levels of father involvement.

3.2 Multiple Regression Analysis

Following the calculation of the bivariate correlations, a regression analysis was performed using stepwise multiple regression. A .15 level of probability was set to determine the significance of the regression coefficients. This level was selected in accordance with the recommendations of Schumm, et al. [26]. It was their contention that in studies that are exploratory in nature, such as the current study, the setting of alpha levels of .10 or even .20 is admissible. The level of .15 was chosen as it represented a slightly more conservative level than the .20 significance level. Also of note is the

relatively high ratio of subjects to variables. According to Brace, Kemp, and Snelgar [27], "the absolute minimum is that you have five times as many participants as predictor variables" (p. 208). The current study falls within these guidelines. Table 3 shows the *beta* and *t* values for this multiple regression analysis predicting father involvement.

The results indicate that three of the core constructs of the Doherty et al. [1] model remained part of the final model: non-family support, salience, and ethnicity of the partner. The final model accounts for approximately 15% of the variance in Father Involvement. Support from extended support from non-family members was found to be the largest contributor to explaining the variance in father involvement with a beta value of .287 ($P < .05$). Salience was found to be the second most significant contributor to explaining the variance in father involvement with a beta value of .193 ($P < .10$). Ethnicity of the father's partner was found to be the third most significant contributor to explaining the variance in father involvement with a beta value of .170 ($P < .15$). Results indicated that fathers with non-Japanese partners were more likely to be involved with their children.

4. DISCUSSION

The purpose of this paper was to outline a multidimensional model that provides a

framework to explain and understand the factors that influence Japanese father involvement based upon the Doherty et al. [1] model of father involvement. The findings support from the bivariate analysis demonstrated that higher levels of support by mothers for fathers to engage in fathering are positively correlated to higher levels of father involvement, and higher levels of non-family support for fathers are positively correlated with higher levels of father involvement. These findings suggest that support is a vital component to the ongoing involvement of Japanese-American fathers with their children. They are also consistent with the findings from Madden-Dercich and Leonard [28] that even when mothers and fathers get divorced, the mother's support is a key factor in the degree to which fathers participate in coparenting interaction and involvement with their children. Bonney, Kelley, and Levant [29] contend that fathers are unlikely to participate in their children's care without the support of their wives.

The current study also undertook to gather information on the influence of multiple variables on father involvement. The variables entered into the bivariate analysis were subsequently entered into a multivariate analysis approach to determine which variables in the "modified" model explained the most variance in father involvement among Japanese-American fathers in this sample. Three variables influenced father involvement: (a) extended support by non-family members (a contextual factor), (b) salience of the father role to participants (a factor about fathers), and (c) ethnicity of the mother (a factor about mother). The other five variables did not significantly impact levels of father involvement.

The measure of extended non-family support used in the current study included items exploring support for fathering in the workplace. In this study, the extended support by non-family members was found to be the most significant influence on father involvement. This is somewhat surprising given previous research which suggests the special role of kin in Japanese Americans in Hawaii. Johnson [30] used the term "solidarity kinship unit" to describe this group. She notes that "the insularity of island living, which in this case has permitted extensive social mobility, but limited geographical mobility, has provided a large number of accessible kin" (p. 354). One possible explanation for the findings from the current study may be connected to the importance of work for Japanese males. Shwalb, Kawai, Shoji, & Tsunetsugu [31] found that

Japanese fathers reported that providing economically for the family was the most important aspect of fathering. This would seem to suggest that for many Japanese males the roles of father and worker are intertwined. If this is the case, then the workplace can become a critical factor for successful fathering. It is quite possible that if fathers work in an organization that provides emotional support and encouragement for their parenting activities, they will experience less emotional distress. Stone [32] found that a supportive workplace was a critical factor in the psychological well-being of fathers in general after divorce. Levine and Pittinsky [33] have noted that the workplace is often not a father-friendly environment. It is their contention that for the majority of American men, "an internal shift in values has created...the invisible dilemma of Daddystress, a largely unrecognized conflict between their double duties of work and family that they feel they should not expose" (p. 17). It is possible that the fathers in the current study were simply validating what other studies have found regarding support from the workplace as an important factor influencing the level of involvement fathers have with their children.

Father role salience was found to have the second most significant influence on father involvement. These findings are consistent with those of Bruce and Fox [19] who found that fathers reporting higher levels of salience also reported higher levels of involvement with their children. Similar findings have also been reported with nonresidential fathers [1]. It would seem that the role of salience in Japanese fathering is very similar to the importance of salience in other populations of fathers.

The last significant finding was the influence of the mother's ethnicity on father involvement. The findings from the current study suggest that Japanese fathers were more involved with their children when married to non-Japanese partners. There is virtually no research at this point that explores this issue in depth. Therefore, explaining this exploratory finding is based almost entirely on speculation. First, these findings may have occurred because of the traditional strong gate-keeping role that Japanese mothers have played. Some Japanese mothers may hold the view that fathers are symbolic authority figures [31]. According to Shwalb et al. [31], this type of fathering is one in which mothers have full responsibility for children at home, while fathers are relegated to being part-time playmates to their children.

Table 3. Multiple regression analysis predicting father involvement

Variable	b	SE	t
Support from non family	.287	.363	2.49***
Role saliency	.193	.314	1.66**
Ethnicity of spouse	.170	1.07	1.46*

n = 68; * *P* < .15; ** *P* < .10; ****P* < .05

These authors contend that the Japanese father isolates himself at work away from his family, while the mother sees a positive image of her husband as a symbolic authority figure. It may also be possible that Japanese mothers do not expect high levels of father involvement, but rather they also equate the breadwinner role with father involvement. Although many women may feel isolated, they are satisfied with their husband's low involvement with the children as long as the father continues to be supportive providers [31]. It may also be speculated that sometimes mothers may view themselves as an unsuccessful mother if they ask for help; therefore, they would rely little on their husband for caregiving of the children. Another explanation is that perhaps fathers who chose to marry women of the same ethnicity are more "traditional" and expect that they will not be heavily involved in parenting. In contrast, men who marry women of different ethnicity/culture may have a less traditional notion of father involvement.

4.1 Limitations of the Study

The present study is limited due to a number of factors. Although 192 fathers completed the questionnaire on father involvement, only 68 met the eligibility criteria. This left the sample size to be relatively small. Also, the sample came only from Japanese-American fathers in Hawaii and may not be indicative of Japanese-American fathers on the mainland. In addition, due to the limited time frame, subjects were not randomly selected. This certainly suggests that the participants in the study may not be representative of all Japanese-American fathers. The majority of the surveys came from the same corporation located in Honolulu and therefore shared similar viewpoints and values on fathering. Finally, most of the fathers were third generation Japanese in their early forties. This all may have led to skewed responses.

In addition to sampling issues, this study may be limited because it relies on self-report, and therefore there might be instances in which there is invalid reporting from the participants. For

example, participants may have chosen to give socially desirable responses. It should be noted however that although it is possible that some individuals in the current study could have supplied invalid answers to the questions, there was no such pattern observed in the data that would indicate that this was an issue.

Another area of concern in this study was the fact that the instruments used may not have been culturally sensitive. The measures were developed on a white middle class population and therefore there is no guarantee that they are reliable or valid for Japanese American men. Despite these limitations, the results from the data still may offer relevant suggestions for father involvement programs, counseling, and future research.

4.2 Implications for Practice

It seems important to increase our efforts to examine the role of father participation in minority families. The results of this study indicate that extended support from non-family members, particularly in the work environment, had a positive influence on Japanese father involvement in Hawaii, thus suggesting the need for more father-friendly workplace policies. Levine and Pittinsky [33] have noted that the workplace is often not a father-friendly environment and offer several suggestions to make the workplace more supportive for fathers. Their suggestions include: making fatherhood a guiding value at the workplace, using communication tools to support working fathers, offering workplace education and support working fathers, encouraging fathers' participation in their children's schools, supporting fathers who need to stay home when a child is ill, and allowing flex-time and flexible work hours (this may vary due to state, federal, and local policies).

Given the strength of father role saliency as a predictor of father involvement, it is possible that increasing fathers' perception of the importance of fathering and enhancing their ability to parent may help to promote involvement with their

children. Sirridge [34] recommends formal education for fathers such as prenatal classes in hospitals on childcare issues, and informal extended private time with their child to help foster confidence. In addition, family life education programs and early childhood education programs could take more active roles in emphasizing and promoting the importance of fathering to increase saliency among Japanese fathers and fathers in general.

Results of this study also suggest that the race/ethnicity of the partner may be an important factor in father involvement. This is especially important for Hawaii as the rates of cultural intermarriage are high [35]. Workers need to be sensitive to the dynamics that might exist in cross-cultural intimate relationships. An understanding of the cultures for each parent is important in understanding the dynamic of the family and how differences in culture may be negotiated in order to promote positive parenting and support for both the mother and the father. Inman et al. [36] assert that an *ecosystems framework* should be used when evaluating and intervening with couples in a cross-cultural relationship. Furthermore, they assert that it is important to use a “social constructivist approach that explores the cultural, social, political, and psychological contexts in which these relationships exist and its influence on the personal meaning that partners have about their interpersonal power, communication patterns, locus of control, and decision-making strategies in high- and low-context cultures become salient” (p. 263). These issues noted by Inman et al. [36] are not only relevant to the partner-to-partner relationship, but also to how they choose to align themselves as coparents in the family.

4.3 Suggestions for Future Research

Although there has been an increased interest on father involvement, exploring minority fathers' behaviors is still relatively young. The results of this study represent an initial step in understanding the factors that influence Japanese fathers in Hawaii. Due to the limited time frame of this study and sampling issues, future research should expand and diversify the sample population. This includes the inclusion of a larger random sample size to increase variance in socioeconomic status, generational differences, and age of fathers.

In future studies with Japanese-American fathers, it may also be useful to consider and develop

culturally sensitive instruments. While the instruments used in this study had relatively high reliability coefficients, there is no guarantee that they were valid. They could just be consistently inaccurately measuring the concept under study. This problem is common to studies involving minority populations and should be addressed in future research.

Another area for future research would be to explore alternative variables that might influence father involvement. For example, researchers could investigate the association between child relationship and father involvement. In this vein, researchers could explore how the quality of the relationship between children and their father may affect involvement. It might also be helpful to explore adult child relationships and how father involvement changes overtime as their children grow older. It may also be important to explore the effects of ethnic differences of the partner on father involvement. This could provide insight into working with interracial parents.

5. CONCLUSION

This study explored the various factors that influence the development of positive father involvement. It is hoped that the findings from this study can provide useful information for those developing and implementing culturally sensitive fatherhood programs in schools and communities in the future. As efforts are made to continue to explore the importance of father involvement, it is crucial that researchers continue to better understand the impacts of father involvement on children and the family as a whole in order to promote and increase father participation in minority families.

CONSENT

Both authors declare that written informed consent was obtained from the patient (or other approved parties) for publication of this case report and accompanying images.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

This study was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board at Miami University of Ohio. This Board ensured that researchers provided informed consent, protection of privacy, and other relevant human rights considerations.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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