

Participation of the father in the upbringing of sons and daughters. Ecuador case.

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Abstract

Despite the continuing drive to achieve equality between men and women, our family culture continues. There is an unequal division of tasks and responsibilities, in which the care of children is distributed in a diverse way. The present study aims to determine the degree of participation of the father in the tasks of raising his sons or daughters under 3 years of age, taking as a case the program Growing with Our Children of the Pichincha canton, Manabí province, Ecuador. For this purpose, a qualitative quantitative methodology was applied by conducting a survey directed to the 160 parents of the 8 CNH care units of the Pichincha canton; An analysis was carried out of the documentation handled by the 8 Educators of the CNH program, established in the registration files of information on children's development of children, as well as working with focus groups directed to 20 mothers of families. The results showed that families in these sectors have been affected by the low participation of the father in raising his son and daughter, where there is a need for the wife to motivate her partner to have more contact with the child; The advances and changes derived from the progressive equality between men and women are not linked to childcare tasks, in which mothers barely share a little less than 10% of these with their partners; there is a cultural burden that assigns and naturalizes the tasks of care and raising of mothers.

Keywords: parenting, infants, parents, participation, program.

1. Introduction

The study determines the father's participation in raising his sons or daughters in the rural area of the Pichincha canton, Manabí province, Ecuador. The problem is that there is very little commitment of the father in the activities of care, health, stimulation, among others, giving that responsibility to the mother in each of the factors that affect the integral development of the child, there is a need for the The wife encourages her partner to be more in contact with the child.

Responsibility in parenting is the duty of parents to respond for the consequences generated by their behavior in the development process of infants. Men have been given the main responsibility of working for the economic maintenance of the family and women the functions of education and training of their sons and daughters. Faced with this situation, it seems appropriate to reflect on the functions of parents in the family, specifically the father, the most absent from home. Having as objectives to establish the degree of participation of the father in the activities of care, health, stimulation among other factors that influence

the integral development of the child, identify who generates the socio-economic income in the home and show if the parents have received trainings about their participation in parenting tasks.

The father fulfills various roles within the family and his performance in each of these roles. The full development of the personality is obtained by a suitable family context. This is how a man can have a good relationship with his sons and daughters. When a son or daughter is born, both mothers and fathers must face new demands and responsibilities, including organizing and distributing in some way the tasks of raising and caring for the child.

Although in this sense there are marked differences between some societies and others, in most groups in our cultural context this type of responsibility is assumed mainly or exclusively by the mother. The fact of having carried their son or daughter within their womb for 9 months, the bond of breastfeeding makes men by tradition and custom see women as self-sacrificing, submissive, maternal, in addition to attachment and contact with the child makes her the creditor of the greatest responsibility in their upbringing.

The role of parents in the life of a child must be based on respect, love, affection, opportunities, emotional support and, above all, teaching children that they are capable of achieving what they want and desire. But for all this to be so, parents must show children that they care about everything that happens to them 24 hours a day, and that of course has to do with school. The role of the father is fundamental in the education, development and formation of the personality of the little ones. The bond is essential, being essential that the father is present in the family dynamics, that he participates and becomes involved in parenting ([Atao Ramos, 2018](#)).

Parents' participation is necessary for the educational process in coordination with schools. This is understood by sensitized parents, as evidenced by the growing demand for effective participation in the educational systems of the most advanced countries. This does not hide, however, the existence of parents who believe that they have fulfilled their educational responsibility simply by bringing their children to school. The participation of parents in the educational system also has the perspective of logical democratic correspondence, since they are the indirect users of the school and it is also directly considered a quality factor for the system ([Neira, 2010](#)).

The present upbringing and care practices are abusive and denial of the rights of boys and girls, which is why cultural speeches are traversed, some that we still hear from certain parents, where children are conceived as the property of their parents and That is why they can do with them what they consider consistent with their own ideas and experiences about parenting; how to be abusive and reach child abuse to discipline them ([Carbonell, 2013](#)).

Four types of parents can be distinguished, according to psychological research: democratic, authoritarian, permissive and indifferent. Parents who use the authoritarian style place great importance on obedience, authority, the use of punishment and disciplinary measures, and do not facilitate dialogue. In the democratic style, dads are affectionate, reinforce behavior, avoid punishment, and are sensitive to the child's requests for attention; they direct and control, they explain reasons by not giving in to whims and they make demands and independence; They offer guidance to their children, they are willing to listen to their ideas and reach agreements with them. Parents identified with the permissive style are characterized by affection and letting go, show a positive attitude towards the child's behavior, accept their behaviors and use punishment little, they consult the child about decisions; they do not demand responsibilities or order; They allow the child to self-organize. In the indifferent or reject-abandon style, parents are not receptive or demanding and to whom their children seem to be indifferent, there are no rules to follow, but there is no affection to share. The parents of the framed in the permissive-democratic-indulgent style are overprotective, they rarely punish, guide or control their children, but they are affectionate and communicate well with them ([Ramírez, 2019](#)).

The absence of the father in the families affects the educational performance produced by the poor socio-educational climate of the home, the affectation of emotional intelligence, referring to the low capacity to face adversity, health in general and feelings of inferiority, aggressiveness, isolation, resentment and what he calls "moral orientation." In this sense, it is not only a social problem that has to do with juvenile delinquency rates, the "feminization of poverty" or physical disorders represented in morbidity rates, they also affect the individual in their relationship with others (Zeneida, 2018). Studies have been carried out that demonstrate the scarce participation of parents in secondary education, demonstrated in the low performance of students (Velez & Rodríguez, 2020).

Parental engagement strategies include six categories "parenting skills; school-parent communication; parent involvement as school volunteers in home learning activities and in school decision making; and the collaboration of parents with the school and the community" (Escobedo, Valdés, Martín, & Sánchez, 2009).

The family is the pillar and strength of a new society, since from it the first part's teachings and values that mark the lives of boys and girls, then they become part of a long trajectory of studies at different levels supported by teaching, but this does not mean that they disengage from their sons and daughters, on the contrary their collaboration it is even more important, you must work as a team and achieve quality education, but the absence of parents causes it to stagnate.

The support of the family is needed in student life, communicating that their presence is important to achieve educational purposes, however, it should prepare parents with basic information, with topics that they understand so that they become aware of why it is needed of their support that they do it out of love, not out of obligation. The childhood of our children is today, the fundamental factor of social development, that is why the maximum time should be shared with them, sowing today to reap later, the life that a boy or girl has in the present will be the reflection in adult, that is why parents are recommended to live intensely with their sons and daughters to provide society with dignified, safe people with values that change society (Taez K., 2014).

During the first days of life, the bodily bond is essential, the physical contact of the parents with him. It is a way of strengthening attachment and affective communication between parents and children. Massages, as well as are ways that favor not only the physical and mental development of the smallest, but also stimulate the communication of the baby with his parents. Experiment with holding or cuddling the baby. You will be activated the sensitivity of your skin and your entire sensory system. A communication link is being created with him (Medina, 2015).

One of the most important things a parent can do for their child is to ensure their self-esteem is defined as the emotional perception that one has of oneself, something like self-love and is determined, in large part, by the relationship that others have with you. In the first years of life, children establish the first relationships with their parents and siblings, being the most intense emotional relationship that is created with their parents and that bond that must be created, be strong and solid so that the child maintains a high self-esteem (Autonomous, 2013).

When a child is born he begins to see everything through the eyes of his parents. Looking at his father and mother, he will draw conclusions about how the world around him works and who he is. All children are born with a temperament that will influence their character, although the parents cannot intervene on genetic inheritance, but if you can do a lot in terms of the relationship you establish with your child, This bond that will develop between both will help to shape the emotional development of the child, influence the values, beliefs, norms or conflicts that they have in their life. If we talk to any mother who is about to give birth, we will find that she has already formed some ideas about what her baby will be like depending on multiple factors (Martin, 2014).

We can create secure bonds with children. Express your affection openly through hugs, gestures and words, physical contact is very positive. Share games and everyday situations with them, taking advantage

of any moment to laugh with them, in addition to teaching them playful games with music (Mero, Zambrano, & Rodríguez, 2020), giving them caresses, words of affection.

Encourage communication make boys and girls express themselves, communicate, say what they think and feel with communication, ties and empathy are strengthened. Studies have shown that visual and sensory development increases with the influence of video games, fundamentally linked to brain development, noting that learning is faster (Meneses, Moya, & Rodríguez, 2020) and achieving a close relationship between parents and sons.

Listen to what they feel and think, show interest while talking to you, look into their eyes, do not interrupt them, do not judge what they say are their emotions and thoughts, when we listen we show appreciation and acceptance, showing them that we care. Be aware of your own feelings, try to control negative feelings, and don't hesitate to show and talk about your feelings. Share situations and experiences with them. It is essential that there are special moments shared with those also special people in our lives. Express your affection at all times making the child feel loved and accepted, spend time with them, spend time with the children and that a space of intimacy and trust for attachment is being built (Ruiz, 2018).

Most of the research has provided a wealth of teaching on the importance of the mother in the affective development of the personality. The role of the father, on the other hand, has not aroused as much interest among scientists of human behavior as the maternal role. However, these aforementioned studies indicate the importance of paternal influence in the emotional adaptation of children (Bravo Valdivieso, 2002).

The importance of the paternal image on emotional health and on school performance has been somewhat underestimated in relation to the fundamental importance that the maternal relationship has on the child. Babies are defenseless beings that need adult help to survive. Adults are the ones who must cover these basic needs of the baby; It has to provide food, care, protection, security, affection and affection (López Cassá, 2007).

Looking at the parent-child relationship from the perspective of the behavioral model, it is very important that each parent reflects on the image they project (Fernández, 2010).

Fathers, like mothers, also influence their children's attitudes towards language. The positive or negative attitude that the father has about bilingualism will affect the children. (Flor & Baker, 2001).

It is not only about detecting the problems that a child presents in his early years and trying to remedy them, but above all, about helping his family to correctly approach the question of positively influencing the integral development of their child. This is especially important in the case of so-called high-risk children or children without obvious pathology, since their deficits are not very striking and may go unnoticed, facing older ages, which causes a notable imbalance in the family environment and in the parents' relationships with their child and with professionals. (Instituto Foral de Bienestar Social, 2005)

Strategies and activities should be implemented where parents are leading agents that coherently link the teaching pedagogical work and school management, that is, they must responsibly assume their role as parent in its different aspects: intervene in the learning experiences of your children, ensure emotional security and adequate state of self-esteem, motivate the culture of harmonious coexistence by fulfilling duties, transmit the beliefs and values necessary to promote a favorable climate in equality of opportunities according to citizen duty (Taez K., 2014).

2. Materials and Methods

The study was located in the Pichincha canton, Manabí province, Ecuador. Field research was used to collect data by applying a survey to 160 parents from the Growing with Our Children (CNH) program. of that canton.

A mixed qualitative-quantitative approach was applied that allowed obtaining information from the collection instruments, the survey, and the bibliographic review of several reliable sources of information.

We worked with the total population of the 160 parents linked to the 8 attention units of the CNH program of the Pichincha canton.

The population was 160 parents in 8 care units.

3. Results and Discussion

Parents to be able to socialize and instill in their sons and daughters an education based on values must share different activities with it, one is cleaning, where the children are happy to share with their parents. Parents support in different activities the results are shown in figure 1.

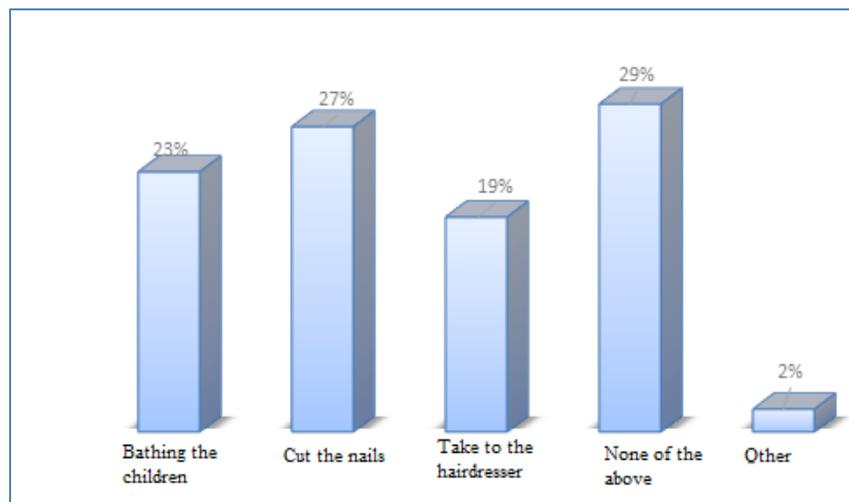


Figure 1. Cleaning activities carried out with their sons and daughters

This means that the highest percentage of parents do not collaborate in the cleaning activities of the boys and girls, only some of them They take them to the hairdresser, delegating this responsibility to the mother. In the rural areas of this canton, there is an urgent need to raise awareness about the importance of the father figure for optimal upbringing of infants. The contribution of parents is clearly crucial and it is necessary to describe and analyze whatever goals and characteristics parents bring to the interaction with their children (Schaffer, 2000). According to the author and comparing with the results, a simple activity such as cutting the child's hair, cutting the girl's nails, to name a few, can contribute a lot to the affectivity between father and son-daughter, however the results they differ in the importance of the father's involvement in parenting.

The results of the health activities carried out with the infants are shown in figure 2.

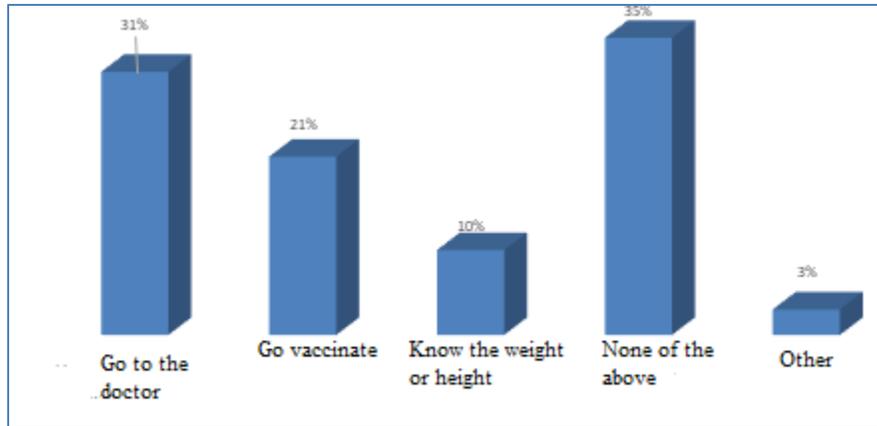


Figure 2. Health activities carried out with the sons and daughters

This shows that the highest percentage of parents do not pay interest in the health activities of their children and daughters, health being an important factor for the correct development of the child. (Antolinez, 2018), refers that the presence of the father and his active relationship in raising children, facilitates their integral, safe and stable development, their physical and emotional health. According to the above and the results of the work, the number of fathers who accompany mothers to carry out a medical check-up on their children is very low, this participation is substantial, the children show a natural fear of vaccines, the presence of doctor, and is the father figure that can influence to balance their spirits and overcome their fear, also in the company of their mother, both emanate the protection that the infant needs at that time.

The results of the nutrition activities carried out with the infants are shown in figure 3.

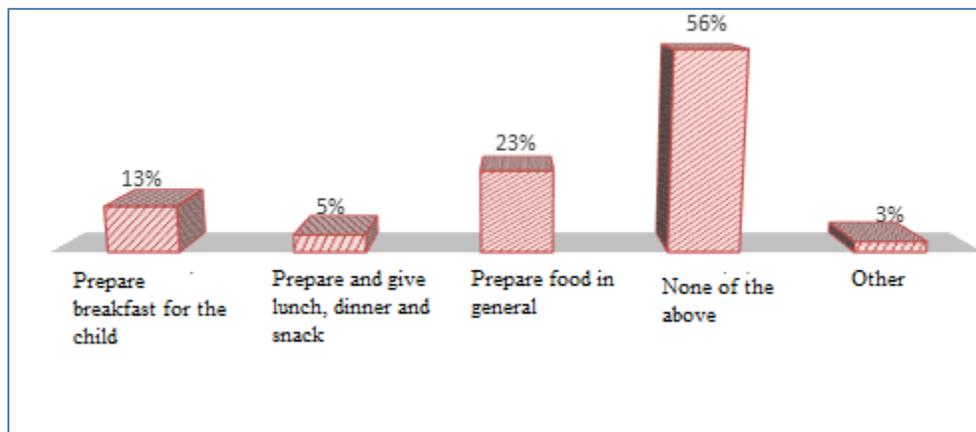


Figure 3. Nutrition activities carried out with the sons and daughters

Most of the parents surveyed showed that they did not participate in the preparation of food for the children and Girls, being a rural sector, the culture of the father is to work to provide economic sustenance for the purchase of food, clothing, education and others. For (Katchadourian, 2008) parents have a very powerful effect on children, as they are a model with a very large impact. Under this consideration, it is necessary for the father to be involved in everything related to the feeding of his sons and daughters, this action can greatly influence whether children eat the daily diet, tending to be better nourished.

The results of the father's participation in the activities carried out at the CNH are shown in figure 4.

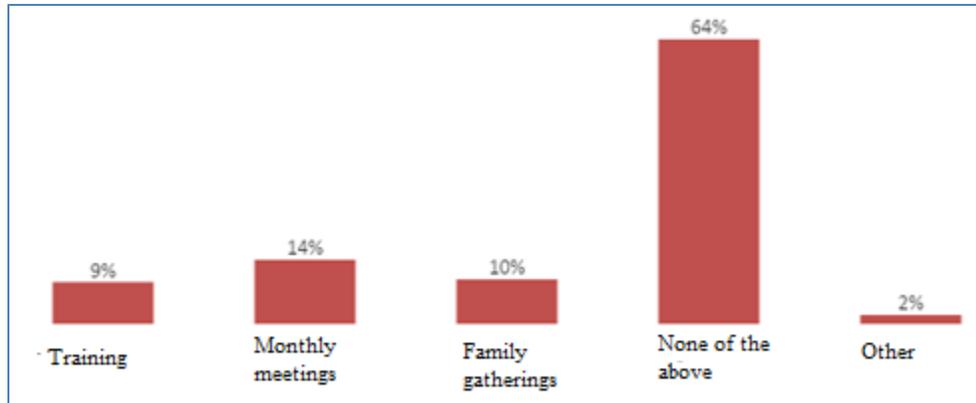


Figure 4. The father's participation in activities carried out at the CNH

As can be seen in the graph, the parents mostly attend the monthly meetings of the CNH, however, the highest percentage of parents do not attend trainings, monthly meetings and family gatherings. According to (Poza, 2015), "Parents as first caregivers, in a "good enough" situation, will establish a bond, a tune with the child that will allow them to interpret those demands for attention and care that their child needs in every moment. They will be the first responsible for the creation of channels and significance that will favor the construction of the child's identity". The activities of the CNH program are essential to establish ties of affection between the family, the absence of parents in most of the activities is regrettable.

The results of the father's participation in the activities carried out at the CNH are shown in figure 5.

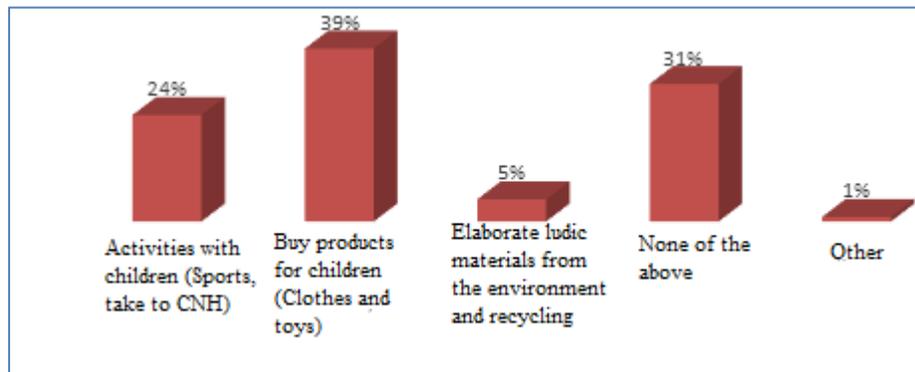


Figure 5. Daily activities carried out with the sons and daughters

The purchase of products for children, such as clothes, toys and others, are the activities that parents carry out the most with their children, but their participation with the children definitely counts little in terms of making playful materials with environmental and recycling materials. (Jaksa, 2012), highlights in his work that the responsibility as parents is to offer protection and teach our children. These are best done with love and understanding, but should never be delayed out of remorse or underestimating their importance. According to the results presented, our parents show their role by simply buying products that children require for their needs, but their link to teaching children in activities as simple as those of the CNH program that can enhance its development.

The results of the qualification of the father's participation are shown in figure 6.

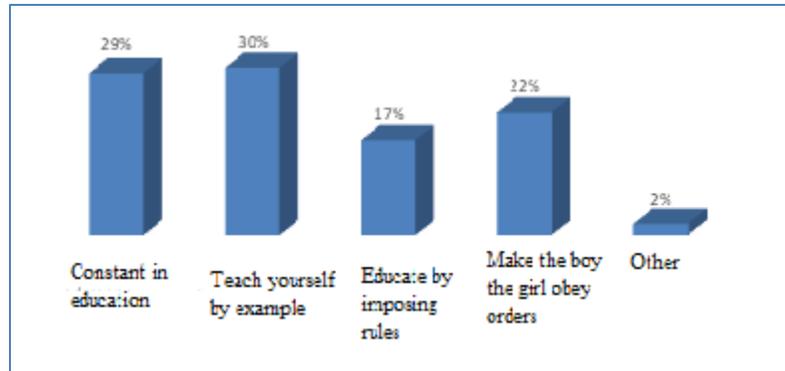


Figure 6. Qualification of the father's participation

The father must teach by example and must be constant in education, according to the opinion of the mothers. . Thus, (Alemann, 2013) states that “Positive parental participation acts as a protective factor for boys and girls throughout their lives, reducing their predisposition to risky behaviors such as drug abuse, crime, partner violence. and against third parties”. A relationship between both findings can be evidenced, also considering that “children of involved parents are twice as likely to go to university and find stable jobs, 75% less likely to be teenage parents, 80% less likely to be incarcerated and 50% less probability of suffering from depression ”, very important data to take into account inside the home.

The results of the father's responsibilities are shown in figure 7.

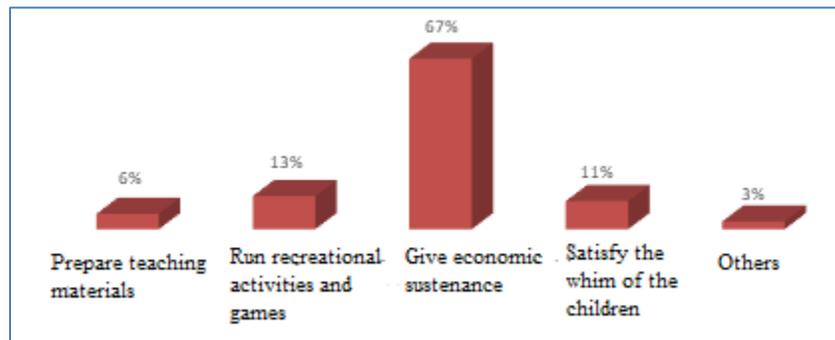


Figure 7. Father's responsibilities at home

The father's responsibilities are limited to providing economic support at home, according to what was expressed by the mothers. This result differs a lot from what was expressed (Vera, 2017), who states in his study that the father is the one who provides the necessary affection to the child for his adequate social development both inside and outside the academic institution. The father is not only the provider of a home but rather the figure of responsibility, work, tolerance, that children seek to resemble, therefore the example given by parents has a high impact on the actions of the child. From birth, the infant's attachment to its parents begins. The presence of both, according to many psychologists, will give them security both in their way of relating and in themselves, if they do not have both parents during the process of physical and emotional growth. Several scholars have pointed out that the development of an individual's personality starts from the example he or she receives at home, and if the child does not have the presence of one of his or her parents, he may present behavior problems by not knowing how to react. facing various situations.

4. Conclusions

The care and upbringing of children continues to constitute a set of tasks and responsibilities that is assumed and performed mainly by women; In this sense, it seems that the advances and changes derived from the progressive equality between men and women have not affected the father's participation in the upbringing of children, since mothers share childcare tasks with their partners in less than 10%, due to a cultural load that assigns and naturalizes the tasks of care and upbringing to mothers.

It is established that the care and upbringing of children continues to be a set of tasks and responsibilities assumed and carried out mainly by mothers.

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