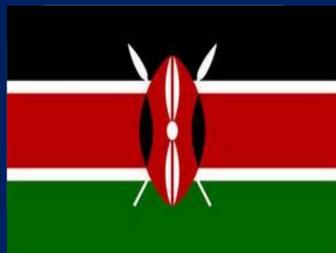


Impact of Paternal Sensitivity on Development of Children's Attachment During Infancy



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Introduction

- Father-child relationships begin early in life as the father starts to anticipate his future roles during pre-natal period (Hjelmstedt and Collins, 2008)
- Paternal sensitivity is crucial in forming secure father-child attachment (Thompson, 2006)
- In most cultures in Kenya, fathers are not sensitive to their children's needs hence low number of children who are securely attached to them. Fathers do not engage in infant caregiving activities even though they are involved in disciplining and teaching their children acceptable values (Ochulla-Ayoya and Oburu, 2011)
- Training fathers on how to be sensitive to their children's needs will possibly increase the number of children who are securely attached to their fathers. It may also increase the number of fathers engaging in the child caregiving activities.

Goal

- Train fathers to be more sensitive to their children's needs hence promoting secure father-child attachment.

Participants

- Thirty fathers who have children below the age of three years irrespective of the birth order will be recruited to participate in the training program.
- Training will take place in groups of six fathers.

Procedure

- Fathers will be recruited in public and private postnatal clinics to participate in the intervention program
- The father-child interaction in each group will be videotaped.

- Child development professionals such as developmental psychologists and social workers will be taken through orientation in order to assist in training fathers in other parts of the country
- Training will be carried out in three phases for three days in the laboratory using videos and presentations.
- Each phase will contain two sessions that last for 1.5 hours each.
- Each phase has a specific goal to be achieved guided by the following training protocol
- ❖ **Phase 1:** Sensitivity and Attachment
- ❖ **Phase 2:** Identifying parental struggles and improving parental behaviour
- ❖ **Phase 3:** Strengthening positive interaction and Empowering fathers as experts of their own children

Measures

- Sensitivity scale by Mary Ainsworth (Pre-test and post-test)
- Interviews

Conclusion

- This proposed intervention programme will help to train fathers on how to be more sensitive through giving appropriate responses to their children's needs
- The intervention programme is adopted from some of the already established mother-child attachment intervention programmes and attachment theory that makes it appropriate to fathers
- The implementation process of the intervention programme will experience some limitations such as lack of adequate funds and cultural beliefs and practices that are contrary to the goal of this programme.



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