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## SUMMARY

The objective of the study was to assess the level of male participation in promoting some of the psychosocial aspects of Early childhood care for Development among children aged 1 to 3 years in a selected MOH area. It also assessed the participation in relation to some selected socio demographic and behavioural factors.

The study was carried out in the Nugegoda MOH area from 31.07.2003 to 31.08.2003. The study population was the fathers of children who belonged to the age group 1 to 3 years as on 30 th June, 2003.

A descriptive cross sectional study design was used. The calculated sample size was 422 but only 393 participated in the study.

The data was obtained by questioning the mother of the child on the father's participation by using a interviewer administered questionnaire.

The analysis was done using the SPSS 8 statistical package.

The study found that the father's participation in showing affection to child, being receptive to the child's needs and teaching to behave towards others was deficient in some areas. Response to a child's mistake was poor. Although the participation in feeding, washing and dressing child was reasonable, the father did not use this opportunity to teach the child some independence. In teaching about the environment all five senses were not utilized.

The participation in finding the cause for the child's crying, explaining to child that

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he has done a mistake when on doing one and diverting attention from mistake increased with higher educational attainment where the differences were statistically significant.

Recommendations are, to incorporate parenting skills where the above deficient areas are addressed into the existing maternal and child health services and to teach about the importance of psycho social stimulation of the child in the school curriculum.

