

Conceptual Analysis of the Implications of Black Fathers' Lifestyles and Their Involvement in their Children's Early Development

Authors : Chinedu Ifedi Okeke

Abstract : The behavioural orientations of fathers, which resonate in the way they relate to members of their families and other community members, appear to have a variety of implications for the early development of children. In this paper, a conceptual map of fathers' lifestyles is adopted to provide an interconnected network of father lifestyles. Empirical evidence from a qualitative case study of 25 Black fathers, who had been purposively selected from a suburb in one rural Eastern Cape municipality in South Africa, is reported in this paper. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were used to obtain data, which was analysed thematically. Findings identify and provide evidence of father lifestyles that are incongruent with the kind of parental behaviour needed to support the healthy early development of children. Findings suggest that these negative lifestyles appear to incapacitate fathers who fail to make a positive contribution to their children's early development. To ensure that fathers make the expected contributions to their children's early development, policies aimed at rehabilitating fathers who are involved in the negative lifestyles reported in this paper should be put in place.

Keywords : childhood development, fathering, fathers, intervention strategies, lifestyles, South Africa

Conference Title : ICCEDI 2022 : International Conference on Childhood Education and Designing Instructions

Conference Location : Oslo, Norway

Conference Dates : June 23-24, 2022