Male Roles in Family Networks

Historical Perspectives & Contemporary Challenges for Enhancing Father Involvement

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Conceptual Framework

- Juxtaposes developmental, racial and ethnic and socioeconomic statuses with family structure in assessing paternal involvement outcomes
- Offers a precis to understanding how historical research perspectives have shaped our conceptual scope and contemporary challenges that mandate a broader lens for facilitating paternal involvement roles and outcomes in family and kinship networks
Contemporary Outcomes

- How does the gender affect the selection of father involvement activities viewed as most important?

- How does parenting in various geographical and social contexts mandate the adoption of father involvement accessibility and engagement that are seldom assessed or evaluated?
Historical Perspectives

- Fatherhood and father involvement has evolved over time

- Although multi-faceted, shifts in the dominant motifs characterizing father involvement has resulted in varying degrees of engagement across the fatherhood spectrum

- Historically, unequal access to undertaking the changing dimensions of father involvement
Historical Perspectives

- The benefits of father involvement have been largely assessed in terms of their contributions to child well-being outcomes.
- The scientific documentation of father involvement activities have been largely based on mother reports.
Contemporary Challenges

- Racial and ethnic differences in family structures and constellations may have varying effects on father involvement

- Historical and contemporary changes in paid labor force engagement also have varying effects on father involvement

- Public policies reflected in increased incarceration rates affect father involvement
Contemporary Challenges

- Dramatic and persistent changes in nuclear family structure resulting in marital disruption characterized by
  - Separation
  - Divorce
  - Forming new families
Contemporary Challenges

- Dramatic and persistent changes in non-nuclear family structures resulting in disruptions in family structures characterized by:
  - Nonmarital births
  - Nonresident fatherhood
  - Noncustodial fatherhood
Contemporary Challenges

- Assessing the role and impact of non-paternal family members and fictive kin on paternal involvement activities for enhancing child wellbeing outcomes
  - Grandparents
  - Paternal and Maternal Uncles
  - Mentors