

## Parenting Behavior and Self-Efficacy of the Multicultural Mothers with Young Children and the Rearing Support from Fathers

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### Abstract

*The purpose of the present study is to explore factors that affect the parenting behavior of marriage migrant women thereby affecting the growth and development of young children in multicultural families. Relevant data were collected through 139 marriage migrant women in South Korea. The effects of mother's self-efficacy and father's rearing support on mother's parenting behavior were examined and according to the results, among the sub-factors of father's rearing support, emotional support had the largest effects on mother's parenting behavior followed by mother's self-confidence and father's material support in order of precedence. In conclusion, husband's emotional support has the largest effects on child rearing in multicultural families. These results indicate that interventions to derive father's active rearing support are necessary in order to relieve the child rearing burdens.*

**Keywords:** Multicultural mother, Parenting behavior, Self-efficacy, Rearing support from Father

### 1. Introduction

Our society has passed the initial period of formation of multicultural families to go into the period of settlement and the number of children of marriage immigrants and naturalized persons was 207,693 including 117,877 children aged six years or less amounting to approximately 60% [1]. In that the increase in the number of multicultural family children following the increase in multicultural families and the high composition ratio of infants among the multicultural family children mean that they will account for quite a few of society members when they have grown up to adults, the necessity of social attention to and support for these children has been brought up [2].

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The present study is intended to examine factors that affect multicultural family mother's parenting behavior.

## **2. Materials and methods**

The research subjects were multicultural family mothers with children in their infancy aged 3~5 years. Questionnaires completed by 139 subjects were finally analyzed.

### **2.1. Parenting behavior**

Parenting behavior was examined using the Iowa Parent Behavior Inventory (Mother Form: IPBI) developed by Crase and his colleagues (1978) and translated and modified by [3] to fit our culture. This scale consists of four sub-factors; rational guidance, limit setting, affectionateness, and responsiveness. Higher scores indicate more desirable parenting behavior. The reliability coefficients by sub-factor were .81, .79, .75, and .66 in order of precedence and the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient was .90.

### **2.2. Self-efficacy**

The self-efficacy of multicultural family mothers with children in their infancy was measured a general self-efficacy scale developed by [4] and modified by [5]. Higher scores indicate higher self-efficacy. The reliability coefficients by sub-factor were .81, .79, and .75 in order of precedence and the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient for the entire 24 questions was .90.

### **2.3. Rearing support from fathers**

The degrees of father's rearing support were measured using the social support scale consisting of 12 questions made by [6] by modifying the social support scale consisting of 25 questions developed by [7]. Higher scores mean that mothers think that they are helped more by fathers in child rearing. The reliability coefficients by sub-factor were .90, .81, and .88 in order of precedence and the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient for the entire 12 questions was .94.

To analyze the collected data, the frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and Pearson's product moment correlation were calculated using SPSS 21.0. The effects of multicultural family mother's self-efficacy and father's rearing support on mother's parenting behavior were examined using step-wise multiple regression analyses, the multicollinearity was verified through the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF), and the adequacy of the regression model was identified with Durbin-Watson values.

## **3. Results**

To examine the effects of multicultural family mother's self-efficacy and father's rearing support on mother's parenting behavior; first, the correlations among variables were examined. The results are presented in <Table 1>. Among the correlation coefficients of individual variables, significant correlation coefficients were distributed in a range of .19~.81.

Table 1. Intercorrelations between parenting behavior, self-efficacy of the multicultural mothers, and rearing support from fathers

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. rational coach	1.00									
2. limit setting	.74*	1.00								
3. affection	.61*	.36*	1.00							
4. responsibility	.19*	.03	.34*	1.00						
5. confidence	.35*	.31*	.32*	.03	1.00					
6. self-regulated efficacy	.38*	.29*	.29*	.10	.81**	1.00				
7. preference the degree of difficulty	.32*	.37*	.10	.02	.33**	.45**	1.00			
8. emotional support	.58*	.47*	.42*	.24*	.39**	.40**	.22*	1.00		
9. material support	.51*	.37*	.47*	.30*	.33**	.34**	.14	.79*	1.00	
10. informational support	.36*	.31*	.38*	.29*	.33**	.33**	.16	.70*	.76*	1.00

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

To examine the effects of the sub-factors of self-efficacy and the sub-factors of father's rearing support on individual sub-factors of multicultural family mother's parenting behavior based on the resultant correlations among the variables, step-wise regression analyses were conducted. The results are as shown in [Table 2].

Table 2. Results of multiple regression analyses with the parenting behavior of multicultural mothers as a dependent variable and mother's self-efficacy and rearing support from fathers as independent variables

Dependent variable		Independent variable	B	$\beta$	$R^2$	adj. $R^2$	F	VI F	Durbin-Watson
Parent Behavior	rational coach	emotional support from father	.78	.54	.34	.33	41.25***	1.10	1.62
		preference the degree of difficulty	.41	.21	.38	.37			
	limit setting	emotional support from father	.44	.42	.23	.23	29.32***	1.10	1.73
		preference the degree of difficulty	.39	.27	.30	.29			
	affection	material support from father	.63	.41	.23	.22	23.20***	1.12	1.74

		confidence of mother	.23	.19	.26	.25			
	responsibility	material support from father	.23	.30	.09	.08	13.64***	1.00	1.71
Parenting Behavior		emotional support from father	1.08	.32	.34	.34	29.34***	1.18	1.77
		confidence of mother	0.71	.18	.37	.36			
		material support from father	1.26	.26	.40	.38			

\*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

First, the effects of mother's self-efficacy and father's rearing support on rational guidance, which is the first sub-factor of parenting behavior, were analyzed and the results indicated that emotional support ( $\beta=.54, p<.001$ ) out of father's rearing support and task difficulty preference ( $\beta=.21, p<.001$ ) out of mother's self-efficacy had effects. In the regression model that explains multicultural family mother's rational guidance, father's emotional support and mother's task difficulty preference explained 37% ( $F=162.23, p<.001$ ) indicating that the regression model fell under the category of adequate regression models (VIF=1.10, Durbin-Watson=1.62).

The effects of mother's self-efficacy and father's rearing support on limit setting, which is the second sub-factor of parenting behavior, were analyzed and similar results to those of rational guidance were presented. The results indicated that emotional support ( $\beta=.42, p<.001$ ) out of father's rearing support and task difficulty preference ( $\beta=.27, p<.001$ ) out of mother's self-efficacy had effects.

In the regression model that explains multicultural family mother's limit setting, father's emotional support and mother's task difficulty preference explained 29% ( $F=29.32, p<.001$ ), indicating that the regression model fell under the category of adequate regression models (VIF=1.10, Durbin-Watson=1.73).

Affectionateness, which is the third sub-factor of parenting attitude, was shown to be affected by father's material support ( $\beta=.41, p<.001$ ) and mother's self-confidence ( $\beta=.19, p<.001$ ). In the regression model that explains the affectionateness of multicultural family mothers with children in their infancy, father's material support and mother's self-confidence explained 25% ( $F=23.20, p<.001$ ), indicating that the regression model fell under the category of adequate regression models (VIF=1.12, Durbin-Watson=1.74).

Responsiveness, which is the fourth sub-factor of parenting attitude, was shown to be affected by only father's material support ( $\beta=.30, p<.001$ ) among the sub-factor mother's self-efficacy and father's rearing support and father's material support was shown to have an explanatory power value of 8% (VIF=1.00, Durbin-Watson=1.77).

Finally, the effects of mother's self-efficacy and father's rearing support on mother's parenting behavior were examined and according to the results, among the sub-factors of father's rearing support, emotional support ( $\beta=.32, p<.001$ ) had the largest effects on mother's

parenting behavior followed by mother's self-confidence ( $\beta=.18$ ,  $p<.001$ ) and father's material support ( $\beta=.26$ ,  $p<.001$ ) in order of precedence.

Mother's self-regulated efficacy, task difficulty, and father's informational support were excluded from factors that affect multicultural family mother's parenting behavior. As such, three variables were input in order to explain 39% in the regression model that explains multicultural family mother's parenting behavior ( $F=29.34$ ,  $p<.001$ ), indicating that the regression model fell under the category of adequate regression models (VIF=1.18, Durbin-Watson=1.77).

#### 4. Discussion

In conclusion, it can be seen that marriage migrant women's parenting behavior is similar to Korean women's parenting behavior. That is, the results of the present study are similar to the results of a previous study [8] indicating that social support, in particular, husband's emotional support has the largest effects on child rearing. These results indicate that to relieve the multiple burdens of adaptation to South Korean and child rearing, measures to derive father's active rearing support are necessary.

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