



International Conference on Teaching and Education

17 _ 19 May, 2024

Liverpool, United Kingdom

Fathering Students with Disabilities in the UAE: Mothers' Perceptions about Fathers' Roles

Ahmed Hassan Hemdan Mohamed

College of Education, UAE University, UAE

Abstract

This study examines the perceptions of 42 mothers in the United Arab Emirates regarding the role of fathers in raising children with disabilities. Utilizing focus group discussions (FGDs) across the seven emirates, the research aimed to delve into the dynamics of parental involvement within families caring for children with various disabilities. The participants predominantly retired or housewives within the age range of 26-35, shared insights into the paternal contribution to caregiving. Data were anonymized to ensure confidentiality and were analyzed using NVivo 11, which facilitated the organization, coding, and thematic synthesis of the information gathered. Preliminary results indicate a spectrum of engagement levels among fathers, ranging from active participation to more passive roles. Patterns in the maternal responses highlighted both similarities and differences in expectations and realities of fatherly involvement. The findings underscore the complexity of family dynamics in the context of special needs care.

Keywords: perceptions; mothers; fathers; disabilities; parenting