



Exploring Roles Of Family Dynamics In Providing Nurturing Care To Children Of Rohingya Families Living In Refugee Camps In Bangladesh

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Background

In South and Southeast Asian regions, we live in collectivist societal settings where extended families are very common and caregiving for a child is a shared responsibility of the family members and even sometimes close relatives and neighbors (Verma and Triandis, 2020).

Each of the family dynamics might have a significant role in child development; if the family dynamics are not favorable for providing child nurturing care then any initiative of nurturing care might not be reach its full effectiveness. However, the family dynamics of the collectivist society are unexplored.

This study findings unveil important knowledge for future ECD program development and implementation, and designing family-focused interventions.



Objectives of the Study

To explore the family dynamic of Rohingya families living in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

To explore roles of family dynamics in providing nurturing care to children of Rohingya families living in Refugee camps in Bangladesh.



Methodology

Method: Case study method following qualitative methodology

Participants: 6 Rohingya families with three generations.

Research site: Rohingya refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Data collection Techniques:

In-depth interview (IDI)

Observation

Tool:

In-depth interview (IDI) guideline.

Nurturing Behavior Observation Checklist (NBOC)

Ethical consideration: Ethical practices were ensured throughout the study.

Data Analysis : Thematic Analysis , Frequency and Percentage of observed behaviours.



Preliminary findings

Family dynamics in decision making:

Important factors that impact family decisions are age, capacity, income, and gender. To reach a good decision, Rohingya individuals discuss their issues with other family members, and with close relatives such as the elder brother, close neighbors, and friends.

“My father-in-law, mother-in-law, my husband, and I discuss together family decisions, and my father-in-law decides to get the best one.”(Child’s mother)



Preliminary findings

Family dynamics related to sharing behavior:

The younger children share their feelings and needs freely with their mother and grandparents, respectively.

Usually, married women confide in their husbands, seeking their support and willingly following their lead.

The married male members share their emotional feelings with their partners first and then with their mothers.

“I share my feelings and needs with my daughter-in-law, and if it is necessary, she shares them with her father-in-law or her husband, and they take initiative to meet or resolve my issues” (Grandmother)



Preliminary findings

Family dynamics in Interpersonal interaction:

The married male members spend more time with their wives, and the wives spend more time with other females, like their mother-in-law and daughter-in-law.

All the adult family members enjoys time with the children.

“If the father of my child is at home, I spend more time with him, and then I also enjoy time with my grandchildren through playing and having fun.” (grandmother)



Preliminary findings

Child focused family dynamics:

They collectively respond to the child's needs, like illness, hunger, upset, dirtiness, and others.

The grandparents and other family members, along with the parents, also spend time with the child playing games, reciting Kirat from the Holy Quran, playing with toys, and visiting out of home.

"I visit the roadside with the grandchild, taking her on my shoulder. I also play with her, make her baths, feed her, and take her to the doctor when she is sick." (grand father)



Preliminary findings

Child focused family dynamics (Continued):

They also advise or teach the child to behave gently with people, not to follow strangers, not to play with children of other blocks, and to be safe from dangerous things.

The Rohingya people are happy with a boy or girl child, but they become more happy if they are blessed with a boy child.

“Alhamdulillah, we are happy with the girl child. But we could be happier with a boy child because if she could be a boy, then we could make him Hafez and Moulobi” (*Child’s grandmother*)

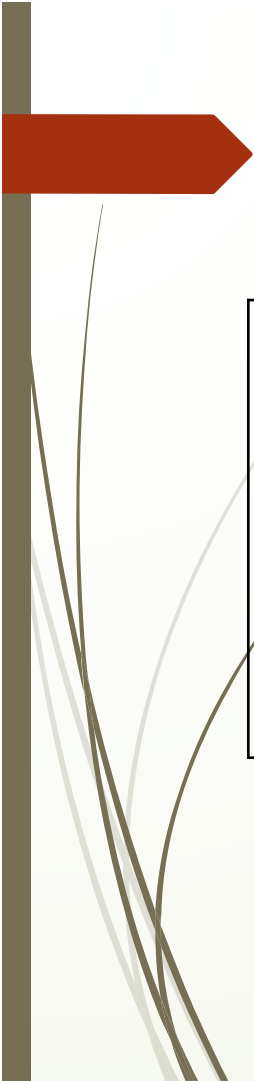


Conclusion

Rohingya individuals engage in collective decision-making, consulting family members, close relatives, and friends.

Family interactions are characterized by shared responsibilities, emotional support, and guidance, fostering a sense of unity and resilience within the community.

This study was an initial attempt, and there are opportunities to work on family dynamics. The explored knowledge can benefit future ECD program development and implementation and the design of family-focused interventions.



Thank you