

**ABSTRACT**

**Name of Institution:** : De La Salle University - Dasmaringas  
**Address** : Bagong Bayan Dasmaringas, Cavite  
**TITLE** : The Well Being of Active Member Fathers of  
the Down Syndrome Association of the  
Philippines, Inc.  
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**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY****A. GENERAL**

To analyze the well-being of active member fathers of the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines

**B. SPECIFIC**

To identify the well-being of active member fathers of the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines vis-à-vis the social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of their lives; and to determine the extrinsic and intrinsic factors that have great effects on the fathers' day to day feelings, i.e. social stigma, social stereotyping, acceptance, approval, affirmation, affiliation, and appreciation.

**SCOPE AND COVERAGE:**

The study focused mainly on active member fathers of the DSAP and how their lives are affected socially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually, the 4 basic aspects that are normally manifested in one's day-to-day living. Included are the extrinsic and intrinsic factors that have

great effects on one's sensitivities, namely social stigma, social stereotyping, acceptance, approval, affirmation, affiliation and appreciation.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

The researchers used the descriptive method in doing this study. The respondents were active member fathers of the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, Inc. who were asked to fill in a constructive survey form which the researchers prepared and distributed during the Annual General Assembly of the Association held on January 26, the Association's founding anniversary. Considering the number of fathers present during the affair, which was less than expected for the survey, the researchers mailed the survey forms to them to be able to gather the required population for the study to be reliable. Enclosed in the priority mail envelope were the survey form and a self-addressed/stamped envelope to ensure that the forms will be sent back via the Association's office. Follow-up calls were also made to ensure that addressees not responding to the request, had received them and were willing to return the filled-in survey forms within a reasonable time.

#### **MAJOR FINDINGS:**

From the data collected, the researchers came up with the following findings:

1. The extrinsic factors manifested by social stigma and stereotyping were present. Although rating was low, this however have positive effects on the fathers. Use of intrinsic factors such as acceptance, approval, affirmation and appreciation were evident in the responses received from the fathers in rearing their children with Down Syndrome which is highly positive based from the scale.
2. The fathers of children with Down Syndrome are not much affected socially, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually as reflected in the survey. Majority of the respondents showed high positive images of happy and harmonious relationships in their families and relations.
2. The well being of the active member fathers of the association which includes all extrinsic and intrinsic factors and the four aspects shows highly positive based from the scale utilized by the researchers.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

1. Feelings of social acceptance and pride pervade among fathers of children with Down Syndrome.
2. The majority of the respondents brushed aside the myths about Down Syndrome.
3. Respondents showed a great deal of concern for their children's future.
4. Only a minority of the respondents are still under the process of acceptance.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

After a careful analysis of the findings, as deemed from the responses received through the survey, the researchers came up with the following recommendations:

1. For the participants to improve their relationships with their respective families more especially to children with Down Syndrome through constant and more loving, harmonious interactions.
2. That the participants should attend available seminars about Down Syndrome to keep abreast with the developments and other programs designed for the subject such as counseling and training from Specialists which they can make use of.
3. The Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines should devise a three-way program for mothers, fathers and both parents that will address each coping mechanism as individuals and as a couple.
4. De La Salle University-Dasmarias can use this research to better understand the well-being, not only of fathers whose children have Down Syndrome, but also of those who have "special" children with seemingly limited potentials.
5. Psychology students can use this as a guide in their further study of the well-being of fathers with children having down syndrome.
6. Future researchers could devise a different methodology and new approaches, other than thru survey forms used in this study, as their medium for extracting new data so information can be updated.