

**ABSTRACT**

NAME OF INSTITUTION : De La Salle University – Dasmariñas

ADDRESS : Dasmariñas, Cavite

TITLE : An Exploratory Study on Self-Concept and Family Dynamics of Unemployed Fathers

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Objectives of the Study:**A. General**

This study aimed to determine the Self-Concept and family dynamics of the unemployed fathers.

B. Specific

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents?
 - a. Age
 - b. Educational Attainment
 - c. Length of being unemployed



- d. Number of children
2. What is the level of self-concept of the respondents as revealed by Tennessee self-concept scale and in-depth interview?
3. What is the family dynamics profile of the respondents?

Scope and Delimitation

This study was limited only to fifteen unemployed fathers, residing at Laguna, who were terminated by the company, Nestle Philippines. It was only confined to the self-concept and family dynamics of the respondents.

Methodology

Research Design The research design used was descriptive, survey method, because it studies large and small populations by selecting and studying samples chosen from the populations to discover the relative incidence, distribution and interrelation of sociological and psychological variables (Kerlinger, 1972). In-depth interview was also used for direct responses regarding the issue, and their personal experience.

Respondents of the Study The respondents were limited only to fifteen (15) unemployed fathers previously working at Nestle Philippines, Laguna and residing at Laguna. The researchers used the snowball technique to select the respondents based from the criteria set by the researchers.



Research Instrument The instruments used were the in-depth interview using proposed guide questions and standardized test namely Tennessee Self-Concept scale.

The in-depth interview was used for direct responses regarding the issue, and their personal experiences. It was also used to obtain more open responses from the respondents. This was one way of measuring the level of family dynamics of the unemployed fathers.

The Tennessee Self-Concept Scale was used to assess the level of self-concept of the fifteen unemployed respondents.

Research Procedure This study was divided into three phases. First, the researchers selected unemployed fathers needed in their study and established rapport with them. Second, the researchers went to each of the respondents' houses and conducted in-depth interviews and administered the standardized test namely Tennessee Self-Concept Scale. The information and data gathered were presented, discerned, analyzed and interpreted by the researchers.

Major Findings:

1. Most of the respondents are under the Middle Age Category, has three children, and are undergraduates. All of them had been three years unemployed at present.



2. Based on the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale, most of the unemployed fathers had a moderate level of Self-Concept. However, it was revealed on the interview that they still are upset upon seeing their family suffering but they conceal it to lessen the discomfort temporarily. Though they are jobless, they still want to project a strong and dependable image to their family.
3. Most wives of the respondents are unemployed. Initial reactions upon learning the situation were shock and depression. Their first thought was that of the future and well-being of their family. While in the children's case, studies had a downfall that manifest their evident distress about the situation, though they weren't included in the discussion, which don't happen often for it depresses both of their parents. Respondents reported of noticeable differences that occurred because of the predicament that they are in, which heavily tilt on the financial obligation of the family. Debts began to pile up due to lack of income. In terms of the stability of the family, it does become unstable but they try to conceal it to manifest as much as possible. Some of the children had a gap towards towards their fathers' fault; they supported him and began talking to him again. Wives, too had a problem relating to their husbands, because it somehow affects their view of their husbands now that they can't provide for the family.

Conclusions

Based on the findings, the following conclusions are made:



1. The unemployed fathers had a moderate level of self-concept. Nevertheless, there is a tendency of them projecting a desirable response to conceal their factual feelings as was shown in the Faking Good Validity score. By not revealing their true feeling, their depression, inflated ego, insecurity, anxiety would be lessened and would not manifest.
2. There became a role reversal between husbands and wives. Husbands compensate with their inability to perform their financial obligations by doing tasks like taking care of the children and doing household chores.
3. Children and wives were financially and emotionally affected when the breadwinner of the family lost his job.

Recommendations

1. Unemployed fathers must be well oriented with their Self-Concept. They must acknowledge their true feelings with their situation.
2. Unemployed fathers must disclose their sentiments and true feelings with their family for them to be understood. In this way, they will recognize their emotional needs.
3. Attachment and respect of wives and children to the head of the family should be well defined, especially in times of crisis.



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4. Society should widen their minds on these situations and maintain their positive regard to the breadwinner of the family.
5. Councilors should give advice on couples on how to sustain a healthy relationship despite of dilemmas they are dealing with.

