WHEN MOM EARNS MORE THAN DAD: THE REFLECTION OF NEW EARNING PATTERNS ON PARENTING EXPERIENCE

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The study examined the relationship between a wife's earning advantage over her husband and the experience of parenthood in three aspects: the cognitive aspect, the emotional aspect, and the behavioral aspect. The cognitive aspect of the parenting experience was examined through the concept of parental self-efficacy; the emotional aspect was examined through the quality of the relationship with the children, which was assessed by means of two measures: satisfaction with the relationship with the children and the degree of closeness to the children; the behavioral aspect was examined through parental daily involvement in child care. The sample included 246 Jewish participants, of which 85 were men and 161 were women. All participants were married and parents to children aged 3 to 17. Fathers with traditional attitudes towards gender roles and whose income was lower than that of their wives, scored lower on paternal self-efficacy than other participants, men or women. On the other hand, women who earned more than their husbands and held liberal attitudes toward gender roles tend to be more involved in child care than other participants, men or women. Compared to fathers and regardless of the pattern of income, mothers estimated their closeness to children as higher, were more involved in child care and their attitudes towards gender roles were found to be more egalitarian in comparison to fathers. The findings indicate that fathers who hold traditional attitudes toward gender roles and earn less than their wives, constitute a particularly vulnerable group in terms of parenting experience. In light of the findings, practical recommendations for professional intervention are presented for fathers and mothers who may experience distress.

Keywords: Parental Self-Efficacy, Satisfaction with Child- Parental Relationship, Sense of, Closeness to Children, Attitudes Towards Gender Roles.