MODULE TWO: THE SOCIALIZATION OF MEN—CULTURE OF FATHERHOOD AND MANHOOD

Learning Objectives
- Describe how the role of the father has evolved over time
- Describe common help-seeking behaviors among men

Time: 4 hours

Materials:

Digital Stories:
David: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVngjK4cbRw
Jaydell: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37e4b5iaz8

PowerPoint

Recommended Textbook:

Supplemental Resource:

Readings:


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<th>Small Group Discussions</th>
<th>Divide the class into small groups and ask students to discuss what they learned about current representations of fatherhood and manhood from exploring print, social media, television, and film. Use the following questions to support the small group discussions:</th>
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<td>• How are fathers represented in the various forms of media?</td>
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<td>• What are some views that society holds about men’s roles as fathers?</td>
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<td>• What are some factors that have contributed to the shift in the role of fathers?</td>
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<td>• What stereotypes associated with masculinity and parenting are reinforced or deconstructed in various forms of media?</td>
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<td>Changing role of the father</td>
<td>Discussion Question: When men become fathers what behaviors are expected? Review the literature on the changing role of fathers. Prioritization of work with the view of fathers as “good providers” for their children. “Good fathers were heads of their families, the court-of-last-resort when it came to discipline, and limited to the playful aspects of childrearing.” Discuss link between masculinity and breadwinner ideology.</td>
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<td>Digital Story: David</td>
<td>Show David’s digital story. Use the following question to promote discussion:</td>
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<td>• How does David’s relationship with his father characterize the changing role of fathers?</td>
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<td>• How do you think David’s relationship with his father has affected how he sees his role as a father?</td>
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<td>• How does David’s relationship with his child reflect Lamb and Pleck’s conceptualization of father engagement?</td>
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<td>Family life has been reshaped due to changes in the following three areas: 1) demography of family life 2) social and cultural context 3) economy</td>
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<td>Since the mid-century, there has been a growing number of fathers who live apart from their children. Divorce and non-marital childbearing present challenges to father involvement.</td>
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The increase in female labor force and the changing cultural norms of gender relationships have led us to examine what is expected of fathers. There is an expectation that fathers develop an emotional connection to their children, be involved in their lives, and more egalitarian in their gender role expectations. Though there have been significant changes to the role of fathers, financial obligation is still associated with “good” fathering.

How does becoming a parent affect the psychological well-being of fathers?
- Young fathers’ well-being is negatively impacted. They are less likely to live with their children, have higher rates of multi-partner fertility, are likely to drop out of school, have erratic work histories, and low paying jobs.
- Older fathers have challenges of complex family relationships due to divorce and remarriage.
- Non-resident fathers’ well-being is affected possibly by the stress of parenting.

Discuss the increase in diversity in the racial – ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations of fathers. The United States is increasingly a multi-racial and multi-ethnic society. Approximately 75% of Latino men and 71% of African American men aged 25 – 44. They represent nearly 23% of all American fathers (Eggebeen, Knoester, & McDaniel, 2013).

Discussion of the meaning of father involvement among African American, African Caribbean, and Latino fathers
- Concept of family and understanding the family system
- Social and psychological boundaries within these families shift and are renegotiated at critical points in the life cycle
- Issues of acculturation

In addition to diversity in race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, socio-economic diversity is evident among fathers. Low-income men are often fathers, some fathering children from multiple partners.


Discussion questions:
- What interventions and policies might strengthen the link between becoming a father and positive changes in men?
• How might the experiences of poverty, joblessness, or social marginality affect their identity as fathers?

Discussion of the hegemonic power of masculinity.
  ▪ Father’s emotional connection to their children is at odds with tenets of hegemonic masculinity.

Before viewing the digital story, ask the group to complete the phrases: “Men are…” and “Masculinity is…”

Show Jaydell’s story. Use the following questions to promote discussion:
  • What are some of the issues Jaydell raises in his story relating to his role as a father and a man?
  • What are some of the struggles Jaydell identifies with being a father?
  • How does Jaydell deal with seeking assistance?

Tasks associated with help seeking:
  ▪ Relying on others
  ▪ Admitting that one needs help
  ▪ Recognizing and labeling an emotional problem

Gender-role conflict linked to psychological well-being and help seeking:
  • Internalized gender roles may create barriers to help seeking for men, particularly if help seeking involves violating important masculine gender roles
  • Negative attitudes toward seeking counseling services

Challenges/Barriers to help seeking:
  • Difficulty with emotional expression
  • “Gender specific” stigma associated with seeking psychological help

Discussion Questions:
  ▪ What are strategies to engage fathers’ in connecting to services?
  ▪ What role does masculinity play in affecting men’s experience in counseling and other services?
  ▪ What role do you think the criminal justice system has in shaping men’s perspective on accessing government support services?
**Overview of Module Three**

**Working with Diverse Populations of Fathers**

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<td>YouTube Videos on Cultural Humility:</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL879555ABCCED8B50">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL879555ABCCED8B50</a></td>
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**References:**


