

FATHERS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND SELF-RATED PARENTING QUALITY

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Numerous studies describe fathering as a generative and impactful experience for men. However, it is not clear how the fathers of college students view their parenting efforts or how their parenting efforts may contribute to their psychosocial wellbeing. In the present study, based on an IRB approved online survey responses of fathers (n = 85; M age = 50.52, SD = 4.66) with at least one college-aged child, we examined the effects demographic and marital factors have on participants' self-rated parenting quality and to what extent such parenting quality affects their self-esteem. We utilized path analysis in order to examine the directional and relative effects of demographic and relationship variables (i.e., education level, income, work hour, and perceived marital relationship quality) and self-efficacy on their self-perception of parenting quality and self-esteem. Self-efficacy and marital quality were significantly associated with participants' perceived parenting quality, which subsequently predicted their self-esteem. Education, work hour, and income had no direct effects on perceived parenting quality; however, these variables, along with self-efficacy, marital relationship, and parenting quality, directly and indirectly contributed to self-esteem, accounting for 44% of its variance. These results suggest that parenting efforts contribute to fathers' psychosocial development and implications of the findings are discussed.