Influence of Parents on Child Behavior: Fathers Smoking in Front of Children

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Introduction
The objective of this presentation is to discuss how the influence of a parent, such as a father, affects the behavior of a child when it involves smoking cigarettes, marijuana, etc. Sadly, many people have a bad influence on young children and don’t realize that it will affect them later on in the future. It’s a common problem that is not focused on in many households. John Jay students should be aware and should look deeper into this study because society may not realize that children tend to have a habit of copying what adults do. Since children may look up to many adults, especially their father, they may think that smoking is trendy. If we put more focus on this matter as soon as possible, we can change the lives of many, improving their health and influence.

Research Question
If children see their father as their role model, are they more likely to smoke in the future after seeing their father smoke at home?

We believe that the more a father smokes in front of his children, the more likely those children are to become smokers themselves in the future. Fathers play an important role in children’s lives. Children see them as their protector or role model and look up to them deeply.

Background
The theory of nature vs. nurture, by Judith Lorber, can be applied to this topic [1]. We believe that the more a father smokes in front of his children, the more likely those children are to become smokers themselves in the future. Although I’ve seen many children not want to follow their fathers regarding substance abuse, I suspect that most children will want to pick up smoking as a result of many other factors. The influence of parents is one of the biggest and most impactful factors for children. A sociologist would agree that nurture comes into this simply because children tend to be who they are by how they were raised and what they are exposed to a home in public.

Factors associated with parental smoking in the presence of school-aged children: A cross-sectional study.

Questionnaire data regarding parental smoking in the presence of children at home and related interactions among family members were analyzed. Hierarchical logistic regression was used to determine the best-fit model for examining the relationships among the variables related to parental smoking in the presence of children at home. Results: Two-thirds of parents who smoked reported smoking in the presence of their children. The results of the hierarchical logistic regression analysis identified the smokers’ compliance with their family’s anti-smoking responses, mutual agreement with smoking bans, daily smoking, smoking more than 20 cigarettes per day, the education level of the parental smoker, and the annual family income as determinants of smoking in the presence of children at home.

BMC Public Health, 2013, Vol. 13 Issue 1, p1-10, 10p, 4 Charts Chart; found on p176 [3].

Perspectives and Theories
Fathers need to know how they influence their children’s lives. A gender activist would say that fathers are usually the protector and the head of the house. If a child admires their father, especially at a young age, they would want to do the things they see their father doing. Judith Lorber tells her readers of how most people voluntarily go along with their society’s perceptions and what they are taught to believe. We related Lorber’s idea as to why children usually take after their fathers and smoke. Women are seen as sensitive and fragile, and smoking is looked down upon as an unladylike thing to do. Therefore, men are usually the ones to smoke as they look up to their father’s.

By applying symbolic interactionism, a sociologist would say that children are greatly influenced by their environment. Children feel that if they see someone they greatly admire do something, then they will do it. Second, we will hold a meeting with the children of the fathers and ask them if they smoke. We related Lorber’s idea as to why children usually take after their fathers and smoke. Women are seen as sensitive and fragile, and smoking is looked down upon as an unladylike thing to do. Therefore, men are usually the ones to smoke as they look up to their father’s.

Methodology
First, we will conduct a survey with fathers, asking if they smoke at home in front of their children or if they try to hide it. Second, we will hold a meeting with the children of the fathers and privately ask them if they have intentions of smoking, are smoking, or don’t have any interest at all. All of which will of course be confidential. Lastly, we will look at the results from the survey and find out if fathers who smoke in front of their children led to a child that has the intention of smoking or are smoking. By doing this, you can see the issue from a sociological standpoint. Rather than experimenting with one father at home, by using the sociological imagination you can see the issue as a whole when surveying many fathers [4]. There are other ways to conduct more research by applying symbolic interactionism into this observation. Since dads have a heavy influence on children, especially those children who admire them, children will want to imitate the behaviors of the adults.

Questions we will ask:
To the children
Do you smoke? Do you have intentions of smoking? Does anyone in your family smoke at home? Does your father smoke? Does he smoke in front of you?

To the fathers
Do you smoke? Do you smoke at home? Do you smoke in front of your child? Does your child smoke?

Statistics
No smoke without fire: The impact of future friends on adolescent smoking behavior.

This study examined the impact of future friends and the contribution of different social influence and selection processes in predicting adolescents’ smoking behavior by extending the theory of planned behavior (TPB).

British Journal of Health Psychology, Feb 2011, Vol. 16 Issue 1, p170-188, 19p, 1 Diagram, 5 Charts Chart; found on p176 [3].

References
8. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/ab/Cigarette_symbol.png/200px-Cigarette_symbol.png