

ASIA-PACIFIC NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN
IN ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH, KALAYMYO, MYANMAR

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Degree of Master of Arts in Religious Education

Holistic Child Development

By

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ASIA-PACIFIC NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WE HEREBY APPROVE THE THESIS


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AS PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT)

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ABSTRACT

This case study explored the perceptions of the selected children in St. John Baptist Church, Kalaymyo, Myanmar, on the influence of their families upon their holistic development. Specific factors were investigated to explore the experience and perceptions of the selected respondents on the influences of their families upon their lives.

The respondents were 10 to 12 years old from families who have been regular members of the St. John Baptist Church in Kalaymyo, Myanmar. They were chosen using the purposive sampling method. Three research methodologies were used to gather data, namely, semi-structured interview, observation, and drawings of the children. These avenues provided the information on the influence of the families upon the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social development of the children.

Based on the findings of this research conducted, the following conclusions were drawn. Spiritually, this study found that there is less intentionality on the part of the parents and siblings to conduct devotions, read Bible stories, and discuss about spiritual matters in the context of the home. Intellectually, the family had affected a very positive influence upon the selected children. In fact, in the study, this is the most positive area where the selected children indicated where the family really helped them through helping and supporting their educational needs. Physically, the study revealed that the height and weight of the selected children was not up to the standards set forth by the World Health Organization (WHO). Socially, the family has helped the children's development on having right relationships with others through their encouragement and

guidance. The respondents have learned how to show respect towards the elderly, how to help and love others in their school, church, and community.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are offered to the parent. First, for the spiritual needs of the children, the parents need to be aware that the home is a place of parental teaching and child learning. Second, for the intellectual needs of the children, the parents need to be commended on a job well done in the area of helping their children with their intellectual pursuits. Third, since the study revealed that the height and weight of the selected children in the study was not up to the standards set forth by World Health Organization (WHO); the family can help the children through providing meals, clothes, and health care, enough sleep and regular exercise, and time to play with other children. Finally, for their social needs, the parents need to exercise equality on their treatment of each child as the respondents indicated that they felt that there is favoritism in the family.

Finally, the following are some of the recommendations for further studies: (1) A qualitative study on the perceived influence of the church upon parenting in Myanmar; (2) A quantitative study on the differences of the self-perceptions of holistic development between boys and girls; and (3) A qualitative study on the impact of grandparents upon children's holistic development in Myanmar.

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DECLARATION

No portion of the work referred to in the thesis has been submitted in support of an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university or other institute of learning.

Naomi Ni Em
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March, 2019
Date

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the families and different congregations of St. John Baptist Church, Kalymyo, Myanmar who were willing to help me through this thesis.

This thesis is also dedicated to my dearest Mother Thawng Nawn who gave me a wonderful childhood that I would always cherish even though she left soon and now only lives in my heart and in my memory.

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