

Examining Father's Roles and Responsibilities in Raising Children with Global Developmental Delay

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This qualitative study explored the lived experiences of fathers raising children aged 2 to 5 years diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay (GDD). Grounded in interpretive phenomenology, the research utilized semi-structured interviews with 10 fathers in Bulacan, Philippines, to understand how they navigate their roles and responsibilities. Data were analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to explore the idiographic depth of participants' experiences. Four major themes emerged: (a) adaptive provision, (b) psychological alignment, (c) responsive engagement, and (d) metamorphosis of identity. Findings indicate that fathers of children with GDD are active, emotionally engaged caregivers who undergo significant personal transformation. While the participants faced substantial financial strain and adjusted their professional lives to meet caregiving demands, they also reported increased resilience, spiritual growth, and a shift toward celebrating "small wins" in their child's development. These results challenge traditional deficit-based or peripheral models of fatherhood and highlight the need for father-inclusive early intervention programs and expanded community-based support systems.

Keywords: *Fathers, Lived Experiences, GDD*

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North American Journal of Psychology, 2026, Vol. 28, No. 3, 1304 -1322
© NAJP <https://doi.org/10.65696/001c.164430>