

**Title:** Conceptualising Male Involvement in the Wellbeing of Children in Ghana

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### **Abstract**

**Background:** Male involvement is a multifaceted word with different connotations and utilisation. The concept is incorporated into African healthcare delivery including Ghana, where men physically attend maternal and child health services. The essence is to improve birth outcomes, seek prompt care for children and enhance the cognitive, and social development of children. However, in practice, nurses struggle to engage men due to a lack of a structured approach male involvement. Therefore, this study seeks to conceptualise male involvement in the wellbeing of children in Ghana. **Research questions:** What are the processes of male involvement at the Child Welfare Clinic (CWC)? What roles and responsibilities do male partners play at the CWC? How do health professionals and parents construct male involvement? **Research design:** A constructivist version of grounded theory approach will be utilised. Three stages will be employed; 1. Exploratory phase where a scoping review will be done 2. Contextual exploration 3. Conceptualisation phase. The study will be conducted in two settings, an urban and a rural health facility in the Ashanti region of Ghana. **Sampling:** Participants will be selected purposively and through theoretical sampling. Individual interviews and focus group discussions will be conducted with a semi-structured interview guide on an estimated 40-50 participants based on theoretical saturation. **Data collection and analysis:** Data collection and analysis will be an iterative process. The analysis will involve coding processes of open, axial, and selective with constant comparative analysis until all theoretical categories with attributes are defined. **Expected outcome:** The study will highlight the meanings of male involvement in the Ghanaian socio-cultural context and provide stakeholders of health the preferred engagement process at CWC for better services provision.

**Keywords:** Children, Ghana, Male involvement, Wellbeing, Well baby clinic.