Chapter 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The increasing awareness of the significance of early years in human development and increasing conviction in the worth of investing in potential human capital have made the perspective on infancy take a new turn around the world. Caring of children is an area, which has not been explored extensively. The problem of baby care assumes greater significance amidst the twenty-first century—a century which has seen the rise of nuclear families—migration to cities in search of a better livelihood, increasing pressure on mothers to seek employment outside the home and lack of domestic help in homes.

Forces such as industrialisation, migration from rural to urban areas and high cost of living have resulted in the break up of joint families. The role played by the loosening of kinship ties—increasing individualistic values and unwillingness of young couple to accept ‘favours’ and help for childcare cannot also be ignored completely. Changes in living patterns, financial and residential restrictions to support an additional member have adversely affected the inter-dependence within the social system to meet childcare demands. There is no systematic and scientific study conducted on the problem.
The study assumes greater significance in Kerala—a state which has achieved full literacy. Women of Kerala seem to be breaking the social and psychological barrier to assume new responsibilities outside the home. More and more women seem to enter the field of employment which in turn shows the high priority given to education and career in the state. Substitute care has become increasingly scarce and expensive in the state. Thus familial support in child rearing especially from the father could ameliorate the severity of the problem.

The study is focused on early stages of life—infancy, which is regarded as the foundation age. It is also a period which demands great responsibilities out of parents. The caring of baby keeps the mother everlastingly busy and frequently tired. Even the most organised and efficient person may need help at one time or another in taking care of a baby. The fathers who are ready to offer a helping hand can give his wife the much longed-for peace of mind by sharing the responsibilities. His involvement in child rearing could be healthy for the entire family unit. It is not only the infants who get the benefits but also the mothers, who in turn could foster a positive behaviour pattern towards the infants. So the present study is an attempt to find out the impact of fathers' involvement in baby care on attachment patterns, behavioural profile of infants and mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.1 The Problem of Investigation

IMPACT OF FATHERS' INVOLVEMENT IN BABY CARE ON BEHAVIOURAL PROFILE, ATTACHMENT PATTERNS OF INFANTS AND MOTHERS' BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS.
6.2 Aim of the Study

6.2.1 To elucidate the relationship between the fathers’ involvement in baby care, baby’s behavioural profile, reaction pattern, intensity of reaction, attachment patterns and mothers’ behaviour patterns.

6.2.2 To assess the impact of

(1) age—(a) paternal age, and (b) maternal age;
(2) educational status—(a) paternal educational status, and (b) maternal educational status;
(3) status of income;
(4) gap between marriage and birth of the child under study;
(5) nature of infant care provided;
(6) gender of the infants;
(7) ordinal position of the infant in the family;
(8) type of family;
(9) working status of the parents; and
(10) gap between the child under study and the younger or older sibling on all the study variables, namely (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care, (b) baby’s behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns.

6.2.3 To understand the study variables, namely fathers’ involvement in baby care, attachment patterns of infants and mothers’ behaviour patterns which make significant contribution to the dependent variable, namely baby’s behavioural profile.

6.2.4 To find out the age of the infant at which the attachment patterns of infants show conspicuous changes and also to find out the age groups having similar characteristics regarding attachment patterns of infants.
6.3 Hypotheses

6.3.1 There will be significant relationship between fathers' involvement in baby care and (a) baby's behavioural profile, (b) intensity of reaction of infants, (c) reaction patterns of infants, (d) attachment patterns of infants, and (e) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.2 There will be significant relationship between baby's behavioural profile and (a) attachment patterns of infants and (b) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.3 There will be significant relationship between attachment patterns and (a) mothers' behaviour patterns, (b) reaction patterns of infants, and (c) intensity of reaction of infants.

6.3.4 There will be significant relationship between mothers' behaviour patterns and (a) reaction patterns of infants and (b) intensity of reaction of infants.

6.3.5 There will be significant effect of age:

6.3.5.1 paternal age; and

6.3.5.2 maternal age on (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.6 There will be significant effect of educational status:

6.3.6.1 paternal educational status; and

6.3.6.2 maternal educational status on (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.
6.3.7 There will be significant effect of status of income on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.8 There will be significant effect of the interval between marriage and birth of the child under study on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.9 There will be significant effect of nature of infant care provided on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.10 There will be significant effect of gender on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.11 There will be significant effect of ordinal position in the family on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.3.12 There will be significant effect of the type of family on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care, (b) baby's behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns.
6.3.13 There will be significant effect of the working status on the study variables, namely (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care, (b) baby’s behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns.

6.3.14 There will be significant effect of interval between the baby under study and the younger or the older sibling on all the study variables, namely (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care, (b) baby’s behavioural profile, (c) attachment patterns of infants, and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns.

6.3.15 The study variables, namely (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care, (b) attachment patterns of infants, and (c) mothers’ behaviour patterns make significant contribution to the behavioural profile of infants.

6.3.16 Age of the infant has a significant impact on attachment patterns of infants.

6.3.17 There is a particular age group which show similar characteristics with regard to the study valuable, namely attachment patterns of infants.

### 6.4 Conceptualisation of Terms

#### 6.4.1 Baby

The term in the present study is synonymous with infant. It is applied to those children in the age range of six months to 1½ years (18 months).

#### 6.4.2 Baby care

It is providing necessary attention to the baby—body warmth and contact, being held and carried about, being rocked and patted, providing
physical care and protection, being made clean, comfortable, being played with and also responding to the baby's signalling behaviours such as cries, smiles, reaching and clinging.

6.4.3 Fathers' involvement in baby care

The intensity which include the frequency and the quality which embody the consistency of the fathers getting involved in the day to day baby care activities are taken into consideration in the present study. The higher scores obtained show maximum involvement of fathers in the baby care activities and lower scores obtained show minimum involvement of fathers in the baby care activities.

6.4.4 Behavioural profile or temperament

The present study considers the view of Thomas, Chess et al. (1964, 1971). They have given nine dimensions of behavioural profile. The grouping of the nine categories into two sub-divisions as reaction pattern and intensity of reaction by Indulekha (1977) is also used in the present study.

Under reaction pattern, six dimensions, quality of mood, rhythmicity, approach withdrawal, adaptability, distractibility and persistence which enable to differentiate the responses in terms of 'positive' and 'negative' patterns, are included. Under 'intensity of reaction', three dimensions, namely activity level, threshold of responsiveness and vigour of activity are included which help to describe the baby's behaviour as intense and 'mild'.

The high scores of behavioural profile indicate an easy temperament and low scores point to a difficult temperament among infants.
6.4.5 Attachment patterns

The patterns of attachment formulated by Ainsworth (1972) are made use of in the present investigation. They include securely attached infants who accept and initiate interaction and proximity with the mother during play, show approach or greeting behaviour during reunion and clearly prefer mother to a stranger. Insecurely avoidant infants, according to the authors tend not to solicit interaction with the mother during play, may show little or no separation distress and tend to avoid their mothers upon reunion and insecurely resistant infants during reunion tend to couple, their desire for proximity to the mother with conspicuous anger towards her.

In the present investigation, two patterns of attachment were identified which include securely attached group which shows mild protest following mother’s departure, seeks her when she returns and is easily comforted by her. The second include the insecurely attached group in which the infants are seriously distressed, show protest following mothers’ departure and cling on to her when she returns.

The high scores of attachment patterns indicate security in the infants’ attachment relationships and low scores reveal insecurity in their attachment relationships.

6.4.6 Mothers’ behaviour patterns

Indulekha (1977) has defined mothers’ behaviour patterns as the availability of the mother or caregiver to the infant, her contacts (visual, tactual and verbal) with the infant, the frequency and intensity of their occurrence in day to day situations and the same definition is considered here.
The high scores reveal a positive behaviour pattern of mothers towards the infant when compared to low scores, which indicate poor frequency and intensity of mothers' behaviour pattern towards their infants.

6.4.7 Caregiver

The usage caregiver has recently been coined and has replaced the old usage ‘caretaker’. In the present investigation, the caregiver represents the person who is actively involved in the process of attending to the baby’s day to day needs.

6.4.8 Type of family

Type of family comprises joint and nuclear families.

(a) Joint family

In the study, joint family refers to a family in which one or more additional member is also living with the father, mother and the child/children.

(b) Nuclear family

Nuclear family refers to a family, which has the father, mother and the child/children living together.

6.4.9 Working mother

Working mother in the present study refers to the mother who has sought employment and is an earning member of the family.

6.4.10 Non-working mother

In the present study, a non-working mother is the mother who is not an earning member and has not sought any employment.
6.4.11 Age groups

To have a continuous picture of the changing phase of the age groups 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 months are included for the study.

6.4.12 Sex of the infant

Considering the fact that boys and girls are treated differently from infancy through adulthood, fathers' involvement in baby care, attachment patterns, baby's behavioural profile and mothers' behaviour patterns of male and female infants are taken into account in the present investigation.

6.4.13 Educational status of parents

In the present investigation both paternal and maternal educational status are taken into account. Four groups were identified:

Group I - comprised those having educational qualification of pre-Degree;
Group II - those having qualification of Degree;
Group III - those having qualification equivalent to post graduate degree;
Group IV - those who were professionally qualified.

6.4.14 Income

The annual net income of both the parents are taken into consideration. In the present study, three groups have been identified on the basis of statistical treatment, namely

Mean + I.S.D. as Group I
Mean ± I.S.D. as Group II
Mean − I.S.D. as Group III
According to the Economics Survey of Kerala published by Directorate of Economics and Statistics 1995 the per capita income of an average family is Rs. 40,000/-. Based on this two groups have been identified in the present investigation as those having an annual income < 40,000 as Group I and those having an annual income > 40,000 as Group II.

6.4.15 Ordinal position

In the present study, all infants who are born first (including the only child) are defined as first-born and all infants born after the first child are the later born infants.

6.4.16 Gap between marriage and birth of the child under study

The number of years of gap between marriage and birth of the child under study also serves as a variable in the present study.

6.4.17 Gap between the child and the younger or older sibling

The number of years of gap between the child under study and the other sibling.

6.4.18 Nature of infant care provided

Three groups are taken into consideration which include:

Group I  -  own homes in which mothers or family members look after the baby during the daytime;

Group II -  own homes in which servants look after the babies during the daytime.

Group III -  infants looked after in a day-care centre during the daytime.
6.5 The Sample

One hundred and fifty infants in the age group of 6 to 18 months (1½ years) belonging to the families of Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Kochi and Kozhikode districts of Kerala State formed the sample. Proportionate stratified random sampling is used to select the sample. For studying the fathers’ involvement in baby care, all the fathers are taken as the subjects with whom a face-to-face interview is conducted. For the study of behavioural profile, attachment patterns and mothers’ behaviour patterns, the mothers or the caregivers who take care of the infant most of the time formed the sample.

6.6 The Tools

The tools used to measure the variables in the study are:

6.6.1 interview schedule for assessing fathers’ involvement in baby care developed by the investigator;

6.6.2 interview schedule for assessing attachment patterns of infants developed by the investigator;

6.6.3 interview schedule for assessing infants’ behavioural profile developed by Indulekha (1977) keeping in reference the New York Longitudinal Study of Thomas, Chess and Birch (1968); and

6.6.4 interview schedule for assessing mothers’ behaviour patterns, constructed by Indulekha (1977).

6.7 Collection of Data

The data collection was carried out in seven hospitals, belonging to the four districts by the investigator herself. The days of the visit were confined to the days of immunization. Face to face interview with the fathers and mothers
using the interview schedules revealed the data regarding fathers’ involvement in baby care, baby’s behavioural profile, attachment patterns and mothers’ behaviour patterns.

6.8 Treatment of the Data

The data are sorted, tabulated and scores are assigned for each tool as per scoring techniques. The data are then statistically analysed using simple correlation, analysis of variance, multiple correlation and tests of significance for difference between means in terms of grading of treatment.

6.9 Results

The results of the investigation are the following:

Relationship between the study variables

6.9.1 A significant relationship is found between fathers’ involvement in baby care and (a) baby’s behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.1, \( r = 0.95, P<0.001 \)); (b) reaction pattern of infants (vide, Table 4.2, \( r = 0.86, P<0.001 \)); (c) attachment pattern of infants (vide, Table 4.4, \( r = 0.94, P<0.001 \)) and (d) mothers’ behaviour pattern (vide, Table 4.5, \( r = 0.95, P<0.001 \)), but the relationship between fathers’ involvement in baby care and intensity of reaction of infants seem to be only moderately significant (vide, Table 4.3, \( r = 0.47, P<0.05 \)). Thus a positively high association is observed between fathers’ involvement in baby care and (a) baby’s behavioural profile, (b) reaction pattern of infants, (c) attachment pattern of infants, and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns where as fathers’ involvement in baby care seems to be only moderately influential on the intensity of reaction of infants.
6.9.2 A significantly high correlation is obtained for baby’s behavioural profile and (a) attachment pattern of infants (vide, Table 4.6, \( r = 0.92, P<0.001 \)) and (b) mothers’ behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.7, \( r = 0.93, P<0.001 \)).

6.9.3 A significantly high correlation is obtained between attachment patterns and (a) mothers’ behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.8, \( r = 0.89, P<0.001 \)); reaction pattern of infants (vide, Table 4.9, \( r = 0.83, P<0.001 \)) whereas the correlation between attachment patterns and intensity of reaction of infants seem to be only moderately significant (vide, Table 4.10, \( r = 0.47, P<0.05 \)).

6.9.4 A significantly high correlation is obtained for mothers’ behaviour patterns and (a) reaction patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.11, \( r = 0.87, P<0.001 \)) whereas the correlation obtained for mothers’ behaviour patterns and intensity of reaction of infants seem to be only moderately significant (vide, Table 4.12, \( r = 0.40, P<0.05 \)).

**Effect of the independent variables on the study variables**

6.9.5 The results of the effect of paternal age on the study variables, namely fathers’ involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.13, \( F = 3.06, P<0.01 \)) and baby’s behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.13, \( F = 3.09, P<0.01 \)) reveal that it has an effect on both the study variables but it has no effect on attachment patterns (vide, Table 4.13, \( F = 2.05, P>0.05 \)) and mothers’ behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.13, \( F = 2.97, P>0.05 \)). With respect to paternal age, the younger fathers tend to be more alert and attentive to their children’s needs than their older counterparts, but the attachment patterns and mothers behaviour pattern seem to be least affected by paternal age.
6.9.6 The results of the effect of maternal age on the study variables, namely fathers' involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.14, \( F = 1.59, P > 0.05 \)), baby's behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.14, \( F = 1.21, P > 0.05 \)), attachment patterns (vide, Table 4.14, \( F = 1.99, P > 0.05 \)) and mothers' behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.14, \( F = 1.37, P > 0.05 \)) indicate that there is no significant effect of maternal age on the study variables.

6.9.7 The results of the effect of paternal educational status on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.15, \( F = 7.56, P < 0.001 \)), (b) baby's behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.15, \( F = 7.44, P < 0.001 \)), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.15, \( F = 5.35, P < 0.01 \)) and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.15, \( F = 6.12, P < 0.001 \)) indicate that paternal educational status has a definite impact on all the study variables.

6.9.8 The effect of maternal educational status on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.16, \( F = 6.45, P < 0.001 \)), (b) baby's behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.16, \( F = 5.82, P < 0.01 \)), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.16, \( F = 5.32, P < 0.01 \)) and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.16, \( F = 5.72, P < 0.01 \)) reveal that there is a significant effect of maternal educational status on the study variables. Better educational level among the mothers indicate better scores for fathers' involvement, baby's behavioural profile, attachment patterns, and mothers' behaviour patterns.
6.9.9 The results of the effect of status of income on (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.17, t = 1.91, P>0.05), (b) baby’s behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.17, t = 1.04, P>0.05), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.17, t = 1.63, P>0.05) and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.17, t = 1.33, P>0.05) reveal that status of income does not have any significant influence on any of the study variables.

6.9.10 The results of the effect of interval between marriage and birth of the child on the study variables, namely (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.18, F = 7.98, P<0.001), (b) baby’s behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.18, F = 6.40, P<0.001), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.18, F = 9.56, P<0.001) and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.18, F = 8.57, P<0.001) indicate that there is a significant effect of the interval between marriage and birth of the child on all the study variables. An interval of less than or equal to two years are found to be the best giving the highest scores for all the study variables followed by those who had a gap of more than four years which is followed by the group having an interval of more than two years but less than or equal to four years.

6.9.11 The results of the effect of the nature of infant care provided on the study variables, namely (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.19, F = 3.15, P<0.01), (b) baby’s behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.19, F = 2.08, P>0.05), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.19, F = 3.36, P<0.01) and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.19, F = 1.88, P>0.05) reveal that
the nature of infant care provided has an effect on fathers' involvement in baby care and attachment patterns of infants whereas it does not have any significant effect on baby's behavioural profile and mothers' behaviour patterns. Thus based on the nature of infant care provided the infants looked after by the mother or any of the family members seem to be different from the group in which the infant is looked after by the servant or a crèche. The nature of care provided by a servant or the crèche seems to be similar. The difference in the nature of infant care was relevant in the case of fathers' involvement in baby care and attachment patterns of infants whereas the behavioural profile and mothers' behaviour pattern seem to be least affected by the nature of infant care provided.

6.9.12 The results of the effect of gender on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.20, $t = 4.66$, $P<0.01$), (b) baby's behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.20, $t = 4.64$, $P<0.01$), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.20, $t = 4.11$, $P<0.01$) and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.20, $t = 4.64$, $P<0.01$) reveal that gender has a definite impact on all the study variables with boys showing better scores for all the variables as compared to girls.

6.9.13 The results of the effect of ordinal position on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.21, $F = 18.24$, $P<0.001$), (b) baby's behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.21, $F = 18.62$, $P<0.001$), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.21, $F = 17.22$, $P<0.001$) and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.21, $F = 18.43$, $P<0.001$) show a significant
impact of ordinal position on the study variables. Thus the first born infants and the only child are found to be superior over the later born infants with respect to fathers' involvement in baby care, baby's behavioural profile, attachment patterns of infants and mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.9.14 The results of the effect of the type of family on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.22, \( t = 9.75, P < 0.001 \)), (b) baby's behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.22, \( t = 9.10, P < 0.001 \)), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.22, \( t = 8.38, P < 0.001 \)) and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.22, \( t = 8.94, P < 0.001 \)) reveal that the type of family environment has a definite impact on the study variables with the nuclear family showing better scores for all the study variables when compared to that of joint families.

6.9.15 The results of the effect of working status on the study variables, namely (a) fathers' involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.23, \( F = 5.51, P < 0.01 \)), (b) baby's behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.23, \( F = 3.99, P < 0.01 \)), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.23, \( F = 6.03, P < 0.001 \)) and (d) mothers' behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.23, \( F = 4.68, P < 0.01 \)) reveal that working status has a significant influence on all the study variables. Thus the homes in which both the parents have sought employment are found to be superior with respect to all the study variables when compared to the other group in which only one parent is employed.
6.9.16 The results of the effect of interval or gap between the baby under study and the younger or the older sibling on all the study variables, namely (a) fathers’ involvement in baby care (vide, Table 4.24, $F = 7.91, P<0.001$), (b) baby’s behavioural profile (vide, Table 4.24, $F = 8.97, P<0.001$), (c) attachment patterns of infants (vide, Table 4.24, $F = 4.24, P<0.01$) and (d) mothers’ behaviour patterns (vide, Table 4.24, $F = 6.36, P<0.001$) reveal that the interval or gap between the baby and the younger or the older sibling has a significant impact on all the study variables. Based on the interval between the child under study and the elder or younger sibling, those with an interval of less than or equal to two years are found to be the best.

6.9.17 An analysis of the effect of independent variables on the study variables reveal that the most influencing variables can be arrived at. These include (1) paternal educational status, (2) maternal educational status, (3) interval between marriage and birth of the child, (4) gender of the infant, (5) ordinal position, (6) type of family, (7) working status of the mother and (8) interval between the child under study and the younger or older sibling.

Effect of the study variables on baby’s behavioural profile

6.9.18 The results of multiple regression analysis for studying the effect of fathers’ involvement in baby care, baby’s attachment patterns and mothers’ behaviour patterns on baby’s behavioural profile reveal that the overall effect of the three variables on baby’s behavioural profile is highly significant (vide, Table 4.25, $R^2 = 0.92$), that is 92% of the
variation in baby's behavioural profile is explained by the other three variables of which the maximum significance is obtained for fathers' involvement in baby care followed by mothers' behaviour pattern and lastly by the attachment patterns of infants.

6.9.19 The multiple regression and correlational analyses bring forth the bidirectionality among the variables studied. These can be applied to bring forth the theorem that the fathers who are actively involved in the care of infants affects the infants' behavioural profile in an easy direction which in turn affects mothers' behaviour pattern to be intense and frequent which again influences attachment patterns to be secure.

*Effect of sensitive periods on attachment patterns of infants*

6.9.20 The results of the effect of sensitive periods on attachment patterns of infants (vide. Table 4.26, $F = 5.50, P<0.01$) reveal that there is a specific age for the infant at which conspicuous changes take place with regard to attachment patterns of infants. With an increase in the age of the infant, the study variable is found to be showing a declining correlation with the period 8 to 11 months showing a peak in which conspicuous changes are found to set in with regard to attachment patterns of infants.

6.9.21 The results of the grading of treatment with regard to the age groups having similar characteristics reveal that infants belonging to 6 and 7 months, 8, 9, 10 and 11 months, and 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 months of age show similar characteristics with regard to the study variable, namely attachment patterns of infants.
6.10 Conclusions

6.10.1 The high positive association observed between fathers’ involvement in baby care, baby’s behavioural profile, attachment patterns, and mothers’ behaviour patterns indicate that an active or intense involvement of fathers give rise to an easy temperament in infants, secure attachment relationship and positive behaviour pattern among mothers.

6.10.2 Infants with an easy temperament elucidate secure attachment in infants and positive behaviour patterns in mothers.

6.10.3 A secure attachment pattern in infants brings forth a positive behaviour pattern among the mothers.

6.10.4 With respect to paternal age, the younger fathers tend to be more alert and attentive to their children’s needs than their older counterparts thus affecting their involvement in baby care. On the other hand, the attachment patterns and mothers’ behaviour pattern seems to be least affected by paternal age.

6.10.5 Fathers’ involvement in baby care, baby’s behavioural profile attachment patterns and mothers’ behaviour pattern seem to be unaffected by maternal age.

6.10.6 The better-educated fathers show higher involvement in baby care activities and their attachment relationships will also be better. Hence the baby’s temperament will be ‘easy’ and mothers will show a positive behaviour pattern towards their infants.
6.10.7 Better educational level among the mothers indicate an active involvement of fathers in the care of their babies, an easy temperament and secure attachment relationship in infants and a positive behaviour pattern among the mothers.

6.10.8 Fathers’ involvement in baby care, baby’s behaviour profile, attachment patterns and mothers’ behaviour patterns seem to be unaffected by the status of income.

6.10.9 The interval between marriage and birth of the child show that an interval of less than or equal to two years are found to be the best giving the highest scores for all the study variables followed by those who had a gap of more than four years which is followed by the group having an interval of more than two years but less than or equal to four years.

6.10.10 Based on the nature of infant care provided, the infants looked after by the mother or any of the family members seem to be different from the group in which the infant is looked after by the servant or a day-care centre. The nature of care provided by a servant or the day-care centre seems to be similar. The difference in the nature of infant care was relevant in the case of fathers’ involvement in baby care and attachment patterns of infants whereas the behavioural profile and mothers’ behaviour pattern seem to be least affected by the nature of infant care provided.

6.10.11 The boys are found to be superior over the girls with respect to fathers’ involvement in baby care, baby’s behavioural profile, attachment patterns, and mothers’ behaviour patterns.
6.10.12 The first born infants and the only child are found to be superior over the later born infants with respect to fathers' involvement in baby care, baby's behavioural profile, attachment patterns of infants and mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.10.13 Nuclear family is found to be superior over joint family with respect to fathers' involvement in baby care, baby's behavioural profile, attachment patterns and mothers' behaviour patterns.

6.10.14 The houses in which both the parents have sought employment are found to be superior in fathers' involvement in baby care, baby's behavioural profile, attachment patterns and mothers' behaviour patterns when compared to homes in which only one parent is employed.

6.10.15 Based on the interval between the child under study and the elder or younger sibling, those with an interval of less than or equal to two years are found to be the best followed by the group having a gap of more than four years, followed lastly by the group with an interval of more than two years but less than or equal to four years.

6.10.16 The most influencing independent variables include (1) paternal educational status, (2) maternal educational status, (3) interval between marriage and birth of the child, (4) gender of the infant, (5) ordinal position, (6) type of family, (7) working status of the mother and (8) interval between the child under study and the younger or older sibling.

6.10.17 Baby's behavioural profile is found to be influenced maximum by fathers' involvement in baby care followed by mothers' behaviour pattern and lastly by the attachment patterns of infants.
6.10.18 The study helps to bring forth the theorem that the fathers who are actively involved in the care of infants affect the infants' behavioural profile in an easy direction which in turn affects mothers' behaviour pattern to be intense and frequent which again influences attachment patterns to be secure.

6.10.19 Baby's age is an influencing factor on the variable, namely attachment patterns of infants with the period 8 to 11 months showing a peak in which conspicuous changes are found to set in with regard to the study variable.

6.10.20 Infants belonging to the age groups 6 and 7 months, 8, 9, 10 and 11 months and 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 months of age are found to be having similar characteristics with respect to attachment patterns of infants.

6.11 Limitations of the Present Study

It is not easy to get rid of the problems encountered in the field of research. But for the investigator to deal with an area which has not been explored extensively is not an easy task especially because the subjects happened to be tiny little infants. Moreover the mothers in general were very sceptical and reluctant to participate in the interview. Hence the investigator had to be extremely cautious to convince the mothers or the caregivers that there was no good or bad or right or wrong behaviour and that no two babies will be identical in their behaviour patterns.

Another dissatisfaction with the study is that it pertained to the age groups 6-18 months. It would have been much more interesting and
informative if infants right from birth were included. Non-availability of time, subjects and money were the factors which stood in the way. The parents were contacted through paediatricians as they could successfully persuade and convinced them but only a few paediatricians and hospital authorities were helpful in agreeing to collect information from parents who had come with their infants for immunization. Moreover only those infants with both father and mother present could be interviewed. In most of the cases, the infants were accompanied by only mothers which made it impossible to consider them as subjects. Studying another hundred or more samples would have necessitated large sum of money and very long period for the data collection. Both these facilities were not at the disposal of the investigator. The investigator had to assort to the interview schedule which was again a time-consuming method.

There were a multitude of factors like the child's IQ, home environment etc. which could not be fully controlled and hence not taken into consideration in the present study.

6.12 Suggestions for Further Research

The present study gives room for a number of related research on infants. The same study could be conducted with infants right from birth and also those belonging to rural set-up. More variables to measure the infants' general sociability, emotionality could be included. A longitudinal study to assess the impact of variables at a later stage can also be taken into consideration, which may help to find the long-term consequences of temperamental differences and attachment security.
6.13 Implications of the Study

The knowledge about Indian infant is still very inadequate because we are yet to make a big stride in the area of infant care and development. From the theoretical view, the results of the study found the need for fathers getting more involved. Urbanization and industrialization, nuclear families, lack of domestic help, migration to cities all have necessitated the fathers to get more involved in the care and development of children.

It is hoped that such an investigation may help the fathers to consider the felt need of home training and the science of fatherhood. It is imperative as more and more mothers are entering the job market. The practicability of the research is that fathers and mothers should be made aware of their influence and also made cautious of the ill-effects of them not getting actively involved in their care. The investigator points out what fathers can do and that they have an equal potential to do so like the mothers in almost all areas of baby caring. A detailed knowledge of the child’s early temperamental characteristics or behavioural profile can aid parents in preventing the development of behaviour problems by structuring the environment to match the child’s specific temperamental attributes and thus foster a healthier developmental pattern. The superiority of first-born children (including only children) signified the need to devote more time, energy and other resources for the later borns. Superiority of employed mothers point to the need of unemployed mothers to spend quality time in the care of children. Demanding parents should be educated to make realistic improvements. There should be recommendations to the Department of Health through proper channel to enhance active involvement of fathers in the care of infants.
To sum up the present study is a modest attempt to draw the attention of the future researchers, parents and social psychologists who are aware of the importance of parental care and behaviour towards infants. This could eradicate the adverse effects which may lead to later problems among the pillars of our nation. Thus through the study the investigator is urgently calling the attention of all those who are actively involved in childcare activities. The present investigation acts as the right step to be taken as we enter the new millennium, to enlighten the fathers of their role in childcare and their impact on behavioural profile, attachment patterns and mothers' behaviour patterns.