

ASIA-PACIFIC NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL
NEEDS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THREE SCHOOLS CROSS-CULTURALLY**

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Education**

In Holistic Child Development

BY

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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

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AS PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

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(HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT)

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This study is a comparative study of parental involvement and parental advocacy for their children with special needs in three cross-cultural settings. The purpose of this study was to learn how parents of children with special needs get involved according to Joyce Epstein's Six Types of Parental Involvement and at what levels they were empowered to exhibit advocacy as shown through the Family Empowerment Scale (FES). Epstein's parenting types include: (a) Parenting, (b) Learning at Home, (c) Communicating, (d) Decision-Making, (e) Volunteering, and (f) Collaborating with Community. This study also sought to discover if there was any significant statistical difference between the responses of three sets of parents in three cultural settings according to Joyce Epstein's Six Levels of Involvement through using the Kruskal-Wallis Test (Non-parametric ANOVA). There were 73 respondents total which consisted of mothers and fathers of students with special needs in three schools: Golden Faith Academy in Taytay, Rizal, Philippines; Mirada de Amor in Valparaiso, Chile; and Another Choice Virtual Charter School (ACVS) in Nampa, Idaho, U.S.A.

The findings of this study concluded that parents of children with special needs on average are often involved and feel empowered. In comparing the three respondent groups it was concluded that there was an identifiable statistical difference among the parental responses cross-culturally in the three special education school settings where the FES was administered concerning the parenting types (b) Learning at Home, (c) Communication, (f) Volunteering, and (e) Collaborating with Community, while there was no identifiable statistical difference among the responses in the categories of (a) Parenting, and (d) Decision-Making.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to parents of children with special needs all over the world who live every day being advocates of unconditional love.

*'The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face to shine upon you;
And be gracious unto you; The Lord lift His countenance upon you.
And give you peace.'*

Numbers 6:24-26

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