



## SCOOPING REVIEW: THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS ON ADOLESCENT FATHERHOOD IN THE BAJO TRIBE AND CHILD HEALTH

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### ABSTRACT

The Bajo Tribe, known for its unique cultural heritage and lifestyle, presents an interesting case for examining the interplay between socioeconomic status and parenting practices among adolescent fathers. This demographic is increasingly relevant as adolescent fatherhood has implications for both child health outcomes and family dynamics. This review aims to synthesise existing literature on how socioeconomic factors influence adolescent fathers' parenting styles within the Bajo Tribe and the subsequent health outcomes for their children. Method: A systematic search was conducted using the PRISMA-SCR guidelines. Databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar were queried for peer-reviewed articles published within the last ten years that focus on socioeconomic status, adolescent fatherhood, and child health, particularly in indigenous communities. Inclusion criteria focused on qualitative and quantitative studies highlighting the Bajo Tribe. Preliminary findings suggest a significant correlation between lower socioeconomic status and adverse parenting practices among adolescent fathers, which in turn negatively affects child health outcomes. Key themes identified include limited access to resources, education levels, and community support systems that directly impact parenting efficacy. The findings highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions that address socioeconomic disparities to improve parenting practices among adolescent fathers in the Bajo Tribe, ultimately enhancing child health outcomes.

Keywords: adolescent fatherhood; bajo tribe; child health; parenting practices; socioeconomic status

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## INTRODUCTION

Adolescent fatherhood is an increasingly recognized issue with complex social, economic, and health implications. The responsibilities of young fatherhood often intersect with numerous social determinants of health, with socioeconomic status (SES) emerging as a pivotal factor that influences not only the well-being of the adolescent father but also the development and health outcomes of their children. Adolescent fathers face unique challenges, often grappling with limited financial resources, reduced access to education, and a lack of social support—all factors that heavily impact their ability to provide adequate care and support to their children. In indigenous communities, these challenges are often exacerbated by cultural expectations, geographical isolation, and limited access to formal support systems (Terefe et al., 2024). In this context, the influence of SES on adolescent fatherhood is especially critical to examine, as it provides insights into the broader social dynamics affecting family health and community resilience.

The Bajo Tribe represents one of the many indigenous groups in Indonesia with rich cultural heritage but unique socio-economic and healthcare challenges. The Bajo people, often referred to as "sea nomads," traditionally live a semi-nomadic lifestyle, with many communities residing in coastal regions (Ariando, 2021). Historically, the Bajo people's livelihoods have been closely tied to the ocean, with fishing and marine resource gathering

being central to their way of life. However, modern socio-economic pressures, environmental changes, and limited access to education and healthcare have influenced the social and economic structure of Bajo communities. The interplay between SES and adolescent fatherhood not only the immediate effects on young fathers and their children but also sheds light on the implications for intergenerational health and well-being (Noviandari & Mursidi, 2020).

Socioeconomic status in the Bajo Tribe is primarily influenced by access to traditional and modern economic activities, educational attainment, and community support systems. Many adolescent fathers in Bajo communities often have limited formal education, reducing their employment prospects and contributing to a cycle of economic vulnerability. Limited education impacts not only their financial stability but also their knowledge of parenting and child health practices, which are critical to raising healthy children (Maemunah et al., 2021). In many cases, these young fathers are compelled to rely on traditional knowledge and practices, which, while culturally significant, may not fully address the comprehensive health needs of their children, especially in the face of modern health challenges. Economic hardship frequently compels adolescent fathers to work in low-paying jobs, often in physically demanding environments such as fishing or construction. These occupations, while providing essential income, can limit the time and energy these young fathers can devote to parenting (Alam & Yousuf, 2024). Furthermore, economic constraints often restrict their access to healthcare services, making it challenging to address their children's health needs proactively. In the Bajo community, where the healthcare infrastructure is often limited and difficult to access, adolescent fathers may struggle to seek timely medical care, contributing to poorer health outcomes for their children.

Research has consistently shown that children born to adolescent parents, particularly those in low SES brackets, face an increased risk of adverse health outcomes, including malnutrition, developmental delays, and a higher prevalence of preventable illnesses (Welch et al., 2024). Within the Bajo Tribe, these risks are amplified by the community's limited access to healthcare facilities, nutritional resources, and educational opportunities for young parents. The effects of low SES extend beyond immediate health concerns; they also influence the long-term development and educational achievements of children, perpetuating cycles of poverty and limited social mobility within the community. Adolescent fathers in the Bajo community, who often lack formal education and parenting resources, may be unaware of the importance of early childhood health interventions, such as vaccinations, balanced nutrition, and developmental check-ups. Additionally, cultural norms within the Bajo Tribe may prioritize immediate economic contributions over long-term health planning, leading young fathers to focus on earning income at the expense of investing in preventive health measures for their children. This can result in missed healthcare appointments and delayed responses to emerging health issues, further impacting the health and development of their children.

The Bajo Tribe's traditional lifestyle and close community ties offer unique cultural strengths that can support adolescent fathers, but these same cultural elements can also pose challenges. In many Bajo communities, parenting is seen as a collective responsibility, with extended family members often playing a significant role in child-rearing. This communal approach to parenting can provide adolescent fathers with a level of support that might mitigate some SES-related challenges. However, reliance on traditional knowledge and limited resources can sometimes prevent these communities from accessing more comprehensive health information and services (Hukmiah, 2020). For example, traditional beliefs about health and illness within the Bajo community may prioritize natural and home-based remedies over professional

healthcare services. While these remedies hold cultural value, they may not always be sufficient to address more complex health conditions (Maulidyna et al., 2021). Adolescent fathers, influenced by these beliefs and by limited financial resources, might delay seeking professional medical care, increasing the risk of adverse health outcomes for their children. Moreover, young fathers may face social expectations to assume economic roles within their community, leaving them with less time and energy to engage actively in caregiving responsibilities.

This literature review seeks to examine the dynamics of SES, parenting behaviors among adolescent fathers, and child health outcomes within the cultural context of the Bajo Tribe. The focus on adolescent fatherhood among the Bajo community provides an opportunity to understand how SES factors shape young fathers' approaches to parenting, especially when faced with cultural expectations and limited resources. The review will identify the ways in which SES disparities manifest in parenting practices, such as access to health services, educational support, and financial stability, which directly influence the development and health of their children. This review also highlights the critical need for culturally sensitive policies that address the unique challenges faced by adolescent fathers in indigenous communities like the Bajo Tribe.

Recognizing the impact of SES on adolescent parenting and child health can inform targeted interventions designed to improve health outcomes within these communities. For example, community-based health education programs tailored to indigenous contexts could provide young fathers with the knowledge and resources necessary for effective parenting while respecting cultural values and practices. Additionally, policies aimed at improving economic opportunities and educational access for indigenous adolescents could help break the cycle of poverty and health disparities within the Bajo Tribe. Therefore, this study objective is to explore the influence of socioeconomic status on adolescent fatherhood and its implications for parenting behaviors and child health outcomes within the the Bajo Tribe.

## **METHOD**

The methodology for this scoping review adhered to the PRISMA-ScR (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews) guidelines, ensuring a structured, comprehensive, and transparent approach (Tricco et al., 2018; Widiasih et al., 2020). This review aimed to capture a detailed understanding of how socioeconomic status (SES) influences adolescent fatherhood, parenting practices, and child health outcomes within the Bajo Tribe and comparable indigenous groups. By employing a scoping review methodology, the study effectively mapped existing research, identified gaps, and synthesized diverse findings to inform future research and policy recommendations. A systematic literature search was conducted across multiple academic databases, including PubMed, Scopus, and Google Scholar, covering publications from 2013 to 2023. These databases were selected due to their extensive coverage of medical, social science, and interdisciplinary studies, ensuring a comprehensive retrieval of relevant articles. The search strategy was refined through consultations with a research librarian and experts in indigenous health, maximizing the relevance of results. Specific keywords and Boolean operators were developed to capture the multidimensional aspects of SES and adolescent fatherhood in indigenous contexts, including terms such as:

"socioeconomic status" AND "adolescent fathers" AND "Bajo Tribe"

"indigenous communities" AND "parenting" AND "child health"

"adolescent fatherhood" AND "socioeconomic determinants" AND "Indonesia"

"young fathers" AND "socioeconomic factors" AND "health outcomes"

"Bajo people" AND "health disparities" AND "indigenous parenting practices."

The search terms were adjusted for each database's syntax requirements. Articles were screened based on title, abstract, and keywords, and duplicates were removed using reference management software. Additionally, hand-searching was conducted to capture relevant studies not identified in the initial database search. A total of 850 records were identified, and after removing duplicates, 700 articles remained for screening. Titles and abstracts of these 700 articles were reviewed, and 550 articles were excluded as they did not meet the initial criteria. This left 150 full-text articles assessed for eligibility, with 40 excluded based on the following criteria:

- a) Studies were included if they: a) Provided empirical data on the relationship between SES and adolescent fatherhood, parenting practices, or child health. b) Focused on the Bajo Tribe, indigenous communities in Southeast Asia, or similar indigenous populations with comparable cultural and socioeconomic contexts. c) Were published between 2013 and 2023 to capture recent insights. d) Included qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method research methodologies that offered relevant insights.
- b) Studies were excluded if they: a) Focused solely on general adolescent fatherhood or parenting without specific attention to SES or indigenous aspects. b) Were theoretical papers or opinion pieces lacking empirical data. c) Did not provide insights into the Bajo Tribe or similar indigenous groups, as the review focused on unique cultural contexts affecting parenting and health practices.

This resulted in 110 studies meeting the eligibility criteria, of which 5 studies were ultimately included in the final synthesis based on their relevance and alignment with the research objectives. Selection results studies can be depicted in PRISM Diagram (Figure 1.)

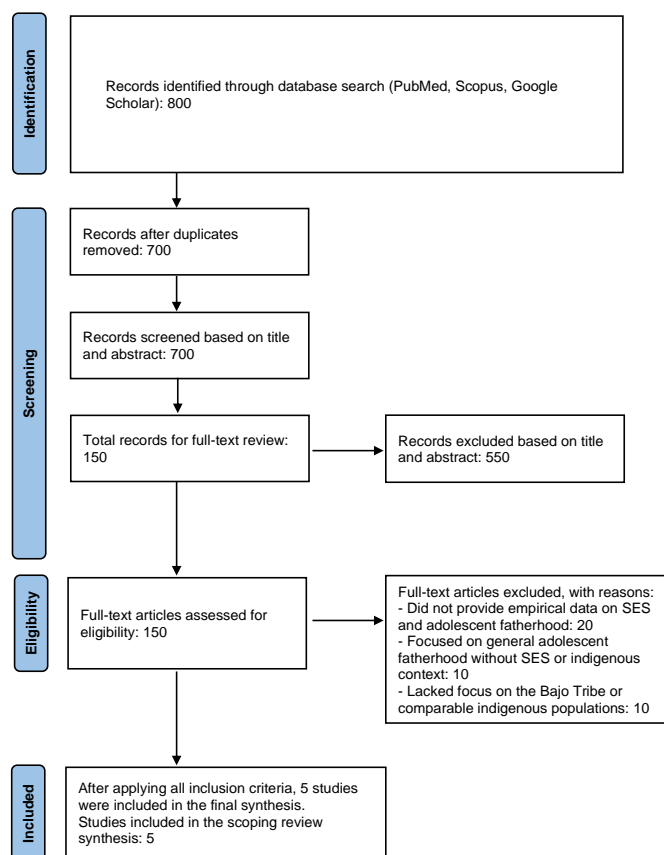


Figure 1. PRISM Flowchart

A data extraction template was developed to ensure consistency and thoroughness in capturing key information from each study. Data points included:

- a) Author(s), Publication Year, and Country of Study: For contextualizing findings within specific regions or cultural contexts.
- b) Study Design and Methodology: Including qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-method approaches, sample sizes, and analytical techniques to assess the strength and relevance of each study.
- c) Key Findings and Themes: Summarizing major findings related to SES, adolescent fatherhood, and health outcomes, with insights into indigenous parenting practices.
- d) Implications for Practice and Policy: Documenting any recommendations for interventions, health policies, or community-based support for indigenous young fathers and their children.
- e) Limitations Noted by the Authors: Capturing study limitations to assess robustness and generalizability.

Although quality assessment is not always standard in scoping reviews, this study incorporated a quality appraisal process to ensure the reliability of findings. Each study was evaluated based on criteria such as clarity of objectives, methodological rigor, sample size justification, and the validity of findings. Quality assessment results were not used to exclude studies but to guide interpretation and synthesis, particularly when drawing conclusions about the strength of evidence on SES and adolescent fatherhood in indigenous contexts. Given the diversity of study designs, a narrative synthesis approach was used to summarize findings across the included studies. Thematic analysis was conducted to identify recurring patterns and themes, such as economic challenges, healthcare access disparities, cultural influences on parenting, and community support mechanisms. These themes were organized within a framework that highlighted intersections between SES and indigenous adolescent fatherhood. To further enhance analytical rigor, findings were organized by study design (e.g., qualitative vs. quantitative) and geographic location, allowing for nuanced comparisons between different study types and regional contexts. This approach provided a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationships between SES, parenting practices, and child health outcomes in indigenous communities like the Bajo Tribe.

## RESULT

The scoping review of literature on adolescent fatherhood in the Bajo Tribe and comparable indigenous communities revealed several significant findings. These results highlight the complex interactions between socioeconomic status (SES), parenting practices, and child health outcomes (Table 1). Each thematic finding underscores the need for targeted, culturally sensitive interventions to support adolescent fathers and improve the health and development of their children.

Table 1.  
Included Results Analysis

Author(s) & Year	Study Design	Population/Location	Key Findings	Implications for Practice/Policy
Terefe et al., 2024	Cross-sectional study	East African adolescent fathers	Socioeconomic factors like income and education significantly affect adolescent fathers' parenting roles.	Policies should focus on supporting young fathers with resources and education.

Author(s) & Year	Study Design	Population/Location	Key Findings	Implications for Practice/Policy
Maemunah et al., 2021	Qualitative study	Bajo Tribe, Indonesia	Indigenous knowledge impacts children's education and health practices, often leading to marginalization.	Culturally sensitive education and healthcare programs are essential for indigenous youth.
Welch et al., 2023	Systematic review and meta-analysis	Global adolescent mothers and children	Adolescent parenthood linked to undernutrition in children, especially in low SES contexts.	Nutritional support for children of adolescent parents is crucial in low-income regions.
Alam & Yousuf, 2024	Mixed-methods study	Coastal Bangladesh communities	Economic challenges significantly affect fishermen's family well-being and child health.	Sustainable economic programs for coastal communities can improve family health outcomes.
Maulidyna et al., 2021	Literature review	Bajo Tribe, Indonesia	Traditional beliefs influence marine conservation efforts, but modern practices are needed for health.	Conservation policies should integrate indigenous beliefs while promoting healthcare.

The analysis yielded insights into four main areas: socioeconomic disparities, parenting practices, child health outcomes, and cultural influences, each of which is discussed in detail below.

1) Socioeconomic Disparities

A recurring theme across the literature was the profound impact of socioeconomic disparities on adolescent fathers within indigenous communities, including the Bajo Tribe. Studies consistently show that adolescent fathers from lower SES backgrounds face a host of challenges that affect their capacity to provide stable and nurturing environments for their children. These challenges include:

- a) Limited Access to Healthcare: Due to low income and geographical barriers, young fathers from low SES backgrounds struggle to access healthcare services for themselves and their children. For communities like the Bajo, where healthcare facilities are often distant or inadequately equipped, this results in delays in receiving essential medical care, including vaccinations, regular check-ups, and treatments for common childhood illnesses.
- b) Educational Barriers: Many adolescent fathers in low SES settings often leave school early to support their families financially, limiting their educational attainment. Reduced education contributes to lower literacy rates, which can impact their understanding of basic health practices and parenting knowledge. The lack of educational attainment can also inhibit young fathers' ability to secure well-paying jobs, perpetuating a cycle of economic vulnerability and limiting their potential to improve their SES.
- c) Economic Constraints: Financial insecurity among adolescent fathers from indigenous communities directly impacts their parenting capabilities. The necessity to work in low-paying, physically demanding jobs restricts the time and resources available to engage actively in parenting. Many fathers feel pressure to prioritize financial contributions over

emotional and physical availability, which can lead to feelings of inadequacy and heightened stress.

- d) **Social Isolation:** Adolescent fathers, especially within marginalized communities, frequently report feeling isolated due to societal stigma and lack of targeted social support services. Indigenous adolescent fathers, who already experience social marginalization, often face additional cultural and community expectations that heighten the emotional toll of their responsibilities.

## 2) Parenting Practices

The findings indicate that socioeconomic disparities significantly shape parenting practices among adolescent fathers, particularly in low SES contexts. Studies reveal that economic hardship, limited social support, and stress from inadequate resources often lead to suboptimal parenting practices. Key aspects identified include:

- a) **Increased Stress and Anxiety:** Economic hardship is closely associated with increased stress and anxiety levels among adolescent fathers. Many young fathers report feeling overwhelmed by their responsibilities, especially when faced with limited resources. This stress can result in less effective parenting practices, such as inconsistent discipline, withdrawal, or lack of patience. Fathers may unintentionally become disengaged from their parenting roles, unable to offer emotional support to their children.
- b) **Inconsistent Discipline and Emotional Support:** Financial and emotional stress among adolescent fathers can lead to inconsistent discipline, resulting in a lack of structure and stability in the child's life. Fathers who experience high levels of stress may oscillate between permissive and authoritarian styles, struggling to find a balanced approach. Similarly, they may find it challenging to provide emotional support, impacting the child's sense of security and attachment.
- c) **Dependence on Traditional Knowledge and Practices:** Indigenous communities like the Bajo Tribe often rely on traditional knowledge and practices in parenting due to cultural preferences or limited access to formal resources. While these practices offer cultural continuity and community bonding, they may sometimes lack the scientific basis of modern parenting and health interventions. Adolescent fathers in the Bajo community often turn to elders or extended family members for guidance, which can result in practices that may not fully align with modern child health standards.
- d) **Influence of Male Gender Roles:** In many indigenous communities, including the Bajo, traditional gender roles shape expectations for young fathers. The role of the father is often defined by economic contribution rather than caregiving, which can impact how adolescent fathers perceive their role. These cultural expectations may lead fathers to prioritize work and financial provision over direct caregiving, thereby influencing the quality of their interaction with their children.

## 3) Child Health Outcomes

Children born to adolescent fathers in low SES contexts face higher risks of adverse health outcomes. The review identified multiple studies that pointed to specific health concerns prevalent among children of young, economically disadvantaged fathers. These include:

- a) **Increased Risk of Malnutrition:** Limited financial resources often prevent young fathers from providing a balanced and nutritious diet for their children. In indigenous communities like the Bajo Tribe, access to fresh food and dietary variety is limited, leading to potential nutritional deficiencies. Malnutrition can have long-term consequences on children's physical and cognitive development, perpetuating health disparities.

- b) **Developmental Delays:** Studies suggest that children of adolescent fathers from low SES backgrounds are at a heightened risk for developmental delays, including cognitive, social, and motor skills. These delays are often attributed to a combination of factors, such as limited early childhood stimulation, lack of educational resources, and inconsistent parenting practices. Developmental delays can have lasting impacts on children's academic performance and social integration, often exacerbating cycles of disadvantage.
- c) **Higher Incidence of Mental Health Concerns:** Children of adolescent fathers, particularly those experiencing high levels of stress and inadequate support, may be at an increased risk for mental health concerns, including anxiety and behavioral issues. This is further complicated in indigenous communities, where mental health services are often scarce or culturally stigmatized, limiting access to appropriate care.
- d) **Susceptibility to Preventable Illnesses:** Children in low SES indigenous communities often lack access to preventive healthcare, such as vaccinations and routine health screenings. As a result, these children may be more susceptible to preventable illnesses, which can exacerbate health inequalities and impact long-term well-being. Additionally, reliance on traditional remedies in place of professional healthcare may delay appropriate medical intervention, increasing the severity of illnesses.

#### 4) Cultural Influences

Cultural values and traditions within the Bajo Tribe significantly shape the parenting practices of adolescent fathers. This finding highlights the importance of culturally sensitive approaches to intervention, recognizing that effective support strategies must align with the unique cultural dynamics of indigenous communities. Key cultural influences observed include:

- a) **Community-Centered Parenting:** Bajo culture emphasizes community interconnectedness, where parenting is often seen as a collective responsibility. Extended family members, including grandparents and other relatives, are actively involved in caregiving. This communal approach can provide adolescent fathers with emotional and practical support, alleviating some of the burdens associated with young fatherhood. However, it also means that young fathers may rely on community norms and traditional parenting practices, which may not always address modern health and developmental needs.
- b) **Traditional Beliefs on Health and Parenting:** Indigenous beliefs play a prominent role in shaping parenting practices within the Bajo Tribe. Many fathers adhere to traditional practices and remedies passed down through generations, which may influence their approach to child health and development. While these beliefs foster cultural continuity, they may sometimes lead to hesitancy in seeking formal healthcare, which can delay critical health interventions for children.
- c) **Male Gender Norms and Expectations:** The Bajo community, like many other indigenous cultures, has well-defined gender roles, which can affect adolescent fathers' perceptions of their roles as caregivers. These norms may emphasize the father's role as the breadwinner rather than an active caregiver, impacting how young fathers engage with their children. This cultural framework can influence fathers to prioritize economic activities over direct caregiving, leading to reduced involvement in day-to-day parenting.
- d) **Resilience and Cultural Pride:** Despite the challenges faced by adolescent fathers in the Bajo community, cultural resilience and pride emerge as protective factors. The deep connection to cultural identity and tradition can foster resilience among young fathers, providing them with a sense of purpose and belonging. This cultural pride may serve as a

foundation upon which interventions can build, encouraging adolescent fathers to adapt modern parenting practices in ways that respect and integrate their cultural heritage.

The findings from this review underscore the complex and multifaceted challenges faced by adolescent fathers in low SES indigenous communities like the Bajo Tribe. Socioeconomic disparities create substantial barriers to effective parenting and contribute to a range of adverse child health outcomes. At the same time, the unique cultural context of the Bajo Tribe shapes both the challenges and strengths of adolescent fathers, highlighting the importance of culturally sensitive interventions that align with indigenous values and traditions. This analysis calls for targeted support strategies that consider both the socioeconomic constraints and cultural nuances affecting young fathers and their families. By integrating modern parenting practices with traditional values, there is potential to foster healthier family dynamics and improve outcomes for children born to adolescent fathers in the Bajo community. Addressing these findings through policy and community-based initiatives may ultimately contribute to breaking the cycle of disadvantage, promoting healthier, more resilient families within indigenous contexts.

## **DISCUSSION**

The findings of this review reveal a complex web of factors influencing adolescent fatherhood within the Bajo Tribe, highlighting the critical role of socioeconomic status (SES) in shaping the experiences, challenges, and outcomes of young fathers and their children. Adolescent fathers within this indigenous community navigate a unique set of barriers: entrenched poverty, limited access to educational and healthcare resources, and strong cultural expectations surrounding gender roles and community responsibilities. Each of these elements contributes to a challenging environment for young fathers, directly impacting their ability to engage in effective parenting and promote positive developmental outcomes for their children. This discussion explores the implications of these findings, emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive, multifaceted interventions that address the complex needs of adolescent fathers within the Bajo Tribe.

### **Socioeconomic Barriers and Their Influence on Adolescent Fatherhood**

The SES challenges faced by adolescent fathers in the Bajo Tribe are profound, with poverty serving as a foundational barrier that amplifies other social and economic constraints. Low SES among young fathers leads to a cycle of limited opportunities for upward mobility, as these fathers often lack access to quality education and stable employment (Carlson & Magnuson, 2011). This economic vulnerability not only constrains their ability to provide financially for their children but also limits their access to basic resources needed for effective parenting, such as healthcare services, nutritious food, and educational materials. As a result, these young fathers are often caught in a cycle of poverty that affects their children's well-being and perpetuates intergenerational socioeconomic challenges (Visser et al., 2022). Research consistently demonstrates that economic hardship can lead to elevated stress levels among adolescent fathers, with detrimental effects on their mental health and parenting practices (Neppl et al., 2016). Fathers experiencing high levels of financial stress may feel inadequate in their roles, which can result in less effective parenting strategies, including inconsistent discipline and limited emotional support (Nomaguchi et al., 2017). This environment of economic insecurity and heightened stress creates additional risks for children's development, as studies have shown that children raised in high-stress, low-support environments are more likely to experience delays in emotional, social, and cognitive development (Francis et al., 2018; Rakesh et al., 2023). Given these insights, any intervention

aimed at improving adolescent fatherhood outcomes in the Bajo Tribe must address the SES constraints that serve as root causes of parenting challenges.

### **Educational Limitations and Parenting Knowledge**

Educational limitations are another significant barrier faced by adolescent fathers in the Bajo community. Many young fathers have limited formal education, often dropping out of school early to support their families or contribute to the local economy (Bogale et al., 2022; Garcia et al., 2022). Without access to formal education, these fathers are less likely to have knowledge of essential parenting and child health practices. For instance, understanding basic nutritional needs, developmental milestones, and preventive healthcare measures requires a foundational level of health literacy that many adolescent fathers in low-SES backgrounds lack (Csima et al., 2024). This knowledge gap poses a risk to children's health and development, as fathers may be unaware of the importance of regular healthcare visits, vaccinations, and early childhood education, which are critical to healthy development. Interventions that focus on increasing adolescent fathers' educational access and health literacy could play a transformative role in improving parenting practices within the Bajo Tribe. Programs offering parenting workshops, health education sessions, and vocational training could equip young fathers with the knowledge and skills needed to support their children effectively (Lechowicz et al., 2019). Additionally, enhancing educational opportunities for adolescent fathers would have a broader socioeconomic impact by improving their employability, leading to more stable incomes and better economic security. This dual approach—addressing both educational and economic needs—could serve as a foundation for more sustainable improvements in family health and well-being.

### **Healthcare Access and Child Health Outcomes**

Healthcare access is a critical area of concern for adolescent fathers in the Bajo Tribe, particularly in rural and remote areas where healthcare infrastructure is limited. The lack of accessible healthcare services poses significant risks for children's health, as young fathers may be unable to seek timely medical care for their children due to financial, geographic, or cultural barriers. Preventable illnesses, malnutrition, and developmental delays are more common among children in low-SES families with limited healthcare access, underscoring the need for targeted health interventions (Hunde et al., 2024). A lack of preventive healthcare services means that many children within the Bajo Tribe are vulnerable to treatable conditions that, if left unchecked, can lead to more severe health outcomes. The consequences of these untreated health issues extend beyond childhood, potentially leading to chronic health conditions and a reduced quality of life in adulthood (Maresova et al., 2019). Addressing healthcare access disparities within the Bajo community requires a collaborative approach that includes mobile healthcare units, community health workers, and culturally sensitive health education initiatives tailored to indigenous contexts. These initiatives could help bridge the gap in healthcare access, enabling young fathers to take proactive steps in managing their children's health. Expanding healthcare access for adolescent fathers and their families would have positive effects and strengthening community health and resilience (Bonnie & Backes, 2019). Training local health workers within the Bajo community, for example, could create a sustainable healthcare support system and empowering young fathers with resources and knowledge while respecting their cultural values and practices.

### **Cultural Influences on Parenting and Community Support**

The Bajo Tribe's unique cultural values play a significant role in shaping parenting practices among adolescent fathers, highlighting both strengths and challenges. The Bajo community's strong sense of collectivism and communal responsibility provides a valuable support system

for young fathers, as extended family members often participate in child-rearing. This collective approach to parenting can offer emotional and practical support, alleviating some of the burdens faced by adolescent fathers. However, this communal structure may also reinforce traditional gender roles, where fathers are primarily viewed as economic providers rather than active caregivers. This cultural expectation can influence adolescent fathers' perceptions of their parenting role, potentially limiting their involvement in day-to-day caregiving and bonding activities.

Recognizing the influence of cultural values on parenting behavior is essential for developing effective support programs (Masamba, 2024). Interventions that align with the Bajo Tribe's cultural framework would be more effective, as they respect and incorporate traditional beliefs and practices rather than imposing foreign concepts. Culturally tailored parenting programs could involve respected elders or community leaders to facilitate discussions on fatherhood, integrating traditional wisdom with modern parenting practices. This approach would honor the cultural heritage of the Bajo Tribe while encouraging adolescent fathers to embrace active caregiving roles, enhancing their involvement in their children's upbringing. Additionally, addressing gender norms within the Bajo community could help reshape perceptions of fatherhood, empowering young fathers to take on a more holistic parenting role. Encouraging active father involvement, alongside providing practical parenting resources, could foster stronger father-child relationships, promoting positive developmental outcomes for children. By embracing both traditional support structures and modern parenting knowledge, community-based initiatives can create a balanced approach that enhances parenting practices without undermining cultural values.

### **Recommendations for Intervention and Policy**

The findings from this review highlight the need for an approach to intervention that addresses the specific needs of adolescent fathers within the Bajo Tribe. Effective interventions should consider the SES constraints, educational gaps, healthcare access issues, and cultural dynamics that shape young fathers' parenting experiences. Establishing community-based programs that provide adolescent fathers with health education and parenting resources could significantly improve outcomes for both fathers and children (Ashton et al., 2023). These programs could offer training on child development, nutrition, and preventive healthcare, helping young fathers make informed parenting decisions. Providing economic support and job training for adolescent fathers could improve their financial stability, reducing stress and enhancing their ability to engage in positive parenting. Partnerships with local industries, vocational training centers, and government programs could offer job opportunities aligned with the skills and needs of the Bajo community, contributing to long-term socioeconomic resilience.

Enhancing healthcare access through mobile clinics, telehealth services, and community health workers could provide adolescent fathers with the support needed to address their children's health needs. Incorporating culturally sensitive health education and preventive care initiatives could help mitigate the health disparities affecting children in low-SES families. Recognizing the role of traditional beliefs in shaping parenting practices, culturally sensitive programs could bridge traditional knowledge with modern parenting approaches. Engaging community leaders, elders, and other respected figures in the Bajo Tribe would ensure that interventions are culturally respectful and relevant. At a policy level, advocating for government programs that provide financial assistance, educational resources, and healthcare subsidies for indigenous families could address the broader SES barriers affecting adolescent fathers. Policies that prioritize the unique needs of indigenous communities,

including those of the Bajo Tribe, could foster systemic changes that reduce inequalities and promote family well-being. While this review provides valuable insights into adolescent fatherhood within the Bajo Tribe, further research is needed to deepen our understanding of the specific experiences and challenges faced by these young fathers. Future research could explore longitudinal studies on the long-term impact of low SES on father-child relationships and child development within indigenous communities. Additionally, studies investigating the effectiveness of culturally tailored interventions could inform best practices for supporting adolescent fathers in similar contexts. Exploring the role of technology, such as mobile health (mHealth) solutions, in delivering health education and parenting resources to remote indigenous communities could also offer new avenues for supporting adolescent fathers.

## **CONCLUSION**

This review emphasizes the critical role of socioeconomic status in shaping parenting practices and child health outcomes among adolescent fathers in the Bajo Tribe. The findings underscore the urgency of addressing SES-related challenges such as limited education, financial instability, and inadequate healthcare access, which hinder young fathers from fulfilling their parenting roles effectively. Tailored policies and programs are essential to mitigate these challenges, combining education, economic support, and healthcare interventions with culturally sensitive approaches that respect and integrate the traditional values of the Bajo community. By providing adolescent fathers with the resources and knowledge necessary to support their children, these initiatives can help break cycles of poverty and health disparities, fostering healthier families and more resilient communities.

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