This study determined and analyzed the extent of paternal involvement in rearing toddlers and its relationship to growth and development of the toddlers. Specifically, it determined the profile of the father-respondents in terms of age, extent of involvement monthly family income, highest educational attainment, occupation and type of family; the role of father in rearing their toddlers along nutrition, play and toileting; the growth and development of the toddlers as indicated by their weight, height, bladder training and bowel trainings as well as the relationship of extent of paternal involvement in rearing toddlers and the toddlers growth and development.

The descriptive-correlational design was employed in this study where the profile of the fathers and their extent of involvement in rearing their toddlers as well as the growth and development of their toddlers were described. Further, the relationship of these variables were also described and analyzed.

Ninety-three fathers who have toddlers were purposively selected from five representative barangays of Laoag City served as sample for the study. They were determined based on the official list of the barangay health workers from the five selected barangays.

A questionnaire constructed by the researcher was the main tool for gathering data on the extent of fathers’ involvement in rearing their toddlers along nutrition, play and toileting. This was translated in the vernacular and tried out to a group of fathers with toddlers in other Barangays of Laoag City to ensure that the items given in the questionnaire will be understood by the respondents.

Guided interviews and focus group discussions were conducted to the father-respondents to substantiate the data gathered through the questionnaires. For the data on growth and development, the height and weight of the toddlers were
measured by the researcher herself while the data for positive signs of bladder and bowel training were answered by the father respondents though validation was made to the mothers.

The data gathering lasted for four months— from September 2004 to December 2004. The data gathered were tabulated and analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, mean, median, Pearson r and point-biserial correlation. All tests of significance were set at the .05 probability level.

Results revealed that majority of the respondents—fathers are in the young adulthood stage, have meager monthly income, almost one-half have attained college level or have finished college but majority are engaged in blue collar jobs. More than one-half have nuclear type of family.

The fathers frequently involve themselves in rearing their children along nutrition and play but seldom involve themselves along toileting.

The toddlers’ growth and development vary in terms of height and weight and they are moderately developed in terms of bladder and bowel trainings.

The extent of father’s involvement in rearing their toddlers along nutrition is significantly related to their age, monthly family income, highest educational attainment and occupation but not significantly related to type of family. Their extent of involvement along play is positively and significantly related to their age, occupation and type of family.

The father’s extent of involvement in rearing their toddlers is positively and significantly related to age, monthly family income, highest educational attainment and occupation but not with type of family.

The father’s extent of involvement in rearing their toddlers is positively significantly related to their toddlers’ growth and development in terms of height, weight, bladder training and bowel training. This confirms the contention of potencies (2001) that fathers play a well defined, irreplaceable and clearly essential role in the development of a child. Children are far better when their fathers are actively involved in their upbringing.

Moreover, it supports the Culture Care Diversity and Universality Theory of Leininger that humans are believed to be caring and capable of being concerned about the needs, well-being and survival of others. Hence, the father is capable of rendering care to his children.
It is highly recommended that fathers must greatly involve themselves in rearing their children along nutrition, play and toileting for their children to become normal in terms of their growth and development. They must always find time to involve themselves in rearing their toddlers. Moreover, an intensified information campaign drive is recommended in the different communities to correct the notions of people about negative comments to those fathers who are greatly involved in rearing their children. Finally, a similar study should be conducted to include other areas of rearing children and to validate the findings of this study.