

Faculty Interest and Capability

Name: Hema Oshoone Mason, Ph.D.
Email: hema.mason@asurams.edu
Discipline: Psychology
Subdiscipline(s): Developmental and Family Psychology
Areas of Research Interests: The family structure, especially the pivotal role fathers play within that structure; Mental health disparities and social determinants of health
Skills: Quantitative research skills, statistical analyses
Research Summary (current, performed in the past 5 year; 300 words or less) Dr. Mason's overall research goal is to understand how fathers and the experiences of fathers influence achievement beliefs and the psychological well-being of their children and mothers. From a competency-based risk perspective, Dr. Mason is interested in such variables as the father's perception of his role and identity as a father and the various caregiving activities fathers assume. From a contextual experience perspective, she is interested in how such experiences as family structure, court ordered support, issues of marginality (or the issue that fathers are sidelined), economic status and other perceived barriers plays a part in achievement outcomes and psychological well-being.

As it relates to health disparities, Dr. Mason has a primary goal of examining and understanding disparities in mental and physical health outcomes among the racial and sociodemographic groups under investigation. In addition, she is particularly interested in understanding how various social and behavioral variables influence these disparities. In this area of research, Dr. Mason would like to be a leader in the area of mental health disparities. She endeavors to build a program of research that leads to the creation of programs, policies and initiatives aimed at educating at risk populations on the importance of mental health and providing valuable resources; thereby reducing disparities. Also, she strives to provide education, raise awareness and develop a set of recommendations that will reduce mental health disparities in the Southwest Georgia region.

Keywords (5 maximum) Fathers, Family Structure, Mental Health Disparities