

A Study on Problems Faced by Single Parent Children with Special Reference to Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT

Over the past 20 years single-parent families have become even more common than the so-called "nuclear family" consisting of a mother, father and children. Today we see all sorts of single parent families: headed by mothers, headed by fathers, headed by a grandparent raising their grandchildren. Life in a single parent household though common can be quite stressful for the adult and the children. The single parent may feel overwhelmed by the responsibility of juggling caring for the children, maintaining a job and keeping up with the bills and household chores. And typically, the family's finances and resources are drastically reduced following the parents' breakup. The present study concludes that Majority (56 %) of the respondent's Problems faced by single parent children's of moderate level, 30 percent of the respondent's Problems faced by single parent children's of high level and 14 percent of the respondent's Problems faced by single parents' children's of low level.

KEYWORDS: Problems, Single Parent Children's

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INTRODUCTION

A single parent, sometimes called a solo parent, is a parent, not living with a spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the child or children. A single parent is usually considered the primary caregiver, meaning the parent the children have residency with the majority of the time. If the parents are separated or divorced, children live with their custodial parent and have visitation or secondary residence with their noncustodial parent. In western society in general, following separation, a child will end up with the primary caregiver, usually the mother, and a secondary caregiver, usually the father.

DEFINITION OF SINGLE PARENTS

Single parent means the parent is the only parent to the child, responsible for all financial, material and emotional needs. It means there is an absence of the other parent as opposed to a co-parent; meaning that the parent is not the only parent regardless of whether or not they are a couple.

THE COMMON PROBLEMS FACED BY SINGLE PARENTS

- The child is more likely to misbehave for them – the day-to-day disciplinarian – than for the parent who lives outside the home.
- It can be hard work to be the only disciplinarian in the house – you may feel like you're the 'bad guy' all the time.
- You may feel grieved if your child envies friends with two parents at home.
- New relationships may be difficult, particularly if your child is suspicious or jealous.
- A lonely parent may cling to their children for support and company, making it harder for the child to eventually leave home.
- The demands of income earning, child rising and housework mean the single parent may have little or no time for themselves.

COMMON PROBLEMS FACED BY CHILDREN IN SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDE

- The need for 'extra hands' around the house may sometimes reduce the time a child can take part in typical children's activities such as hanging out with friends or playing.
- If a child is used to having a near-equal say in the household, they may clash with teachers and other authority figures who expect unquestioning obedience.
- The child may not appreciate that their parent needs adult companionship at times.
- The child may feel torn between their two parents and feel they must 'pick sides' – this is especially the case if the parents are hostile towards one another.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Marloes de Lange (2013), "Single-parent family forms and children's educational performance in a comparative perspective". Living in a single-parent family is negatively related with children's educational performance compared to living with 2 biological parents. In this article, we aim to find out to what extent the context of the school's share of single-parent families affects this negative relationship. We use pooled data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), that is, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2000 and 2003, which contain information on 209,300 students at 11,887 schools in 25 countries. We found that attending a school with more children from single-parent families affects the educational performance of all children negatively, but it particularly harms children from single-mother families.

Dr. Hakan Usakli (2013), "Comparison of Single and Two Parents Children in terms of Behavioral Tendencies". The purpose of the present study was to compare behavioral tendencies such as assertiveness, aggressiveness and submissiveness of single parent children and normal parent children who have two parents. 75 single parent children and 75 two parent children joined in the study. At the end of the study, it is found out that the single parent children are less assertive and more aggressive and submissive than their two parent peers. Families, teachers, school administrators and school counselors should be aware of the behavioral tendencies of single parent children. It is recommended that future studies can be about the intervention programs for single parent children to overcome their aggressiveness and submissiveness.

Muhammad Shoaib and Yasir Saeed (2012), "Problem of Single Mothers and State Provisions"

Present study aims to explore the problem faced by single mothers. A comparison of the contemporary situation of the state of Sweden and Denmark has been made. It has been inspected how the family policies of the both states are helping to eliminate the problem of single mothers. For exploration the problem of single mothers and policies and provisions provided by the states a content analysis method of research has been used. The secondary data has been used that is the research articles, official documents, fact sheets database reports and research articles about Sweden and Denmark. For analysis and comparison the contemporary situation of these two countries three indicators have been used that are the parental leaves, childcare allowance and the child maintenance support provided by the states. It has been found that the welfare state provisions for the solution of single mothers problem in the form of parental leaves and child maintenance support in Sweden are better than Denmark whereas the childcare allowance are better in Denmark as compare to Sweden.

Rebecca Blank and Brian Kovak (2011), "The growing problem of disconnected single mothers"

We refers to these women and their families as "disconnected." This group is very poor, and the majority live without other adults in their household. Given rising numbers of disconnected single mothers, we believe it is important to assess possible changes in the safety net that might provide greater support to them and to their children. This country has chosen to limit its safety net for poor non workers in favor of greater support for those who work. Recent history has demonstrated that many single mothers are able to work, allowing them to receive supplementary support through work-oriented assistance such as the earned income tax credit. Our concern is for those who have not benefited from these program changes and who have not found steady employment. The preceding analysis has demonstrated the serious need for a more effective safety net for these women and their children, warranting an equally serious response by policymakers.

Methodology of the Study

Objectives of the Study

- To study demographic profile of the respondents.
- To study the Problems faced by single parents children's.
- To offer necessary suggestion based on findings.

Research design: The researcher followed descriptive research design for the study.

Universe of the study: The sample area chosen for conducting the study in Coimbatore district.

Sampling method

The researcher used the convenience sampling method for research.

Sampling size

The sampling size is 60 respondents.

Tools for data collection:

Survey Research is a method for collecting and analyzing data, obtained from a large number of respondents representing a specific population, collected through highly structured questionnaire with scales (social problems scale “Rebecca blank and brain kovak 1983) or interview.

Finds of the Study

Simple Percentage analysis

- Less than half (41.7%) of the respondents are belong to the age group of Above 15 years.
- More than half (53.3%) of the respondents are female.
- Less than half (41.7%) of the respondents are High School level of Education.
- Less than half (43.3%) of the respondents father working are Farmer.
- Less than half (45%) of the respondents are residing in Rural area.
- Majority (70%) of the respondents are belonging to Nuclear family.
- More than half (65%) of the respondents are said below 3 members in the family.
- Less than half (48.3%) of the respondents Parents income is less than Rs.10, 000 of income per month.

PROBLEMS FACED BY SINGLE PARENT CHILDREN’S OF RESPONDENTS.

PROBLEMS OF RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
HIGH	18	30
MODERATE	08	14
LOW	34	56
Total	60	100

The above table shows that Majority (56 %) of the respondent’s Problems faced by single parent children’s of moderate level, 30 percent of the respondent’s Problems faced by single parent children’s of high level and 14 percent of the respondent’s Problems faced by single parents’ children’s of low level.

Influence of Socio Economic Factors on Problems faced by single parent children’s

Variables	Statistical tool	Value	Result
Gender and problems faced by single parent children’s	t-test	t = 0.010 p<0.05	Significant
Types of family and problems faced by single parent children’s	t-test	t = 0.159 p>0.05	Not-Significant
Age and problems faced by single parent children’s.	ANOVA	F= 0.022 P<0.05	Significant
Size of family and problems faced by single parent children’s	ANOVA	F= 0.212 P>0.05	Not-Significant

There is significant difference in the Gender and problems faced by single parent children’s of the respondents.

There is no significant difference in the types of family and problems faced by single parent children’s of the respondents.

The one way ANOVA shows that there is a significant difference in the level of Age and problems faced by single parent children’s of the respondents at 0.05 levels.

The one way ANOVA shows that there is a no significant difference in the level of Size of family and problems faced by single parent children’s of the respondents at 0.05 levels.

Recommendations

- Single Parents should seek medical and professional help in case of depression.
- Parents should take stress relievers such as deep breathing and a quick 10 minute hot shower.
- Parents should get organized or ask for help of a family member in doing so.
- Parents should keep a family calendar and allow her kids to be in activities.

- Parents should seek financial advice from experts or friends to overcome constant worrying.
- Government should take some process to develop single parents and children's for their economic and social welfare.
- Educational should prefer more scholarships and aid for single parent children's.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study revealed that financial problems were the main stressor for majority of the single mothers. It became very difficult for the mothers to meet the basic needs of children such as food, clothing and school fees, maintaining the previous standard of living and meet personal expenses, with the situation of economic problems and limited resources. The present study concludes that Majority (56 %) of the respondent's Problems faced by single parent children's of moderate level, 30 percent of the respondent's Problems faced by single parent children's of high level and 14 percent of the respondent's Problems faced by single parents' children's of low level.

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