

FACTORS AFFECTING SINGLE PARENTHOOD AND ITS EFFECT ON CHILDREN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN MILITARY BARRACK-RESIDENTS IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE.

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Abstract

The study was a descriptive survey. One hundred and fifty-six (156) respondents were sampled in Army Day Senior Secondary School, Sobi Barracks, Ilorin, Nigeria. Mean rating and standard deviation were used to analyse the research questions while t-test was used to test the hypotheses postulated for this study. The study found out that children of single parents' homes faced problems like proneness to difficulties in coping with their academic performance and not well cared for in school by their parents as a result of lack of payment of their school fees and joining bad gang as a result of poverty is very easy. The study recommended that single parents should see themselves as having the same responsibilities towards their wards as the same with the children of the double parents, single parents should move closer to their children and monitor their education seriously so as to have good result at the end. Parents should avoid marital disunity. Parents should tolerate, accommodate, appreciate and understand each other in marriage. Wives of the military officers should learn how to work or doing petty business so when the husband dies then lives of children would not be in danger.

Keywords: Factors, Single, Parenthood, Academic, Performance, Military, Barrack.

Introduction

The importance of education to human beings cannot be over-emphasized. Education is a human right that should be accorded to all human beings solely because of being a human. There are a lot of international human right instrument that provides for education as a fundamental human right. These include the universal Declaration of Human Right of 1948, the international covenant on economic, social and cultural right of 1966 and African charter on Human and peoples' right of 1981(Elkin 2018).

The term “education” was derived from the Latin word “educare” meaning to bring up, to lead out, to raise up, to educate in its original sense, to educate means acting in order to lead out fully all potentialities of an individuals. Education in its broadest general sense is the means through which the aims and habit of a group of people lives on from one generation to the next which generally, occurs through any

experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts in its narrow and technical sense. Education is the formal process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another. (Daramola 2012)

Childhood is the span ranging from birth to adolescence. According to Piaget's theory of cognitive development, childhood consists of two stages: preoperational stage and concrete operational stage. In developmental psychology, childhood is divided into the developmental stages of toddlerhood (learning to walk), early childhood (play age), middle childhood (school age), and adolescence. Single parenthood is a phenomenon that has always been in existence and is as old as humanity. Dowd (2019), opined that single parent is a parent, not living with spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the child or children. Elkin, (2018) stated that a child is born into a world that already exists. From the point of view of society, the function of socialization is to transmit the culture and motivation to participate in the established social relationships to the new members of the society.

The socialization of children is very important for the continuity of any culture. The family is said to be the most important agent of socialization, especially for children. Children in most communities are raised in a highly structured and disciplined manner, parents helped to inculcate strong basic moral, spiritual, social, physical and cognitive principles in to their children (Andrew, 2015). Jacobs (2011) stated that academic achievement depends largely on the quality of teaching and motivation. Positive motivation of a child is expected to start from the home. Chil (2019) concluded that the greatest potential for increasing learner's attainment at school resides at home. The researcher is of the view that academic attainment of children is combined effort starting from parents, teachers and the child's ability and interest. While Masitsa (2018) feels that the social and psychological stimulation of the learner's academic development is known to be from the parents' responsibility, he added that parental involvement has an influence on the academic attainment of the learners. The present researcher therefore submits that academic attainment is motivated by both teachers, parents and child's interest.

Joshua (2018) opined that children of single-parent homes show varying degrees of lower attainment dependent upon their individual backgrounds. For adolescents to achieve their potentials whether from single parents or intact family, the child must adjust to the environment physically, socially and otherwise. Single parent has to take the role of a mother, father's responsibilities for their children to reach the peak of their academic career. If a child does not relate well with parents, it can leads to depression in adolescent, this may lead to more frequent use of alcohol, which can link the child to early sexual activities. Conkline (2007), opined that broken home which eventually give rise to single parents is a situation that arises when an individual loss his/her spouse by death, separation, divorce, desertion. Single parenting, such as mothers and fathers both play important roles in the growth and development of children.

Divorce/separation/broken home usually brings about many changes in a child's life that provides disorders. Relocation or weakened the relationships with the non-custodial parents. Brown, (2004) pointed out that more than two hundred million (200,000,000) children are living with single parent with poverty level in Africa. Single parent is sometimes called a solo-parent, which is a parent that is not living with a spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising children educational attainment have not been in good shape. A single parent is usually considered the primary caregiver (Dowd (2019). If the parents are separated or divorced, children live with their custodial parent and have visitation or secondary residence with their non-custodial parent. (Benokraitis, 2012), opined that two-parent family appears to be more favored than the single parent due to the fact that sometimes one of the two takes care of the children in the absence of the other by agreement. He further said that a single mother called khadijat cries out for help from Kano state government after the death of her husband in the state as a result of Boko Haram insurgence attack, the husband left six children behind for his wife to be responsible for their needs

Factors responsible for single parenthood these includes death of a parent, separation, divorce, or desertion.

Death of a parent; Single parenthood were historically as a result of the death one partner. In fact, the death of a partner is a major cause of single parenting. (Amato 2000). The researcher further stated that children that were born in the nineteenth century experienced the death of a parent before they reached age of fifteen as a result of the diseases and maternal death, while most women became widows and also be responsible for their children. Adeniyi (2019), reported that the community war between Erin-ile and Offa in Kwara state which claimed the lives and properties of about fifty five men (55) during that time the decease's wives became widows (single parent) while the educational attainment of their children remain distorted. Joshua, (2019) reported that many military officers lost their lives while fighting in Sambisa forest in boarder area of Nigeria against Boko haram and left wives and children behind suffering and of course this affect their standard of living and academic performance of their wards.

Separation; the crucial event of marital break down is the act of separation. This is usually occurs when the relationship between both parents had gone cold. Divorce is a legal consequence that follows the emotional fact of the separation, though not all separation leads to divorce. Separation generally precedes to divorce, some couples are able to sort out their misunderstanding and misgivings and are able to put the separation period behind them and move on with their lives. (Olaleye, 2010). Divorce; is one of those thing that lead to single parenting in advanced countries. Amato (2000) said that divorce especially become very difficult to obtain after the fall of the Roman Empire, in Medieval Europe, due to strong involvement of ecclesiastical courts in family life although annulment and other forms of separation were more common (Kent's commentaries on American law).

Child custody in reference to divorce refers to which parent is allowed to make important decisions about their children involved. Physical custody refers to who the child lives with. After a certain period of crisis most children resume normal development, however, their future relationships are often affected as they lack model. Nonetheless, as adult children of divorcees cope better with changes that occur in their lives. (Andrew, 2015). The remarriage of a divorced custodial parent result in a third family configuration that is experienced by an increased number of children. (Joshua, 2019)

Desertion; It is a situation whereby either the father or mother walks away from the marriage, leaving the other party without help or support. Desertion is also known as the poor man's divorce. It is called the poor man's divorce because one party leaves the marriage without going through legal process of divorce.

Effects of Single Parenting on Child's Academic performance
Educational factor

Parents are primarily responsible for the educational and career attainment of their children. Salami and Alawode, (2020), suggested that children's academic performance improve when both parents are actively involved in their education attainment. Nyarko and Vorgelegt, 2019 pointed out that intact parents are more likely to involve in their children's education than single parents. As parent s engage in the academic activities of their children, it is most likely to have a positive influence on their academic performance. However, this does not necessarily suggest that once parents engage in a child's academic activities, the child would be academically successful as the child's own abilities and the school environment also play critical roles in that respect. In a related way, Donkor (2010) indicates that parents should notes that poor performance of their children emanates from their lack of proper supervision of their ward's homework.

Psychological factor

Empirical evidence has shown that children from two-parent homes will be taken care off and better socialized than the single parent. This is due to the fact that the process of socialization depends on both parents playing complementary roles in raising such children; which will definitely impact positively on the children during school years and thereafter. On the other hand, children from single parent homes are more likely to suffer deprivations and denials of some rights and opportunities that will have negative psycho-social impact on them in school years (Child, 2019).

Behavioral factor

Interest in parenting and behavioral factor in children is widely acknowledged. Anti-social behavior is a major problem in childhood and beyond. Overall, prior research has shown that children who have experienced any kind of family change have poorer behavioral outcome than the children of stable home. Conklin, (2007) said that Children from single parent families tend to have poorer cognitive and behavioral outcomes than those from intact families (Andrew, 2015).

Economic factor

Single parent in most cases struggling for money to feed their wards especially the lower class among them. Economic hardship has been found to cause emotional distress in parents, which can in turn hamper parent's ability to be supportive, sensitive and consistent with their children (Masitsa, 2018), noted that single parent homes are more likely to be low-economic homes. These children would therefore be subject to problems associated with their socio-economic group. When there is only one parent, the family is often less well off financially and this is the main reason why many families face a lot of problems in the society. The report of the study shows that effect of hailing from a low-income family can include poor academic performance; lower economic achievement and can result to the child feeling isolated and lonely (Adeniyi 2019)

Joshua, (2019), reported that some students of Oke awesin secondary school in Osun state could not enter their classroom as a result of failure of their parents to pay their school fees and eventually they were caught by the Nigerian police while patrolling to wage war against anti tout and truant in the state, during the interrogation by the Nigerian police these students claimed that they were not able to pay their school fees because they belong to single parents with low income.

Theoretical framework

Psychogenic theory- this theory favoured psychiatrists, especially those of a psycho analytic persuasion. Greenwood (1996) said that this type of psychogenic theory is that every human being is endowed with a kind of inborn or instinctual anti-social impulses, commonly called the Id. Most people, in the course of growing up, acquire capacity for prudence, commonly called ego. They also incorporate into their personalities, as conscience or superego the moral code of their society. The ego and super ego together normally suffice to hold the Id in check. This imperfect mastery of the id may be a result of faulty training or parental neglect (Philip 1993). The second type of psychogenic theory does not assume that the impulse to delinquencies is itself inborn. Rather, it views children as a symptom of, or a method of coping with some underlying problem of adjustment. The rich home differs from poor parent. The rich home might be law – abiding in possession of unusually imperious Id drive or faulty ego and super ego development resulting in the eruption of Id into illegal acts. The single parent child might end up to become delinquent (Jaffe et al. 1996). The mental conflict variant of psychogenic theory is that as a result of a disturbed family situation, a child may have psychological problems and these problems may find their expression through delinquency. Psychogenic theories of both classes recognize the importance of the child's social environment in producing the character structure or the problem of adjustment but give it relatively a weight in determining the particular manner in which it finds expressions (Amato 2000).

Jointly, parents have important roles to play in ensuring that their children acquire appropriate and balanced social, psychological, moral and academic development. However, Adeniyi, (2019) opined that in Ilemona area of Oyun local government, Kwara state reported a woman reported her husband to the social welfare office in Ilorin that her husband has not been responsible by given attention to the academic attainment of their children as a result of low income when the husband invited the social welfare office to give account of not been responsible for the educational attainment of his wards, he consequently claimed that his income could not sustain both their feeding and education of the family members at a go that one will affect the other. Daramola 2012 also reported that a student of Pakata girls' day secondary school in Ilorin could not continue her study due to low income of her parents which led her to engage in hawking of pure water in the metropolis of the town. In another research which stated that Kano state polytechnic student of Higher National Diploma (HND) joined cut members because of over pampering by his parents because of their economic flamboyant in the society. Salami & Alawode, (2020) many researches have been carried out in deferent capacities but there is no researchers that actually work on this particular topic that is the gap this researcher intend to fill.

Research Questions

The following are the research questions raised to serve as guide for this study.

1. What are the factors affecting single parenthood among children in military barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria?
2. What are the effects of children of single parenthood in military barrack residents in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were postulated for the study.

- Ho;** There is no significant difference in academic performance of children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based on students' parental status (Single vs both parents)
- Ho;** There is no significant difference in the effect on children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based on students' parental status (Single vs both parents)

Methodology

This is a descriptive study of perceived factors affecting single parenthood on child's academic performance in military barracks residents in Ilorin, Kwara state. The population for this study consists of all students in Army Day Senior Secondary School, Sobi Barracks (22 Battalion) Ilorin. The total population of students in the above name mentioned school are one thousands and ninety students (1,090) both male and female in Ilorin Kwara state, five hundred and twenty-three (523) male students and five hundred and seventy-seven (577) female students. The target

population for this study were one hundred and fifty-six (156) respondents that were SS1, SS II and SSIII were randomly sampled. Multi stage sampling procedure was employed part of which stratified sampling technique was used to sample the respondents for this study, mainly SS1 and SS2 were randomly sample. The children selected were boys and girls. Also stratified sampling technique was used to sample students in Army Day Senior Secondary School, Ilorin, Kwara State. The instrument for data collection was the researchers designed questionnaire to elicit information from the respondents. Data were collected by distributing questionnaire to the sampled of students to represent the entire population. A total of 156 copies of questionnaire were administered for the purpose of this study. The questionnaires deals with child-learners who are being raise by single parent at various locations of the military barracks (Sobi barracks). Copies of the questionnaires were administered to the randomly selected students. Proper completion of the questionnaire was also ensured through thorough supervision. The methods of data analysis were mean rating and standard deviation to analyze the stated research questions while t-test was used to test the stated null hypotheses at 0.05 level of confidence. The validity of the instrument was done using content and face validity approach i.e the instrument was given to two lecturers in Social Sciences Education Department (SSE), University of Ilorin for correction. The reliability of the instrument was determined using test-re-test approach. The reliability of the instrument was determined using test-retest technique at 0.5 level of significant.

Research Questions

Research Question One: What are the perceived factors of the causes of single parenthood among children in military barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Factors of the Causes of Single Parenthood among Children in Military Barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

S/N	Causes	Mean	SD	Rank
1	Sudden death of one partner (wife or husband) as a result of sickness.	2.77	.91	4th
2	Most of the married women in the barracks are unemployed, divorce or as a result of misunderstanding.	2.82	.96	3rd
3	Death of husband or wife in war front	3.10	.83	1st
4	Separation between husband and wife because of low income	2.98	.88	2nd

Table 1: shows that the causes of single parenthood among children in military barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State. Death of husband or wife in war front rankedst 1 with mean of 3.10 and SD of 0.83. Separation between husband and wife because of low income ranked 2nd with the mean of 2.98 and the SD of 0.88. Most of the married women in the barrack residents are not working, they divorce when there is misunderstanding ranked 3rd with respective mean of 2.82 and the SD of 0.96 while Sudden death of one partner (wife or husband) as a result of sickness ranked as 4 with the mean of 2.77 and SD of 0.91. It is therefore shows that the causes of single parenthood among children in military barracks were Death of husband or wife in war front Separation/ divorce between husband and wife because of low income crises.

Research Question Two: What are the effects of children of single parenthood in military barrack residents in Ilorin, Kwara State?

Table 2: Effects of Children of Single Parenthood in Military Barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State

S/N	Effects	Mean	SD	Rank
1	Emotional imbalance of a child that affect their assimilation.	2.82	.95	3rd
2	Payment of school fees and reading materials is a major problem of a child to attain sound education in school.	3.11	.86	1st
3	Joining bad gang as a result of poverty is a problem for me	2.96	.88	2nd

Table 2: shows that the effects of children of single parenthood in military barracks in Ilorin, Kwara State. As shown in the result, Payment of school fees and reading materials is a major problem of a child to attain sound education in school ranked 1st with the mean of 3.11 and the SD of 0.86. This is followed by joining bad gang as a result of poverty is a problem for me ranked 2nd with the mean of 2.96 and the SD of 0.88. The third is Emotional imbalance of a child that affect their assimilation ranked 3rd with the respective mean of 2.82 and the SD of 0.95. It is therefore shown that the difficulties facing children of single parent in military barracks in Ilorin, Kwara State were Payment of school fees and reading materials this has become major issue for the children to attain sound education in school and joining bad gang as a result of poverty.

Research Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in academic performance of children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status (Single vs both parents)

Table 3: t-test of significant difference in academic performance of children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status

Parental Status	N	Mean	SD	SEM	T	df	p	Decision
Single Parent	97	29.72	4.63	.47				Do not reject
Both Parents	59	29.58	4.29	.55	.199	154	.845	H₀₁

Table 3: shows that the result of an independent samples t-test conducted to determine the difference in academic performance of children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status. It is shown that there was no significant difference in academic performance of children from single parent (M=29.72, SD=4.63) and both parents (M= 29.58, SD= 4.29; $t(154) = 0.199$, $p = .845$). Since the p-value is greater than .05, the null hypothesis is therefore upheld. It can therefore be concluded that there was no significant difference in educational experience of children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the effects of children in military barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status (Single vs both parents)

Table 4: t-test of significant difference in the effects on children in military barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status

Parental Status	N	Mean	SD	SEM	T	df	p	Decision
Single Parent	97	8.96	1.96	.19				Do not reject
Both Parents	59	8.79	1.75	.23	.522	154	.602	H₀₁

Table 4: shows that the result of an independent sample t-test conducted to determine the difference in the effects on children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based on students' parental status. It is shown that there was no significant difference in the problems facing children from single parent (M=8.96, SD=1.96) and both parents (M= 8.79, SD= 1.75; $t(154) = 0.522$, $p = .602$) in military barracks. Since the p-value is greater than .05, the null hypothesis is therefore upheld. It can therefore be concluded that there was no significant difference in the effects on children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status.

Discussion of the Findings

From the data collected and analyzed in this study, it shows that death of husband or wife in war front caused single parenting in such a way that it will affect the life of the children especially in their academic performance in the military Barrack residents. This is in line with the view of Joshua (2018), who said that death of one parent in war front caused delay in the academic performance of a child in military Barrack residents. Separation between husband and wife because of low income

according to the findings which shows that low income could cause single parenthood in military Barrack residents, this is line with the view of Olaleye, (2010), who opined that low income is a major factor that lead to separation between the couple in any society around the globe which eventually affect academic performance of their children.

Studies also showed that the effects of children with single parenthood in military barrack residents is lack of payment of school fees and reading materials, while this factor is seriously affecting of military barrack residents in Ilorin. This is in line with the view of Nyarko and Vorgelegt, (2019) who pointed out that most children from single parent homes surfer a lots in the payment of their school fees in the society, while it resulted to the poor academic performance. The findings of this study also shows that joining of bad gang as a result of poverty is a serious problem on child's academic performance in Ilorin barrack residents. This is in line with the view of Olaleye, (2010). Who said that Children from single parent home are known to exhibit certain behavior such as lower self-esteem, less empathy, greater aggression, fighting and vandalism, less tolerance for negative behavior. Jacob, (2011). These problems are linked to future adult crimes, drug and alcohol miss-use, unemployment, poor physical health and mental disorders.

The hypothesis tested reveals that p-value is greater than 0.05. Thus, there is no strong evidence against the null hypothesis and as such it cannot be rejected. This implies that there is no significant difference in academic performance of children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status. Daramola (2012) expressed view to the ones in the presented study. The second hypothesis tested also reveals that p-value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis is therefore upheld. This can therefore be concluded that there is no significant difference in the effects on the children in military barracks, Ilorin, Kwara State based students' parental status. Elkin (2018) has supported this view in his study.

Conclusion

Based on the results obtained the following conclusions were drawn; There is a strong positive relationship between child academic performance and single parenthood. Children from single parent homes are more associated with lower academic performance. Single parenthood is highly prevalent in military barrack residents in Ilorin, Kwara State and the major causes are the death of husband or wife in war front and separation between the couples. The problems facing children in the barrack residents are lack of regular payment of children school fees and resulting to joining bad gang as a result of poverty. There was no significant difference in the effects of single parenthood on children in military barrack residents, Ilorin, Kwara State based on students' parental status.

Recommendations

As regards to the findings of this study, the following recommendations were suggested:

- 1- All parents should also be encouraged through the parents and teachers' association meetings to create time for their children at home for home work activities. This is to ensure that the learners do their school assignments under the supervision of their parents, whether they are single or double parents.
- 2- The government should have some forum for the single parents particularly at the military barrack residents for interactions and counseling sessions that would make single parents see themselves as having the same level of responsibilities towards their children just like the double parents. This kind of support will go a long way to help them to be closer to their children.
- 3- The Government should make policies that aim at assisting low income single parents to maintain their children especially the working class among them. Students of single parenthood should be encouraged on the three basic dimensions of self-concepts, namely; sense of belonging, sense of worth and sense of competence. They need a positive identity to enhanced self-concept for the overall adjustment.
- 4- Therefore, parents should avoid marital disunity, extra marital affairs, dishonesty, and immorality.
- 5- Parents should tolerate, accommodate, appreciate and understand each other in marriage.
- 6- Both parents should try to stay together for the sake of good upbringing of their children.
- 7- Whenever there is problem in the home, the couple should try and see the counsellor for help or otherwise to settle the problems within themselves amicably.

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