

THE EFFECTS OF SINGLE PARENT ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *This paper examines the effects of single parent on academic performance of secondary school students in Nigeria. Yet, it critical examination the challenges which the children of single parents encounter in secondary education. It also explain the causes of single parenting. Similarly, it stated clearly the effects of single parenting on academic achievement of secondary school students. Otherwise, it emphasis implication of single parenting on academic performance of their children in secondary education in Nigeria.*

KEYWORDS; single parent, pformance, students, academic, secondary School, achievement, implication.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is the largest in Africa but there is problem of single parenting which have affected many children lives both in Northern , Southern and Eastern, because thousands of single parents find it cumbersome to send their children to school especially this time of economic hardship in the country.

Coontz (2017) explains that Single-parent families can be defined as families where a parent lives with dependent children, either alone or in a larger household, without a spouse or partner. There was a rapid and drastic increase in the number of single-parent families in the latter half of the twentieth century. This change has been used by some to argue that we are witnessing the breakdown of the family. He further stated that single parenting as a married couple residing with their dependent offspring with negative effects for children, families and societal.

Donkor (2010) examines that single parenting refers to the situation whereby one parent caring for the responsibilities of the child / children instead of both parents. He further states that single parenting has contributed immensely to destruction lives of many children because inability to provide their needs. Thomas (2018) states that single parenting is a person who lives with a child or children and who does not have a wife, or husband with live as a partner. He further states that a single parenting may have either sole custody of the child or joint physical custody, where the child lives part-time with each parent. Reasons for becoming a single parenting include divorce,

break-up, abandonment, death of the other parent, childbirth by a single woman or single-person adoption. A *single parent family* is a family with children that is headed by a single parent.

Adebola (2013) defines Single parenthood as when one of two parents who are responsible for the nurturing and child rearing is not available and the responsibilities meant for two people is now being carried out by one person.

Azuka-Obieke, (2016). explains that Single parenting a situation when a mother or father who looks after his or her children on their own, without the input of the other partner. He further states that Single parenting have been on the increase, although the actual percentage is unknown, but practical experience and newspaper reports revealed that there is an increase of single parenthood in the country.

Augustina Chigozie was reported in vanguard newspaper on 4th of March 2016, on how she had been coupling as single parent. For instance, in most ethnic groups in Nigeria, parental and maternal roles are clearly defined among the Yoruba's, maternal roles include children rearing, home training and playing complimentary roles, while that of paternal roles are that of providing for the family basic necessities and discipline of the children, when any of the parents are not available to fulfilled their responsibilities it may affects their children upbringing and may turn the children into wayward and academics failures. George (2015). definite a single parent is a parent not living with a spouse. The single parent has most of the day to responsibilities in raising the child or children. This herculean task cannot be accomplished by an individual.

Ossat (2017) emphasis that corroborated thus, single parenthood is the practice of raising children or building family without a spouse or partner. As a form of building a family, single parenthood (single parenting) is now permissible in our society. In the western society in general, the child ends up with the primary caregiver usually the mother or the father when there is separation. Some sociologists perceive the prevalence of single parenting as an alternative family form, rather than as (2003) states that the death of a partner was a major cause of single parenting and other causes include separation, divorce of a married couple, divorce of children that were in cohabitation, early pregnancy, etc. However, children with single parents are three times more likely to drop out of school than children from two parent families. The demographic of single parenting shows a general increase worldwide in children living in single parent homes. A child from a home where the father and mother are present will be taken care of and will socialize in the best way possible. This is due to the fact that the process of socialization depends on both parents playing complementary role in the upbringing of the child, such a child is likely to achieve self actualization later in life, unlike children from single parent home who are likely to suffer deprivation and denial of some right and opportunities.

Amato (2003) asserted that single parenthood is problematic for the children's socialization because many with one receive less economic and social support with practical assistance, less information, guidance and supervision, less role modeling than children in two parent families.

Among children in single parent families, those from mother absent homes and mother absent household earn lower grades than children from father absent households. Children from father absent households generally find it difficult to connect with school activities both academically and morally

George (2016) defines single parent as a couple who separate either by death or towards inability of one another to satisfy each other's. He further states that many partners have been separated because of inability of one to perform his /her responsibility in the family.

Jallingo, (2000) emphasizes that single parenting is phenomenon which rampant among the people who are not competent to each other's. He further states that single parenting common in our society because of misunderstanding among the couples.

CAUSES OF SINGLE PARENTING IN NIGERIA

Unintended pregnancy

Some out-of-wedlock births are intended, but many are unintentional. Out-of-wedlock births are not acceptable to society, and they often result in single parenting. A partner may also leave as he or she may want to shirk responsibility of bringing up the child. This also may harm the child where they are not acceptable, they sometimes result in forceful marriage, and however such marriages fail more often than others. Moreover, it may result that the partners end their marriage single parenting. For instance, many communities in Nigeria single parenting are common among young women, even many of them lure to stay with their children and have concubines just to pay visit once awhile.

Death of partner; indeed thousands of women in Nigeria lost their husbands yearly this make them to become single parents. However, this also affect thousands of students in schools. For instance, many parents could not be able to care for the needs of their children. Even, many single parents abandon their children education because of their inability to care for them.

However, many children achieve nothing today because of inability of their parents to give the pre-requisite to receive sound in secondary schools Nigeria.

Divorce ; yet, it common in Nigeria that many partners divorce each other's and this leads to rampant of single parenting while the repercussion on their children . I recalled few years ago in Osun where by twenty years marriage was dissolved their marriage in magistrate court Oshogbo , mother took a girl away for caring while father took a boy away for caring but both children were denied their education , because of each of them found it difficult to caring for the children.

Separation of partners; similarly, there is cases yearly which leads to separation of partners in Northern Southern and Eastern, although each separation partners have different cases of separation. However, once the partners have been separated definitely there is problems of the education of their children.

Sickness of husband ; many single parenting were cause through long sickness of one partner in which wives may decide to leave their husbands actually this rampant among Yoruba women in Nigeria especially Oyo and Ijesha in Yoruba tribe in Nigeria. They prefer to stay in their families' house and care for their children.

EFFECT OF SINGLE PARENTING ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Obviously, secondary education is determined the future career of students. Therefore, if children do not have opportunity to attend secondary education this may affect their lives in future. However, many children could be not able to attend secondary education because of inability of their single parents to avoid payment of their school fees. Moreover, many children are denied their secondary education and may resulted to total destruction in their lives.

Similarly, thousands of the students are drop out yearly because their single parents could not take care their responsibilities of their schools. Yet, many children are joined bad friends in order to survive because of their single parents lack to meet their needs. However, both rural, urban and riverine area in Nigeria the single parents failed to contribute immensely towards their secondary education of their children. Because many single parents always complain of shortage of money to take care of their children secondary education that the reason why secondary education is too difficult for many males and females children under an umbrella of single parents. However, inability to meet their pre- requisites have been generated to many problems in their secondary education which makes them force to marry in premature age , majority of them who attended secondary schools could not complete their studies because of financial constrain of their single parents.

Indeed, the poor caring of single parents have been made many female children to carry unwanted pregnancy while they supposed to be in schools. While males involve difference bad groups such as army robbers, assassin, kidnapping and theft e.t.c . For instance, four secondary students school were apprehended different offence at Kaduna just recently while three of them came from single parents while they in court they told the lawyers that inability of their parents to care for their for education made to involve in kidnapping, because they believed that once they kidnapped people it is possible to get money for their schooling

Implication of single parent on academic performance of students in Nigeria

Obviously, parents serve as pillars for the life children, moreover, it may cumbersome for any child to achieve without the proper contributions of the parents. Yet, only parents can determine

how the future of their child will be either good or bad. However, the situation whereby the parental is lacking especially single parenting the children will facing the following challenges; **Denied of Education**; thousands of the children have problems of single parenting which shape their futures. Moreover, majority of single parents find it difficulties to send their children to school, because they are facing challenges of financial constrain and other relevance challenges this rampant among single parents in Nigeria. Similarly, many of children from single parents drop out in school because of inability of their parents.

Early marriage ; similarly, thousands of teenagers have been married because of inability of their parents to give them sound education while many are under bondage of cohabitation because their parents failed to send them to school although this common among children from single parenting. For instance, in Northern parts of Nigeria this early marriage is prevail among teenagers , although some of teenagers have their father and mother but majority occur through the single parents. Yet, likewise, in Yoruba single parents affected the lives of many children.

Expose to criminality ; many children have been exposed to criminals because their parents found difficult to care for them . Yet, this affect their education in life however, single parents have been contributed much on the inability to give them sound education. Indeed , many students exposed to bad things made to lost their lives while others remained in prison , this is mar to their future in live although it is not the fault of many children but it is inability of their parents to care for them.

CONCLUSION

However, single parent have been generated many problems in lives of many children because of their inability to send their children secondary education , although they contribute to total failure of their children and opportunity to achieve sound education is difficult for them Therefore, if there is reduction of single parenting, this will reduce the number of children uncaring in Nigeria . Similarly, children will have the future for tomorrow.

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