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**SINGLE PARENTING AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE ACDAMIC
PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS' AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL IN SOUTHREN
PUNJAB**

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Abstract

The phenomenon of single parenting is a social problem in various countries in the world today. It has become a global concern which deprives many children the opportunity to attain academic excellence in their lives and excellent labor factor for national productivity and progress. Previous research indicate that children from both parents perform better then children from single parents as due to limited time single parents has to spend on their child academic work. The objective of the study was to determine the effects of single parenting on the academic performance among the students of university Master level students. The study aimed examines the problems faced by the students under single parenting homes as comparable of students from dual parent family background light on the effect of single-parenting on the academic performance of students. The study also aimed to assess the extent to which single parent level of education and occupation influenced academic performance of students at master level in public sector universities. To accomplish this, the researchers employed descriptive survey as the research design. The study sample consisted on 240 students who were identified to be living under single parents. The instrument used for data collection was only questionnaires. The key findings of the study revealed that, a larger percentage of the respondents are sometimes depressed and not emotionally sound and this makes them feel uncomfortable in their academic pursuit. Again, the results of the study showed that single parents do not regularly monitor and supervise the academic progress of their students and in effect, these children are normally not provided with the necessary learning materials to aid their learning.

Introduction

Raising a child or children by one parent, either the mother or father alone, for most of the time is reported to be quite challenging, placing extraordinary demands on both the parent and the children (Bronnimann, 2007). In some societies, as reported by a single mother, it is more of a stigma AAPH (2011). Alawode (2000) asserted that single parenting results from divorce, separation of various kinds, having children from wedlock or death of one spouse which leaves the roles in the hand of a single parent. Single parents may have profound negative impact on student's academic performance as parents play an important role in most children's academic development. Previous research indicates that children from both parents perform better than children from single parents. This was attributed to the limited time a single parent has to spend on their child's academic work. Single parenthood is a phenomenon that has always been in existence and is as old as mankind. A single parent is a parent, not living with spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the children. Parenthood is challenging enough even under the best of conditions. So, being a single parent in our society is tasking to say the least. This is because, with one parent, the challenges are multifaceted. Single parenting in our society has been the focus of much interest and research in recent years. (Chiemelie Ezeobi 2011). According to Funmilayo Oriyomi (2011) communicator, "The effect of single parenting are far reaching because it does not only affect the parents, it also affects the children. In fact, the effects are more shocking on the part of the children because single parenthood leaves them with deep scar. Being a single parent is a very tough and challenging task. It is generally accepted that the quality of family interactions has important associations with children academic motivation and achievement, and with young adults' eventual educational and occupational attainments. Thomas Kellaghan and his colleagues (2005) claim, for example, that the family environment is the most powerful influence in determining students' achievement, academic motivation, and the number of years of education they will receive. Similarly, parents' involvement in learning activities has substantial emotional and intellectual benefits for children. He observes, however, that because supportive and strong families are significant for prepare success; teachers confront increasing challenges as many children experience severe family disruption and upheaval. Although it is acknowledged that families are perhaps the most substantial influence on children's prepare success, it is not always clear which family influences are the most important. In addition, research findings are inconclusive about the extent to which relationships between family interactions and academic performance are independent of a child's family background and family structure.

Academics are one of the most important aspects of a student's life, with good grades, students are able to get into universities, and allow them to earn degrees in order to obtain jobs that they want. If the relationship between the student's parents is unstable and filled with conflict, this can alter the student's academic performance. (Afifi, 2013; Brown, 2012; Overland, 2012). However, relationship between family backgrounds in the academic performance has received only limited attention both on theoretical and empirical grounds. One of the few works in the theoretical literature that takes into account family background, is a paper Ng'ang'a (2008) who compared a standard grading system to a competitive grading system in terms of the level of student effort each family was able to motivate, and showed that the family system's

relative advantage depended crucially on the nature of the family background distorting academic achievement. Ng'ang'a (2008) further showed that when leisure is a normal good and students are given monetary rewards by their parents unrelated to their academic performance they become less diligent. Ng'ang'a (2008) however focused on the motivation that families provide to students in terms of monetary rewards. This therefore creates a gap on other ways that family background influences the performance of students. Single parenting is very important social issues that can effects on a child's academic success. Children who are raised in a single family home are at risk of not reaching their full potential. Students within our educational system encounter many challenges in their family lives that they bring with them into the classroom. Udansky and Wolf (2008) identified single parenting as a major problem on the rise. Single Parent is a common phenomenon in the community today, but still represents a major life stress for the individuals involved, with potentially strong negative consequences for the mental and physical health of all members of the family. The effect of single parent on child academic performance has been the subject of research attention for several decades, and has long been viewed as the cause of a range of serious and enduring behavioral and emotional problems in children (Kelly & Emery, 2003).

The socialization 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 instill and inculcate strong basic moral, spiritual, social, physical and cognitive principles in their children (Santrock, 2002). Forman and Davies (2003) maintained that at adolescence, the individual is getting developed psychologically to cope and bear with stress and tensions which they are faced with. A child biological temperament plays a vital role in the eruption and resolution of single parent. According to Ekundayo & Oyeniya (2008) the society is tackling with as part of behavior problems prevalent among students. Parents are the first point of contact of children and when both parents are alive and responsible, it implies that the child would derive effective care from the parents (Tan-Kick, & Ng, 2011). They further asserted that, when one of the parent is absent in the life a gap is created as one would lose the support from the parents. In the view of Addo-Adeku (2003) it has been affirmed that single parenting comes as a results of divorce or from the death of one spouse which leaves the roles of child rearing in the hands of a one parent. In the work he further argues that the absence of one parent has serious effects on the offspring's which eventually influences the educational opportunities and success in the school. The above ascensions show that single parenting can have effects in diverse ways for example academic performance of children. Parents play a major role in educating and the type of parenting they offer to their children have the ability to influence their thinking and learning abilities at the formative years of children (Suleiman, 2012). It appears that, there is relationship between parenting and students' academic performance. That is, single parenting can affect students' performance. It is against this backdrop that Akorful (2000), Boardman and Evans (2000) and Nyarko (2011) in their study believed that in order to help alleviate the problems that plague in educational system today, the right parenting should be given to children so as to help raise the standard of quality education. To them, parenting is essential in developing the right human resources who can take part in the national development. If, cognition may develop positively or negatively and affect educational attainment, it is based largely on the type of parental care that is given. In

the turmoil of adjustment, certain adolescents experience difficulties in various aspects of their lives. Their emotional well-being, their behavioral performance, their academic achievement and take in relations are vulnerable to disruption. However, there are children who experience the parental separation without apparent adverse effects. In summary, even though all children who experience the stressful life-event of a parental separation are at "high-risk" for varying degrees of maladjustment, some children manage to remain "invulnerable" or "resilient" in the presence of such life event adversities.

The Academic achievement of the students at various levels of education and particularly at higher level can be predicted through many factors such as institutional factors, social comic factors motivation factor and the family which is considered as primary agent in term of socialization. Olyinkia (2015) define solution as a life learning process in which individual groups of people interact and learn social norms and develop human characteristics. The agent of socialization include the family, school, peers, and the media among the others .The family plays a major role during socialization, because a adolescents is completely dependent on the others especially family members in order to survive .Parents in particular are responsible for teaching us to function. Care for ourselves and how to fit in the outside world from infancy and through the years of basic education (Horton and Hunt, 2004). The study therefore focused on the influence of the family and on particular single parenting on academic performance of master level .In most cases life with only a single parent is often seen as a risk factor (Olayinka, 2009) but in the recent year's single parenting has continued to become a common. One thing, thus making it a focus of study in relation to its influxes on academic performance of learners. They are to be responsible for the psychological and emotional welfare of the child. The parents are mainly responsible for the educational and career development of their children. However, divorce and separation of various kinds or death of one spouse may leave the roles in the hands of a single parent. The family structure, ideally, provides a sense of security and stability that is necessary for children. When there is a breakdown in the family structure, it may have a tremendous impact on a child and their ability to function ordinarily or achieve academically.

In most situations, the child no longer has two parents to depend on. Therefore they have to rely on one parent to meet most, if not all their needs. With limited finances, time and availability parents are less likely to provide the adequate support a child needs to perform to the best of their ability. This is not to say, necessarily, that the parent raising them is not providing them with more than adequate love and attention, but rather the single parent model within itself is comprised of many different factors that can affect a child's academic success. Globally, single parent families are increasing rapidly. For instance, Grall (2009) reported that there are approximately 13.7 million single parents in the USA with more than 12 million single parents in custody of over 20 million children in 2000. This increased to 21.8 million children raised by single parents in 2009 (about 26% of children 21 years and below). In South Africa, about 28% of women are single parents. Again, according to Steck (2009) the number of divorce cases leading to single parenting has risen considerably in Europe since 1960s and that the most affected countries include the United Kingdom, Portugal, Denmark and Belgium. According to the Center for marriage and families (2005) over the past 35 years in the United States of America children being raised in two-parent homes have dropped significantly from about 85% in 1968 to 70% in 2003. However, the population of children living in single-parent

homes has nearly doubled. In similar vein, Anderson (2002) found that almost half of all children by age 15 will have lived in a single parent family. In Nigeria, Adeline and Ogunbanwo (2008) Found that there is an upsurge of single parents. These are been linked to relationship breakdown or increasing rates of divorce and birth of child out of wedlock. Many researchers have shown that immoral behavior and poor academic performance are prevalent among adolescents who are from unstable or separated family, with less adequate parental training on their moral and social attitudes. This study intends to assess single parent on the academic performance of the students.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to examine the effects of single parenthood on academic performance of the students.

Specifically, the research intends to find out the following:

- To study the problems faced by the students under single parenting homes as comparable of students from dual parent family background.
- To explore the effects of single parenting on academic performance of the student at universities level.
- To assess the extent to which single parents' level of education and employment status influenced academic performance of students at universities level.

Research Hypothesis

The following research questions were asked to serve as guide to the study:

- What are the problems of the students living under single parents?
- What are the effects of single parent on student's academic performance?

Methodology

The study is a survey-based research. The students of M.A Discipline in southern Punjab universities were the respondents. A closed-ended questionnaire with five points Likert Scale was formulated after a comprehensive review of literature. Further, the questionnaire contained single parenting and its affect on their academic performance of students. To test the reliability of instrument researcher used pilot study and then questionnaire was distributed among students.

Population

The target population for the study was the students from single parent homes as well as pupils who lived with both parents. The population of the study consisted of all the male and female students of social science departments from the Government universities in Southern Punjab. The M.A Discipline of social sciences students studying in these universities was the target population. Social sciences department include: Education, Psychology, History, Pakistan Studies, Sociology and Economics. So the whole population of the study comprise of 2463 institution of higher education students.

Sample

Researcher using Purposive sampling technique to draw sample from the targeted population. The researcher preferably selected students of M.A Disciplines because they have better understanding about these factors and they could easily share their opinions in the light of their experience from single parenting about the factors nominated in the present study influencing students' academic performance at university level.

Development of Tool

Researcher developed a questionnaire by applying five-point Likert scale format ranging from Strongly Agree, Agree, Natural, Disagree, Strongly Disagree in order to take point of view of students towards their single parenting and its effects on academic performance of students. A questionnaire was developed by the researcher herself on exploring the influence of each factor on students' academic performance after in-depth review of the relevant literature such as, Millar and Ridge, 2001; Benokraitis, Nijole, 2012, 2011, 2008; Statistics Ginger Bread, 2010; Memon et al., 2010 ;Memon *et al.*, 2010; Usakli 2013 ; Akinsanye *et al.*, 2011; Park & Kem, 2011; Gustafson *et al.*, 2011; Tope (2012; Clark and Hamplova 2013 ; Pharaoh, 2004; Symeon 2007; Waldfogel, 2010; Davis, 2011; Cavanagh & Fomby, 2012 ; Crosnoe, 2007; Moime's 2009 ; Peplau & Beals, 2004; Copeland, 2010; Scott & Lilja, 2010; Azuka-Obieke, 2013. The questionnaire comprised of two sections. Section A consisted of demographic instrument was used to collect the required bio-data from participants. Section B contained 38 statements included three factors, (Psychological, Social interaction and Educational). Researcher herself addressed the instrument to students and also observed and guided them throughout the process.

Data Analysis

Test results of Research Questions

Question 1. *What are the effects of single parents on students' academic performance?*

Gender			Std.	T	df	p-value
	N	Mean	Deviation			
Male	97	131.04	15.267	2.598	238	.010
Female	143	135.92	13.544			

The result shows that the t-test value of male 131.04 and female mean value is 135.92 respectively. The t-test value of Female students is greater than male students which show the effect of single parenting on the academic performance of female students is higher than male students. There is significance difference between male students and female students.

Question 2. *What are the problems of the students living under a single parent?*
Child living with Mother, Father and Other Relatives

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Min	Max
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
Mother	177	93.14	14.020	1.054	91.06	95.22	58	140
Father	58	95.00	14.828	1.947	91.10	98.90	59	142
Other Relatives	5	115.40	6.950	3.108	106.77	124.03	103	119
Total	240	94.05	14.435	.932	92.22	95.89	58	142

Single Parenting

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2477.627	2	1238.813	6.204	.002
Within Groups	47320.669	237	199.665		
Total	49798.296	239			

The result shows that the t-test values of respondents who were affected of single parenting are 93.14, 95.00, and 115.40 respectively. The t-test also indicates that p-value is less than 0.05 (i.e. .002) at DF=2. So the difference between mean values is statistically significant. It means that respondents who are living with other relatives have more positive attitude towards mother and father. From the above table, it is also clear that the respondent who living with mother have less positive attitude towards living with father.

Multiple Linear Regressions Results

Model	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	15.853	2.452		6.464	.000
Social interaction	-.020	.117	-.012	-.175	.861
Educational	.395	.080	.351	4.971	.000
Psychological	.550	.178	.203	3.092	.002

* $p < .000$, $R = .468$, $R^2 = .219$, $Adjusted R^2 = .209$, $F = 22.112$, $df = 3$

Multiple Linear Regressions Model

The result show that the regression modal is statically overall significance of the regression model that purpose that the regression model is statically significant as the p-value less than 0.05. The results of multiple liner regression indicate that our fitted model to be as ,It is clearly indicated by the fitted model that all the independent variables have a positive influence on the dependent variables. The dependent variable enhances by the increase of independent variable. The result shows that liner regression analysis results of Educational and independent variables Social interaction, psychological among students. The $R^2 = .209$ shows there is significant effect of independent variables educational and psychological among students at the level of significance 0.05 on the other hand there is non-significant effect of Social interaction independent variables among students at the level of significance 0.05. It is clearly indicated by the model that all the factors effects of single parenting on the academic performance of students.

Liner Regression Analyses to check the single parenting and its effects on the academic achievement (CGPA) of students.

What are the effects of single parent on student’s academic achievement?

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	β	Std. Error	Beta	t	
(Constant)	2.367	.186		12.703	.000
Effect of academic achievement (CGPA)	.003	.002	.104	1.613	.108

$R = 0.104$ $R^2 = 0.011$ $Adj. R^2 = 0.007$ $F = 2.603$ $Sig. = 0.000$

Table showed that significant of the regression model that purpose the regression model is statically significant as the p-value less than 0.05. The result of multiple liner regression indicate that our fitted model to be as, It is clearly indicate by the fitted model that all the independent Variable have a negative influence on the dependent variable. The dependent variable enhance by the increase of independent variable. Above table shows liner regression analysis result of CGPA dependent variable on academic achievement Show that the opinion of R is 0.104 that single parenting has huge connection with academic achievement of students. The opinion of R^2 is 0.011 that reflects 11 % of the changeability in academic performance is clarified by single

parenting. The $F=2.603$ and $\text{Sig.}=0.000$ shows factually outstanding and right calculation between the factors at $p=0.05$ equality level. The opinion of β (CGPA of the coefficient) for single parenting is 0.104 means that academic performance differs adversely with single parenting and the regard 1.613 is correctly exceptionally minor with $\text{sig.}=0.108$. So the result indicates negative effect of single parenting on the academic achievement (CGPA) of students.

Conclusion

- The result shows that the t-test value of male 131.04 and female mean value is 135.92 respectively. The t-test value of Female students is greater than male students which show the effect of single parenting on the academic performance of female students is higher than male students. There is significance difference between male students and female students.
- The result shows that the t-test values of respondents who were affected of single parenting are 93.14 , 95.00 , and 115.40 respectively. The t-test also indicates that p-value is less than 0.05 (i.e. $.002$) at $DF=2$. So the difference between mean values is statistically significant. It means that respondents who are living with other relatives have more positive attitude towards mother and father. From the above table, it is also clear that the respondent who living with mother have less positive attitude towards living with father.
- The result show that the regression modal is statically overall significance of the regression model that purpose that the regression model is statically significant as the p-value less than 0.05 . The results of multiple liner regression indicate that our fitted model to be as ,It is clearly indicated by the fitted model that all the independent variables have a positive influence on the dependent variables. The dependent variable enhances by the increase of independent variable.
- The result shows that liner regression analysis results of Educational and independent variables Social interaction, psychological among students. The $R^2=.209$ shows there is significant effect of independent variables educational and psychological among students at the level of significance 0.05 on the other hand there is non-significant effect of Social interaction independent variables among students at the level of significance 0.05 . It is clearly indicated by the model that all the factors effects of single parenting on the academic performance of students.

Discussion

The current study was conducted in the public sector universities to investigate single parenting and its effects on the academic performance of students. Based on the responses of the respondents from single parent families, the researcher found out that single parenting has negative effects on children. Generally, children face problems or challenges. These problems are social communication problems, psychological problems, educational problems, behavioral problems, etc. Children in single parent families however, face significantly greater problems than those raised in dual parent families. The result shows that single parenting experience to some extent the effect of academic performance. However, the calculated frequency, percentages and means indicated the highest means (4.11) of the experiences of single parenting effects on the item Does your parent pay your semester fee timely and do you feel happy and motivated when your parent discuss your academic career with others relates to the educational performance. The number of single parents in the U.S. has more than doubled in the last 40 years (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). In current society the belief that single parenting has negative effects on children is dominant over the belief that

single parenting has no negative effects on children. Which states that, single parenting does not help children to develop as self-actualized individuals.

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