

PSYCHO-SOCIAL ANALYSIS OF SINGLE-PARENTED CHILDREN

A STUDY IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT

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By

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Parents are like the halves of a sea-shell which when joined can produce a precious pearl. With their hands and hearts in harmony, they can construct a paradise in the souls of their children.

(Unknown)

*DEDICATED
TO
MY PARENTS*

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CERTIFICATE

Certified that the project entitled "*PSYCHOSOCIAL ANALYSIS OF SINGLE-PARENTED CHILDREN – A STUDY IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT*" is record of a research work done by *Miss. ANCY RAJU IV Semester student of Master of Sociology* course of this college, under my supervision and guidance and is here by approved for submission.

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INTRODUCTION
&
LITERATURE REVIEW

Family

Family is the most important primary group. Family is a central institution in all human societies, although it may take many different forms. A family is a group of people related by blood, marriage or adoption. Family ordinarily consists of husband and wife, their children and occasionally an extra-relative. Family is the primary source of socialization. Socialization creates the personalities and channels the behaviour of the members of a society.

To **Nimkoff**,” Family is more or less durable association of husbands and wife with or without child, or of a man or women alone, with children.

The biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children is family-
ELLIOTT AND MERRILL.

Family is a group defined by sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children”- ***MACIVER.***

Classification of Family:

Family can be classified in a various manner; based on Structure, family can be divided into ***Nuclear and Extended Family.***

The smallest unit of family structure is especially used to refer as Nuclear family. This term is used to refer to a wife and husband and their children. Sociologists used the term to refer to two or more people related by consanguine or conjugal ties or by adoption who share a household; it does not require that both husband and wife be present in household or that there be any specific set of role relations among the members of the household. (Thomas, 1964)

Extended family can be viewed as a merger of several nuclear families.

On the basis of *authority*, a family may be patriarchal or matriarchal.

Patriarchal family is one that is headed by male members of the family.

Eldest male enjoys the right over the property and members of the family.

Matriarchal family is one in which the women is the head and enjoys the right over property of the family.

Functions:

Different sociologists trace different functions of family:

DAVIS divides the social functions of family as

- Reproduction.
- Maintenance.
- Placement.
- Socialization of the young.

The family in any society is an institutional structure, which develops through a society, is effort to get certain task done. This may be recognized as follows:

- The sexual regulation function.
- The reproductive function.
- The socialization function
- The affectional function.
- The status function.
- The economic function.

OGBURN AND NIMKOFF classify functions as:

- Affectional.

- Economic.
- Recreational.
- Religious.
- Protective.
- Educational.

REED makes classification as:

- Race perpetuation.
- Socialization.
- Regulation and satisfaction of sex needs.
- Economic functions.

It is well-known that family is of central importance to human beings for their growth, development and their very existence. The biological; and socio-cultural functions of the family can be seen in the interactions of the family members with each other. Thus, interactions are the basic foundation over which edifices of the family are built-up. (*Archana Dogra, 1999*).

Family is the environment into which the child and in which his or her earliest experience with other people occurs, experiences that have a lasting influence on the personality. Family environment vary greatly, not only in terms of such key variables as income and education of the parents but also in terms of living arrangements, urban verses rural residence, number of children, relation with kin and so on. (*Archana Dogra, 1999*).

FAMILY DISORGANISATION:

Family disorganization is closely related to the disorganization in the larger society. Family disorganization is thus the weakening, breakdown or dissolution of the small groups comprising the nuclear family. Most people marry in the hope of

finding permanent happiness with the member of the opposite sex. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

In the broader sense, family disorganization includes any weakness, maladjustment or dissolution of the ties binding members of this group together. Family disorganization may thus comprise not only the tensions between husband and wife but also those arising between parents and children and those between siblings. (*A.M. Shah, 1998*)

The unity of the group requires a similarity of attitudes and values among the various members. The family is no exception. The effectiveness of any group from family to friendship group depends first of all upon its ability to continue as such. When a family is disorganized because of conflicting interests, it naturally ceases to perform its functions as a family. (*Young, 1969*)

The family was defined long ago as a “unity of interacting personalities.” In an effective family, great importance lies in its unity. When unity is present, the family is organized, when unity is lacking, family disorganization has begun. The conjugal relationship between husband and wife is the central bond uniting the family in our society. When this bond is broken, unity is broken. Family disorganization is social disorganization in the literal sense, for it is the breakdown of the primary group. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

The breakdown of unity may take the form of domestic discord, which renders harmonious interaction difficult, although an open break in the formal unity of the family may never occur. Tensions may take the extreme form of desertion or divorce. If this happens, family disorganization is complete, both sociologically and legally. The members must knit up the tangled skein of their lives under new and different circumstances. (*A.M. Shah, 1998*)

Divorce, desertion, death and other aspects of social disorganization relating to the family are viewed as pressing social problems, with many implications both for individual and for society as a whole. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

Widowhood:

The state of having lost one's spouse to death is termed as widowhood. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. A man whose wife has died is a widower. (*Collins and Coltrane, 1995*)

Widowhood has been an important social issue, particularly in the past. In the families in which the husband was, the sole provider widowhood could plunge the family in poverty. (*Levine and Salve, 1999*)

When we think of a family, we picture it is a more or less durable association of husband and wife. When one spouse dies the other is left alone to strive for children and maintain families economy. In such a condition, they leave their hope for living. Widowhood becomes a period of suffering and an unhappy state.

Problems of widowhood are various, such as, economic problems, social, family, sexual, residential, practical adjustmental problems.

Important crisis in the life of the widowed call for a process of adjustment, with an initial adjustment to the loss of a significant role is more difficult than adjustment to a new role. (*Collins and Coltrane, 1995*)

In India, widowed is an event that constitutes the greatest and saddest change in the life of a woman. She has no social status and is excluded from caste rituals and ceremonies. When her husband dies, she becomes a widow. "Their life on the death of the husband turns into a tree without a leaf." According to Tarabai Shinde, once a women's husband has died, she is stripped and exposed in all sort of ways, she

becomes a widow pot hidden in the corners. The widow is the first to rise and last to retire. (*Laslett and Wachter, 1978*)

The widows are regarded as second-class citizen of the country and second-class member of their family. In the case of the death of a man, her condition was verse. "The sun of her life was gone out with the death of her husband." (*Melville, 1977*)

Their life on the death of her husband turns into a tree without any leaf. They have lost their luster for living. (*Levine and Salve, 1999*)

In the ancient times, the child marriage was widespread in all sections of Hindu society. A girl of five the six years were married to a man of 50 to 60 years. After his death, the little girl has to suffer a lot. She faces humiliation. She is not allowed to remarry. Gradually this system disappeared from the society, with the adoption of the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929. But still they have to suffer societal restrictions. (*R.R Bell, 1975*)

If the widow belongs to a nuclear family and if her husband alone was the breadwinner, her plight would be more pathetic and miserable. But it would be that much of a problem for a widow in a large and undivided family. The position worsens when she has dependent children to be brought up single handedly. (*Laslett and Wachter, 1978*)

Husbands who have recently lost their wives faces loneliness and grief. The men's voices are by turns angry, distant, touching and mournful. His wife's death and his attempts to come to terms with his new life alone or as a single parent, he also takes us on his particular journey through the stages of grief. (*S. Pothen, 1986*)

In our society, a husband is one who goes out for work and is the bread winner of the family. Looking after a child is the duty of the wife. Wife is one who

looks after the child's study, husband is one who provides economic support. But after the death of the wife, the husband has to handle all alone. This creates great tensions in his life. (*Lop Amadra, 1983*)

Divorce:

Divorce is related to 'marriage' and 'family', which are the most important institutions of the human society. The word 'Divorce' in English is derived from the Latin word 'divortium' that again is derived from 'dis' which means 'to turn'. Divorce is dissolution of the tie of marriage. Therefore, divorce is the turning away of partners from each other. (*Encyclopedia, p334*)

Divorce represents the end of the hopes that two people had for each other, it is the certificate that their relationship failed. From the human standpoint, divorce is the severing of bonds between husband and wife, so that they live apart, no longer have intercourse and cease to be a pair. It is an inevitable means of escape from the tensions of a close intimacy that has become unpleasant, filled with conflict or dangerous. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

Divorce is more than a legal problem. It is often an acute personal experience. But its consequence is not only personal but also social, economic, psychological and above all, it is a major individual, familial and then societal problem. (*Cavan, 1960*)

The impact of legal dissolution of marriage in the institution of family and total society is the matter of difference, of opinion. According to Derrett, Divorce cases reflect a sick society, not a healthy one. (*Derrett M. Duncan, 1971*)

Lifestyles have changed dramatically in the decades since the 1960's. Couples in the early generation may have thought about divorce, but because of the social and economic taboos, many stayed married. Today, however, with the advent of number

of divorce laws, dual incomes, less commitment and weakened stigmata, approximately half of all marriages eventually dissolve. (*Folsom, 1934*)

Divorce often plunges mothers and children into poverty. Because women generally earn only 60% of what men earn, the standard of living for many women declines. Single-mothers who were poor when they were unmarried were living in poverty within a year after divorce. The financial desperation in the aftermath of divorce often forces the family into lower standard of living, necessitating a move to less expensive neighbourhood, taking children away from schools, family and friends. Diminished contact between children and mothers whom have an extra job just to make ends may contribute to the crisis. (*Leslie, 1976*)

It is possible that when a marriage ends, especially if it ends in angry conflicts, parents can experience a decline in their deep feelings for their children and the extent to which they voluntarily undertake responsibilities for the children. Another factor is that the non-custodial parent, usually the father, tends to progressively disengage from his children over the years following a divorce, both geographically and emotionally. A nurturing father-child relationship is crucial for children's long-term development. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

Mowrer has mentioned that, family disintegration first impinges itself up on the attention of students of social problems in the form of the disruption of marriage relations expressed in divorce or desertion. (*Udry, 1971*)

Society explains divorce as a consequence of personal failure, ignoring the realities of family life. The problems of adjustment are forced even after marriage. The rapid increase in the number of divorce indicates the lack of moral basic qualities like love, affection etc. (*Leslie, 1976*)

More divorces is said to occur in the second, third and fourth years of marriage, than in any other years. This is because wedlock is so close and intimates

that any flaws of marriage manifest themselves. It takes time for legal machinery to be set in motion and finish its task, the frequency of divorce in the early years of marriage. means that a great many couples reach their fateful divorce decision within a few months after the wedding. (*Kephert, 1977*)

Divorce in the proper and strict sense of the terms means complete rupture of the marital bond; the persons divorced returning to their original state of being free to marry. (*Clapp, 1988*)

According to Bohannan, there were *six divorces* contained in marital break-up:

The *emotional divorce* centers around the problem of the deteriorating marriage. This phase usually takes place over a period of time, which varies from couple to couple. The positive feelings of love and affection are displaced by increasing feelings of anger, frustration, hurt, resentment, dislike, or hatred, and the perception that the positive feelings are gone forever. The attributes that attracted the couple to each other become less important in the presence of these negative feelings. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

The *legal divorce* is based on grounds for the divorce. Even if “no-fault” divorce laws exist, one or both divorcing spouses usually states reasons why the other is at fault. The law usually recognizes incompatibility as adequate reason for divorce. This phase of the divorce process involves the legal documentation that the couple is no longer married to each other. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

The *economic divorce* deals with money and property. For many divorcing couples, this is the most volatile phase of divorce. Emotions often run high when it comes to dividing material goods accumulated during the marriage. If the couple cannot negotiate a fair property and asset settlement, the court will mandate what it considers a fair distribution to each of the divorcing persons. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

The *co-parental divorce* deals with custody, single parent homes, and visitation. This is also a very emotional part of the divorcing process. Traditionally, mothers were automatically given custody of their children unless they were proven to be unfit. Today, most custody decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, and the child or children are placed with the parent deemed capable of providing the overall best environment for them. It is common for the non-custodial parent to pay monetary child support payments to the custodial parent. Sometimes, the court awards joint custody in which both parents have more or less equal responsibility in the raising of their children. In such cases, the children may spend equal amounts of time living with each of the two parents. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

The *community divorce* involves the changes of friends and community that every divorcing person experiences. Married couples tend to socialize with other married couples. After divorce, these two individuals no longer fit comfortably in the couples' environment. For economic reasons, one or both of the divorcing persons may have to move to a less expensive part of town or to a smaller house or apartment. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

The *psychic divorce* manifests the problem of regaining individual autonomy. This simply means that each of the two divorcing persons has to adjust to living alone. Each loses the part of his or her identity that was established as being a part of a married couple. Daily decisions and activities are now carried out as an individual, rather than as an individual who is part of a couple relationships. Some of these phases may take several years to complete, and some people never finish certain phases. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

Divorce is the ending of marriage before the death of either spouse, which can be contrasted with an annulment, which is a declaration that a marriage is void, through the effects of marriage may be recognized in such unions, such as spouse support, child custody and distribution of property. In our country, India, now-a-days divorce rate is at growth. The reason for this may be traced as impact of

industrialization, urbanization, westernization, and the status and position occupied by women in society, educational field etc. (*Hoffman, 1961*).

DESERTION:

The desertion ordinarily means, the irresponsible departure from the home on the part of either husband or wife, leaving the family to find for itself. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

Desertion and divorce are open indications of a rift in the family organization. Desertion is an unofficial indicating a dissolve marital relationship and it is penal offence. (*R.R Bell, 1975*)

It seems desertion is one of the manifestations of family disorganization. A man who deserts his wife and children willfully abandons them with out any legal justification. It is known as the “poor man’s divorce”. Most of the deserts are men and most are from poor economic groups. It is the form of an acting out. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

The cause of desertion may be social, economic or psychological. Many marriage problems look like dilemmas facing the marriage itself where the husband wants one thing and the wife wants the opposite. Incompatibility, difference of opinion, cultural differentiation, occasional tensions in marriage, lack of stability may lead to family disorganization. Dowry also sometimes becomes the cause for marital breakdown. Consequently, problems regarding dowry sometimes lead to desertion. (*R.R Bell, 1975*)

In general, there are two types of desertion- permanent and temporary. The permanent desertion has often been characterized as “the poor man’s divorce. Desertion is also a recognized form of divorce, as stated, and eventually the deserted husband or wife may state legal proceedings. Actually, the deserting spouse may have

socially or at least psychologically a valid reason for escaping his marital ties. The temporary or short- term, desertion, often called the “poor man’s vacation,” may likewise be the indicative of a low family wage. (*Leslie, 1976*)

Many of the consequences of desertion are similar to divorce, for the family may be permanently dissolved.

Psychological desertion can be argued, there is in walking out something passive like a withdrawal from the context. “Pure” desertion is the resort of the fugitive from either his own aggression or from the real or fantasized domination of the other which the deserts has dispared of being able to withstand without loss of identity. The husband or wife unable to cope with problems, simply leave their partners and does not return. (*R.R Bell, 1975*)

Desertion is followed by a number of unhappy consequences in the life of the related individuals. A good number of people are under chaos by this. The families have to adjust with the life after desertion in which many problems are evolved. The period of adjustment to desertion is accomplished by much frustration and unhappiness. Desertion involves a basic change in the status and role. The other spouse has to adjust immediately to their status. (*Leslie, 1976*)

CAUSES OF DESERTION:

- Poverty of parents.
- Squandering of money on marriage.
- Adulterous or addicted husband.
- Dowry.
- Suffocating sexual life.
- Lack of communication.
- Unsuitable couples.
- Struggle between old and modern.

SEPARATION:

Separation may be an informal preliminary step toward divorce, a temporary expedient to lessen the immediate conflict, or a legally recognized decision to live separately without divorcing. A legal separation is a court or written agreement describing the terms under which two married persons will abide while living apart and remaining married. A legal separation is a possible step towards divorce. (*R.R Bell, 1975*)

Many separations are informal, i.e., they are simply private agreements, which have no legal sanction and can be revoked or changed at any time. A formal separation also covers the same ground that a divorce settlement will and is therefore very important, because it also acts as a blueprint to the divorce agreement. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1961*)

Legal separations are, in contrast, duly entered in a court or record, and the stipulations and agreements arrived at must be adhered to unless the permission of the court is given for a change. No longer are the couples permitted to live together. Neither are they free to remarry. (*R.R Bell, 1975*)

Mental separation means that the mates are deprived of normal marital association, affecting their health, sexuality and happiness. For the children, there is the loss of daily love and counsel of one parent. (*White and Epstein, 1990*)

Provision is made for 'Judicial Separation' under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. Some of the grounds for judicial separation as laid down in section 13(1) and (2) of the Act are adultery, cruelty, desertion, conversion, incurable disease and renunciation. (*R.R Bell, 1975*)

MOTHER'S ROLE:

Most mothers have no desire to work during the child-rearing years. Though they would like to get out occasionally, even half-time work would be too much. That can work until the children are at least in school. Meanwhile motherhood is a career in itself. (*Robert O. Blood, Jr., 1960*)

To most, career of mothering means taking time to play with the child. Career-mothers take advantage of opportunities to increase their knowledge about children. They read Parents Magazine, go to child-study clubs, and hear lectures by child psychologists. (*Klemer, 1970*)

It is said that we does not have to know much to become a good mother. Some mother with little "look-learning" but deep emotional resource do a superb job. Nevertheless, knowledge can pave the way to understanding- particularly to understanding unusual situations. Child psychology doesnot have all the answers yet, but it has a lot to offer. (*Klemer, 1970*)

Career-mothers enter onto community activities to provide better facilities and programs for children. By organizing co-operative nursery schools, teaching Sunday schools, and helping with the PTA, they help their own children's and other's too. (*Kephert, 1977*)

Finally, carrier-mothers know went to turn else were for help. When a child needs special helps with his mental or emotional development, they take advantage of professional recourses. The spread of child guidance clinics makes such resources increasingly available. Moreover, career-mothers use such community facilities not only to help their children but also to improve their own functioning. (*Klemer, 1970*)

For working mothers, the problem is finding enough time to spend with their children. Aware of their problem; they may make a deliberate effort to give the children a concentrated attention. Especially mother's work because they enjoy it, are apt to feel guilty of neglecting their children and over-indulge them when they are home. (*Hoffman, 1961*).

MOTHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIP:

The mother relationship with the child begins during pregnancy, when her changing physical state encourages her to become more interested in herself. The mother experience the child as the extension of herself, at once parent of her get separate, and there is a continuing of mutuality of needs and interest between mother and child. The child does not recognize the separate identity of the mother, so the mother looks upon the child as part of herself whose interest are identified with her own. The relationship between the mother and the child is built upon the interdependence of then one is right for the other also. (*Klemer, 1970*)

In terms of time spent with the child, the mother has more opportunities than the father does to influence her offspring's psychological growth and behaviour. Traditional also favours the mother's influence since child rearing in our culture is generally recognized as primarily the mother's previlage and responsibility. The modern father may see his children only briefly before bedtime, on Sundays, and during an annual vacation. (*Kephert, 1977*)

The infants first experience of the symbolic mother-child relationship, i.e., the experience of 'primary love'. The mother's relationship to her child, if it finally fulfills the maturational requirements, will have the distinctive characteristic of a freely changeable function of narcissistic and object, bidinal strivings, so the child will always remain part of herself and at the same time always, remain an object part of the outside world. Mother sees her own fantasies in her children and hope of attaining those ideas, which she failed to realize herself. (*Robert O. Blood, Jr., 1960*)

The child becomes for her the incarnation of the ego ideal mediated after father, which she gets up in the past the narcissistic libido is displaced into this newly erected ego ideal which becomes the bearer of all those perfections once ascribed to the family. When projected on the outside world it remains this character, for it continues to embody the subject's own attained ideals. This is the psychological path by which women attain from narcissism to fall object love. (*Mary Georgina 1983*).

Traditionally motherhood has been seen as a desirable and valued position for women, endowing them with full adult status within society and the moral value of social worth, and respectability. (*Chat Silvia 1997*)

There has been such an increase in the number of single parent families over the last 20 years.

FATHERS ROLE:

That fathering is a part time job is taken for granted. Most fathers come to their task unprepared. His words have special authority. He becomes a good mediator in mother-child conflicts. Children feel able to confide in him, and he in turn can interpret his wife's needs to the younger generation. (*Cavan, 1960*)

Father, thus, plays a crucial part in children's socialization. For example, **Peterson (1961)** finds maladjustment among kindergarten children caused at least as much by the father's treatment as by the mother's. In his study, inadequate fathers were either weak and ineffectual or cold and excessively strict. The fact that they are home only part of the time does not mean their role is unimportant.

For boys in particular, fathers are indispensable. Growing up to be a man (i.e., to assume the masculine sex role) requires a masculine model with which to identify (and vice versa for girls). Children need warm, effective parents of their own sex to

emulate. Those who lose their sex-role model through death, divorce or long-term separation are handicapped. (*Mary Georgina 1983*).

Father must play his own psychological role with his children. He should prepare himself to teach, mould, influence, inspire and develop his child so that the child may become a mentally healthy, good citizen who will be able to be loved, to enjoy life and be creative. By showing interest early in the life of the infant, he awakens a corresponding interest in the infant towards him. In the beginning, this may be only a small awareness, but it is an important one. Boys and girls develop their earliest and most decisive ideas about masculinity from their fathers. It is father who evokes a process in his child, which might be called 'animating the mind' towards the male sex. (*Kephert, 1977*)

It is most important for father to play the same role in the life of his daughter that he does in the life of his son. During puberty and adolescent the growing child of both sexes is beset with insecurity, uncertainty, inadequate self-esteem, questions about his life around him, problems of ethics as well as thoughts about the future. Father should be ready to give counsel about choice of a vocation and to stimulate as many interests in the outside world as the youngster can comprehend and make use of. (*Cavan, 1960*)

A father can further guide his children during adolescence in vocational choice, and he can make them aware that responsibilities await them in a world for which they need to be well prepared with a strong personality, as well as with whatever special training will be required for the fulfillment of their vocational aims.

So, it can be seen that personality development is a complicated affair into which elements for both sexes must enter in order to give the greatest strength and greatest understanding, the most wisdom and versatility. The world is demanding more and more of people. Since it is a world that is socially and biologically dependent upon the two sexes, both sexes must play their roles in accordance with

both traditional and modern demands in order that the growing child may see how this is done. (*Clapp, 1988*)

THE SOCIALIZATION EFFECT OF FATHER

The father's influence in his children's behaviour would be in direct or indirect ways. He determines, to a large degree, the personal social values on which the family-life is based. In most homes, he constitutes the court of highest appeal in disciplinary crisis. He further interacts in a direct and affectionate manner with his children during his off-work hours. Even during the father's absence from the home, the mother may invoke his authoritative opinions and decisions in surrogate form as guides for home living, saying, "your father wouldn't approve of that!" or "I'll tell your dad about this when he comes home!" (*Lloyd Saxton, 1968*)

One way to study the socialization effects of father on children's behaviour is to remove the fathers from their homes and see if their absence makes any difference. During World War II, this experimental condition was quite common in the homes of many pre-school-aged children. Bash studied the father fantasies of twenty father-separated children between six and ten years of age, and compared these fantasies with those obtained from twenty controlled children. Father fantasies were recorded as the children in the two groups responded to a standardized doll-play situation. It can be seen that the fantasies of the father-absent group portray the father as extremely affectionate and companionable; whereas, the fantasies of the father-home group reflect the more aggressive tendencies of the father. It was noted that the idealistic fantasies of the father-absent boys and girls are very similar to the fantasies produced by girls in father-home groups. "This 'feminization' of the father-separated child's fantasy may then be a reflection of the increased potency of the mother as a social stimulus." Although the fathers of the experimental children were physically absent from their homes, it can be logically deduced that similar effects would have been obtained if the fathers had been physically present but psychologically absent most of the time. (*Robert O. Blood, Jr., 1960*)

Some Principles of Positive Parent-child relationship

- The role of single parent is to help the child develop socially acceptable behaviour, which will at the same time satisfy, in so far as possible, the child's healthy needs and drives.
- In evaluating the child's behaviour and setting standards for him, parents should keep in mind the concept of "age-adequate maturity".
- Parents should give to a child according to his particular needs.
- The child's confidence and trust in him is the parent's strongest ally in coping with the difficult problems of growing up; parental actions should never threaten or undermine this confidence.
- Parental example and parental behaviour will do more to influence the child's behaviour standards and values, and his concept of the world around him, than the parents' spoken words-their advice, exhortation, warnings, scolding or threats.
- A balance of needs and satisfactions should be maintained within the family.

PARENTAL AND HOME INFLUENCES ON THE CHILD BEHAVIOUR AND CHILDREN

A home influence probably outweighs the effects of all other environmental impacts combined in determining the fundamental organization of children's behaviour. According to Psychoanalytical theory, social values and controls are largely interiorized (made an integral party of the child's superego) on the basis of early parent-child interaction. The foundations of children's social attitudes and skills are obviously laid in the home. Affectional tendencies, which are so important to psychological adjustment in adult life, are dependent on the nature of parent-child relationships. Patterns of dependence-independence, ascendance-submission, co-

operation-competition, and conservatism-liberalism have their genesis in the early parent-child interactions within the home. (*Cavan, 1960*)

SINGLE PARENT FAMILY:

Single-parent family is almost a caphemism in popular culture for problem family for some kind of social pathology. Yet describing someone as a single parent or single mother provides very little, information except that the family is not headed by a legally cohabiting husband and wife. (*Kumerman and Kahn, 1988*)

The vast majority of censuses in developing countries define household as spatial units where members live in the same leveling and share basic domestic and reproductive such as cooking and eating.

When the father leaves the home, the household trembles, when the mother leaves it, the house crumbles. (*Brazilian proverb*)

Most national and international data report a female or women-headed household as a unit where an adult woman resides without a male partner. In other words, a head of household is female in the absence of a co-resident legal or common-law spouse (or in some cases, another adult male such as father or brother. (*Rosenhouse, Sandra, 1989*)

A 'male headed' household is a unit in which there is an 'intact' couple or at least other adult females if not the man's spouse. (*Bruce Judith and Lloya, Cynthia, 1992*)

Like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis only to find itself caught in a collector's net, the alone parent has broken free from the creaking convention of the nuclear family only to become the captive of another less tangible set-up. (*Cashrome, 1985*)

Lone mother households are generally understood to describe a unit comprising a mother and her children and seem to be by far the biggest group of female heads at a world scale. Other terms for this type of household including single-mother, solo mother, mother only, mother-led or female-headed family with children. (*Erickson, 1975*)

Most one-parent households in the advanced and developing economies are women-headed; the single or lone parent is also generally seen as interchangeable with lone mother. (*Kumaman and Kahn, 1988*)

Single-parent families have become a permanent and noticeable feature in many societies today. Sociology professors Simon Duncan and Rosalind Edwards note that “long-term changes are taking place in family patterns and gender relations”. Some observers state that this is the result of people’s choices about how they live their lives, with in a context of economic, cultural and social change.

Pressures of life are the major factor affecting people’s life. The outside world intrudes on their every waking hours. Time formerly spent on family activities is spent on the internet, in front of the television, on the phone, in the car, on the run.

Economic pressure also takes a toll. Modern conveniences come at a cost, so more parents are working. Being part of a mobile society, has led many family members to live and work far away from the support system of their extended family and in some cases even far away from their spouse. (*Erickson, 1975*)

The single parents were reported to be struggling simultaneously with the dual responsibility of earning a livelihood and child rearing. These parents faced a lot of difficulties in bringing up their children single handedly and the tensions created by financial problems, together with the stress of overload often led to the neglect of children. Single parent is often subject to extreme economic problems. Single parent

need special assistance with career development and vocational presentation.
(Glasser, 1969)

The health of members of single parent family may be poor as a result of various conditions prevailing in this type of family set-up:

- The financial situation of single parent family is very often precarious.
- The accumulation of social roles by single parent creates a physical and psychological overload that can also have repercussions on the children.
- The social and emotional life of member of single parent family's is thrown off balance by the pain of separation, divorce or bereavement.

SINGLE-MOTHER HEADED FAMILY:

A family in the conventional sense consists of the father, the mother and their children. However, sometimes due to death, desertion or divorce the father may leave the family. Irrespective of the reason, under the circumstances, it becomes imperative for the wife not only to take care of herself but also her children. When a married woman becomes single, she, along with her children tends to gravitate, to the care and shelter of her natal home and sometimes to the family of her in-laws in the case of widowhood. When joint families were more common, these institutions took up the responsibility of looking after such women and their children. *(Thomas, 1964)*

Recent studies show a drastic change in the family setup, with indication of joint family giving up to extended and nuclear families. The family ties have weakened and due to increasing pressures on limited resources, families are less inclined to accommodate additional family members over an extended period of time. As a result, single-mothers with dependent children are now more likely than ever before, to set up a separate independent household along with their children. *(Kumerman and Kahn, 1988)*

According to *Ricciuti*, many single mothers lack the social, economic or parenting resources that are known to promote good parenting. He stresses the need for making such parenting resources more readily available to single mothers, thus helping them to provide more supportive home and family environments for their children.

Potential risk to single parent children could be greatly reduced or elevated with increased parental access to adequate economic, social, educational and parenting supports. (*Christenser, 1964*)

Support system

It has been found that in majority of the cases, the parents and sisters of these single women came to their rescue during their time of crisis, and thereafter. During the initial period, these women invariably stayed at their natal home. But this arrangement often created tensions in the natal home, forcing the women to set up a separate household. /the support and help given by friends and neighbours was significant.

In some cases, the widows may get their husbands job. But due to the inadequate educational background and the socio-cultural outlook of their relatives, women find it difficult to secure that job.

Coping and survival mechanism

For some people who have limited skills and resources, and absolutely nothing, to fall back upon, life becomes a constant struggle for survival. After going through a crisis situation and a period of despair, women restructure the lives and face life's challenges once again. The new social status to which the family will move after the exist of the husband, is dependent largely on the women's personality and also the social environment in which the family operates.

The woman, as the head of the family unit, plays a pivotal role. Her education and skills, and also her ability to

- (i) Manage the household independently,
- (ii) Control and guide her children
- (iii) Withstand the psychological and physical stresses of her now role, will all define the orientation that her family will get.

The single mothers faced a lot of difficulty in bringing up their children single-handedly. The tension created by financial problem together with the strain of role overload led to the neglect of children. Some children had behavioural disorders such as truancy, gambling, spending time unproductively and a great lack of interest in studies among their boys. With their limited education, the boys found it difficult to secure jobs. At the sametime, they do not take up manual work. (*Erickson, 1975*)

NATURE OF SINGLE-PARENTHOOD:

Single parents commonly experience difficulties with role identity. Some social stigma is still attached to single-parent status, regardless of how it was acquired. For single mothers, development of positive role identity is often hampered by their inability to support their families financially. Single parents often experience role strain from attempting to balance wage earner and parental responsibilities. (*Desai, 1957*)

Types of Single Parents:

Many single parent families are low-income families consisting of a mother and the younger children. Three major subgroups of one parent-family have also been identified as *displaced homemakers, adolescent mothers and single-fathers*.

1. Displaced homemakers:

Marital dissolution drastically reduces the new single-parent families available income. Displaced homemakers are at an additional disadvantage because they often have little or no employment history, obsolete training or low self-esteem

2. Adolescent mother:

Each year in U.S., one in ten teenage girls becomes pregnant. This vast of single parents face many obstacles to self-sufficiency, such lack of education, job readiness and emotional maturity. Their crucial need to complete their education and achieve employment goals are complicated by their immediate needs for food, housing, childcare and emotional support.

3. Single fathers:

Although they generally have a more healthy economic status than their female counterparts, single-families often find their sole child-rearing role conflicting with work expectations. They also find themselves filling social roles for which they are not prepared.

TYPES OF SINGLE-PARENTED CHILDREN:

❖ *Single-parented children by death:*

Becoming a single parent by death of a spouse and co-parent has special challenges for both the parent and child. Not only are you dealing with their own grief and assisting your child in dealing with their grief, but you are also being forced to adjust to being the only parent.

In some cases, children develop a fascination with death and dying. If the parent was the victim of a particular disease, they will research it and questions about

the possibilities of the disease being contracted by the family members. If the parent was in an accident or the victim of violent crime, the child may become interested in crime statistics or fascinated by violent television shows or movies. They may become fascinated with the process of death and decomposition.

❖ ***Single-Parented by Abandonment:***

Abandonment can stem from a hostile divorce or from a deserted parent. Abandonment is characterized by lack of communication, visitation and support. With death and divorce, there is an action that leads to a conclusion. With abandonment, the end result is the unknown. This is hard for adults to understand, much less with children. Discipline can become a major issue in the case of these children. Children react quite differently to the situation of abandonment.

Abandonment is never easy for any of the parties left behind- adult or child. As a result, we have to be very careful not to place our own feelings of doubt, anger and fear onto our children. They will have enough of their own. So, while we need to be there for them to share their feelings with us, we need to be sure that we are not sharing our own insecurities with them.

❖ ***Single-Parented by Divorce:***

Divorce is probably the most common cause of single-parented family's. Being a single parent is never easy. Parents find themselves raising a child alone due to abandonment, death and by choice – whether through a single-mother birth or by adoption. Each situation has its own special set of issues and concerns that bear no similarity to the others except for the fact that the parents must face the issues alone.

Unfortunately, it seems that most divorces are mired in problems and issues from the marriage, often lead to problems with visitation and/or child support. The most important person in these circumstances is the child. Parents are (hopefully) adults and should be able to tend to their own hurt feelings. But children need to be protected and should be considered in all dealings between the parents.

SOME SPECIFIC PROBLEM FACED BY SINGLE-PARENTED CHILDREN:

Educational Attainment:

Sara McLanahan of Princeton University finds that, children from one parent family's are about twice as likely to drop out of school as children from two-parent families. Children from biologically two parent families have, on average, test score and grade point averages that are higher; they miss fewer schools days, and have greater expectations of attending college than children living with one parent. Additionally, of those from either type of family who do attend college, those from two-parent families are 7 to 20% more likely to finish college.

Children from divorced homes are 70% more likely, than those living with biological parents, to be expelled or suspended from school. Those living with never married mothers are twice as likely to be expelled or suspended. Also, children who do not live with both biological parents are 45 to 95% more likely to require parent/teacher meetings to deal with performance or behaviour problems than those who live with married parents. (*Clapp, 1988*)

Idleness:

Young women without married parents are 1.5times more likely, than those with married parents, to be out of school and out of work. Young girls without married parents are twice as likely to be idle.

Crime:

The Progressive Project Institutes, the research arm of the Democratic Leadership Council, report is that the arm relationship between crime and one-parent family's is "so strong that controlling from family configuration erases the relationship between race and crime and between low-income and crime"

Pre-marital Sexual Activity and Illegitimate child bearing:

A major study published in the Journal of “Marriage and the Family” found that boys and girls who lived with both biological parents had the lowest risk of becoming sexually active. Teens lived with only one biological parent, including those with stepfamilies were particularly at risk for becoming sexually active at younger ages.

Substance Abuse:

Regardless of gender, age, family, income, race and ethnicity, adolescents not living with a biological mother or father are 50 % more likely to abuse and be dependent on substances and need illicit drug-abuse treatment compared to their peers living with both biological parents. The same study reported that female in ‘mother-only’ families are 1.9 times more likely to use alcohols than girls living with both mother and father. Males in “mother-only” families’ are 1.5 times more likely to use alcohol than teen males living in mother/ father families.

RISK FOR SINGLE PARENT CHILDREN:

The impact of single-parent families of children development is complex and varied. These children do not get proper socialization in their young days. During 1950 and 60’s, the prevailing view of researchers was that divorce and other marital disruptions were indicative of pathology and children from such families exhibit pathological behaviours as well. (*Federico, 1983*)

During 1950’s and 60’s, the prevailing view of researchers was that divorce and other marital disruptions were indicative of pathology and children from such families exhibit pathological behaviours as well. But this opinion was challenged later and literature emphasize that children in such families were disadvantaged and the pathological behaviours, if any, exhibited by them were the outcome of interactions among a variety of factors. (*Herzog and Sudia, 1973*)

Children from such household suffered social stigma and deprived of opportunities for education, better future, etc. (*Shanti, 1994*)

An old Japanese proverb says, “It is written in a garden that one should not pluck the flowers.....but the wind does not know how to read!” This saying can be repeated to parents for many children are spoiled. (*The Mother, 1955*)

A mother is not enough. Even the sun is not sufficient to bring a blossom to a lilac bush. Both sun and water are necessary for sprouts and buds so too, a mother and father are needed for children. They are like the halves of a sea-shell which when joined can produce a precious pearl. With their hands and hearts in harmony, they can construct a paradise in the souls of their children. (*The Mother, 1955*)

The absence of father from home leaves a severe impact on the children. These mothers find it difficult to meet the economic needs of the family. They are not able to satisfy the children’s needs and these children frequently dropout from schools. (*The Mother, 1955*)

New researches shows children rose in single-parent homes may be at an increased risk for health problems, especially for suicide and mental illness. It has been found that children from single-parent homes do have lower school achievement, higher incidence of truancy, suspensions, tardiness, absenteeism, discipline problems and dropouts. Decreased cognitive function has also been found and measured by IQ, achievement and scholastic tests. Decreased parent-child interaction and high levels of anxiety is what has been found to contribute to this.

Growing up in a single-parent family is associated with increase risk of a variety of severe health outcomes. Children of lone parents still have increased risk of mortality, severe morbidity and injury. (*Zanden, 1965*)

Adolescents growing up in single-parent homes are more likely to associate with peers from the same or similar backgrounds. These individuals are also more likely to associate with peers from the same or similar backgrounds. These individuals are also more likely to experience negative peer pressure from those outside of their own peer group. Some single parents have also felt that at times their children were single out or excluded from certain activities or experiences. Single-parent children need very much to feel accepted by teachers and even by their peers' in order to avoid feeling as if they do not fit in or are different. (*Shanti, 1994*)

Individuals in a one-parent home may experience high levels of loneliness, defensive anger, sadness, isolation, aggression and low self-esteem. Depression is also very common among these adolescents, and can lead to the development of unhealthy needs. Adolescents may attach themselves to teachers, peers, extended family members or therapist's in order to find security that may not exist in their home. Deviant behaviour is also common among adolescents from single-parent families. This is contributed to the stress that many accompany a divorce, separation, or break-up. Boys are more likely to develop emotional problems than girls are and this may be due to fact that the father is usually the absent figure in the family. Therefore, there is a lack of primary father figure that is very important for adolescent boys. Behaviour such as regression, night terrors, sleepwalking and separation problems are also common among children living in single-parent homes. (*Popenoe, 1983*)

Mothers can be a positive influence in their children's lives, whether or not they are single parents. A new multiethnic study at Cornell University has found that being a single-parent doesnot appear to have a negative effect on the behaviour or educational performance of a mothers 12 and 13-year-old children. Different studies have shown that mothers education and ability level and, to a lesser extent, family income and quality of the home environment. (*Tripathy, 2005*)

Children's and families should cope up with the increasing problems, divorce, separation, parental death. Now a day the children are becoming addicted to drugs, and all their problems were quite unknown three decades ago. In England single-parent children was force to work for a larger hour of 16 hours as they were facing many economical problems. Such children were even abused and neglected. Some were severely beaten, many dead from occupational disease and some committed suicide. The separation or the state of being a single-parented child creates lots of short-term and long-term negative effect in the child like emotional problems. The problem that such children enter into adolescence or adulthood as worried, underachieving, self-deprecating and sometimes angry men and women. (*Shanti, 1994*)

Loss of a parent has been associated with childhood disturbance. When children under two are separated from a primary caretaker, they grieve. The degree of reversibility of the despair depends upon a number of factors: whether the separation is permanent or temporary, duration and frequency of separation, and the nature of substitute care. (*Freedman, Kalpan and Sadock, 1976*)

Separation and divorce has complex effect on the child. Children of poverty are at risk for maladjustment. In these cases, maladjustment may occur because of the family dysfunction and/or because of non-nurturing environmental conditions that are incurred following divorce or as a result of poverty. Also, parent's physical illnesses have been associated with childhood delinquency. (*Glueck and Glueck, 1952*)

The absence of parents from home live a sever impact on the children. The parents find it difficult to satisfy the needs of the children alone. They are not able to satisfy the children's needs and these children frequently dropout from schools. (*Singh, 2004*)

The children do not get proper socialization in their young days. Parents get so busy in maintaining family, that they do not get time to look after their children. They

do not get proper socialization in the younger days. (*Freedman, Kalpan and Sadock, 1976*)

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON CHILDREN:

It is difficult to trace the effect of divorce on children. Since divorce is usually an out growth of complicated family situation, it may come as a shattering experience. Children of divorced parents tended to report more stress, ambivalence and less cohesiveness in the home than other children. The child may be deprived of many material things, which a child of the normal family revives. He is denied the feeling of security he obtains with the two parents to care for him and provide for him. He craves for the attention and love of the absent parent, though he may not express it verbally. A child may face direct problems, which makes him acutely aware of the fact that he is the child of a divorcee. Friends may tease and sneer at him because of his parents. Friends may even ill-treat him, when they know that he is defenseless. According to Elliott and Merrill, divorce is a shock to the child's developing personality. (*Elliott and Merrill, 1960*)

Divorce affects some of the characteristics of the children, which appears in the child's life. Later on, such as juvenile delinquency, neurosis, unhappy in marriage affects the children from their developing personality. The deprivation of security is manifested in the personal disorganization of children from broken homes. Juvenile delinquency, adolescent crime, youthful sex offences all may be partially traced to irregular family life. (*Saxton, 1996*)

Of all the losses the children experience, when their parents divorce, the most devastating are the loss of safety and security the intact family provided and the loss of daily contact with a parent, usually the father. Diminished contact with their father is one of the heartbreaks of approximately 10 million children who live in homes fractured by separation and divorce. (*Glueck and Glueck, 1952*)

Divorce changes the most significant system of social and psychological influence in a child's life. Numerous relationships are affected; with parents, siblings, schools, friends, church, neighbours, new adults and even basic needs such as living arrangements. Each of these issues may have a major influence on child development stages such as self-esteem and identity formation. *(Stewart, Copeland, Chaster, Malley and Barenhaum, 1997)*

A number of variables about the divorcing parents also contribute to the child's vulnerability to psychological stress. The sex of the custodial parent may be important in the continued development of the child. *(Wallerstein and Lewis, 1997)*

Boys living with divorced mothers showed clinically significant signs of social maladaptation, including impulsivity, aggressiveness and hyperactivity. *(Levine, 1999)*

The determinant psychological and social effects of divorce upon children fall in three primary areas: academic and social performance; delinquency; and intra-personal concerns. The ability of the divorcing parents to minimize conflict during and after the divorce has a great impact on the duration and insensitivity of these effects. *(Stewart, Copeland, Chaster, Malley and Barenhaum, 1997)*

School Performance:

A popular assumption concerning children of divorce is that their academic performance is hindered by the trauma of the family disruption, yet empirical evidence is equivocal. Children whose parents divorced in the children's infancy, curly childhood and latency declined noticeably in their academic performance and their school-peer relationship's deteriorated. The children displayed decreased ability to concentrate and their playground behaviour became more aggressive than pervious to the divorce.

Delinquency:

Some studies have correlated divorce and especially father absence with a propensity for children to become juvenile or child delinquents. Most children are said to become sexually active early in adolescence. Many studies linked father absence to child outcomes such as juvenile delinquency, mental illness, and lower intellectual and psychological functioning.

Intrapersonal Concerns:

Father-absent children are more aggressive, disobedient and independent than those children with a father present. These children were less morally advanced.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF DESERTION ON CHILDREN:

It is generally held that one of the major evil of desertion is the adverse effect that such action has on the children involved. Children are left unsupervised during the hours before and after school. Out of this situation slack school attendance, delinquency, and neglect may result. The children in turn are often absorbed into industry at an early age. The children may develop a completely distorted notion of family life, may be seriously damaged by the unfortunate behaviour pattern set before them. Child is likely to develop a feeling of insecurity and this feeling may lead him to compensatory behaviour, which makes for more or less maladjustment. (*Wallerstein and Lewis, 1997*)

“The deserted children,” as *Steigman* points out, “have their own set of problems. They often feel that they are inferior to the other children in the neighborhood because they do not have a father. Some of them have been very close to their father and therefore feel a great loss in his absence from the family scene. The difficulties encountered by the child who thus loses his opportunity of working out the oedipal conflict in a satisfactory manner may subsequently appear as behaviour problems or neurotic symptoms.”

Steigman's contention receives support from a variety of studies which suggest that, juvenile delinquency are likely to come from broken homes, one type of which is home broken by desertion.

Child is likely to develop a feeling of insecurity and this feeling may lead him to compensatory behaviour, which makes for more or less maladjustment. In our society, bearing and rearing a child is seen as a women's responsibility. But, both mother and father are essential for the growth of a child. When a deserted parent has to bring up her child alone, it leaves a void to slave to earn their livelihood and, therefore, has no time to look after the kids. They develop and suffer from various complexes; they either become obstinate or lack confidence to face life. They carry a negative image of their parenthood throughout their life. Children from such families' do not fare well at school. It is very difficult to arrange the marriage of a deserted women's daughter. The children face a great emotional stress. (*Stewart, Copeland, Chaster, Malley and Barenhaum, 1997*)

THE IMPACT OF DEATH OF EITHER PARENT ON CHILDREN:

The deaths of a parent can, infact, represent a turning point in our emotional, social and personal lives. The death of a parent can initiate profound changes in the child, in belief, behaviours, self-views, goals, careers and the sense of oneself. Every ordinary adult can be very strongly affected by the death of a parent. These changes can affect our interpersonal relationships, our work, behaviour, social roles. (*Melville, 1977*)

For some adult children, the death of a parent triggers worries about how one's own death will affect one's own children The death of a parent fundamentally and permanently changes the family dynamics, altering family relationships between siblings, the remaining parent and one's children. It can result in a tremendous amount of stress in the adult child's life; this can be true whether the relationship with

the parent was loving, secure and supportive or whether it was conflicted and troubled. Drinking pattern in children increases and this increase more likely follows the death of father than the death of a mother. The death of a parent represents the loss of a constant and continual threads to the past, a relationship with someone we have known all of own lives. (*Allan, Paula and Meares, 1995*)

The death of a parent can imperil one's own intimate relationships, if the adult child doesnot feel that she or he is getting the kind of support needed from the spouse. There can be problems between siblings, if there is discordant grief, where one child is profoundly affected and the other lightly affected, by the death of a parent. The death of a parent means, once and for all, that there is no going home. (*Young, 1968*)

METHODOLOGY

SYNOPSIS

- ✓ **Introduction**
- ✓ **Title**
- ✓ **Statement of the Problem**
- ✓ **Significance of the Study**
- ✓ **Objective**
- ✓ **Hypothesis**
- ✓ **Concepts**
- ✓ **Research Design**
- ✓ **Pilot Study**
- ✓ **Universe of the Study**
- ✓ **Unit of the Study**
- ✓ **Tools of Data Collection**
- ✓ **Pre-Test**
- ✓ **Data Collection**
- ✓ **Literature Review**
- ✓ **Chapterisation**
- ✓ **Limitations of the Study**

Introduction:

Research is the process of arriving at dependable solutions through planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Research methodology can be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In research methodology we not only talk of the research but also consider the logic behind the methods. Many methods and procedures have been developed and employed to meet the needs of the research in gathering varied facts essential for study, and thus forming conclusions from different sources.

Title:

PSYCHOSOCIAL ANALYSIS OF SINGLE-PARENTED CHILDREN- *A STUDY IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT*

Statement of the Problem:

Single-parent means absence of one parent from their house. It may be due to various reasons, i.e., death, separation, divorce, desertion etc. The other spouse lives alone with their children. Absence of one spouse compels the other spouse to play a dual role. They have to look out for economic needs and also look after the children and household activities. Even when they are able to look after the needs of the children, the quality of care provided to meet these needs is generally unsatisfactory. The impact of single-parent families on child development is complex and varied. The parents have to leave their children alone at home to attend for themselves when they are busy in their work. Being economically weak and physically alone, they are not at a disadvantaged position to shape the career of their children.

Under these circumstances the impact of the absence of parent from home is severe. The families' role as an agent of socialization becomes weak. The parents in

their pre-occupation, with their struggle for existence, does not find enough time to spend with their children and to help them to grow up in a healthy manner both physically and psychologically. The surviving spouse, find it difficult to adjust with their life. They lose the hope of living. They thus find it difficult to look after all the family matters alone while taking up economic work. They lack time to spend with their children and look after them and meet their needs.

Thus the parent's problems directly affect the child and their socialization as well. These children strive for the love and affection of their absent parent figure. They may develop a feeling of inferiority complex in them. This may force them to keep themselves out of a social group. These children may skip out of school due to non interest in studies or harassment by friends or unnecessary fears or economic insecurity. A father is one who keeps discipline in the family and mothers spread an atmosphere of care and love in the family. Thus presence of both in the life of the children is necessary. One with the help of both mother and father, a child's socialization can be may in a proper manner. Absence of any of this is bound to create trouble in child's life.

Significance of the Study:

Family, marriage is the major social institution. Marital disruption, divorce, desertion, separation are very vital subject to the studies in 'Sociology of Family'. There are serious problems existing in Kerala. Kerala occupies a position of highest rate of divorce today (about 35%). Family disorganization is a serious problem of contemporary society. Children are tomorrow's future. Children of today will make tomorrow's society. If family disorganization is in increase, the socialization of these children may not be in a correct manner. Thus, the future of the society may be in a great threat.

Such a study will not only help the policy makers but will also be of significant use to the sociologists to do more research in the area of family studies and to save the primary institution of society from disappearing.

Objective:

General Objective:

To analyze the psycho-social problem of children of single-parented family.

Specific Objective:

- To examine the socio-economic and demographic profiles of the children.
- To analyze the emotional or psychological problems faced by the children.
- To analyze the social problems of the children.
- To findout the manner in which the problems are overcome by the family.

Hypothesis:

- Personality development is retarded among single-parented children.
- As emotional problems increases, the educational attainment of these children decreases.

Concepts:

❖ *Single-Parent:*

Theoretical definition:

Single-parent is one who brings up the child in the absence of spouse

Operational Definition:

A single parent is a person with one or more children, who is widowed, or divorced by the partner.

❖ ***Psychological Problems:***

Theoretical definition and Operational Definition:

It is problem occurring due to lack of love and affection, lack of proper emotional support and due to lack of appreciation over ones physical appearance, confusion about what is right or wrong and about ones religion, frustrations due to lack of freedom etc. It is expressed in way such as disobeying, crying and getting angry easily, difficulty in adjusting to the institutions rules and regulations etc.

❖ ***Social Problems:***

Theoretical definition and Operational Definition:

It is problems occurring due to lack of good support system, keeping relation and dissatisfaction of the need of companionship and belongingness.

❖ ***Emotional Problems:***

Theoretical definition and Operational Definition:

Emotion can be defined as a mental state that arises spontaneously rather than through conscious effort and is often accompanied by physiological changes; a feeling the emotions of joy, sorrow, hate and love. Emotion is the language of a

persons internal state of being, normally based in or tied to their internal (physical) and internal (social) sensory feeling.

Research Design:

The researcher selected descriptive design in the study to narrate the facts and characteristic concerning the individuals interviewed. It is also hoped that this research would help to develop better understanding of the magnitude of the problems faced by the children of single-parented family.

Pilot Study:

Pilot study was conducted to know the feasibility of a scientific study.

Universe of the Study:

The universe of study is teenage children's of single parents in Trivandrum.

Unit of the Study:

The unit of study is a teenage child of the single-parent family.

Tools of Data Collection:

For collecting data, the researcher used the interview guide as the tool.

Pre-Test:

In order to test the validity of the interview guide, the researcher conducted pre-test, modification were made in the schedule, in order to make it more suitable for the study.

Data Collection:

After finding the tool of data collection, the researcher started collecting data. For the purpose of the study data was collected from teenage children. A purposive sampling design was adopted focusing mainly on the age group from 13-19 years. Ten single parented children were interviewed.

Literature Review:

The researcher referred to various articles, books, studies and websites related to gain more information for conducting the study. The literature study helped the researcher to get a clear idea about various dimensions of the study.

Chapterisation:

- Chapter I – Introduction
- Chapter II – Research Methodology
- Chapter III – Case Presentation
- Chapter IV – Interpretation and Discussion
- Chapter V – Conclusion

Limitations of the Study:

- The interviewer faced difficulty, as the respondents found it difficult to open up on critical areas concerning their emotional life.
- The study is strictly confined to ten single-parented children selection based on their willingness to co-operate; hence it need not be generalizable.

CASE PRESENTATION

CASE 1

Case 1 is a 19 year old boy. He belongs to an Ezhava community. He is doing his IT course. His parents divorced seven years back. His father was a coulee and mother is a house wife. He has an elder sister. She is doing her BSC. Case I lives with his mother and elder sister. His parents had a love arranged marriage. His father is an Ezhava and mother a Christian. His parents divorced due to the extra marital relation of his father. His father is living abroad with his second wife. Second wife was earlier married to other man. Now all of them i.e.; husband, wife, children, and case 1's father are living together. Case 1 rarely contacts his father. But does not let his mother get it informed. His father does not come to meet him. Case1 is facing much economic problem.

Emotional and psychological problems:

When the investigator asked whether he has any other emotional problems he said he has any other emotional problems, he said he has tried to make up his mind. Since his childhood, he has found only quarrels between his parents concerning the extra marital relation of his father. So he says that it is better that they got separated. He feels sad as he had not experienced the love and affection of his father but thinks that divorce has brought some peace in his home.

He is the only boy in his family. So he has a good role in decision making. As his parents had a love arranged marriage, no support is produced by his father's relatives. After two years of marriage, his parents left fathers house, due to quarrels with in laws, and they started living separately. Slowly problems aroused between parents. This problem became so complex that the father left the house and thus they got divorced. No support economically or emotionally, is provided by his father or mothers relatives. Thus he has to take care of family matters.

When the investigator enquired about the aspect of defensive anger, he agreed that he has developed defensive anger. He make quarrel in his house with his mother. He feels sad as no support is provided to him by his relatives. When the investigator asked whether he has a feeling of burden ness or worthlessness, he said, that he has no such feelings as he take care of his family

He is not much satisfied with his life as he come from poor economic back ground he depend on other sponsors for his educational purpose. He is being sponsored by Kairale T.V and sisters by church. He does not ask for money for each and every purpose to his sponsors as he does not like to depend on them fully. He used to go to some manual work when he was in 10th standard to take-on his family.

He maintains a very good relation with his mother and sister. He is very open to them. Case I share all his problems with his mother and sister and is very close to them.

Educational Problems

Case I find much difficulty in education. He told the investigator that as he has to depend on the sponsors for his educational purpose, he is not able to satisfy all his needs. He is ashamed to ask for all small purpose.

After that when the investigator asked weather he is missing his separated parent-figure he replied that he is missing him a lot. If his father would have been there with him, he would not have to face such a problem now all his educational desirers are fulfilled by sponsors. He will be provided job by a company as soon as he finishes his studies. All provisions are provided to him by his sponsors.

Social Problems

The investigator covered the social aspect. When asked by the investigator that is there any changes in his life-style after divorce of parents, he replied that he cannot analyze about that as he was too small when his parent divorced.

When asked by the investigator about his relation with his friends, he said that he maintained a good relation with his friends. His friends are very supportive He tries to discuss his problem with his friends and they co-operate with him. He had never faced any humiliation by his friends. They are certainly good towards him.

As discussed above, he does not maintain a good relation with his relatives. Neither fathers nor mothers relatives help them or keep a relation with him or his family. He does not gather together even on any special day.

When by the investigator asked about the behavior of neighbor, he said that there is no problem faced by him due to his neighbors. They are good and behave in a neat manner towards him and his family. He rated his relation with his family, friends and sibling as excellent and with that of his relatives as very bad.

Manner in which this problems are overcome

Case I does miss his father. He has no substitute for his father as no care is provided by his relatives. Very good support is provided by his relatives. Very good support is provided by his friends, family and sibling for all his needs.

The researcher observed that case I faces some emotional problems. He is very sad and in certain occasion misses his father deeply but he thinks that divorce was a good decision as there was only quarrel between parents and there was no happiness in family.

CASE II

Case II is a 12 year old boy. He is a Christian. He is studying in 10th std. He has father and two brothers. Eldest brother is married and has a daughter. His father is a Central government employee. Second brother is a government employee. Case II lost his mother when he was in 8th standard.

His mother was a state government employee. His mother was suffering from liver xerosis. Case II is physically not that fit. He was suffering from typhoid. He was hospitalized for a month. Case II is having a good economic stability.

Emotional and psychological problem:

When the investigator enquired about the emotional and psychological aspects it is clear that the child is facing some psychological problems but he is not aware of that. Case II as observed by the investigator, is very self centered and is not prone to share his problems with others. Case II revealed that he had some problems when his mother passed away but now he is fine and able to manage himself. Case II agree that he get angry on others, when some thing goes wrong. He is not in good terms with his sister in law. But he has not illustrated the reason for it. When asked by the investigator that does he feel burden to others, he said that no such feelings is seen but rated his satisfaction in life as very bad. He is not aware of any change in his life-style after the death of his mother. He likes to spend much time outside his home as loneliness disturbs him at home. Much time was spend with case II, but no much problems was shared by the child.

Educational problems

Case II is doing his 10th and has a desire to become an engineer. He does not spend much time for studies. Nothing prevents him from concentrating in studies but he does not show much interest in it. He tries to attend the classes every day and does not have the habit of bunking the class.

Case II is economically well settled. He faces no economic problem for education. All his educational facilities are fulfilled by his family. Case II tries to participate in extra-curricular activities in school.

Social problem

Next the investigator tries to uncover the social problems. Case II has many friends. But he is not emotionally attached to any one. He has a prejudice that some problem will occur because of him or his friends and he will be blamed for that. So he always tries to maintain a distance with them.

There is much generation gap in his family. He is not used to share his personal problems in his family. Only father-son or brother-brother relationship is maintained. There is no friendly atmosphere in his family. Case II is the youngest child, so he plays no role in decision making in family.

Case II has much relatives living nearby his home. They are very close to him but case II does not open up his heart to them also. He share his feelings with one of his uncle. He has same age cousin and maintains a good relation with them. They always keep in touch with each other.

Investigator observed that this silence may affect the child badly. He is not prone to share his problems to any one. He is much reserved. He is actually not aware of any problems. As he grows old, he may find problems and may be frustrated as all his emotions are deep inside his heart and is not opened to anyone.

Case II has good neighbors who also keep in touch always. They behave in a good manner towards the child.

Manner in which this problems are overcome:

Case II does not have any substitute for the lost parent figure. He tries to maintain himself. Much love is shared between siblings. But not one spends time to understand him and to solve any of his personal problems. Case II compensate by roaming outside home and making friends. Case II seems to be a silent burner.

CASE III

Case III is a 13 year old Christian girl from Kazhakuttam Panchayat. She is studying in 8th standard. She has a sister, mother and grandmother. Her mother runs a retail shop near her house. Her sister is doing her PG final year. She lost her father when she was of six months. He died in an accident. Her father was a govt. servant.

Her family is now being looked over by her mother. Income of the family is somewhat stable for easy going of life. They have a computer at home and mobile is being handled. This some up of easy going of family life.

Emotional and Psychological Problem

Case III has very less emotional and psychological problems. This is because of the reason that she was too small when her father died. She is also the youngest in the family. Case III has considerable age difference in comparison with her sister.

Even then they share a caring atmosphere. Case III desires if her father was alive. But her life atmosphere has helped her to adjust and live a happy life.

When asked whether she misses her demised father, she replied that she is not that desped as her family is so loving and caring that they never made her to feel the absence of her father. When asked by the investigator about the emotional expressions, case III replied that she is often happy' she makes quarrel at home but it is only a family affair. They try to solve it as fast as possible.

Case III does not have any feeling of worthlessness or burden to others. As case III lost her father when she was too small, she cannot analyze any change in her life.

Due to calm and happy atmosphere at home, no isolated feeling is faced by case III. She has no much role in decision making but her opinion is given much importance.

Educational Problem

Case III is a studious student. She does not face any difficulty in her studies. She maintains good academic records. Her teachers help her if she has any difficulty. She has a good contact with teachers and tries to respect her in all manners.

Case III maintains the discipline of the school. She tries to attend the class and does not have the habit of bunking the class. Her family is very supportive and encouraging. She has an ambition of succeeding in life.

Case III does not face any personal problem that interact her studies. All her educational needs are fulfilled by her family. In her educational life she has not sacrificed anything due to economic instability. Case III is not much interested in extra curricular activities.

Social Problem

Case III does not face any social problem. She finds no significant change in her life after the death of her father. She is not able to make a comparison as she lost her father when she was very young. Her relationship with her family, friends and relatives are excellent.

Case III is very satisfied with her present life and she also enjoys a good support from her family and relatives and in the case of peers she claimed it to be reasonably moderate.

Her friends have been always with her in any situation. A good emotional closeness is maintained with them.

Case III is maintaining a good relation with her relatives and has not experienced any bad experience from the society and family. Both mother's and father's relatives are very co-operative. They try to help her and her family in all the ways. As they stay near-by, day-by-day contact is maintained.

Neighbours are also very co-operative. No personal violence is maintained. A calm relation is maintained with them. Rating for satisfaction with family, friends, neighbours, siblings was also made as excellent.

Manner in which this problems are overcome

Case III has no substitute for her lost parented-figure. But as she is covered by a good family, sibling, relative and friend, she feels satisfactory. Father's loss is always a loss. But she is able to cope-up with her present life.

CASE IV

Case IV is a 13 year old Muslim girl. She is studying in 9th standard. She has a sister and mother. She lives with her mother, sister, grand-mother and uncle. Her mother is a house worker in gulf. Her father left her mother when she was studying in 3rd standard. Her father had an extra-marital relation. He now married to that women and live with that women and their children. Case IV keeps no contact with her father. He does not even come to see her. Her sister completed her 10th standard and is now going for stitching classes. Case IV is economically instable.

Case IV is sponsored by a Tamil Nadu dweller Mercy for her educational purpose. Case IV is associated with a trust of church and her sponsors send her money to that trust and they spend it according to her requirements. Uniforms, bags, books are provided by that trust at the beginning of the school years to her. Thus it is the sponsor who spends for her. On her birthday or on any special festivals she receives dressed from the sponsor. She has never seen her sponsor but has seen her photo. Case IV has a desire to meet her sponsor and to thank for her help. She says that there is neither any blood relation with that sponsor nor any family touch, even than she tries to fulfill her all need concerning her studies. Her father has never done any thing for her, but an unknown person has helped her. She praises her a lot. It is very grateful of her, to do so.

Psychological and emotional problems

When asked by the investigator, does she face any emotional problems, Case IV declared that she is emotionally upset. Her father left her when she was too small, so she got very less chance to experience fathers love and affection. She has recovered herself as time passed. She said that her father left the home after having quarrel with her mother. In her childhood, home atmosphere was not at all calm.

When there was only quarrel at her home when enquired by the investigator about the emotional outburst, she declared that she get angry on others to save he

ideas she maintains a close relation with her sister and tries to share all her problems with her. So she gets a very good emotional support from her sister. Case IV does not have any feeling of burdens to others.

When asked by the investigator, does she miss her parent figure, she declared that she misses him but at the same time hates him for leaving them alone. She said that, if he had any love or concern toward her and her family, he would never have left them. She feels upset when her friends discuss about their happy family life with mother and father. Her mother is also away from her, so she feels isolated sometimes. But her close relation with her uncle and sister helps her to be happy. Her happy atmosphere helps her to regain herself.

Educational Problems

Investigator then tried to cover the educational problems of Case IV. Case IV has a desire of becoming a teacher. She is average in her studies. When asked by the investigator, does she face any problem to cope up with studies, she answered that no such problem is faced by her. She has no problem to follow the discipline of the school. She attends the school daily.

She says that if her father was still with her all her educational problems would have been solved. She would not have to depend on others for her need. This reveals that her economic disability affects her educational requirements. Case IV is not much interested to participate in the extra-curricular activities of the school. She gets help from her sister in studies. Sister provides guidance to her concerning any difficulties.

Social Problems

Case IV then declares her social problems. Case IV has many friends. They are emotionally in touch with her. She shares all her problems with them. Case IV faces no harassment from teachers or friends concerning family break-down. They are very co-operative towards her.

Case IV keeps no contact with her fathers relatives. But she is very close to her mother's relatives. Her uncle who lives with her is a taxi driver. He is very good towards her. Her mother's relatives keep in touch with her and her family. They do not provide any economic support, as they themselves are economically unstable. But are emotionally very supportive. Cases IV is also have a grand mother with her. Relationship to her grand mother is fine.

Case IV maintains a close relationship with her mother and sister. She shares all her problems with them. They are also emotionally very supportive.

Cases IV also have good neighbours. No emotional attachment is maintained but also no problem is faced by them.

Manner in which this problems are overcome

Cases IV do not have any substitute for her father. She has an uncle with whom she is very close. Cases IV rated her relationship with her family, sibling and friends as excellent but she is not much satisfied with her life. This reveals her feeling towards her father and her desire to live with him.

Case V

Case V is a 13year old girl. She is a Hindu. She is studying in 9th standard. She lives with her mother, sister, and step-father. Her mother is a house-wife. Her step-father works as a coolie. Her sister is doing her degree as private. Her father left her house and divorced her mother when she was of 9 years. Her father divorced her mother because he had an extra marital affair. He thus married that woman and has two children and lives with them. When her father left her mother, mother found it difficult to handle things all alone. Thus, she re-married case V is not able to treat that person as her father and thus keeps much distance. She is not able emotionally attached to him. She does not ask for anything to him, she tells about her requirements to her mother and does not maintain any direct relation with him.

When the investigator met case V she was wearing a shabby dress. She was some what nervous when questioned by the investigator, but tried to answer every thing in a correct manner. Case V faces a great economic trauma. Her educational purpose and personal needs are all looked over by a sponsor named Petritia Barlodi of Madras. She sends money every month and some more money on special days like birthday or festivals so as to buy new dresses or sweets.

Economic or Psychological problem

When the investigator enquired about the emotional problem faced, case V declared that she is emotionally very depressed. Her mother's Step-father usually drinks and thus makes a big problem in house. He beats her mother. These all forces her to keep away from him. She says that if she was not sponsored her need would not have been fulfilled. She would not have been able to go to school. She has to depend on others for her personal needs, this upsets her

At a very young age she lost her father. She misses her fathers love tremendously. Her father was a coolie. He was very good at the initial time. He used to look after all the needs of the children. But slowly he started drinking and beating

her mother very badly. One day without saying anything he left the home. Later they came to know that he has married another woman.

Case V feels very much isolated and is very depressed. As she is sponsored by another person, she has the feeling of burdens and sense of worthlessness. She is upset of her life and does not live a determined life. She leads a life of great trauma.

When asked about her intensity of anger, Case V declared that she has defensive anger. She quarrels often with her mother and sister. But at the same time loves them a lot.

Educational Problems

Case V has a desire to become a nurse. She is very weak in her studies. She finds it difficult to concentrate in her studies due to personal problems. Her sister helps her in her studies. But she does not concentrate wholeheartedly in her studies she does not even participate in extra-curricular activities. She keeps herself from all this. She is not close emotionally to her teachers.

Social Problems

Case V does not maintain a good relation with her father's relatives. After her father left the home, no supportive hand is provided by any of his relatives. Her step-father's relatives are also very harsh towards her family. But her mother's relatives are very co-operative and help this family a lot. But economic support is not provided because they themselves are very poor. But economically they are well attached.

Relationship with friends is good. Friends help her in her personal problems and are very supportive towards her. She has many good friends, they help her a lot.

Relationship with her neighbour is ok. They are not very supportive but also do not create any problems. There is no emotional attachment between her and her neighbours.

Relationship with mother and sister is very close. She shares all her problems with them. They are very understanding. But relationship with step-father is not that good. She does not even like to call him as 'papa' or anything.

Manner in which this problems are overcome:

Case V has no substitute for her father. No one is about to give her love and reduce her desire for father's affection. She is urging for father's love and affection which has been taken away from her when she was very small.

Case VI

A fear was seen in his eyes. He was a bit nervous, when the boy, of 15 years met the investigator. The boy wore a shabby dress. In a look, no one will consider him as physically fit. The boy faces much economical trauma and maintains his study and personal needs from the sponsorship provided by his sponsor MC bailey of Italy. Case VI lives with his mother, and grand mother. He is studying in 10th standard at St. Augustians High School at Murikkumpuzha.

His mother is a house-worker. His father divorced his mother when he was too small. He does not remember the correct year. His father was a coolie. His father and mother had an arranged marriage. Few years after his birth, quarrel started between them. He uses to drink and beat his mother bitterly. He had an extra-marital affair. He has now married that women and does not even after kept contact with family.

Case VI has two elder sisters. They are married both of their Husband are coolie. After the father left the house, mother strived hard to look after the family. It

was a tough job for her to get the two daughter married. Grand mother is too old but case VI admits that his grand mother provides a good emotional support to the family.

Emotional or Psychological problems:

When the investigator enquired about any emotional problem faced, case VI says that he has not received his fathers love and affection. He has only seen his hatred and angry. He is very prejudiced about father. He thinks all father are like this. But when he sees his friends happy with their fathers, he thinks about what an actual father is?

The family is in great dept. He says that if he has a father just like that of his friends, he or his family would have never suffered a lot. He feels very sad as he has to depend on money, send by his sponsor, for his daily needs. Case VI feels guilty of his life. He considers his life as useless. He has a strong feeling of worthlessness and a sense of burdens

When the investigator enquired about any feeling of isolation, case VI declared he is very upset. He cannot share his emotions with anyone. He feels very lonely.

Case VI admits that he has developed an attitude of defensive anger. He makes a good quarrel in his family, if any thing goes wrong. He is not at all satisfied with his life. Case VI likes to spend much of his time outside his home. He just roams everywhere and would like to spend time alone.

Educational problems

Case VI draws very well. He is not at all active in his studies. There is no electric power in his house. This makes him very disturbed. He is not determined in his life. His life was always in sadness. This sadness never made him to think of his future or to draw his ambitions.

He does not have to face any economic problems in studies because his sponsor sends money in time. But his family atmosphere does not help him to study and do well in life.

Social problems

Case VI does not maintain a good relation with his family relatives. His father's relatives have never looked into their life after his father left the home. Mother's relatives are not co-operative and never provide any support at the time of crisis.

Case VI maintains a good relation with his mother and grand mother. He shares his problems with them; mother helps him in his studies. Grand mother is very understanding. But the problems always let them down.

Relationship with his friends is not very good. Case VI does not have a close friend. He never shares his problems with them. He is afraid that they will laugh at him or sneers him, if he express his emotional regret. He considers this as a biggest trauma of his life.

He has friends. He plays spranks with them. But he keeps no emotional attachment with them.

Case VI has no emotional attachment with neighbours. He expresses no closeness towards them. He just maintains a casual talk with them.

Manner in which this problems are overcome

Case VI lost his father when he was too small. He has never got his father's love. He has no substitute for his father. He just lives because he is born. He has no much challenge in his life.

Case VII

An extra-mental affair of husband forced him to find divorce from his legal wife. Thus, a 7-month pregnant wife was left strive alone from life. After a month a girl baby was born. The girl was not known what a father's love is. A 16 year girl expresses her thirst for father in pain. She has a sister who is doing her degree. Her mother runs a retail shop, so as to let the family survive. She lives with her mother and sister. She is studying in tenth standard at Kodalur H.S.S.

When talking with the investigator she was very nervous and at the beginning she found it difficult to express her feelings. But as the talk proceeded she tries to speak openly.

Emotional or Psychological Problems

Case VII declared that she always strived for the love of father. She has only seen sadness in her house. This makes her to hate father. She considers him as merciless. She admits that if he little mercy he would have never left his pregnant mother alone. Her mother worked hard to bring up the family from crisis. After her father left the home, he never looked back at their situation or never helped them at the time of pain. Case VII had never talked to her father. She says that she wants a father's love but will never welcome that man in her life again. She will never love him as father.

Case VII is not at all satisfied with her present life. She hated her present life as very bad and unhappy. But Case VII wants to succeed in life. She wants to show

that her father that they can live with his help or presence. But she admits that their economic instability always stands as a big hindrance in her life.

Case VII declared that she has a high degree of defensive anger. She does not like anyone blaming or cursing her mother. She uses to answer everyone if they say anything against her mother. She can never keep quiet if any one hurts her sister or mother.

When the investigator enquired about any feeling of worthless or burdens, case VII declares that little feeling is their in her mind .She says that if her mother had only one daughter her burden would have reduced lot. She sees her mother striving to make money to get her elder sister married. So CaseVII feeling that after few years again her mother will have to work hard. All this bring a feeling of burdens in her.

Educational Problems

CaseVII is studying in tenth standard. She wants to excel, but her problems let down. Her mother's income is not sufficient for her educational needs. She saws that her sister takes tuition class and tries to maintain her studies. She has also decided to go for some manual jobs also she completed her tenth, So that she can manage her higher studies. CaseVII wants to become a teacher. She says that she will work hard to gain her aspiration, if life admits.

Social problems

Case VIII has very good friends. They are very co-operative and helping they help as in studies. CaseVII maintains good emotion relation with her friends .She shares all her problems a group of good friends. They in term provide coping measures so as to help her to succeed.

Case VII is very much satisfied with her mother and sister. She loves and respects them a lot. She says that she is very obliged to her mother for the support she has given to her and her sister. They are much understanding in her home. She is very close to them. They speak up openly and express the feeling to each other and help each other to face any situation boldly.

Case VII is not in good terms with father's relatives. No relation was maintained with father's relatives after her father left the home. Mother's relatives keep in touch with family but no economic support or strong emotional support provided. Just a casual relationship.

Manner in which these problems are overcome

Case IV has never known a father's love. She grieves for it. But she is happy with her mother and sister. She has much love from them and is very happy with them. Her substitute for father is her family and friends, she admits.

Case VIII

Case VIII is 19 years of age. She is doing her graduation in MG College. Case VIII lost her father when she was studying in ninth standard. Her father was a business man. After she lost her father, her mother was taken over and has been looking after the business ever since. Case VIII lives with her mother and younger sister. Her sister is studying in +1 at St. Mary's. She is very active in her studies. She was economically well settled.

When the investigator met Case VIII, she was a bit tensed about what's the matter but she was bold enough to speak out all her problems. Case VIII is a tall and physically fit person.

Emotion and Psychological Problems

When the investigator asked whether she has any other emotional problems, she said there is. When she sees her mother to alone taking the burden of the family, she feel very upset. Her mothers were a house wife and depend on father. But now the same person has to handle every thing all alone. This depresses the daughter a lot. Another thing that worries her is that now mother has the company of their but when she gets married or goes for some higher studies, mother will be alone and who will look after her.

Case VIII has an aspiration to become an engineer and is not at all interested in business. Her career is now in threatened. These thoughts worry her a lot and create lot of emotional problems.

When the investigator enquired about the of her attitude difference after the death of her father. She agreed that she has developed defensive anger in order to protect herself .This came out strongly at times when people criticize her. Case VIII said she would not keep quiet when things had to be accepted upon. She illustrates this with incident when someone ridiculed her or her family she firmly speaks out. When asked about sadness she agreed that she sad when left alone. When she sees her friends having nice time with both parents she becomes sad thinking that if she too had her father. When then the investigator asked whether she has the feeling of worthlessness .She said that, she had no such feelings but she is proud that she has become independent. Case VIII is bold enough to do things herself without depending on her mother. She also has earning her own by taking tuition classes for primary school children's.

Educational problems

She has no difficulty in education. She told to the investigator that she has been studying more after she lost her father as she become very determined that she should attain a good positioning life. She maintains the collage discipline and is the leader of the class. She is first in the class and determined to get rank. She does things well and is thou in the good books of the teacher and principle. She attends the class everyday and does not have the habit of bunking the class or misbehaving in the class.

Social Problems

Then the investigator covered the social aspects. The investigator found that there is no significant hang in her life status and she has a good role in the decision-making activity in the family. There is much change in the re with the relatives. When her father was with her family every one was there to support them. This was particular when friends especially boys came to her house, relatives keep an eye on her with doubt. Her grandfather doesn't like any one her friends coming home. Another thin is that if she goes out and come late they become suspicious.

Relationship with her friends was always the same. Her friends are very co-operative and support her in every fall and help to rise out of it. She tries to share all her personal problems with her friends.

Relationship with her parent and sibling is very close and affectionate. Her mother and sister are informed of all her moves and thoughts and she is very aware of all behaviors and life problems of her sister and mother.

Relationship with her neighbors are fine .She does no wrong with his family. They are helpful if any problem occur.

Manner in which this problems are overcome

When the investigator asked whether she is missing her separated parent-figure, she replied that she is missing a lot. When she lost her father she had not reached anywhere. This is because it was time she hadn't decides what carrier to choose for or pursue in the future. She is not able to go to some place, especially at night. She really misses her father.

Then the investigator asked her whether she has a substitute for her parent-figure. She replied that the only substitute she has is the heavenly father.

CASE IX

Case IX is a girl of 16 years of age. She is a Hindu. She is now doing her +1 in St. Mary School. She lost her mother when she was of 10 years. She is the only child, she has no siblings. She lives with she lives with her father and grand-father. Her father is a teacher. Her mother was a house-wife. She met with an accident and thus died. Grand father is too old. Case IX is economically stable.

Case IX is tall and very fair. She is somewhat bold to handle things by herself. She felt crying while talking to the respondent as her mother was a great chap of her.

Psychological and emotional problems

Case IX has emotional problems. But her father was always with her and assumed the role of both a father and mother. She says that mother's loss is a big deal. This is the bitter age for her and she thinks that in this age, a mother is a must for all girls. Her sadness increases, when she realizes that no lady is there in her house

to accompany her, nor a sister, grandmother or anyone. She is very close to her father but she thinks that mother is a must.

When the investigator asked about the degree of anger, Case IX said to the investigator that she has a high degree of anger. She feels very sad when she is isolated. She has to be at her home alone after school till her father comes. She company's with her father but he is ill and old, he doesnot speaks for too long. She always remembers her time with her mother, after school. She used to play badminton, chess with her mother. Her mother cooks well and used to prepare delicious food for her when she comes back home after school. She now misses all her delicious food. But after mother death, she and her father, in the morning cooks something which can be prepared in a few minutes and keeps it in the fridge and uses that for the whole day.

Case IX doesnot experience any feeling of burdens or worthlessness. Her father is very understanding and supportive. He finds time to spend with her so as to reduce her sadness. They even go out for dinner on holidays and enjoy birthday together.

Case IX feels depressed when she sees her friends happy with both the parents. Most probably she tries to skip out of school days as she feels sad when all her friends brings her parents with them and she has only father to come with her.

Case IX doesnot like to get married, as she loves her father very much and doesnot want to live him alone. She says that her father has supported her when she was facing crisis and that she want to support her father when he is old, as her father looks after his father.

Educational Problems

Case IX Faces many emotional traumas but is very active in her studies. She is very hard working. Her mother's desire was to make her a CA. she now has a big ambition of becoming a CA and will do anything to be successful. Her father supports her in her studies. Her ambition forces her to attend school everyday.

She is very good in sports and takes part in inter-school competition. She also used to take part in arts competition but after the death of her mother she is not interested in it as her mother is one who used to teach her the dance and make her ready for other competitions. Case IX is very determined and she holds success in any field. She maintains good relation with her teachers. Teachers are very supportive towards her.

Social Problems

There has been a significant change in the personal life of Case IX. But her relation with her relatives is all the same. Before and even today a good relation is maintained between her and relatives. But she is not able to visit her relative's home casually as they are far away.

Her relation with her friends is excellent. They are very co-operative. She has very close friends and use to visit their home. Friend's family is also very supportive. She also spends time in their home at weekends. Friends bring a separate typhine or any special dish for her, prepared by their parents.

Case IX have a good relation with neighbours. She tries to ride of her loneliness by visiting the neighbours she spend time in the neighbours' house by watching TV or playing. She declares that her neighbours behave in a good manner

Case IX declare that she loves her father more than anything in the world and her father has the same feeling. Her father is very close to her any they know each others life very well. Her father is very supportive and he is the biggest strength of her. Her grand father also lives with her. He is very good and gives a bit of pension to her ton buy dress or anything else. She says that if he was not that old, he would be playing with her all the time.

Manner in which this problems are overcome

When the investigator asked does she misses the separated parent figure, the answer was in an affirmative tone. She feels that if her mother was still with her, a lot of her problems would be solved. Her substitute is her father who took up the role as a father and a mother and has been supportive in all the ways.

CASE X

Case X is a 19 years old Christian boy. He is now doing his degree in St. Xavier's college, Thumba. He is a tall and healthy person. He is bold enough to handle every situation in life. He responded to the investigator in a calm mood and was not at all nervous.

He lost his father when he was of sixteen years of age. At that time he was doing his +1. His father met with an accident, when he was traveling in a private van. His father was working as a staff in an office. He has a younger sister. She is studying in 8th standard. He lives with his mother, sister and grandmother. Grandmother is not that old and is healthy to an extend. Case X is economically not so fit. After the death of his father, mother took on father's job. The family is surviving on one person's salary.

Psychological and emotional problems

When the investigator enquired about the emotional problems, it was made clear by the respondent that he faces a tremendous emotional trauma. When the news of the death of the father was reported at his home, his mother fainted and thus she became mentally ill. Due to this, Case X had to withdraw from his studies. He thus tried to look after his mother after his mother for one year. He went to work as a head load worker, so as to look after his mother and let her sister continue her studies.

He declares that he was very dependent when his father was alive. For every single thing he wants his father to be with him. After his death and mothers mental shock, he had to make a great deal and be strong enough to let his family survive. He was not even provided any supportive hand. He used to burst with tears when he was unable to handle thing in a proper manner. His uncle, i.e., his father's brother was the only supportive hand.

He feels very sad when he faces his old friends as seniors. He always feels sad of one year that went out of his hands. When the investigator enquired about the aspect of defensive anger, he agreed that he get angry quite soon.

When asked by the investigator, does he has any feeling of burdens or sense of worthlessness, he replies that he has no such feelings as he is able to look after himself and also maintains his family. He is not dependent on any one. He is on his legs, he admits, as he still goes for some work when he gets times and looks after his personal and also family expenses. He is the one who take decision in his family.

Case X's mother is now mentally fit. She has started working and this has helped Case X to study. Case X has no feeling of isolation now as mother is a supportive hand and is very bold to handle everything.

Educational Problems

Case X now studies with a desire to do well in future. He is the one who takes decision in his family. He is conscious of his family problems. He wants his sister to do well and to have a settled married life. So he studies with a determination and wants to excel in every stride of life.

He takes his life as a challenge. He declares that the break of one year from study had lost all his hope and happiness. But when he joined school once again, he took it as a new life and faced it with determination. He has a desire of becoming a pilot. He says that it was his father's desire and he will now work hard to be so. He does not know how much his economy will support him to be so, but he will do any thing to fulfill his desire.

He believes that his father can see him by sitting in the heaven as a star. If he does not fulfill his desire, his father will become sad. This belief helps him to do well in studies, to be regular in class and also to maintain class discipline.

Social Problem

Case X does not have much emotional problems now. But he admits that when his father passed away and his mother was mentally shocked, none of his father's relatives provided a helping hand. They blamed his mother and cursed her. They said that it was his mother's bad fate that fell upon their son. Even now no support is provided. But mother's relatives were also there and provided a helping hand whenever necessary.

Relationship with friend is very good. All types of support are provided by friends in needy times. They also provided financial support when ever necessary and helped him to cover-up his notes if he was absent in the school. Emotional support by friends is also very good. They try to understand his problems and help him always.

Case X does not have supportive neighbours. They do not create any tensions but no supportive hands as well. Emotionally he maintains no closeness with his neighbours.

Case X admits that God has given to him a very beautiful family. He has very understanding mother and loving sister. They always be with him in all his life-streams. He is happy with his family.

Manner in which this problems are overcome

Case X has no substitute for his lost-parent figure. He says that he is now capable to face anything. He is happy with his mother and sister. Father is not physically present but always helps him to take decisions in times of crisis. He is still alive in his heart and always there in his home to guard them.

ANALYSIS
&
INTERPRETATION

To examine the socio-economic and demographic profiles of the children.

The researcher decided to undertake the respondents belonging to the teen age group, i.e., between the age-group of 13-19 years. This age-group was taken into consideration because it is generally termed that teen-age is the peek age and it is at this age that the children need good socialization. Family becomes a good agent of socialization only when both parents try to provide it to their children. So this age-group is more disadvantaged to have lost their parent.

The case study was done among 10 teenage children, 5 children who have lost their parents due to death and 5 children who have divorced parents.

All the divorce cases, undertaken by the investigator, have lost their father. The reason being extra-marital relation of their father. From this we can understand that the norms and values of the family are decreasing. The role of family as a primary unit is diminishing. The control of society over the family is absent in the modern era.

Among the death cases, majority of the respondents lost their parents due to accident. Thus it can be interpreted that road accidents are at increase now-a-days. It may be said that wealth has taken the place of life.

Change may also be seen in the diminishing power of religion among the people of today's society. In olden days, religion played a tremendous role in the life of the individual. Religion was one of the aspects that controlled the behaviour of the individual. Thus, the family of that era was too strong. But now-a-days we may find that the family is diminishing at greater rate.

All the respondents said that they have no contact with their father after divorce. It was also said that their father had remarried and is living a settled life with their wife. Thus, after divorce, fathers become irresponsible considering the life of their children. They are not interested in the life of their children. They do not think how much they have hurted them by ignoring them.

Majority of the respondents whose father left them, (may be due to divorce or death) mothers have been forced to take on a job for the livelihood of the family. These mothers were dependent on their husbands earlier. But now due to lack of male head in the family, they have been forced to become the breadwinner of the family.

Most of the respondents face economic instability. In most of the family husbands were the bread winners of the family. Their absence may, thus, live the family in starvation. As these women were dependent on their husbands, it was difficult for them to take on their family. They would find it difficult to have a proper job. They would not be confident enough to do any job of much strain. Thus, they try to stick on to normal job and never mind of the salary.

Absence of one parent (may be father or mother) may leave a great stress on the family. The lone-parent has to play a dual role of both father and mother. They should look on to the children and household matters. This affects the family in a severe manner. It may also complain in the health condition of the family. The children are at great loss. They have to sacrifice their happiness and have to face lot of troubles.

To analyze the emotional or psychological problems faced by the children.

Family is the primary social unit. It is considered as the first school of a child. A child learns the basic lessons of life from his family. Both mother and father have their respective roles to play in the life of their children. A child learns how to behave in society from his parents. Father is generally figured as strict and one who always needs discipline around and mother provides care to her children and is a humble figure. So both parents are necessary for a child to shape his personality in a right direction. Absence of any one of them is bound to have a negative effect on the child. Thus, in one way or the other, loss of one parent leads to retardation in personality development.

Majority of the respondents reveals that they exhibit a high degree of anger. Most of them get angry when others criticize them or their family. From this we can trace that the respondents may have in them a sort of inferiority complex. They may develop in them a complex that they are lacking something. This may bring problems in them to face others. This complex may burn them and develop in them a sort of anger. With the help of this anger, they try to defend themselves and try to clear their stand before others.

Majority of the respondents have complained of the feeling of isolation. This people may be more found of day-dream. They try to spend time in loneliness. These children due to the inferiority complex do not easily make friends or some of them may face harassment in school or in the neighbourhood which may force them to be alone. They feel that they are unlucky. They do not want to shower their unluckiness on others. So they tend to be alone. Other reasons may be they feel sad when their friends share their family jokes among peer circle. Children coming from single-parented family may not have anything to share, so they try to skip out of the group.

Feeling of insecurity haunts them a lot. Study done by Kitson and Morgan (1990) also reveals that children from single-parented family face problems like feeling of loneliness, anxiety, chronic depression, and aggressive anger

Some of the respondents revealed that they have in them a sense of burdens and worthlessness. Single-parents strive hard to play the dual role of both father and mother. They become the bread-winner of the family and also take-care of family affairs. Children find their parents working hard to fulfill their desires. This makes him to have in them a feeling of burden to others and as they are small they are unable to provide any help to the parents, thus also a feeling of worthlessness is developed in them. As somebody rightly said that an empty mind is devils workshop, this children always thinks of negative things in their mind when ever free.

Majority of the respondents are not satisfied with their present life. A child always dream of a satisfied life. They always want to be happy. Absence of one parent forces them to sacrifice many things in life. These children feel as if every thing is over. An ideal family is one in which there is both mother and father. So absence of one parent leaves a feeling of sick family in the mind of the child. This feeling and the struggle made by the single-parent to take on the family, all this, leaves a negative impact on child.

Majority of the respondents likes to spend their time outside their home may be with friends. Loss of something always lives in memory of that thing in mind. Loss of one-parent will always hurt the child. Home atmosphere may haunt the mind of the child. So they try to spend their time with friends. They like to enjoy with their friend.

Some of the respondents have a good role in decision-making in the family. Some group says that they do not play a prominent role in decision making, but they views are given importance.

Children's coming from the family with divorced parents reveals that their home-atmosphere was very tragic before divorce. Extra-marital affair of the father was the major cause for fight. These respondents say that divorce has brought some peace in their home. It is better to leave each other than to have quarrel always by staying together. They says that their life before and after was almost the same. Happiness have never arrives at their house. The only difference they find is that, before father was physically present at home but not emotionally and now neither physical nor emotional presence is there. Even that day father never enquired about the life and same is the today. Study done by *Cox and Cox* (1982) also reveals that if parental conflict is severe and chronic, their staying together may do their children more harm than good.

Some the respondents have step-father. But no good relation is maintained with them. Children do not face any ill-treatment from their step-father but even then they do not like them.

Life tragedies may lead a person in any way. May be the disasters faced by a person teach him to be strong or it may destroy him. Some of the respondents have taught them to lead a determined life. They revealed that the loss of one-parent and struggle of other parent to cope up with the dual personalities of life, that the fate has forced them to play, make them to be strong and share the responsibilities of the parent so as to reduce their burden. They are aware enough that for this a strong determination is a must. They, thus, are bold and strong to fulfill the aims of their life. This is a good viewpoint of life, but this is only the one side. Problems may also lead negative impact on them. Some of the respondents live their life only for namesake. Their troubles have made their mind upset. They are not at all determined to gain anything in life. May be their economic instability have forced them to think of small things or they might not be mentally strong to think of positives in life.

Some of the respondents are not interested in marriage. Reasons may be varied. Some do not want to leave their lone-parents alone. Girls have to leave their

parents house after marriage and settle with their husbands. So majority of girls are worries to get married. The thought that their parent with be alone at home makes them sad. Other group of respondents is afraid of marriage. Their home atmosphere might have created a negative impact of marriage in them.

Respondents who lost their parent in childhood are not so affected. They say that they are deprived of the love and affection of their absent parent figure, but as the home atmosphere was calm, only little problems were faced. Here we may find that memories are not forgotten but it gets faded away as time passes. Thus, as age increases problems may be reduced, if there after home atmosphere is liable.

Here, the 1st hypothesis, i.e., Personality development is retarded among single-parented children, is proved.

Due to economic lack, some foreigners sponsor two of the respondents. Investigator met one of this in a trust of a church at Mangalappuram. Trust shelters many children who face economic problems. The rule followed by the trust is one child from one family. Free tuition classes, food, books, etc. are being provided to the children. Sponsors sent the money to this trust. The owners of the trust spend it accordingly for the children. This sponsorship is a great help to those children concerning their education. Their sponsors are looked after all their basic needs. From this we can find that even if evil is increasing in modern era, virtuous deeds are also relevant.

To analyze the educational problems faced by the children.

Emotional problems are bound to affect the educational attainment of the children. They may be so mentally disturbed that they find it difficult in concentrating in their studies. Their ill-mind may force them to divert their mind to some other areas, other than studies. Other problems that hinder their educational attainment may be economic instability of family. Their lone-parent may not be able to help

them to gain educational needs. One of the respondents complained of electricity problem. Lack of electric supply in his house has forced him to quit studies at night. Home atmosphere is also another reason for educational problem. It was made clear that some of the respondents live a determined life, due to good home atmosphere. So their educational needs are much secured. Others with family problems are at disadvantaged position. The reason may be said that this people are fed up with their life. They are not at all interested to cop-up with their life. Study done by Krein (1988) reveals that children from disturbed family do low in education.

Thus we understand the rate of emotional problems faced by children due to family disorganization. Childhood is the stage in which a child studies the basic rule of society and family. He moulds his views concerning life on the basis of lessons learned in his family and surroundings. Childhood experience is a lasting experience in the mind of a child. Family is a place where a child finds paradise. If this paradise becomes a hell, then the entire life situation becomes a hell for them. The emotional troubles that the family provides them make their life dreadful. They cannot find happiness in their life. Hence, here it is clear that the home-atmosphere is the crucial component in the life of a person. If the family atmosphere is haunting, the personality development of a child will be retarded. Today's child makes the tomorrow of society. How can a retarded mind make tomorrows society? This is a big question that should be placed before every parents of our society. To provide better living conditions to a child is the basic responsibility of each and every parent.

Thus, we here prove the 2nd hypothesis, i.e., *As emotional problems increases the educational attainment of these children decreases.*

Most touching words was of a girl who said that she doesnot love her father. She is thirsty for father's love and affection, but will never accept her father in her life. The reason she said was that if her father had ever loved her or her family, he would have never left them alone. This shows a retarded mind. Who can make up this child's mind? Definitely not her father.

To analyze the social problems of the children.

Investigator tried to deal with the social problems of the respondents. Single-parent family is generally said as sick family. So people try to ill-treat with them. Family may have to face social harassment.

Relatives are one who be with use and help us in every strides of life. They accompany us not only in time of happiness but also at time of trouble. More than any relation in this world we give importance to family relations and also we expect much from that relation. From the investigation, undertaken by the researcher, it was found that things have changed.

Majority of the respondents reveals their relation with their absent parents relatives have reduced after divorce/death. Before divorce/death, very close relationship was maintained with them. Frequent visiting of houses was common. But after divorce they do not gather on any occasions. This show the depth in the relationship prevailing in modern era. Thus we understand not much importance is given to relationships. People are much concerned about their personal life and needs. In modern era, we cannot claim that relatives are bound to help us.

It is said that marriage not only brings a relation between a man and a women, but also between two families. But this relation may end if there is any trouble between the married couples. It may be said that the relatives think that after death/divorce of their son/daughter, they have no relation with their spouse or children. It was their son/daughter who had relation with them. After their divorce/death, there is no need to have contact with his family. They may have a feeling that if their children do not want to continue with that relation, then why should they.

One of the respondents, who lost his father due to death, says that his father's relatives accuse his mother for being the reason for the death of their son. They accuse by saying that because of her ill fate they lost their son. They harass his mother and also ill-treat her on this name. This led to gradual reduction in contact with them. This reveals that even in this globalized world, superstitious belief exists and in this name. Even today women are being accused and harassed.

All the divorce cases undertaken by the researcher are one who lost their father. Thus, their relations with their fathers relatives have reduced to a great extent. Most of the respondents say that they maintain a good relation with their mother's relatives. Mother's relatives provide a good emotional support.

One of the respondents, who lost his father due to divorce, says that his family has no relation with his fathers or mothers relatives. His parents had a love marriage. This is the reason for lack of support by mother's relatives.

The entire respondent who lost their father, due to divorce, says that they keep no contact with their father. He never comes to visit them or enquire about them. The reason for divorce was extra-marital relation of their father. They have now remarried to those women. So it may be said that, their wife may not like their contact with their ex-wives. He may be compelled to ignore his ex-wife and children. It may also be said that, he may not be personally interested to keep contact with them. Respondents say that their father has never tried to look at their life before divorce and so they are not expecting anything from him now.

At this age friends are given much importance. Peer circle is one which provides good support to children. It is said that peer group can make a child's life and can even destroy it. So at this age peer group influence the life of child in many ways. The entire respondent revealed that they have friends. But there is difference between a friend and close friend. Close friends are those with whom we keep an emotional contact, with them we try to share all our troubles. Majority of the

respondents have close friend. They try to sort their help at times of trouble. They say that a good emotional support is provided by their friends at time of crisis. They try to guide them, help them when ever required.

One of the respondent revealed that he has friends but he do not share any of this emotions with them. He says that he is shy to share his problems with them. He is worried that they may make fun of him. He doesn't want to cry before them. His self does not allow him to do so. The reason for this can be sited as the lessons set by the patriarchal society. In our society boys are taught that they should not cry. Normally it is said that tears are gifted to girls. Boys should not cry. It is girls who cry and boys are tough minded. They are no allowed to cry. Boys are strong where as women are sensitive. It may also be said as the frustration faced by a boy, due to lack of father. The respondent, thus, is not ready to open his mind in front of anyone.

One of the respondents was very introvert. He was not very open towards the investigator. He was no ready to share his problems. He has friends, but he doesnot keep any emotional touch with them. He has a prejudice that if he keeps much closeness with his friends, some trouble may occur because of him or sometimes he may be accused for that. So he tries to keep himself away from the troubles and thus he maintains no close relation with his friends.

Majority of the respondents keeps a very close relationship with their siblings. They try to share all their problems with their siblings. Respondents try to seek advice with their siblings at times of any troubles.

One of the respondents says that his home atmosphere is not at all free. He has only friendly relation with his siblings. He does not share his personal troubles with them. They are not close as friends. He has many restrictions in family.

One of the respondents says that she has no sibling. She lost her mother due to death. She is very close to her father. But she is very sad as she has no sister. She think at sister is a must for every girl.

Majority of the respondents also keep a very friendly relation with their lone-parent. They also they to share all their troubles with their parents. They have freedom to say any of their life matters to their parent.

Majority of the respondents have their grand-parents living with them. Respondents say that they are very close to them. They do not create any trouble in family. They are very lovable persons.

One of the respondents has uncle living with his family. He is unmarried. He is very good and very co-operative. A good emotional support is provided from his part.

All the respondents opined that they face no harassment in school. Their teachers, principle are very kind towards them. They do not show any partiality towards them. A good atmosphere is provided to them in school. They do not face any harassment for any of the students as well. School or students do not bring any inequality in their behaviour with these single-parented children.

Neighbours are non-blood relatives. All the respondents admit that they find no problem in their relation with their neighbours. Some of the respondents say that they are no emotionally in touch with their neighbours, but their neighbours do not create any trouble. The atmosphere with them is cool.

Majority of them says that a good emotional relation is maintained with their neighbours. Respondents say that they live as one family. Thus if may be said that, it is relatives who creates problems more that any other persons.

To findout the manner in which the problems are overcome by the family.

Some respondents have step-father. But they doesnot receive fatherly affection. These children do not like to keep contact with their step-father. They consider him only as their mother's husband and not their father. They themselves try to avoid him. They are still thirsty for their father's love and affection.

Majority of the respondents have no substitute for their absent-parent figure. They are totally deprived of father's care. This reveals remarriage is still a rare practice. Somewhere, the idea of marriage and family is still prevailing.

Majority of them commented differently concerning the substitute for their father. Some says that as time-passed they have learned to cope-up with their life. They know they are bound to live without one of their parent. Adjustment has become part of their life.

Some says that their absent-parent is only physically away from them but he is always around them and takes care of them. He is at their home, where ever they go and at every place.

Some says that they are satisfied with their heavenly parent. They believe in the saying that when someone died they become a star in the heaven and always guard their family by sitting there. So they feel that their absent parent is there in the heaven as a star and is always there to care for them.

Thus, there are various ways in which people try to forget their sadness. Men always want to be happy. So they think only what they want and try to find happiness everywhere.

CONCLUSION

Introduction:

Family is a central institution in all human societies, although it may take many different forms. Family is the primary source of socialization. Family is the environment into which the child and in which his or her earliest experience with other people occurs, experiences which have a lasting influence on the personality.

Disorganization of this family is closely related to the disorganization in the larger society. Divorce, desertion, death and other aspects of social disorganization relating to the family are viewed as pressing social problems, with many implications both for individual and for society as a whole. In the broader sense, family disorganization includes any weakness, maladjustment or dissolution of the ties binding members of this group together.

In our society, bearing and rearing a child is seen as a women's responsibility. But, both mother and father are essential for the growth of a child. When a single parent has to bring up her child alone, it leaves a void to slave to earn their livelihood and, therefore, has no time to look after the kids. Single parents commonly experience difficulties with role identity. Single parents often experience role strain from attempting to balance wage earner and parental responsibilities.

Children are at great loss due to single parent family. Child craves for the attention and love of the absent parent, though he may not express it verbally. Loss of one parent has been associated with childhood disturbance. These children do not get proper socialization in their young days. Child is likely to develop a feeling of insecurity and this feeling may lead him to compensatory behaviour, which makes for more or less maladjustment. Children from such household suffer social stigma and deprived of opportunities for education, better future, etc. Some specific problem faced by single-parented children are Educational Attainment, Idleness, Crime, Pre-marital Sexual Activity and Illegitimate child bearing, Substance Abuse, School Performance, Delinquency, Intrapersonal Concerns.

One parent is not enough. Even the sun is not sufficient to bring a blossom to a lilac bush. Both sun and water are necessary for sprouts and buds so too, a mother and father are needed for children. So, loss of any one parent may lead to low self-esteem of child or may force them to develop an inferiority feeling in them.

Due to tough job of parents, children are left unsupervised during the hours before and after school. Out of this situation slack school attendance, delinquency, and neglect may result.

Growing up in a single-parent family is associated with increase risk of a variety of severe health outcomes. Children of lone parents still have increased risk of mortality, severe morbidity and injury.

Hence, this study tries to trace the problems that hinder the growth of personality development in child.

The objectives of the study were:

General Objective:

To analyze the psycho-social problem of children of single-parented family.

Specific Objective:

- ✚ To examine the socio-economic and demographic profiles of the children.
- ✚ To analyze the social problems faced by the children.
- ✚ To analyze the economic problems of the children.
- ✚ To find out the manner in which the problems are overcome by the family.

Based on the above objectives, hypotheses were framed. The concepts were defined properly.

After finding the tool of data collection, the researcher started collecting data. For the purpose of the study data was collected from teenage children. A purposive sampling design was adopted focusing mainly on the age group from 13-19 years. Ten single parented children were interviewed.

Inorder to test the validity of the interview guide, the researcher conducted pre-test, modification were made in the schedule, inorder to make it more suitable for the study.

Since it is a case study method, the data was analyzed qualitatively based on the objectives. Study was divided into five chapters. Chapter I is the introductory part which gives a review of related literature. Methodology is dealt in the II chapter. Chapter III presents the cases while the interpretation and discussion comes in chapter IV. Chapter V is the concluding part.

The study brings forth the following findings:

THE PROFILE OF THE SINGLE-PARENTED CHILDREN

- ✓ All the cases belonged to the teen age-group.
- ✓ All the divorce cases lost their father, and it was due to the extra-marital affair of their father.
- ✓ Respondents had no contact with their father after divorce.
- ✓ Economic instability was a basic factor of their life.
- ✓ Absence of one parent (may be father or mother) leave a great stress on the family.

THE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

- ✓ Defensive anger is a major element in the life of the single-parent children. Defensive anger is manifested as a result of the insecurity due to the absence of the parent figure, at the subconscious level.
- ✓ Loneliness, isolation is a dominant emotional experience of single-parented children.
- ✓ Children brought up in single-parented family are not much satisfied with their present life.
- ✓ As time passed, emotional problems were reduced.
- ✓ Children from single-parented family try to keep themselves away from peer circle.
- ✓ Children from single-parented family may have a feeling of burden to others.

THE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

- ✓ Emotional problems have significant impact on educational prospects.
- ✓ Economy of the family affects the education of a child.

THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

- ✓ All the divorce cases keep no relation with their father's relative after divorce.
- ✓ At the same time, they maintain a good relation with their mother's relatives.
- ✓ Children maintain a friendly relationship with their siblings.

SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ Single-parents and children need to be attended to and provided some sort of supportive therapy to help them cope with the demands of the roles.

- ✓ The children of women headed families need financial support for higher education.
- ✓ Should be providing better employment opportunities for their living.
- ✓ Separated women have more economic problem because of the lack of maintenance from their partners. Hence special provisions may be provided to them for maintaining their family and children.

Conclusion

The loss of a parent has a very significant impact on the life of the single parented female children. Devoid of the spousal support the single parented status can be extremely stressful and will have tremendous impact on the children who in turn may end up with maladaptive behaviour. Both the child and the single parent need to be prepared to accept their respective roles appreciate the severe constraints under which they have to cope.

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APPENDIX

I. Personal Data:

- Name:
- Address:
- Age:
- Religion:
- Education:
- Occupation of parents:
 - Mother:
 - Father:
- Approximate income of parents (monthly):
 - Mother:
 - Father:
- Cause of single parenting: 1. death 2. divorce
- Present status of relationship:
- Duration of single parenting:
- Number of siblings:
- With whom living at present:
- If a child of divorced parents:
 - Your parents contact you:
 - Your parents come to see you:
 - Your parent with whom you are living now dislikes your contacts with the separated parent:

II. Emotional and Psychological Problems:

- Any mingling problem faced by you.
- Emotional expressions- anger, joy, sad.
- Most often, which emotional expressions is expressed.
- Treatment by siblings.
- Feel ashamed of yourself.
- Felling of sense of worthlessness.
- Felling of burden to others.
- Fell isolated frequently.
- Any sort of change in you after the separation of parents.
- Any role in decision making in your family.

Educational Problems:

- Any problem to concentrate in your studies.
- Any problem to follow the school discipline.
- Feeling of not to attend the class or habit of bunking the class.
- Any economic difficulty faced by your parents to teach you.
- All your need concerning education is fulfilled by your parents.
- Interested in studies
- Participate in extra curricular activities actively.

III. Social Problems:

- Any significant change in your life-style after parent's separation.
- Any good friends
- Range of closeness
very close/close/not very close/not close/ not at all.
- Treatment by the friends.

life										
Satisfied with your family										
Satisfied with your siblings										
Satisfied with your peer										

IV. Strategies to overcome.

- Miss your separated parent figure.
- Any substitute for the lost parent figure.
- If no, any other way to compensate.
- Friends support to solve this problem.
- Siblings support to solve this problem.
- Relatives support to solve this problem.

