**GENDER DIFFERENCE IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENTS OF NIGERIAN SINGLE PARENTS**

**ABSTRACT**

The research work on the gender difference and the psychological adjustments of single parent looks at the problem, challenges, courses, possible prevention to the aids of single parenting in Bayelsa. the course of single parent in mother may be at the state of rape, teenage pregnancy, divorce , death of the husband. The presence of both parent in a family give aids to child, sense of belonging in the community ,In school and boost the child confidence in all aspect has they grow. The area single parent is facing challenges is especially when the home is control and run by a women. The stress and weakness of single mother are linked with the upbringing of children looking at the Bayelsa eco-system, woman are more affect in Bayelsa because major are market woman and the inadequate supply of food in the riverbank area, these affect their future and setting down in life. Many of the single mother reported that they felt lonely, helpless, hopeless, lack of identity and lack of confidence. They stress of single parent reduce when the children are grown to a level of assisting themselves. The present study like, to study the challenges, possible prevention, problem faced by single mothers i.e. social, emotional and economic, a sample of 50 single mothers were selected by random sampling technique. The results of the research show that financial issues were the main stress for many single mothers. The emotional life of the single mother was also affected by their single status. Many of the single mothers found it hard to maintain discipline among the children due to absence of male.So many single parent tried to avoid attending social gatherings and had changed their dressing style due to depression they had develop poor food and eating habits.

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**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background of the Study**

Marriage is the socially acceptable union between a man and a woman. It means the coming together of two totally different individuals as husband and wife who agree to plan and set up their own family. Osarenren (2002) viewed marriage as usually a union between an adult male and an adult female. Marital conflicts come in different forms like spouse battering, spousal abuse, sexual abuse, marital irresponsibility, incest, rape, subtle struggle for control between the couple and other abusive behaviours. There is concern about the rising rate of unresolved marital conflicts, which often lead to marital instability, further leading to divorce, desertion, single-parenthood and legal separation. Thus, unresolved marital conflicts oftentimes lead to failed marriages. Marital conflicts are often caused by childlessness, forced marriage, incompatibility, communication gap, interference by in-laws, finances, infidelity, sex of children, lack of appreciation etc. Therefore, when marital conflicts occur regularly, it may have adverse effects on the psycho-social adjustment of adolescents who are the products of such marriages.

Single parenthood is a state where a single parent takes care of a single or many children without any help from any man or woman, mostly physically, from the other biological parent. Because of the increased changes from the traditional ways of doing things, over the years, single parents have increased in high rate by the day goes. Over the past three decades single-parent families have become more widespread than the so-called "nuclear family" consisting of a mother, father and children. Nowadays, from this research we observe and witness all types of single parent families: run by mothers, run by fathers, headed by a grandparent raising their grandchildren. Life in a single parent home while familiar can be reasonably nerve-racking for the adult and the children. The single parent may experience beleaguered by the task of caring for the children, maintaining a profession and keeping up with the bills and domestic responsibilities. The aspect of single parenting referred to in some cases as single parenthood has, become one of the upsetting issues of societies. It is found everywhere around the world, in advanced and developing countries. Others suggest that single-parent families have been present in all societies over time and should not be viewed as deviant or problematic, but rather as an alternative family form (Coontz, 1997).

The single parent is course in a number of ways, death of one parent, divorce, rape, teenage pregnancy, separation and desertion. Most single-parent emanate because of the death of a spouse. In the 1970s and 1980s, most single-parent was the result of divorce. Willicox (2003) in a study on “The Effect of Widowhood on Physical and Mental Health, Health Behavior and Health Outcome,” found that women who were recently widowed reported substantially higher rates of depressed mood, poorer social functioning and lower mental health and physical functioning than women who were widowed more than a year. Sarah et al. (2006) studied “Divorce Leads to Poor Psychological and Physical Health in Women” in Lowa on a sample of 416 rural mothers. The results revealed that divorced women have a higher susceptibility to chronic illness, especially over a period of time compared with married women. A stressful life event has also shown to have affected the psychological health of these women after the divorce. Divorced mothers experienced a greater number of stressful events Women” in Lowa on a sample of 416 rural mothers. The results revealed that divorced women have a higher susceptibility to chronic illness, especially over a period of time compared with married women. A stressful life event has also shown to have affected the psychological health of these women after the divorce. Divorced mothers experienced a greater number of stressful events such as demotions, layoffs, accidents, critical illnesses and problems with their own parents than did married women. Divorced mothers are also trapped in a vicious cycle of financial problems and other stressful life events..

* 1. **Statement of Problem**

Research on single parenting in Bayelsa more limited. The problem of single parent face is financial assist, lack of hope, loneliness, sense of belonging, lack of good food. In many cases single mothers run and control households, as many mother, household heads are unmarried women with young children. In spite of the Limited research on single parenting, consensus seems to build around the main ways in which a woman may become a single mother. Most research has concentrated on the increasing causes of single parenting and the general impact of single parenting particularly on the mothers and children and there is a limited research on the effect of gender difference on the psychological adjustments of single parenting in Bayelsa. Therefore, there is the need to research if single parenting has effect in Bayelsa to fill research gap on single parenting.

* 1. **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of the study was to assessing the effect of gender difference on the psychological adjustments of single parenting in Bayelsa Alibiri community area

The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. To examine the causes and problem of single parenting in Bayelsa Alibiri community

2. To assess the effect of gender difference on the psychological adjustments of single parenting in Bayelsa Alibiri community

3. To ascertain the child’s care arrangements in single parent homes

4. Recommend solutions to improve single parent homes in Bayelsa Alibiri community

* 1. **Significance of the study**

The important aspect of the study is know the problems and extended it can be reduce. Some predicament leads to the other and single parenting may be affecting the health, educational ,attitude and character and status of children in Alibiri community. Therefore, if this problem of single parenthood is dealt with to a reduce level, many other issuses and social problems will be mitigated. If children grow up knowing how to value life, take good care, respect rules and regulations and be given enough protection and preventive health education, they will grow up with dignity and focus. The findings would also contribute to policy initiatives on issues relating to controlling single parenting. Finally, the study would form a basis for researchers who wish to undertake further studies on single parenting in Bayelsa in Alibiri community area.

**1.6 Scope of the Study**

The research study was limited to the Alibiri community in Bayelsa and focuses on how single parenting affects

On child care status of children

**CHAPTER TWO**

**2.0 Literature Review**

**2.1 Meaning of Single parenting**

From these above research carried out on Single parenting Parents are the first point of contact of children. When both parents are present, it implies that the child would derive most care (Ortese, 1998). However, when one of the parent is absent in a child’s life, a gap is created as the child would lose the support that would have emanated from that parent. Ortese (1998) and Salami and Alawode (2000) have asserted that single parenting result from divorce, separation of various kinds, having children from wedlock or death of one spouse which leaves the roles in the hands of a single parent which will result to stress and load of paying fees and well been of the family, which now affect the attitude of the single parent. Home where a parent lives with dependent children, maybe alone or in a larger household, without a spouse or partner. Single-parenting can be defined as a situation in which one of the two individuals involved in the conception of the child is being responsible for the upbringing of the child. Hence, there is a terrific growth in the number of children of single parents. Single parenting is a major social problem on the rise among all communities Single parenting is implied as the taking of family’s task which includes caring for children devoid of the father’s or mother’s involvement. Single parenting is seen as the practice of training children and building a family with either the biological mother or father. Parenthood is difficult and demanding under the most excellent of condition. Child rearing practices are embedded in the culture and determine to a large extends the behavior and expectation surrounding the child birth and infancy. They also influence childhood, adolescence and the way this children parent as adult. Childbearing consist of practice which are grounded in cultural pattern and believes. Only one parent, the challenges are multiplied and stressfully. adding with childrearing for single parents becomes more intricate because of task burden, when one parent makes and takes all the responsibilities and provides for all of the family requirements; chore over-load, when the demands for work, housework, and parenting can be devastating for one individual; and emotional overload, when the single parent must for all time be accessible to meet both their own and their children's emotional needs. Single-handedly or in combination these result in problems for the single parent, including loneliness, anxiety, and depression. And emotional overload, when the single parent must for all time be accessible to meet both their own and their children are emotional needs. Single-handedly or in combination these result in problems for the single parent, including loneliness, anxiety, and depression.

**2.2 Causes of Single Parenting**

Single parenting may crop up as a result of the following factors:

When a couple separates after cohabitation or a marriage and one of the ex-spouses has physical custody of the children. Again single parenting occurs when a woman gives birth to a child and does not live with the child’s father or any other partner, male or female. Thus single parenting resulting from non-conjugal births Single parenting may also occur when a father or a mother is widowed. In this case the parent assumes sole responsibility of nurturing a child. Further, it may happen when a single (divorced, never-married, or widowed) man or woman adopts a child. Single-parenthood may arise when either the male or the female decides to produce and rear a child or children outside wedlock (Ortese, 1998). Single parenting also occurs due to adoption which is a possible option for single people who feel deficient in life. Studies also show that Single parenting has become very common due to donor insemination which is the most contentious preference for building a family in the present day. Donor insemination is the process of accomplishing pregnancy through injection of semen into the reproductive tract of a female. Single mothers who choose to conceive children through this option are becoming common particularly among the educated women. Teenage pregnancy also leads to single parenting and raising a child alone during teenage period is harsh. Teen single parents undergo stresses because of young age and inability to prepare for the future

**2.4 Child’s Care Arrangements in Single Parent Homes**

Help and support from friends and relatives can reduce the effects of overload, with friends contributing a cushion against loneliness and relatives rendering more useful help (Gladow & Ray, 1986). One complexity of asking for help in a society that defines the family as an independent unit responsible for its own circumstances and well-being. However, few single parents can successfully raise children alone, despite the social expectation that noncustodial parents (usually the father) should only be responsible for supplemental financial support, while the custodial parent (usually the mother) takes on both parenting and economic roles (Goldscheider & Waite 1991). In nigeria society, extended families play key roles in supporting both nuclear family and single parenthood. Some suggest that the ideal of an independent family head represents a Eurocentric view which is challenged by an African-American model of motherhood (Collins, 1994). In this model the importance of caring for and supporting children in the context of community development and social activism is emphasized. Children are cared for and raised by their own mothers (blood mothers), other women in the community (other mothers), and relatives. African-American children are more likely to live with a grandmother than are white and Hispanic children.

**Theoretical Framework**

**Attribution Theory**

The attribution theory was propounded by Heider (1980). Attribution refers to the process by which individuals interpret events as being caused by particular aspects of behaviour in the setting around them. It is a judgment about the causes of another person’s behaviour. Attribution theory is concerned with the effects on behaviour due to such “causal thinking”. According to Heider, behaviour can be accounted for by two classes of factors-personal or internal forces and environmental or external forces. The important internal factors are skill or ability and effort, luck and task difficulty are the important external forces. The assumption that a person’s behaviour is determined by internal causes or forces such as effort is termed dispositional attribution, while a person’s behaviour which is determined by external circumstances such as social pressures, is termed situational attribution. Heider also pointed out that whether a person feels that his or her behaviour was self-controlled or controlled by events in the situation, there will be profound effects on such an individual’s future behaviour.

Based on the attribution theory, a woman whose emotional scarring left by divorce influences her social welfare and psychology can be assisted by ta therapist by using the external or environmental factors tocoordinate the desire for behaviour modification. This theory therefore is related to the present study.

**Review of Empirical Studies**

This section reviews studies carried out in areas related to the present study. Mark (2009) carried out a study on the effects of near and actual parental divorce on student achievement and misbehaviour in Pittsburgh. The main purpose of the study was to verify the effects of near and actual parental divorce on student achievement and misbehaviour. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consists of 1530 secondary school teachers and students. The study was guided by three research questions and three null hypotheses. Using simple random sampling technique, 150 teachers and 150 students were selected for the study. Questionnaire was used to collect data; mean score and standard deviation were employed for data analysis, while t-test was used to test the null hypotheses.

The findings include that, children whose parents divorced experience worse outcome than children from two-parent families. It reveals steady declines in achievement and steady increases in misbehaviour after parental divorce relative to children from two-parent families. These declines capture the causal effect of parental divorce under the assumption that the only factor that changed the trajectories of children at the time of divorce was the parental divorce. However,the suggestions that post-divorce declines in children performance are likely due to the factors that caused the parents to divorce rather than to the legal dissolution of marriage itself.

This study is related to the on-going research study. While Mark’s study centred on the effects of near and actual parental divorce on student achievement and misbehaviour in Pittsburgh, the on-going study is on the influence of divorce on academic achievement of secondary schools students in Enugu State. Hence, both studies centre on the influence of divorce on students’ academic achievement. Ushie, Emeka, Ononga and Owolabi (2012) conducted a research on the influence of family structure on student’s academic performance in Agege local government area, Lagos State, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population of the study consists of 11,146 secondary school teachers and students. The stratified sampling technique was used to select 114 students from five public schools. Also, data on students’ academic performance was obtained from their scores in four selected subjects of English, mathematics, economics and biology. Data obtained were analysed using cross tabulation, tables, simple percentages, independent samples test and Multinomial Logistic Regression (MLR) and the t-test. The t-test result showed that there is no significant difference in the academic performance of students from single parent families and those from two parentfamilies (p > 0.05), while the MLR result revealed that parental socioeconomic background significantly influenced student’s academic performance (p<0.05).

The findings include that family structure did not determine student’s academic performance, but parental socioeconomic background; because, irrespective of the family structure, students whose parents have better jobs and higher levels of income tend of have higher levels of literacy performance.

The study is related to the on-going study in that; it investigated the influence of family structure on student’s academic performance in Agege local government area. The present study focuses on the influence of divorce on academic achievement of secondary schools students in Enugu State. Both studies are related for the reasons that both centre on students’ academic achievement.

Nwobodo (1997) conducted a research on factors associated with divorce among couples in public service in Enugu State; and its implication for family counselling. The purpose of the study was to investigate the factors that are associated with divorce among couples in public service of Enugu State and its implication for family counselling. The design of the study was a survey. Four research questions and four hypotheses guided the study. Total samples of 1,242 couples from Enugu State were selected from a population of 6,526 couples using disproportionate stratified random sampling technique. Questionnaire with a four-point rating scale was the instrument used to collect data for the study. The data collected were analysed using mean, standard deviation and t-test statistics.

White and Martin (2002) carried out a study on the effects of divorce on the academic achievement of third grade elementary school students in Northwest Tennessee. The purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of divorce on the academic achievement of third grade elementary school students. Ex-post factor design was used. The population of the study consisted of 20, third grade elementary school students from rural Northwest Tennessee. Using the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) to determine how well students perform prior to the divorce, the students was administered the text. Scores from TCAP families were used prior to the divorce and compared to TCAP scores made after the divorce. Scores made by TCAP children from the intact families in second and third grade were compared to pre-divorce and post-divorce scores made by children of divorce.

The findings revealed among others that there were significant differences in the subject area scores on the TCAP, Children of divorce scored significantly lower than children from intact families. The study is related to the present study because; it investigated on the effects of divorce on the academic achievement of third grade elementary school students.

**CHAPTER THEE**

**METHODOLOGY**

**3.1 Research Design**

The study could be described as a survey research. The study would investigate the Alibiri communities of B ayelsa through selecting 50 samples of single parents to find out single parenting and the challenges confronting the children and the women. This envisaged cross-sectional survey strategy would help to generalize for the population, and allow inferences to be made about the whole population at one point in time.

**3.2 Study Area**

Alibiri which is a small community in Bayelsa, which is one big village, with market,so good roads area the local government area with some Administrative Districts of governing the community, is located on the southern part of the region, The rural areas are mostly found in the Plains portion of the Alibiri where Communities with less than fifty (50) people are scattered here and there.

**3.3 Research Population**

The study was limited to single parents with a child or children living in the Alibiri community in Bayelsa of Nigeria.

**3.4 Sample Size**

The sample size for the study was one hundred respondents. The one hundred respondents selected for the study were living in ALIBIRI community for more than four years.

**3.5 Sampling Procedure**

This research work employed purposive and snowball sampling in selecting respondents for interview and responding to the questionnaire. In this study, respondents were chosen based on their willingness and capacity to answer to the questionnaire.

**3.6 Research Instrument**

Questionnaire and unstructured interviews were the research instruments used for the study. A self-designed questionnaire consisting of open-ended and close-ended questions was used. The reason for using the questionnaire was that, it was a quick way of collecting data and also known to be quite valid and reliable if well-constructed. The unstructured interview helped to obtain an in-depth response from the respondents.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**4.1 Characteristics of the Respondents**

The characteristics of the respondents in this study are showed in this section. Table 1 tells the age distribution of the respondents. Half (50%) of the respondents were between the ages of 31-40. The lowering of the percentage of single parents with age might be due to the fact that as people age they become more matured in handling family issue that are likely to cause single parents.

**Table 1: Age distribution of respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response** | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| 21-30 | 20 | 25 |
| 31-40 | 40 | 40 |
| 41-50 | 25 | 20 |
| 51-60 | 15 | 15 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015

**4.2 Employment status of Respondents**

Table 2 shows responses of the employment status of respondents. Most (65%) of the respondents are self-employed. The percentage of unemployed (10%) single parents will have influence on the ability of the single parent to cater for the children most especially needs.

**Table 2: Employment Status of Respondents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response** | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| Unemployed | 25 | 10 |
| Self Employed | 45 | 65 |
| Private | 30 | 25 |
| Total | 100 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015

**4.3 Causes of Single Parenting**

Table 3 presents responses of the causes of single parenting of respondents. Divorce as a cause of single parent which constituted 55 percent of the single parents interviewed. Teenage pregnancy, death of spouse and others constitute 10 percent, 25 percent and 10 percent respectively.

**Table 3: Causes of Single Parenting**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Response** | Teenage Pregnancy | Death Of Spouse | Divorce | Others | Total |
| **Frequency** | 10 | 25 | 55 | 10 | 100 |
| **Percentage** | 10 | 25 | 55 | 10 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015

**4.4 Nutrition Status of Children**

Table 4 shows whether children have access to balance diet. The majority (90%) of the respondents said they do give their children balanced diet while 10 percent do not give their wards balanced diet. These assertions must be subjective with respect to what constitute a balanced diet

**Table 4: Children eat a balance diet**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response** | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| YES | 80 | 80 |
| NO | 20 | 20 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015

**4.5 Child Care Arrangement in Single Parent Homes**

Results from table 5 indicates that majority(90%) of the single parents care and cater for their children alone without any help with few (10%) people having assistance from other sources. The availability of assistance for the single parent will have an effect on CARE status of their children

**Care for your child alone**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Response** | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| YES | 90 | 90 |
| NO | 10 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 |

Source: Field survey, 2015

Table 6 depicts that almost 58% of the respondents had spent about 0-8 years as single parent, 30% of the mothers had spent 8-16 years and 12% of the respondents spent over 16 years looking after the family single handedly.

**Table 6: Number of years spent as single mother**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***S. No.*** | **Response** | ***No.*** | ***% age*** |
| **1** | 0-8 years | **29** | **58** |
| **2** | 8-16 years | **15** | **30** |
| **3** | 8-16 years | **6** | **12** |
|  | **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**4.7 Emotional Problems Faced by Single Mothers**

Single mothers parenting do suffer challenges from a feeling of lack of identity after divorce/ widowhood. The research simply shows especially many of women whose identity was formerly associated with that of their husbands. In many women, feelings of guilt, shame, resentment, anger and anxiety about future are so dominant, that they bring out personality changes. Data was collected in order to determine information regarding experience of mothers following death of spouse, emotional problems faced by single mothers and strategies adopted to overcome emotional problems. Figure 2 depicts that 62% of the responds-dents were depressed or suffered from traumatic grief due to early death of their husband, 44% of the respondents went into shock when they heard about their husbands unnatural deaths in road accident, heart attack, snake biting, brain hemorrhage, 4% of the respondents stated that they were mentally prepared for this situation due to prolonged illness of their husband. Chen (1998) found that widows experience traumatic grief following the death of a spouse. Dave (2000) revealed that single mothers have higher incidence of major depression. Table 3 Depicts that majority 80% of the respondents felt helpless and hopeless and at times did not want to carry on with the tedious and monotonous role, 80% suffered from loneliness. This was more for women who lost their spouses due to accidents and heart attacks, 72% women lacked confidence in dealing with the new challenges of life. Forty-six percent felt lack of identity and thought their life was no longer meaningful and 40% stated that they suffer from emotional imbalance i.e. they have become

**Table 7: Emotional problems faced by single mother.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***S. No.*** | ***Responses*** | **No.** | ***% age*** |
| **1** | Helpless and hopeless | 40 | 80 |
| **2** | Lack of identity | 23 | 46 |
| **3** | Loneliness | 40 | 80 |
| **4** | Irritable and short tempered | 20 | 40 |
| **5** | Lack of confidence | 36 | 74 |

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**FIG 8 Experience of mothers following death of the spouse**

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**FIG 9 Coping strategies**

Table 6 depicts that majority (80%) of the single mothers still faced problem in providing the basic education to their children. Sixty percent of the respondents stated that they found it difficult to provide proper medical facilities to their children, 40% of single mothers faced problem in meeting food and clothing needs of the family, 50% of the mothers found problems in little place for them among married couples. Most of the widow’s social life is centered on activities with other women. If she is economically handicapped, then she is unable to participate in many community social organizations. Data was collected to determine participation of single mother in social gatherings/function, change in life style of the husband’s death or divorce, decision making regarding children future, problems faced by single mother in disciplining the children.

**Financial Problems Faced by Single Mothers**

Financial challenges have been a standing situation among the single parent. It hard for single families meeting the basic needs of children such as food, clothing, school fees, maintaining the previous standard of living and meet personal expense and needs in ALIBIRI community in Bayelsa. Data was collected to determine information regarding earning prior to marriage, financial problems faced after husband’s death, present source of income, present financial problems faced by single mother, help reeked during financial crises. Table 4 shows that majority (95%) of the single mothers had never worked outside the home before marriage. It is clear from Table 5 that half of the

**TABLE 8: EARNING PRIOR TO MARRIAGE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***S. No.*** | **Response** | ***No.*** | ***% age*** |
| **1** | Yes | **8** | **5** |
| **2** | No | **42** | **95** |
|  | **Total** | **50** | **100** |

Table 6 depicts that majority (80%) of the single mothers still faced problem in providing the basic education to their children. Sixty percent of the respondents stated that they found it difficult to provide proper medical facilities to their children, 40% of single mothers faced problem in meeting food and clothing needs of the family, 50% of the mothers found problems in home.

**TABLE 9: PRESENT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FACED BY SINGLE MOTHERS.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***S. No.*** | ***Responses*** | **No.** | ***% age*** |
| **1** | Education of the Children | 40 | 80 |
| **2** | Food Items | 20 | 40 |
| **3** | Clothing | 40 | 80 |
| **4** | Paying of Electricity/ 25 50  Water Bills | 20 | 40 |
| **5** | House Rent | 3 | 6 |
| **6** | Medical Facility | 30 | 60 |
|  |  |  |  |

Single mothers had become the primary wage earners after the death of their husbands. They were forced to shoulder responsibilities of their family.

Figure 5 shows that 36% of single mothers took the help of their relatives at the time of financial crises, 22% of them did not approach anybody for help because they thought that it might hurt their self-respect, so they tried to solve their problems on their own and sometimes it led to depression, 20% of them approached their parents, 16% their neighbors, 6% their friends and 6% took help of Non-Governmental Organizations.

Only 2% approached their in-laws\ during financial crises. Mcloyd (1994) in his study also revealed that financial strain led to depression in single mothers.

**TABLE 10: IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AFTER HUSBAND’S DEATH.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***S. No.*** | ***Responses*** | **No.** | ***% age*** |
| **1** | Fulfilling basic needs of  the family and personal  expenses | 25 | 50 |
| **2** | School fee | 22 | 44 |
| **3** | Maintaining previous  standard | 21 | 42 |
| **4** | No problem | 3 | 6 |

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1 Conclusion**

Looking at the Alibiri community from the research of the effect of gender difference on the psychological adjustments of single parenting, it can be concluded that due to the increased changes from the traditional ways of doing things, from time past, single parent are more in the increasing and now widespread among the Nigerians populace and single parenting affect the Childs growth and emotional state of mind also with single parent be it father or mother. The results of the study show that divorce is the major cause of single parent in and almost all the single parent cares for their children alone.

**5.2 Recommendations**

From the survey research on effect of gender difference on the psychological adjustments of single parenting n Alibiri community, focusing on the findings of this study, these are the recommendations. Single patenting tends to show up in a family if Parents don’t tolerate, accommodate, appreciate and understand each other in marriage. Forces of disunity should be ignored, de-emphasized. From many views about single patenting should have Proper counseling for both couples before they enter in marriage? Looking at two parents in a family, they should try to stay together for the sake of good upbringing of their children .issues should be solve in the home, the couples should try and see the counselor for a help and settle the troubles themselves harmoniously. There should be a social welfare system to help needy families through economic empowerment

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QUESTIONAAR

Instruction please endeavors to complete the questionnaire by ticking the appropriate box supply the answer where necessary.

SECTION A. PERSONAL DATA / INFORMATION.

1. SEX / GENDER
2. Male
3. female
4. AGE RANGE

15 – 20

21 – 25

26 – 30

31- 35

36 – 40

Above 45

1. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND
2. Primary school learning certificate
3. Wace / NECO / SSCE / NABTEB
4. BSC / HND / OND
5. MSC / PGD / PHD
6. OTHER
7. MARITAL STATUS
8. SINGLE
9. MARRIED
10. DIVORCED

QUESTIONS ON THE EFFECT OF GENDER DIFFERENCE ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENTS OF SINGLE PATRENTING IN BAYELSA

1. Most people who live in chaotic homes end up being single parents.
2. Strongly agreed
3. Agreed
4. Undecided
5. disagreed
6. strongly agreed

1. most children of single parent are being properly taken care of
2. strongly agreed
3. agreed
4. undecided
5. disagree
6. strongly disagreed
7. The following are possible effect of gender difference on the psychological adjustments of single parenting in Bayelsa.
8. Lack of proper education on the part of the child.
9. High-level of prostitution and other social vices.
10. Increased number of school dropout
11. High – level of poverty
12. Unemployment
13. Emotional loneliness and identification
14. Financial stress on mothers
15. strongly agreed
16. agreed
17. Undecided
18. Disagree
19. strongly disagreed

1. The following are the possible cause of single parenting
2. Lack of adequate home upbringing
3. Illiteracy / lack of education
4. Pear group influence / pressure
5. Rape
6. Divorce
7. strongly agreed
8. agreed
9. Undecided
10. Disagreed
11. strongly disagreed

1. increase level of education would improve single parent homes
2. strongly agreed
3. agreed
4. Undecided
5. Disagreed

1. strongly disagreed
2. Gainfully employment would improve single parent home in Bayelsa
3. strongly agreed
4. agreed
5. Undecided
6. Disagreed
7. strongly disagreed