

# Behavioral Problems of the Single-Parent Adolescents

Dr. Jyothi H P

*Assistant Professor, Department of Studies in Social Work,  
University of Mysore, Mysuru*

**Abstract:** The family plays a crucial role in child development, but the number of single parent family has increased greatly in recent years, children with single parent families are more prone to behavioral problems so growing up in a single parent family puts children at risk. The present empirical study conducted in Mysuru city and the sample of 50 adolescents and single parents were taken for the study.

**Keywords:** Adolescents, Family, Single parents, Behavior

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Family is the most important primary group in society. It is the most elementary form of society and the most basic of all social groupings. It is the first and the most immediate social environment to which a child is exposed and sociological. It is an outstanding primary group, it is in the family that the child develops its basic attitudes. From the moment of birth to the moment of death the family exerts a constant influence.

According to M.F. Nimkoff he says that “Family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without child, or of a man or women alone, with children. Due to urbanization and modernization the nuclear family came into existence. Further, a single parenting family has increased greatly in recent years.

The number of single parent family has increased greatly in recent years. These are reasons for this; first, many more single parent families are the results of divorce than of death and, second an increasing number of illegitimate babies are cared for by their mothers instead of being made by available for adoption, as in the past. Third it can be result of death of a parent, out-of-wedlock birth, court appointed guardianship, or other factors that single parent is totally responsible for the rearing of the children.

It is difficult and challenging to be a parent today and it is even more difficult to raise children alone. Parents or often overwhelmed and lacking parenting skills necessary to do a good job. But good parenting has less to do with the number of parents in the home and more to do with the quality of parenting. Whether a mother or father heads the single parent house hold, raising children alone is enormous task.

Single parent families, these can be no doubt that raising children is much more difficult alone than with. a co-operating partner. But there are thousands of single mothers in India today, who have single-hardily taken on the responsibility of their children. This is perhaps, a indicator of changing relationships.

### *Behavioral Problems:*

Behavioral problems have begun to increase mainly due to broken homes, scattered relationship, numerous major changes in life, and a lack of basic securely. Children who are raised in households with only one parent are more likely to suffer health problems, such a mental illness and suicide risk, than children raised by two parents.

Children with single parent families are more prone to anxiety disorders and mood disorders especially depression. Anti-social behavior like drug addiction and alcoholism are seen quite often in the child-especially male. Similarly lack of self-confidence is another characteristics found. If life does not move the way they want, they find to be stressful. These children find to be more possessive and self-centered. If the child is a female she is more likely to be a dependent personality. Similarly they will be more sensitive to events and this indeed increases this stress.

In accordance with studies by Whitehead, Margeret, Holland(2003), found that stressors like parent’s marital problems how socio-economic status, large family size, paternal criminality, parent’s somatic or psychiatric illness, and learning disabilities were related to children’s psychiatric disorders.

Boys in single-parents households were more likely than gives to develop psychiatric and narcotic related problems and were also more likely to die of any cause. Growing up in a single parent family puts children at risk.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The aim of the study is to study of Behavioral problems of single parent adolescents in Mysore city.

*Objectives of the study:*

1. Whether the order of birth will have any influence on behavioral problems in children.
2. To study the relationship between parents educational background and behavioral problems in children.
3. To study the relationship between socio-economic status of parents and behavioral problems in children.

*Hypothesis:*

H-1: There will be significant relationship between order of birth and behavioral problems in children.

H-2 : These will be significant relationship between parent’s educational background and behavioral problems in children.

H-3: There will be significant relationship between parent’s socio-economic status and behavioral problems in children.

*Sample:*

A sample of 50 adolescents and their single parent were taken Mysuru City, separate questionnaires were given to measure parent’s perception and behavior problems of children were collected individually.

*Tools:*

Behavioral problems questionnaire and checklist consist of part-A for parents and part-B for adolescents, prepared by the investigator.

*Procedure:*

*Phase-I*

Parents perception questionnaire i.e. part-A were given to single parents. Parents were informed and explained about the study is being conducting our how to answer the questions and the parents were also assured about this absolute confidentiality of the answers.

*Phase-II*

Behavioral problems questionnaire i.e. part-B were given to adolescents of single parent. Adolescent were informed and explained about the study by investigator and explained how to answer and answered this absolute confidentiality of the answerer.

*Statistical Application:*

The filled questionnaires were collected and scored by the investigator and scores were analyzed statistically by finding mean, correlation, regression, ‘t’ test and ANOVA.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The obtained data through test course analytical with appropriate statistical methods. The results were presented in a tabular form.

Table: 1.1

Results of ANOVA for the order of birth in the children and the influence on behavioral problems.

Source	df	Sum of Square	Mean sum of Square	F
Order of birth	2	5069.68	20.8484	0.1244
Error	47	1073.3032	22.82	
Total	49	1079.00	-	

ANOVA results clearly revealed that order of birth of the children did not have any influence on the behavioral problems of the children. The obtained ‘f’ value is 0.1244 with 2 and 47 degrees if freedom, it is found to be non-significant whether the child places in any of the order i.e. first, second, or third, does not have any influence on the behavioral problems in children.

Table:1.2

Results of ANOVA for the parent’s education and the influence of behavioral problems.

Source of variation	df	Sum of Square	Mean sum of Square	F
Educational level of Parent	4	11.7911	2.947	0.1242
Error	45	1067.208	23.715	
Total	49	1079.00	-	

ANOVA results clearly revealed that parent’s education did not show any influence on the behavioral problem of the children. The obtained ‘f’ value is 0.1242 with 4 and 45 degree of freedom, it is found to be non-significant. Whether the parents are educated or not educated, it does not have any influence on the behavioral problems of the children.

Table: 1.3

Results of ANOVA for the Socio-Economic status and the influence on behavioral problem.

Source of variation	df	Sum of Square	Mean sum of Square	F
Socio-economic status	2	12.798	63.99	0.2821
Error	47	1066.202	22.68	
Total	49	1079.00	-	

ANOVA results clearly revealed that socio-economic status did not have any influence on the behavioral problem of the children. But some children's are facing economic problems, because of insufficient support with regard to monetary problem by a single parent which leads to economic problem in child's educational carries. This shows that the cares of the child in educational achievement declines, not only in educational aspect but also because of the low socio-economic status. The children cannot offered to come out to the level of peer group. The obtained 'f' value is 0.2821, with 2 and 47 degree of freedom, it is found to be non-significant, so, the socio-economic status did not have only influence on the behavior problems of the children's.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This study has conducted to study the behavioral problems of adolescents with single parent family.

Behavior problems are those forms of behaviors which indicate that something is wrong with the child himself or in the environment he lives. Thus, behavioral problem interferences with social and cognitive functioning, and as whole interferes the development of the child.

Studies have revealed that children in single parent's families are more prone to behavior problems. Several other studies have also shown that the child. Whose parents are not living together such child's self-concept is low. Many children's of single of parents poorly adjusted as a result of their comfortable, self-concepts, self-confidence, depressed etc... There were many studies regarding behavior problems such as nail biting, nightmares and night terrors, truancy and suicidal thought etc...

To conclude, it is found that:

1. Anxiety effects behavioral problem in children.
2. Loss of one parent has impact on the behavioral problem.
3. Loneliness: This also leads to behavioral problems.
4. Lack of care negligence by parent's leads to behavioral problems.

5. Lack of socio-economic status leads to educational and social aspects are the society.
6. Unhealthy parent-child relationship leads to behavioral problem.

Thus family is playing very crucial role in socializing the child and both parents are very important to nurturing a child behaviors and personality. Single parent adolescents should be given proper care, love and affection, counseling and social work interventions are very much needed to address the behavioral problems of a single parent adolescent.

So, growing up in a single parent family puts children at risk. But this does not, mean that every child or every single parent will have problems. It means, however, more attention is needed in prevention. Hence a healthy relationship between a child and a single parent should be maintained.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1]. Byrant, Alison L., Zimmerman Marc A (2003) Role molles and Psychoisoical outcomes Journal of adolescent research, vol. 18, (1) page(s) 36-67.
- [2]. Bray, James M (1982). The single-parent family: complex system. #ED 228599. Research/Technical report. PP. 1-27.
- [3]. [www.heritage.org/research/features/familydatabase/results](http://www.heritage.org/research/features/familydatabase/results) -similar pages.
- [4]. [www.helping.apa.org/family/single](http://www.helping.apa.org/family/single) - similar pages.
- [5]. Murlock B Elizabeth, (1981), "Development psychology", 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, McGraw Hill Company, New York.
- [6]. Nimkoff M.F., Ogburn W.F, A Handbook of Sociology.
- [7]. Nadia Barnifski, and Rene F W Diekstra (1997) "Adolescents from one-parent, and infact family: emotional problems and suicide attempts" journal of adolescent vol.20(14), page(s) 201-208.
- [8]. Positive discipline for single parents, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1999, prima publishing.
- [9]. Recharadson, Laura P Davis, Rovert, Poulton, Richie: McCauley, Elizabeth, Moffitt, Terie: caspi (2003), "A longitudinal evaluation of adolescent medicine", vol.157(8) pages(s) 739-745.
- [10]. Fodgers, Kothleen B, Rose, Miliary A (Nov-2002) "Risk and resiliency factors among adolescents who experience marital transition", journal of marriage and family, Vol. 64(8) page(s) 1024-1037.
- [11]. Sharma Rajiv S (1999) " the study of well and maladjusted adolescent" journal of psychological research vol. 21(1), pp 87-91.
- [12]. Whitehead, Margeret, Holland, Paula (Jan 25 2003) "What puts children of lone parents at a health disadvantage?" vol. 361 (9354), pp. 271.