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The Effects of Single-Parenting on a Child

A parent may end up being single due to divorce, separation or death of a spouse.

Whatever the case, single parenting has adverse effects on children. Most of the times, people focus on the negative effects such as related trust issues, abandonment and economic troubles (Anyebe 65). However, there are many positive effects of raising children as a single parent, especially when the single parent is a woman.

Firstly, the bond between a child and the mother is stronger than the bond between children and parents in nuclear families (Gewirtz, Abigail, DeGarmo, and Zamir 5). This is because the mother spends more time with her children and since it is natural for females to take care of their young ones, the bond automatically increases when the female is all alone in the life of the child. The strong bond is likely to evolve and grow beyond the age of 18 years.

Secondly, children who are raised by single parents develop a strong community sense (Royal, et al 28). Children from single parents' households tend to be supported more by community members than those from nuclear families. Most single parents join community support groups, churches, and synagogues where the larger community influences the development of a child positively.

Children from single parents' households are more responsible than those from a nuclear family. Since they find it prudent to help their single parent in household chores, they end up behaving in a more responsible and a mature manner than their counterparts from other families (Gewirtz, Abigail, DeGarmo, and Zamir 7). Most of the time the children feel obliged to assist their parents because the parent spends much time with them and takes time to recognize their

efforts and praises them for assisting in household chores (Anyebe 74). This makes them mature since they appreciate the efforts that their single parents make to meet their daily needs. They learn how to manage their disappointments and frustrations in life since they learn from an early age that not everything they would want can be provided (Royal, et al 32). Instead of whining and complaining, they work and collaborate along with their single parents who respond encouraging them to work hard in life and live a better life than the one he/she can afford.

Children who are brought up by single parents appreciate the value of parenthood and are therefore likely to be successful parents themselves in future. They are also likely to be successful in their careers since they might have learned the virtue of resilience while growing up (Gewirtz, Abigail, DeGarmo, and Zamir 8). They know that to be successful, one has to work hard, unlike their counterparts in the nuclear family who could be provided for by their parents even when they are grown-ups.

Most single parents teach their children how to balance between their needs and the need of others as well as considering other people's welfare (Anyebe 69). Finally, children from single parents' households develop confidence and high self-esteem since they are not subjected to parental conflicts and domestic violence. Many nuclear families usually fight in the presence of their children which affects their psychological development.

To sum up, the fact that single-parenting affects a child is undeniable. While many social scientists focuses on negative effects, there are certain research that prove that there are many positive effects on a child who is raised by a single parent, such as good career performance, high level or responsibility and developing a strong community sense.

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