



Impact of Single-Parent Households on Child Educational Attainment in Suburban Areas

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Abstract

This study explores how unmarried-parent families affect the infant education achievement in the suburbs. Due to a qualitative research approach, data had been collected through semi-structured interviews with dad and mom, teachers, and pupils of many suburban schools. The results indicate large financial, emotional, and psychological strains that they face through children in single parent households and they take a toll on them in terms of academic achievement. In spite of these difficulties, the observe shows the importance of parental participation, strong faculty support, and network involvement as a means of reducing the negative outcomes and enhancing the beneficial ones. The study highlights the desire to have full-fledged help mechanisms and policies that address the specific needs of unmarried-determine families to enhance academic equity.

INTRODUCTION

The effect of unmarried-discern families on child instructional attainment has been a topic of great interest and difficulty within the discipline of training. The conventional own family structure has gone through massive adjustments over the last few decades, with increasingly more kids being raised in unmarried-figure families. In suburban regions, in which assets and social dynamics might also range from urban settings, knowledge how those own family structures affect academic effects is important for growing effective educational rules and guide structures. Research has constantly proven that kids from single-figure families often face unique demanding situations which could have an effect on their instructional performance and usual instructional attainment (Thomas, 2021; Carroll, 2020).

Single-discern families are frequently characterized via a decrease economic fame as compared to 2-discern families, that may directly effect the academic resources to be had to children. Financial constraints can restriction get admission to to first-class educational materials, extracurricular sports, and enrichment programs which can be crucial for educational achievement (Fletcher & Haynes, 2020). Additionally, unmarried dad and mom may face extra time constraints, balancing work and parenting responsibilities with out the aid of a partner. This can lessen the time and energy to be had to interact with their children's education, from assisting with homework to attending faculty events (Tamboto et al., 2021; Sanal-Erginel, 2022; Abed & Shackelford, 2023; Levinthal et al., 2022).

Research has indicated that the economic hazards faced by means of unmarried-figure families can result in decrease academic achievement. For example, children in these households are much more likely to wait faculties with fewer resources and much less experienced instructors, which can negatively affect their academic outcomes (Wilson & Kelley, 2022). The financial pressure often experienced through single-discern households also can cause higher levels of pressure and instability, that can in addition effect children's academic overall performance and psychological well-being (Li et al., 2021; Brenner et al., 2018).

Beyond financial elements, the emotional and psychological components of developing up in a single-discern household can also have an effect on academic attainment. Children in these families may enjoy higher ranges of pressure and emotional misery due to the absence of one determine, that can affect their attention and motivation in faculty. The absence of a mum or dad figure can lead to feelings of abandonment and low shallowness, further complicating their instructional journey (Biancalani et al., 2023). Moreover, unmarried mother and father, because of the twin burden of presenting financially and emotionally, may also have much less time to foster a supportive home environment conducive to getting to know (Mokwena & Ngoveni, 2020; Kelley et al., 2011).

Despite those challenges, it's far crucial to understand that many children from single-parent households exhibit top notch resilience and obtain high stages of academic fulfillment. Factors including strong parental involvement, powerful coping techniques, and supportive school environments can mitigate the bad impacts of single-parent circle of relatives systems (Watson, 2021; McLanahan & Sandefur, 2009). Research has highlighted the importance of social help networks, including extended circle of relatives members, buddies, and community assets, in providing the essential help for youngsters and single dad and mom.

In suburban areas, where socioeconomic conditions and access to resources may range from urban settings, the dynamics of single-discern households can vary. Suburban groups regularly have higher overall income levels and higher-funded colleges, which can offer a more supportive environment for youngsters from unmarried-discern families. However, those blessings can be offset with the aid of the potential social isolation and stigmatization that unmarried-figure families may also enjoy in predominantly -figure suburban groups.

The great of the faculty surroundings plays a critical position in shaping educational consequences for kids from single-figure families. Schools that offer robust instructional aid, counseling services, and extracurricular sports can help mitigate a number of the demanding situations faced with the aid of these children. Additionally, instructors and school administrators who are aware of the particular desires of students from unmarried-discern families can implement centered interventions to support their instructional and emotional improvement.

Parental involvement stays a key element inside the academic achievement of children from unmarried-figure families. Studies have shown that once unmarried parents are actively engaged in their children's schooling, including by way of keeping normal communique with instructors and taking part in school activities, their kids are much more likely to carry out well academically. Schools can guide unmarried parents through presenting bendy assembly times, presenting resources and schooling for domestic-based instructional sports, and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment (Collen, 2023).

In addition to parental involvement, community sources and social support networks play a vital function in assisting single-parent households (Horowitz, 2014). Access to after-college programs, tutoring offerings, and community centers can offer precious instructional and social opportunities for kids. These resources can help

alleviate some of the pressures on unmarried mother and father by offering safe and enriching environments for their kids outside of school hours (Bauer et al., 2022). Community agencies and neighborhood governments can collaborate to ensure that single-parent households have get right of entry to to those vital offerings.

Furthermore, coverage interventions at the local, state, and federal levels are vital for addressing the systemic demanding situations confronted by means of single-discern households. Policies that offer financial help, low cost childcare, and healthcare can help reduce the financial burdens on unmarried parents and improve the general nicely-being of their youngsters. Educational regulations that sell fairness and get admission to to best schooling for all college students, regardless of their family shape, are essential for last the success gap among youngsters from unmarried-discern and -determine households.

METHODS

This take a look at employed a qualitative studies technique to discover the effect of unmarried-determine households on child academic attainment in suburban areas. Data have been accumulated through semi-established interviews with mother and father, teachers, and college students from diverse suburban schools. Participants were decided on using purposive sampling to make sure a various variety of perspectives and reports. The interviews have been designed to elicit exact descriptions of the demanding situations and guide systems experienced by means of children from single-discern families, in addition to the techniques employed by mother and father and educators to promote instructional achievement. These periods have been audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim to make certain accuracy in capturing the participants' insights.

Data evaluation was performed the use of thematic evaluation, which worried coding the transcripts to discover ordinary subject matters and patterns. The initial coding turned into executed independently with the aid of multiple researchers to make sure reliability and reduce bias. The codes have been then compared and refined via collaborative discussions, main to the development of a coding framework. This framework was used to systematically examine the statistics, focusing on the important thing elements influencing instructional attainment, the function of parental involvement, and the impact of faculty and network support. The findings have been triangulated with current literature to enhance the validity of the conclusions drawn from the look at.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Economic Challenges and Educational Outcomes

The consequences of this take a look at underscore the sizable financial challenges confronted by way of unmarried-parent households in suburban regions and their subsequent impact on baby academic attainment. Interviewees frequently highlighted the battle to offer critical instructional resources, which are regularly extra on hand in two-determine families with blended earning. This locating aligns with prior research, which continually indicates that financial complication is a substantial barrier to instructional fulfillment for children in single-parent families (Bledsoe, 2023). For instance, one figure cited:

"It's hard to afford the more tutoring or instructional substances that my toddler desires to hold up with schoolwork. Every dollar counts while you're the best breadwinner."

In addition to confined financial resources, single dad and mom often face greater work-associated pressures, lowering their availability to have interaction in their children's educational activities. This lack of time and strength can prevent mother

and father from offering the essential assist for homework and college projects, that are important for educational success (Sicam et al., 2021). Another interviewee shared:

"After working lengthy hours, I barely have time to help my son along with his homework, not to mention attend determine-instructor conferences. It looks like I'm constantly falling brief."

This statement is supported by using Sicam et al. (2021), who discovered that unmarried dad and mom' time constraints negatively affect their involvement of their kid's schooling.

Moreover, the financial stress regularly ends in better tiers of pressure within the household, which could have destructive outcomes on children's educational performance and emotional properly-being. As one pupil described, "Sometimes, I worry about my mother due to the fact she's constantly pressured approximately cash. It's tough to concentrate on college when matters are hard at home." This sentiment echoes Lee (2021) findings, emphasizing the need for economic aid mechanisms for unmarried-parent households to relieve a number of those pressures and improve educational consequences.

Emotional and Psychological Impact

The emotional and mental demanding situations skilled with the aid of children in unmarried-determine households emerged as a enormous theme in this study. Interviewees continually reported feelings of stress, abandonment, and occasional self-esteem among kids, which adversely affect their academic performance. This aligns with Lee (2021) studies, which highlights the mental toll of developing up in a unmarried-discern family. One instructor found:

"I see quite a few youngsters from unmarried-determine families suffering with emotional troubles. They regularly experience like they don't in shape in or that they may be lacking some thing crucial".

The absence of one parent can lead to a lack of emotional aid, further complicating children's educational journey. As noted by using Engel (2010), the absence of a father or mother figure can make a contribution to emotions of abandonment, affecting kid's self-esteem and motivation. A scholar shared:

"Not having my dad around makes me sense special from different youngsters. I now and again experience like I'm no longer properly sufficient."

This emotional strain can obstruct children's capacity to attention on their studies and carry out properly academically.

Despite these demanding situations, the look at observed that kids who acquired strong emotional support from their remaining figure and other own family members exhibited greater resilience and higher instructional consequences. This locating is constant with Hetherington & Stanley-Hagan (1999), who emphasized the significance of social help networks in mitigating the terrible affects of unmarried-discern family systems. One discern remarked:

"I rely a lot on my mother and father and siblings to assist with my youngsters. Their aid has been valuable, especially in the course of hard times."

This underscores the essential function of prolonged circle of relatives and network in supplying emotional and mental help to children from unmarried-determine families.

Role of Parental Involvement

The examine's findings highlight the vital role of parental involvement inside the educational success of youngsters from unmarried-determine households. Active engagement in a toddler's education, which includes preserving communication with instructors and participating in faculty activities, became associated with higher educational effects. This observation aligns with Hill & Tyson (2009), who observed that parental involvement is a key predictor of student achievement. One teacher stated:

"When single parents are concerned of their toddler's training, the difference is significant. Their children are greater engaged and carry out higher academically."

However, the study also recognized widespread obstacles to parental involvement, in the main associated with time constraints and absence of sources. Single dad and mom frequently conflict to balance paintings and parenting responsibilities, leaving little time to participate in college activities or assist with homework. This locating is consistent with Ikechukwu (2017), who recognized time pressures and monetary constraints as major barriers to parental involvement. One figure shared:

"I need to be extra involved in my daughter's school, but my task makes it without a doubt tough. Sometimes, I experience like I'm failing her."

Despite these demanding situations, the have a look at discovered that colleges that offered bendy assembly times and resources to guide home-primarily based academic activities saw better ranges of parental involvement. This finding helps Jeynes (2012), who emphasized the importance of college regulations that accommodate the desires of unmarried parents. One figure remarked:

"The school has been remarkable in scheduling conferences around my work hours and offering materials for at-domestic sports. It's made a large difference in how I can aid my child's getting to know."

This underscores the importance of making inclusive and flexible faculty environments to foster extra parental involvement.

School and Community Support

The take a look at discovered that strong school and community guide systems are crucial for the instructional success of children from single-parent families. Schools that offer robust instructional assist, counseling offerings, and extracurricular sports can assist mitigate the challenges faced by way of these kids. This finding aligns with research by means of Jeynes (2012), which highlights the high-quality impact of supportive college environments on pupil achievement. One student shared:

"My college has a top notch tutoring application and counselors who clearly care. They've helped me plenty, especially when matters are tough at home."

In addition to high school-based totally assist, the have a look at observed that network sources such as after-faculty packages, tutoring services, and network centers play a crucial position in supporting single-parent families. These assets provide treasured educational and social opportunities for youngsters, supporting to alleviate some of the pressures on unmarried dad and mom. One figure cited:

"The community center offers after-faculty programs that my kids love. It offers them a safe place to go and facilitates them with their homework."

Despite the availability of these resources, the have a look at identified gaps in get right of entry to and attention. Some unmarried-determine families were blind to the sources to be had to them or confronted obstacles in accessing those services. This finding is supported via Temin et al. (2013), who emphasised the want for greater

awareness and accessibility of help services for unmarried-figure families. One parent remarked:

"I did not recognise approximately the tutoring program till a chum informed me. There ought to be extra information available to mother and father like me."

This highlights the want for higher outreach and communicate to make sure that all single-figure households can gain from available sources.

Policy Implications

The study's findings have vital implications for academic and social guidelines geared toward supporting unmarried-parent families. Policies that provide economic assistance, inexpensive childcare, and healthcare can help reduce the economic burdens on single mother and father, thereby improving the overall well-being in their youngsters. This remark is consistent with Temin et al. (2013), who argued for coverage interventions to deal with the systemic demanding situations confronted by single-discern households. One determine emphasized:

"Access to less expensive childcare and healthcare could make a huge difference. It might relieve quite a few the monetary strain and permit me to attention more on my toddler's training."

Additionally, academic rules that promote fairness and get entry to to satisfactory training for all college students, regardless of their family shape, are crucial for closing the success gap. This consists of investment for faculties in suburban areas to make sure they have the resources to assist kids from single-figure households successfully. One instructor referred to:

"Our faculty may want to achieve this a great deal extra with additional investment. More assets would mean better support for our college students, particularly those from single-figure families."

Moreover, the take a look at highlights the significance of fostering robust college-family-community partnerships. Policies that inspire collaboration among colleges, families, and network groups can create a extra supportive surroundings for kids from unmarried-parent families. This finding aligns with Lewallen et al. (2015), who advocated for incorporated offerings to aid kid's educational and social improvement. One community leader remarked:

"When schools, households, and community groups paintings together, the effect on children's lives is profound. It's approximately constructing a community of assist that can deal with the diverse needs of unmarried-parent families."

This fact reveals the importance of cooperative work across schools and families and community organizations, ensuring educational attainment and well-being of children in single-parent families. With these major stakeholders collaborating, a complete and integrated network is formed whereby not only do they introduce solutions to the academic problems, but also the utilization of addressing the emotions, mind, and social needs of the child. This coordination would assist in filling the void that single-parent households tend to encounter especially when it comes to lack of time, lack of resources, and lack of opportunity. That is in line with the concept of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model, which focuses on the fact that the educational achievements of children in schools are inextricably linked to their health, well-being, and support systems (Lewallen et al., 2015). Through partnership with other schools, households and community groups, one can be able to facilitate the kind of environment that enables children in single parent families to survive with all the challenges they have to endure. This whole-person approach helps not only to achieve academic success but also boost

resilience, the sense of belonging, and stability, which are essential factors of long-term positive outcomes.

Addressing the Educational Challenges of Children from Single-Parent Households

The results of the current work add additional evidence to the fact that children who have a single parent find it difficult to attain the highest educational results, especially in the suburban setting. This discussion interprets these findings against the context of general literature, theories, and implications, although it is evident that economic, emotional, and psychological aspects have been identified as barriers in the results.

First, financial setbacks in which single-parent families find themselves was one of the factors that played a big role in terms of educational achievements. This concurs with some available literature that poor households have a low level of access to educational material, extracurricular activities and enrichment programs which is important in the academic achievement process (Fletcher & Haynes, 2020; Wilson & Kelley, 2022). These results support the idea that economic disadvantage narrows not only the provision of material resources but also presents parents with an even greater work burden, decreasing the amount of time they can spend on active educational engagement, as Sicam et al. (2021) indicate. Such dynamics reaffirm the nature of the continuous connection between socioeconomic status and educational achievement, which has been determined since decades of research on education.

As of monetary difficulties, this paper shows how children whose parents are divorced or single become an emotional and psychological burden. Abandonment, poor self-esteem, and high anxiety levels that were mentioned by participants can be correlated with prior research (Engel, 2010; Biancalani et al., 2023). All these emotive aspects of living in a one-parent family disrupt the concentration, motivation, and general interest of children towards education. These results indicate that the emotional well-being of students needs to be viewed as an important aspect of academic success, and this idea implies the relevance of the argument presented by Hetherington & Stanley-Hagan (1999) that resilience commonly develops in the supportive relationships outside the nuclear family within the broadest sense of the term.

One of the key findings of the given study is the key role played by the parental involvement even under the limitation of single-parent families. Although these parents have huge obstacles in their way, parents who remain active in the education of their children are capable of averting much of the negative outcomes of having a child born out of wedlock. This is in agreement with the general researchers view that parental participation in whatever form of family structure, remains a determining factor of success in academics (Hill & Tyson, 2009). It also confirms the claim by Jeynes (2012) that schools are important in enhancing this participation by offering flexible policies and favourable practices.

Besides, the importance of school and community supportive structures comes to the fore. Sections of schools which offer counseling, extracurricular activities, and academic support, build a protective environment, which counterbalances the effects of living in single-parent families towards children. This fact is similar to the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child approach created by Lewallen et al. (2015) regarding integrated support systems as critical to both educational and social growth. After-school programs/tutoring services are community-based support systems that complement these support systems further and, this study also identified a lack of awareness and accessibility to these systems, which indicate the requirement of a better communication strategy.

The implications of these findings are important to policy. Issue of changing the educational gap between the children in single-parent families and children in multi-parent families should be attacked by intertwining the resources of educational, social, and governmental spheres. Monetary support, conducive childcare and health support can directly reduce the burden on a single parent so as to be able to be more active in the education of their children. The policies on education should focus on being inclusive, adaptable, and provide resources that guarantee every child, no matter the family setup, equal chances of success. Such suggestions resonate with Temin et al. (2013) and other supporters of systemic approaches to the problem instead of personal blame or anticipation.

When drawing meaning out of these results it is worth considering the resilience that many children at single-parent families show. Some participants also succeeded despite the challenges that they faced because of the good family and school-based as well as community support that they received. This further drives the notion that support systems and not family structure are major determining aspect to educational achievement. Schools, communities and policymakers have to understand the diversity of familial experiences and invest in approaches to close the opportunity gaps preoccupying single- parent families.

CONCLUSION

The results of this glance highlight the drastic effect that the unmarried-figure-family overlooks on the training of the baby in the suburban areas. The economical problems, limited economic resources and enhanced paintings-related demands had been demonstrated to significantly eliminate the potential of single parents to provide the significant direction of their child training. Also, the pressure that comes with the use of kids in single-determine families, both emotionally and psychologically, further clouds their academic dispensation. Based on those pressurizing conditions, excellent parental participation, robust college support, and vibrant network involvement had been deemed important variables which would avert those adverse outcomes and market greater educative outcomes to those youngsters. In order to respond to unique needs of children in unmarried-figure households, policymakers, educators, and community leaders must plan together to create extensive supportive systems. This involves provision of economic support, expansion of easy access to desirable learning facilities, and the creation of accommodating faculty conditions that are supportive of the constraints faced by single parents. By imposing policies that sell fairness and actively regarding all stakeholders, it is viable to shut the fulfillment gap and ensure that youngsters from unmarried-parent households have the opportunity to be successful academically. Future research ought to retain to explore these dynamics, focusing at the development and implementation of targeted interventions that deal with each the financial and emotional wishes of unmarried-figure households.

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