



# Causes and Effects of Single Parenthood on Academic Performance of Students in Southwestern Part of Nigeria

*Adebara Lanre, Bolarinwa Folashade, Adeola, Ajayi Bamidele*

Department of Statistics, The Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Email: [lanreadebara@gmail.com](mailto:lanreadebara@gmail.com), [adebara\\_la@fedpolyado.edu.ng](mailto:adebara_la@fedpolyado.edu.ng),

## ABSTRACT

Single parenting is when a parent, either a mother or a father, raising their children alone without the help of another. This study looks into the causes and effects of single parenthood on academic performance of students in southwestern part of Nigeria. Five hundred (500) respondents in both university and polytechnic in three states (Ekiti, Ondo, Osun) of southwestern part of Nigeria were administered questionnaire to collect data on the causes (poverty, death of spouse, marital violence (divorce and separation) and extra marital pregnancy) and the effects (low commitment, lack of attention, poor financial strength, and low impact on the wellbeing of children) of single parenthood. Multiple bar chart as a descriptive statistics was used and it showed a higher proportion respondents agreed to death of spouse and low impact on the wellbeing of children (students) as the main cause and effect of single parenthood on academic performance of students in southwestern part of Nigeria. Chi-square test of independence was used to investigate effect of single parenthood on students' academic performance, the obtained data were analyzed. The results from the three states reveal that p-value less than level of significance and null hypothesis rejected. It was concluded that single parenting affects students' academic performances

**Keywords:** Single Parenthood, Multiple bar chart, Causes, Effects, academic performance

## 1.0 Introduction

Education is highly valued in every nation. Because of this, it receives a lot of attention from the family, the community, and all governmental levels; education is organized, talked about, and managed. It is claimed that by influencing attitudes and ideals that result in happy lives, education changes both individuals and the nation. A child may have no choice but to have a single parent due to the death of one spouse or various forms of divorce.

When a mother or father raises their children alone without the help of another, this is known as single parenting. According to Puijhasvuty et al. (2021), a single parent is someone who chooses to become a single parent through adoption or donor insemination and raises one or more dependent children without the assistance of an adult partner who shares parenting duties. According to gender-specific statistics, more women than men are raising their children alone, as discussed by Bhatt (2020). Kessie (2023) discussed that children's academic achievement is influenced by their parents' income as well as the family's race or ethnicity. As Fotoh (2021) discusses, it was widely accepted that one of the primary elements influencing the influence on children's performance was the educational level of single parents. Similar to the study, Sackey et al. (2022) discussed how adolescents from single-parent households often struggle to interact with others in the classroom and have low self-esteem.

A global concern, Munir et al. (2021) pointed out that the phenomenon of single parenting is a social problem in many countries today, depriving many children of the chance to achieve academic excellence in their lives and excellent labor factors for national productivity and progress. Despite the absence of official statistics, anecdotal evidence and tabloid headlines indicate that the number of single-parent homes in Nigeria is rising daily. In contrast, Agulanna (1999) discusses the exponential increase in the proportion of adults and children living in single-parent households in western countries.

Children from intact married homes benefit from basic education, according to Abudu and Fuseini (2014); as a result, the dissolution of such households affects the academic achievement and attainment of children. According to Abudu and Fuseini (2014), "a gap is created when one of the parents is absent from a child's life because the child would lose the support that would have emanated from that parent." Since socialization depends on intact families, being a single parent has a significant impact on academic attainment. A child's mindset and style of thinking are affected differently when they are raised by a single parent. Advocates and psychologists have confirmed this throughout time. In their study on the effects of single parenting on junior secondary school pupils' academic achievement in mathematics, Lasisi et al. (2024) discovered that students who have a single parent are more likely to have low academic performance, financial difficulties, and other social and economic issues.

This paper examines causes of single parenthood which are poverty, death of spouse, marital violence (divorce and separation) and extra marital pregnancy and its effects (low commitment, lack of attention, poor financial strength, and low impact on the wellbeing of children) on students' academic performances

### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

It is important to remember that high-quality education is costly and can be out of reach for the majority of low-income single-parent households. Consequently, as single parenting has an impact on their children, it is important to understand the reasons behind single motherhood and how it affects kids' academic achievement

### 1.3 Research Hypotheses

Is there any causes trace to single parenthood

Does single parenthood affect academic performance

### 1.4 Aim and Objectives

The aim is know the causes and effect of single parenthood on the academic performance of students with the objectives as follows:

to identify causes of single parenthood

to examine its level of effects

to determine if single parenting affect students' academic performances

## 2. Material and Methods

Chi Square test of independent was used for the analysis to determine if single parenthood affect academic performances of students.

$$\chi^2 = \sum \sum \frac{(o_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

TABLE 1: The table showing the Frequency of Responses for the causes of Single Parenthood in Ekiti Ondo Osun State

Causes	Strongly agree			Agree			Disagree			Strongly Disagree		
	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun
Poverty	151	81	107	191	131	136	118	210	160	40	78	97
Death of spouse	180	121	146	209	223	199	75	125	83	36	31	72
Marital Violence	194	149	143	207	208	211	65	107	78	34	36	68
Extra Marital Pregnancy	188	120	126	218	204	200	60	123	98	34	53	76

Table 1.1: Summary of Responses for the causes of Single Parenthood in Ekiti Ondo Osun States

Causes	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Poverty	339(22.6%)	458(30.5%)	488(32.5%)	215(14.4%)
Death of spouse	447(29.8%)	631(42.1%)	283(18.9%)	139(9.2%)
Marital violence	486(32.4%)	626(41.7%)	250(16.7%)	138(9.2%)
Marital Pregnancy	434(28.9%)	622(41.5%)	281(18.7%)	163(10.9%)

FIGURE 1: A multiple bar chart showing the causes of single parenthood

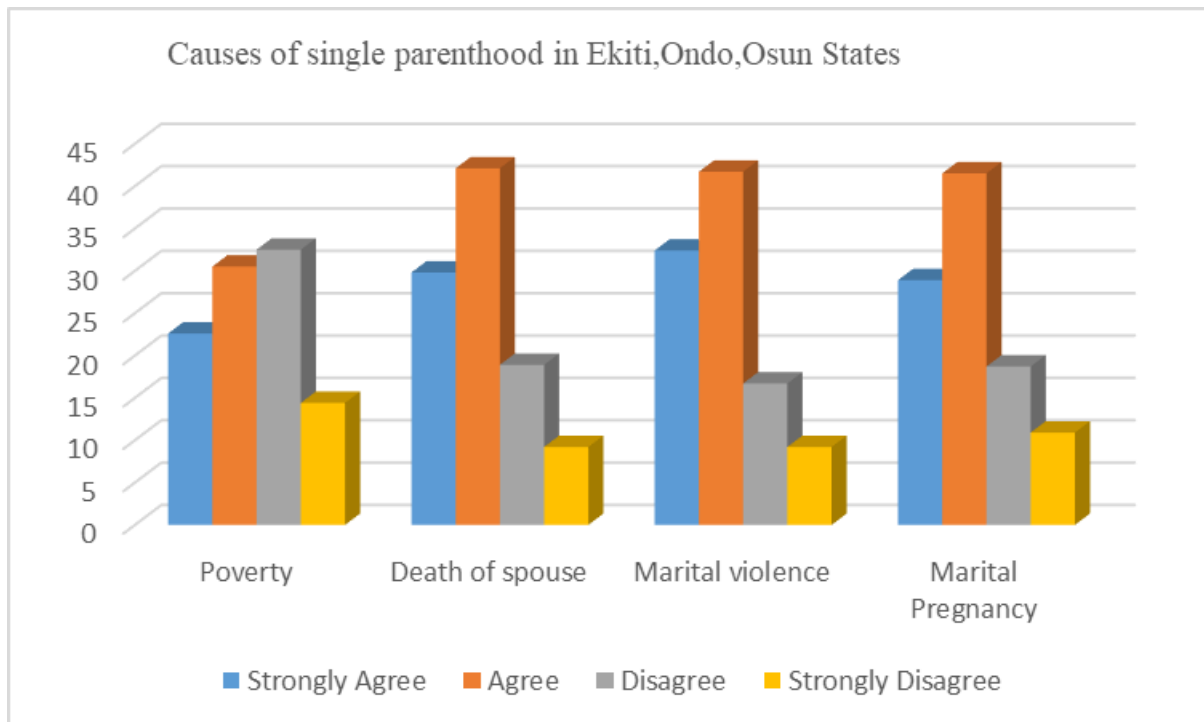


Table 2: The below shows the frequency of response for the effect of single parenting on students academic performance in three states (Ekiti, Ondo, Osun) in southwestern part of Nigeria

Effects	Strongly agree			Agree			Disagree			Strongly Disagree		
	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun
Low commitment	151	135	100	191	205	175	118	118	128	40	42	97
Lack of attention	180	116	90	209	154	163	75	198	175	36	32	72
Poor financial strength	194	135	117	207	177	180	65	147	135	34	41	68
Low impact on the wellbeing of children	161	125	92	207	189	177	99	152	146	33	34	85

Table 2.1: Summary of Responses for the effect of single parenting on students academic performance in Ekiti, Ondo, Osun States

Causes	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Low commitment	386(25.7%)	571(38.1%)	364(24.3%)	179(11.9%)
Lack of attention	386(25.7%)	526(35.1%)	448(29.9%)	140(9.3%)
Poor financial strength	446(29.8%)	564(37.6%)	347(23.1%)	143(9.5%)
Low impact on the wellbeing of children	378(25.2%)	573(38.2%)	397(26.5%)	152(10.1%)

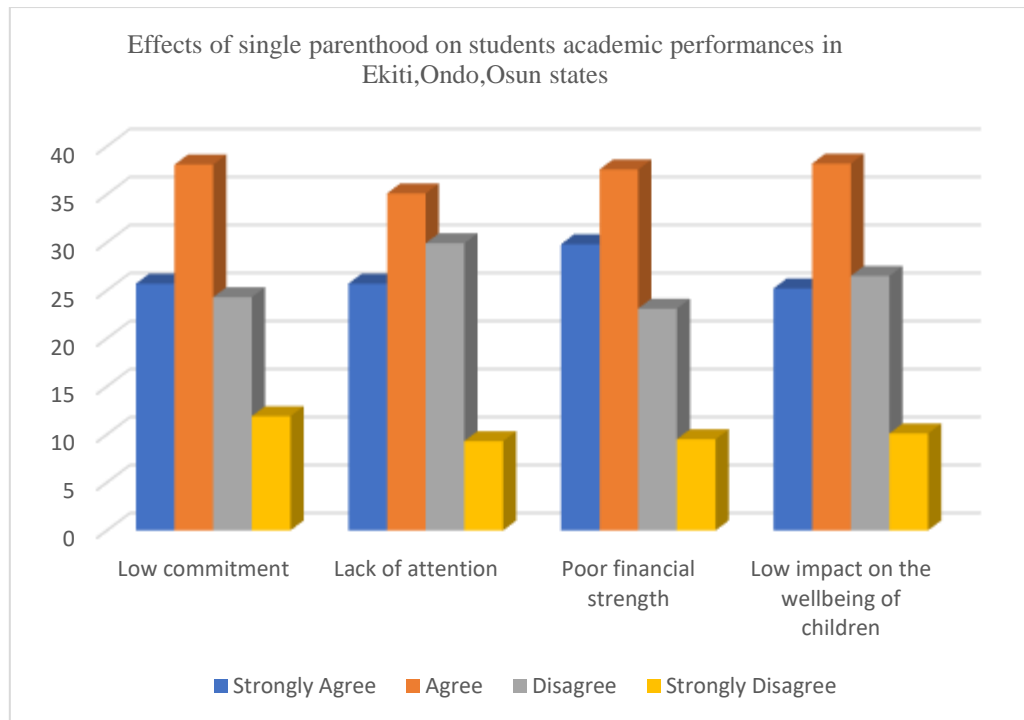


FIGURE 2: A multiple bar chart showing the effect single parenthood on students academic performances

### 2.1 Chi Square Analysis

To test for the independence between the grade and category of parent

Hypothesis Statements

$H_0$ : Single parenting does not affect academic performance.

$H_1$ : Single parenting affects academic performance.

Test Statistic

$$\chi^2 = \sum \sum \frac{(o_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

Decision rule: Reject  $H_0$  if p-value  $\leq \alpha$  -value, otherwise do not reject,  $\alpha$  (significance level) = 0.05

Table 3: Shows grade and category of parent crosstabulation in Ekiti Ondo Osun States

Grade * Category_of_Parent Crosstabulation										
Count										
		Category_of_Parent						Total		
		Single Parent			Both Parents					
		Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun
Grade	3rd Class/Pass	71	52	31	16	13	22	87	65	53
	2nd Class Lower/Lower Credit	92	101	77	46	53	74	138	154	151
	2nd Class Upper/Upper Credit	104	92	145	65	126	37	169	218	182
	1st Class/Distinction	67	25	43	39	38	71	106	63	114
Total		334	270	296	166	230	204	500	500	500

Table 3.1: Shows chi square tests

Chi-Square Tests									
	Value			Df			Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)		
	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun	Ekiti	Ondo	Osun
Pearson Chi-Square	11.326	43.424	57.574	3	3	3	.010	.0001	.0001

### 3 Discussion and Result

It is discovered from table 1.1 above that 22.6%, 30.5% of the respondents strongly agree and agree respectively while 32.5%, 14.4% disagree and strongly disagree that single parenting occur due to poverty respectively; 29.8%, 42.1% of the respondents strongly agree and agree respectively while 18.9%, 9.2% disagreed and strongly disagree that single parenting occurs due to death of spouse ; 32.4%, 41.7% of the respondents strongly agree and agree respectively that single parenting occurs due to marital violence while 16.7%, 9.2% disagree and agree respectively; 28.9%, 41.5% of the respondents strongly agree and agree that single parenting occurs due to extra marital pregnancy while 18.7%, 10.9% respectively disagree and strongly disagree

Also from table 2.1 above 25.7%, 38.1% of the respondents strongly agree and agree respectively while 24.3% and 11.9% disagree and strongly disagree that effect of single parenting on students' academic performance is low commitment respectively; 25.7% and 35.1% of the respondents strongly agree and agree while 29.9% and 9.3% disagree and strongly disagree that effect of single parenting on students' academic performance is lack of attention respectively; 29.8% and 37.6% of the respondents strongly agree and agree while 23.1% and 9.5% disagree and strongly disagree that effect of single parenting on students' academic performance is poor financial strength respectively; 25.2% and 38.2% of the respondents strongly agree and agree respectively while 26.5% and 10.1% disagree and strongly disagree that effect of single parenting on students' academic performance is low impact on the wellbeing of children respectively.

Figure 1 above showed that respondents from the three southwestern (Ekiti, Ondo, Osun) states agreed that death of spouse is the major cause of single parenthood and figure 2 above showed that low impact on the wellbeing of children is the major effect of single parenthood on students' academic performances. . Also, chi-square test showed that p-value of all the three states less than significant level ( $\alpha$ ) which makes null hypothesis to be rejected at 5% significant level. in all the three states.

### 4. Conclusion

It is concluded that both death of spouse and low impact on the wellbeing of children (students)

are the major cause and effect of single parenthood on academic performance of students in southwestern part of Nigeria. Also, Single parenting affects academic performances of students.

#### Compliance with ethical standards Acknowledgments

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The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interest or personal relationship that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper

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