

**EFFECT OF SINGLE PARENTING FAMILIES ON THE WELLBEING OF
CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY OF BUYAGA TOWN COUNCIL BULAMBULI
DISTRICT**

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S22/MUC/BPAM/002

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DECLARATION

I **ACHIENG EDINNAH**, hereby declare that the content given in this report is made out of my own effort and it has never been presented to any university or higher institute of learning for any award.

Signature;..........Date;.....*1st . 05 . 2024*.....

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APPROVAL SHEET

This research Report is in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the award of a Degree in Public Administration and Management of Uganda Christian University carried out by **ACHIENG EDINNAH**

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DEDICATION

I **ACHIENG EDINNAH** do dedicate this report to my dear parents for the continuous support they have rendered to me in this education life

NAME **ACHIENG EDINNAH**

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SIGN.....**DATE**.....

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BTCLG	Bulambuli Town Council Local Government
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory services.
NGOS	Non-governmental organizations.
NUSAF	Northern Uganda social action fund
SACCO	Savings and credit cooperative society.
SACU	Send a cow Uganda.
SAS	Senior Assistant Secretary
TASO	The Aids Support Organization
U.P.E	Universal Primary Schools
U.S.E	Universal secondary schools.
UBS	Uganda bureau of statistics.
UWESO	Uganda women's effort to save orphans.

ABSTRACT

The wellbeing of children has continued to be poor particularly those raised from single families and no effort has been put in place to address this challenge. The current study looked at effect of single parenting on the wellbeing of children in Buyaga Town Council of Bulambuli district. Specifically the study investigated the causes of single parenting and the life experiences of children from single parenting families in Buyaga Town council, Bulambuli District. It also examined ways of enhancing the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. The study used descriptive design with the help of qualitative and quantitative approaches to analyze data from the study area. The researcher collected data from 59 respondents in the study area who were selected using simple random and purpose sampling. Data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. The study found that death of partner and divorces leads to single parenting. Other causes of single parenting included unwanted pregnancy; lack of family support contributes to single parenting and long distance relationships. Further findings revealed that those children from single parenting families experience stigma to tend to lack education. Children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care and do not have proper nutrition and this lowers their general welfare. The researcher recommended increasing family incomes enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families and support to child care giving programs enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families. Also creating strong community support systems may help to enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families as well as undertaking child rights advocate as noted by the study may also help in enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The research being under study is investigates the Influence of single parenting on the wellbeing of children in Buyaga Town Council, Bulambuli District. This chapter contains the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, scope, purpose, and the significance of the study.

1.1. Background of the study

Worldwide, the topic of single motherhood, particularly its causes and consequences, has received considerable attention in North America. A vast literature documents how rising divorce rates and increases in non-marital fertility in many industrialized countries has affected the well-being of women and children (Amato 2020). Increased conjugal instability and declining rates of marriage have resulted in a significant increase of the number of single-mother families (Le Bourdais and Lapierre-Adamczyk 2019), which have been shown to have adverse effects across a number of developmental domains of individuals' lives (Heard, Gorman and Kapinus 2019). Indeed, even if women remarry the impact of divorce and single-motherhood can have long-term negative impacts at all stages of the life course from childhood (Artis 2017; Brown 2014; Gennetian 2020).

In sub-Saharan Africa, however, research on single motherhood, *per se*, is surprisingly limited.

Instead there is a tradition of studying female-headed households (Buvinic and Gupta 2018; Katapa 2017; Quisumbing, Haddad and Pena 2021). Of course, in many instances female heads of households are virtually synonymous with being a single mother, as many female household heads are unmarried women with young children.

The Uganda National Census of 2022 showed a great number of single parenting families. This phenomenon has become a serious social problem. The increase of this challenge arises from death of a spouse, getting pregnant without marriage (wedlock) and divorce/separation. Thus, having many families where a number of children are living with one parent.

In 2018, the population of Uganda was projected at 30.7 million (UBOS, 2018), out of which, 49% were children below 15 years. The children under this age are totally dependent on their parents and they need great care for their holistic development. Vulnerability among children was recorded high. The government of Uganda suggested a number of mitigation programs to ensure sustainable livelihoods of such children. Assisting single parents was one among the priorities.

It is noted that by 2019, Uganda, had over 1.7 millions of orphans (13 %) of all children under the age of 18 years) mainly due to HIV/AIDS (Fredrick, 2022). Of recent, it is even claimed that, “out of Uganda’s 10,825,573 children under the age of fifteen, about 2,763,024 or 25.52% are orphans. Out of the total number of orphans under the age of fifteen 1,243,361 are maternal or double parental orphans” (Fredrick, 2022). Since very little intervention is got from the kin or friends, many children from single parent headed- households are left with a single parent or alone to devise means of survival.

Single parenting affects hundreds of children in Uganda where most of them have limited access to adequate health care and are prone to deaths. Single parenting families cut across all forms of children’s vulnerability and have for instance street children, child labourers, child prostitutes, orphans, disabled children and others.

1.2. Statement of Problem

A family is primary the socializing agent and also the building block of any nation. The role of a mother and father in child upbringing is very important since this partnership role creates social and psychological support as well as a sense of belonging. Single parenting lifestyle seem to create unfortunate condition of life surrounding the children involved since it deprives them full parental love which is ideal for socialization and behavioural moderation.

Children growing up with single parents have an higher risk of experiencing cognitive, social, and emotional problems, most refer to the stressful events and circumstances to which these children must adapt. Although the causes and consequences of single motherhood in Uganda have been explored extensively, research on single motherhood in Bulambuli District is surprisingly thin. The research wonders what the situation is like in Buyaga Town Council.

The research undertaken therefore seeks to establish the effect of single parenting families on the wellbeing of children in Buyaga Town Council Bulambuli district.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to “Establish the effect of single parenting on the wellbeing of children in Buyaga Town Council, Bulambuli District”

1.4 Objectives of the study

This study was based on the following objectives

1. To find out the causes of single parenting in Buyaga Town Council.
2. To describe the life experiences of children from single parenting families in Buyaga Town council, Bulambuli District.
3. To suggest major ways of enhancing the wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

1.4. Research questions

1. What are the main causes of single parenting in Buyaga Town Council?
2. What are life experiences of children living within single parenting families in Buyaga Town Council?
3. Which strategies should be used to enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families in Buyaga Town Council?

1.5. Scope of the study

1.5. 1.content Scope

The study was based on establishing the effect of single parenting families on the wellbeing of children in Buyaga Town Council Bulambuli district

1.5. 2.Geographical Scope

This study was carried out in Buyaga Town Council, of Bulambuli District in Uganda. It is bordered by Muyembe Town Council in the North East, Bukhalu Sub-county to the south and Nabongo sub-county to the west as well as Bulambuli Town council on its western direction

1.5. 2.Time Scope

The study considered a period of five years to establish the state of single parenting in Bulambuli Town council i.e., from (2018-2023). This period was considered because it's when the rate single parenthood in Buyaga Town council was more pronounced

1.6. Significance of the study

Since progress in reducing gaps in single parents' households at local levels and household level is hampered by various constraints, this research will focus on providing possible solutions aiming at empowering families headed by single parents in Bulambuli District to facilitate them provide the essentials for the entire development of their children.

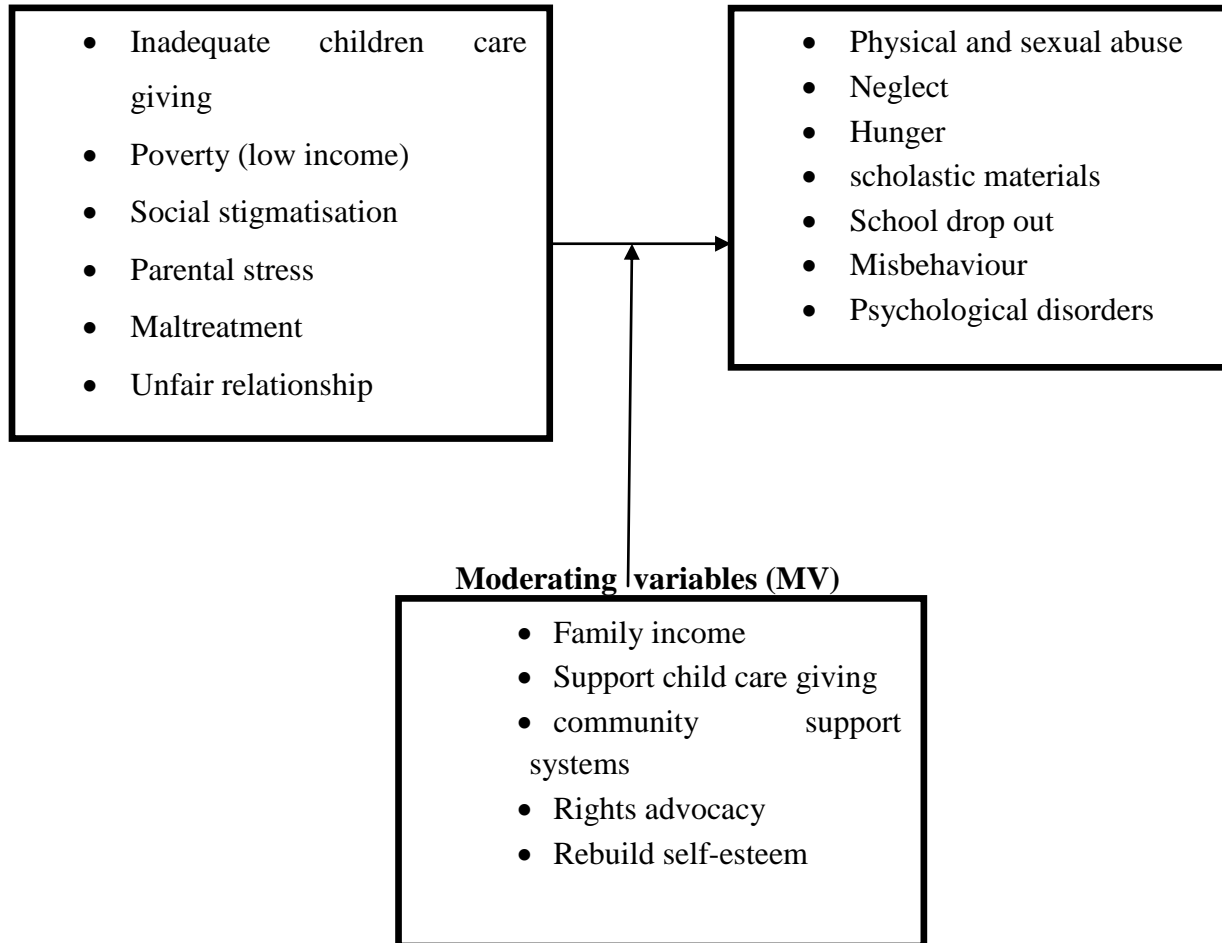
Thus, this research might be an important tool for Civil Society Organizations, government policy makers, and researchers to make their efforts in empowering single parenting families for the wellbeing of children.

In addition, since this research discusses family structure and functioning, and wellbeing of children living in single parenting families, it is expected to add value in knowledge concerning single parenting and hence might motivate other researchers who may want to undertake research in the same field.

1.7. Conceptual framework

Single parenting (I.V)

wellbeing of children (D.V)



Source: Researcher (2023)

Figure 1.1 Above shows the relationship between independent variables as measured by Inadequate children care giving, Poverty/low incomes, parental stress among others and the dependent variables as indicated from the above illustration and is measured by Physical and sexual abuse, neglect, hunger as well as lack of scholastic materials. The major indicators of intervening variables include among others, increase in family incomes, support child care giving as well as Right advocacy for the wellbeing of children from single parenthood families

1.8 Definition of key terms

1) Single parenting

Single parenting according to Bowen, M, (2017), is defined as a parent either Father or Mother alone practicing and taking responsibilities of nurturing children in the absence of another parent

2) Wellbeing of children

Children's wellbeing means a state of mental and physical health, physical and emotional safety and a feeling of belonging, sense of purpose, achievement and success of children. Giblin, P. (2016)

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the literature from different authors about single parenting and wellbeing of children. It focuses also on the Causes single parenting, its effect and approaches of enhancing single parenting families for better wellbeing of children.

2.1. Causes of single parenting

Single parenting may occur due to different factors such as death, divorce and unintended pregnancy.

2.2.1. Death of a partner

Death of a partner is classified to be a common cause of single parenting. It may be caused by diseases and results in a widower or widow being solely responsible for taking care of the children. So, the improvements in sanitation and maternal care have decreased mortality for those of reproductive age, making death a less common cause of single parenting in developed countries. At certain times wars might also deprive significant numbers of families of a parent especially in developing countries (Dowd, 2018). Basing on the above, this research study established whether the above phenomena also apply in Buyaga Town Council.

2.2.2. Divorce

Yen et al, (2018) argued that divorce is considered in many countries to be among the causes of single parenting. In 2018, the overall divorce rate was around 9/1000 in the United States. It was also found that more influence came from the south, with the rates there being about 10.5/1000, as opposed to the north where it was around 7/1000. This resulted in about 1.5% (around 1 million) children living in the house of a recently divorced parent in the same year. Along with this, it has been shown that for the past 10 years or so, first marriages have a 50% chance of ending in divorce. And, for other marriages after a first divorce, the chance of another divorce increases. In 2003, a study showed that about 69% of kids in American living in a household that was a different structure than the typical nuclear family. This was broken down into about 30% living with a stepparent, 23% living with a biological mother, 6% with grandparents as

caregivers, 4% with a biological father, 4% with someone who was not a direct relative, and a small 1% living with a foster family. Although Yen et al., (2018) study gave good findings, their study was conducted in USA not in Buyaga Town Council of Bulambuli district hence creating a research opportunity for this study.

McLanahan & Sandefur (2017) found that around the mid-1990s, there was a significant amount of single parents raising children, with 1.3 million single fathers and 7.6 million single mothers in the United States alone. However, many parents desire, or attempt, to get sole custody, which would make them a single parent, but are unsuccessful in the court process. There are many parents who may be single parents, but do so without official custody, further biasing statistics. This study will therefore find out whether in Buyaga Town Council of Bulambuli district, parents desire, or attempt, to get sole custody.

In their study, Kelly, Blackstein & Mason (2018) argued that divorce and out-of-wedlock childbirth are transforming the lives of American children. In the postwar generation more than 80 percent of children grew up in a family with two biological parents who were married to each other. By 1980 only 50 percent could expect to spend their entire childhood in an intact family. If current trends continue, less than half of all children born today will live continuously with their own mother and father throughout childhood. Most American children will spend several years in a single-mother family. Some will eventually live in stepparent families, but because stepfamilies are more likely to break up than intact (by which I mean two-biological-parent) families, an increasing number of children will experience family breakup two or even three times during childhood. Kelly, Blackstein & Mason's study findings cannot be relied on because it was conducted in USA not Buyaga Town Council of Bulambuli district with a different socio-cultural context this study will be carried out to assess the effect of single parent families on the wellbeing of children in Buyaga Town Council of Bulambuli district.

Eisenberg and Brown (2021) found that the situation of divorce has impact on family and children livelihood hence creating vulnerabilities in their wellbeing. Among divorced parents, parallel parenting is most common. In comparison, cooperative parenting occurs when the parents involved in the child's life work together around all involved parties' schedules and activities, and this is far less common. After a certain "crisis period," most children resume

normal development; however, their future relationships are often affected, as they lack a model upon which to base a healthy long term relationship (Cherlin, 2010). Nonetheless, as adults' children of divorcees cope better with change. Children are affected by divorce in many different ways, varying by the circumstances and age of the child. Young children of ages two to six are generally the most fearful of parental separation, and often feel abandoned or confused. Both boys and girls have the same amount of trouble coping, but often show this in different ways. Nonetheless this age group adapts best to their situations, as they are often too young to remember their non-custodial parent vividly. Children of ages seven to twelve are much better at expressing emotions and accepting parentage breakage, but often distrust their parents, rely on outside help and support for encouragement, and may manifest social and academic problems. In support of this assertion, Niolon (2022) argued that adolescents who cope the worst with divorce; often struggle most with the change, and may even turn away from their family entirely, dealing with their situation on their own. They often have problems expressing feelings, similar to far younger children, and may have adjustment issues with long-term relationships due to these feelings). Although Eisenberg and Brown's findings seem to be genuine as divorce cases are wide spread in Buyaga Town Copuncil, this study examined whether divorce has justifiable impact on family and children livelihood and as a result creating vulnerabilities in their wellbeing

Niolon, (2018) in his longitudinal study on parenting style and children's wellbeing found that there are several things that experts recommend to reduce the impact of a divorce on children. Leaving discussion of conflict to the court only is recommended, and parents still need to work together, regarding decisions and discipline, to give their children the best developmental support. Grounding both parents' in the child's life is also important, it's important to involve both parents equally, even when the child may only be living with one. Communication is key; a parent should never ignore what their child is saying, because they might be saying something that is very important to them. Parents need to make sure they communicate with both each other and their children, about the child's everyday life. Niolon's study gave good recommendations but his study was on parenting style and children's wellbeing not single parenting families and this created limitations in literature hence creating a research opportunity for this study.

2.2.3. Unintended pregnancy

Eisenberg & Brown (2021) opined that some out of wedlock births are intended, but many are unintentional. Where out of wedlock births are accepted by society, they may result in single parenting. Where they are not acceptable, they sometimes result in forced marriage, however such marriages fail more often than others. In the United States, the rate of unintended pregnancy is higher among unmarried couples than among married ones. Eisenberg & Brown further indicated that in 1990, 73% of births to unmarried women were unintended at the time of conception, compared to about 44% of births overall. Mothers with unintended pregnancies and their children are subject to numerous adverse health effects, including increased risk of violence and death, and the children are less likely to succeed in school and are more likely to live in poverty and be involved in crime. Eisenberg & Brown's study unearthed good results, they dwelt more on wedlock births instead of explaining the relationship between single parenting families and children's wellbeing and this has given a research opportunity for this study.

2.2. Life experiences of children from single parenting family

Dowd et al., (2018) carried out a study on single parent family and social stigma in Pretoria (S. Africa) sampling 250 participants. argued that a single parent family also called 'solo parent' usually refers to a parent not living with a spouse or partner that has most of the day to day responsibilities in raising the child or children. A single parent is usually considered the primary caregiver, meaning the parent, children have residency with the majority of the time. In a single parent family, there is a gap caused by the absence of the second partner as it will be highlighted in the following part. Single parents commonly have trouble with role identity. Some social stigma is still attached to single-parent status, regardless of how it was acquired. For single parents, development of positive role identity is often hampered by their inability to support their families financially. Single parents often experience role strain from attempting to balance wage-earner and parental responsibilities. Although Dowd et al., carried out a systematic review of single parent family and social stigma, using interviews to sample such a huge population is unrealistic and can lead to sampling errors and discriminatory results unlike this study which used both interviews and questionnaire on 80 participants

Salomon, Bassuk, & Huntington (2022) argued that this rapid increase in the level of single parents in the last three decades, particularly during the 1980s, matters because it means that, while single parents have always existed, they were not previously such a numerically significant part of society. Over the last fifteen years, the percentage has remained fairly constant, with nearly a quarter of all dependent children, at any time, now living with one parent. This produces a new set of challenges for all institutions in society, including churches. The pace at which the size of this demographic has grown, as well as other factors, means that there is little existing work relating to the position of single parents in churches in the UK. Analyzing Social Trends, data indicates how single parents are a diverse group of people, and how one needs to take into account a range of other socio-economic variables when studying them. This study investigated whether in Buyaga Town Council, single parenthood is numerically significant part of society.

In their other works, Salomon, Bassuk, & Huntington (2020) argued that in black and mixed Islamic religious groups, the likelihood of a dependent child being in a lone parent family is higher than the average (at 48% and 39% respectively), while amongst Asian families it is lower (at 13%). Secondly, lone parents are far less likely to be educated to degree level or higher than other groups (only 11% of all lone parents with dependent children are graduates, compared to 23% for married/co-habiting parents with dependent children, and 20% for those without dependent children), yet they can be found across the full spectrum of educational backgrounds. Equally, (Hughes, 2018) did find that while they are disproportionately likely to be unemployed (12% for those with dependent children, compared to 3% for married/cohabiting parents with dependent children, and 6% for single people without dependents), lone parents can be found in all economic categories. This data is useful, because it shows how issues of class and ethnicity may be linked to the representations and experiences of single parents. Although Hughes and Salomon, Bassuk, & Huntington gave good quantitative data on the significance of black and mixed Islamic religious groups in causing a likelihood of a dependent child being in a lone parent family, their study was secular and thus their findings are unrealistic unlike this study which based on based on religious fundamentalism.

Milne, Myers, Rosenthal et al., (2016) argued that lack of formal education and consequently of job skills limits access to occupations that provide enough income for an acceptable standard of living. Women are additionally hindered by socialization into traditionally female occupations

that are low paying, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Poverty is persistently linked with single-parent households, especially those headed by women. Such families are the poorest of all major demographic groups. Even Dowd, (2018) found that children living with single parents may be at higher risk of experiencing physical and sexual abuse and neglect than children living with two biological parents. Single parent households are substantially more likely to have incomes below the poverty line. Lower income, the increased stress associated with the sole burden of family responsibilities, and fewer supports are thought to contribute to the risk of single parents maltreating their children. Milne, Myers, Rosenthal et al., findings were good, generalizing poverty and lack of education to all single families is counterproductive and unfair as there are some single families that are very rich with resources. This study investigated whether poverty and lack of education are the preserve of single families in Buyaga Town Council.

In the United States, almost half of all children by age 15 will have lived in a single-parent family (Anderson, 2022). The percentage of single-parent families has tripled in the past 50 years and has continued to be larger among Latino and African American families when compared to the general population (US Census, 2010). In 2020, 27% of all U.S. children were living in single-parent families; among African American children, 53% were living with only one parent (Sigle-Rushton & McLanahan, 2022). Sigle-Rushton & McLanahan findings were good but their study was not carried out in Buyaga Town Council of Bulambuli district of eastern Uganda hence the need for this study.

Despite calls for a greater emphasis on discovering strengths, the majority of research concerning single parenting has focused on the disadvantages faced by children raised in the absence of their father. However, understanding the disadvantages focuses only on half of the issue: the other half is to understand the strengths and resiliency factors exhibited by children raised in a FA home. Although children raised in a home where a father is present graduate from high school and attend college at much higher rates than children raised in a fatherless home, nearly 70% of children from FA homes do graduate from high school and 50% of them attend college (Sigle-Rushton & McLanahan, 2014). There is a great need for research focusing on the strengths of these academic achievers from FA homes.

Relatedly, Mandara & Murray (2017) opined that early research of single-parent homes focused on “father absence” (FA). The interest in FA homes was due to the large number of single-parent

female headed households and to the influence of psychoanalytic theories that called attention to the importance of the presence of a father in the development of a child's personality (Hetherington et al., 2017). In a 1970 literature review, Biller reported evidence showing a correlation between FA and juvenile delinquency. He also showed evidence that FA boys have more difficulty forming peer relationships and long lasting heterosexual relationships as compared to boys raised in a father present (FP) home. Mandara & Murray suggested good policy recommendation, their study lacks verifiable evidence and the unnoticed relationship between children's experience in single parent families and their wellbeing and this has created a research gap for this study to fill

Mulkey et al. (2017) and Kim (2021) both reported that while family income is important, other factors have a greater influence on academic performance. They suggested that parental expectations, family size, and the quality of the parent child relationship are stronger predictors of future academic success than income. Implications for future research will be discussed later in this paper. A number of studies have documented differences between boys and girls raised in SP homes. In their review, Hetherington et al. (2016) concluded that "the intellectual and social development of males may be seen as more adversely affected by living in one-parent homes than that of females from similar family circumstances". Studies published since Hetherington et al. have reported similar results. Fry and Scher (2021) discovered that the achievement motivation scores of boys declined significantly over a five year period of living in a SP home while the scores of girls in similar home environments remained stable. Mulkey et al. (2017) and Kim et al., (2021) studies were timely, they investigated family income and its influence on academic performance and failed to expound on the variables of single parenthood and wellbeing of children which are central in this study.

2.3. Enhancing the wellbeing of children from single parenting families

2.3.1. Increase family income

Krein, & Beller (2020) argued that one of the strategies of strengthening single parenting families is to increase their families' income. This will help them to provide basic needs of life to their children. Single parents need opportunities to escape a life of poverty by, for instance, learning work-based skills that will enable them to earn a living. This study will therefore find out whether in Buyaga Town council of Bulambuli district, building of skills, knowledge and capacity of single parents through community-based groups, to engage in participative processes of needs assessment, drawing up and implementing sustainable strategies to enable them to overcome conditions of poverty is very essential.

Relatedly, Nimkoff, (2019) found that these approaches involve the implementation of various income generating activities/projects at either individual or group-level for the beneficiary single parents. Poor and disadvantaged single parents need an additional and reliable income for their households through the proceeds realized from their projects, to enable them meet the costs of basic needs such as: household utilities, food, clothing, and costs of their children's schooling such as uniforms, books and exam fees. It is better to encourage sustainable livelihoods by training single parents to pay into a savings scheme that will help fund their start-up costs and future training. Their children and the wider community will gain too. There will be enough money generated to pay for children to go to school to give them the education that their parents missed out on. Through mobilizing single parents into functional and productive group/individual units, income generating projects will not empower single parents with skills, knowledge and working capital to engage in practical and sustainable service delivery projects, through which they can gain empowerment to address their socio-economic needs. This study therefore set to find out whether increasing family incomes may help improve the wellbeing of children from single parent families in Buyaga Town council of Bulambuli district.

2.3.2. Support child care giving

Mothers are primary caregivers. With reference to family emotional system, mothers play expressive roles of providing the emotional support and nurturing to children. One of a woman's expressive roles is that of kin-keeper, an important communication link among family members.

Children tend to drift towards preference of parent depending on how involved a particular parent is, and a common problem in society today are absentee fathers; therefore, children are more likely to show preference for their mothers, as they are more involved with them than the fathers (Benokraitis, 2017). Consequently, these mothers' roles have to be strengthened. The cultural definition of a mother's role contributes to the preference of mother as primary caregiver. This study will find out whether in Buyaga Town council of Bulambuli district, children will lean more towards mothers because of their protective, nurturing characteristics, from a long established mother-child relationship from early on attachment beginning at birth and continuing as the child grows up.

Boehlke, (2020) argued that the 'father' has been variously defined throughout history as provider, dad, and even sire, carrying connotations of being demanding, disciplinary, and even cruel; yet, every father must take the time to be a dad as well as a friend, disciplinarian, shoulder to cry on, dance partner, coach, audience, adviser, listener, and so much more." Williams (2018), the writer quoted above, goes on to say that he viewed his father as the driving force in his family and also someone who brought strength and compassion to his family. In addition to these qualities, the single father must take on the role of the mother, are roles that extend deep into morality, devotion, and the ability to set up an educational yet nurturing environment. Thus it is the father's role to be a source of both resilience and strength, and love and compassion and this will form the subject of investigation by this study.

Little research has been done to suggest the hardships of the "single father as a caretaker", however, a great deal has been done on the hardships of a single-parent household. Single-parent households tend to find difficulty with the lack of help they receive. More often than not a single parent finds it difficult to find help because there is lack of support, whether be it a second parent or other family members (Williams, 2013). This tends to put a strain on not only the parent but also the relationship between the parent and their child. Furthermore, dependency is a hardship that many parents find difficult to overcome. As the single parent becomes closer to their child, the child grows more and more dependent upon that parent. This dependency, while common, may reach far past childhood, damaging the child due to their lack of independence from their parent. "Social isolation of single parents might be a stress factor that they transmit to children.

Another explanation may be that the parents do not have the time needed to support and supervise their children something that this study investigated this.

2.3.3. Create community support systems

Eisenberg and Brown (2021) found that create community support systems may include changing the negative attitudes of society towards people coming from single parent families by mobilizing single parents into groups through which they can carry out innovative practical projects aimed at enabling single parents to collectively address common concerns; increase their household incomes; and raise their children successfully. This study will therefore examine whether this strategy will seek to demonstrate to the public that single parents are equally able members of their communities, who, when given a chance and the empowerment, can contribute positively to the socio-economic development of their communities in Buyaga Town council.

Further, Eisenberg and Brown (2021) also argued that to initiate projects that can enhance the welfare of people in poor single parent families, through training services -manageable and sustainable income-generating activities; linking remote communities to service providers, and rights-awareness and lobbying activities to enable single parents to advance their rights. To create support systems among people from single parent families through encouraging the formation of single parents groups, through which members can offer group counselling and also build resilience, from interacting with fellow single parents, so as to face the challenges that come with single parenting and this equally constituted a central issue of investigation by this study.

2.3.4. Rights advocacy

Miller & Downs (2023) found that rights advocacy towards single parenting families and children living in such families seek to fight for their rights. The advocacy activities seek to influence social change by enabling often marginalized single parents to have a direct say in the issues that affect their lives. Through advocacy provides support and information to single parents with the aim of empowering them and enabling them to express their needs and choices. The advocacy activities involve supporting and enabling single parents to express their views and concerns, access information and services, defend and promote their rights and

responsibilities, and explore options and choices. The advocacy revolves around the belief in equal opportunities for everyone, including single parents something that this study investigated.

2.3.5. Rebuild self-esteem

Miller & Downs (2023) found that learning how to rebuild and maintain one's self-esteem is essential to having a fulfilled life. There is always a thing that come along and makes somebody question if he/she is good enough. When that happens to him/her, using these following tools, he/she will get back in touch with his/her personal power. As single parents lack most of the time strength, they have to use their inner resources to pull themselves up by their bootstraps will give them the sense that they can deal with anything life throws at them. The ability to know that they know, keeps them solid in their choices and decisions. Their thoughts can change with the wind, but their inner knowledge is unshakable. Love of self may be one of the most underutilized sources of self-esteem. People can be harder on themselves than on any other person. Consciously giving themselves a break and not falling into the trap of self-denigration will allow them to save energy for the important parts of life. However, it is not clear whether learning how to rebuild and maintain one's self-esteem is essential to having a fulfilled life in Buynaga Town Council something that triggered the researcher to conduct this study.

2.3.6. Social work practice with single parenting families

According to Zastrow (2021) investigated how practitioners with reference to social workers may help particular clients such as single parents. The intervention may examine five kinds of problems: legal, accommodation, financial, child care, emotional, and concludes that problems were likely to arise in all these areas, and that, whatever the problem, the social worker's ability to help solve it depends to a large extent on the quality of the relationship with the client. A disproportionate number of women who head single-parent families are poor and their major problem is economic. This stud investigated whether social workers in Buyaga Town Council aim at empowering single parent families; they inadvertently participate in a social construction process that reinforces a pathological perspective on these families.

CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

According to Wehmeier (2017), the concept of ‘methodology’ refers to “a set of methods and principles used to perform a particular activity.” In a research activity, the methodology outlines the research process and instruments that help to achieve the research purpose. It is the strategy by which the study is carried out. This chapter outlines the research design, research population and sampling, research instruments and research reliability.

3.1. Research design

A research design is part of methodology which defines the study type and sub-type. This study mainly relied on qualitative and descriptive design. It focused on the wellbeing of children from single-parents families in Buyaga Town council.

3.2 Sample size

There 70 households under study. Using Krejcie and Morgan table a sample of 59 were reached. (See appendix i). In this study, 30 children, 20 single parents, 9 key informants made the total of 36 individuals who make the simple size. Such numbers of participants are selected according to the initial plan to interview children from single parenting families. As this study intend to get an in depth understanding of the experience of children living within single parenting families, it is more convenient with less number of cases. In the case study researchers usually use not many cases and multiple cases are selected to show the different perspective of the problem and begin to tap variation among cases so as to represent diverse cases (Creswell, 2017). While 20 children from single parenting families may not capture all the diversity of this situation, it intends to be enough to reflect some of the common themes. The participants were contacted through the local administration of Buyaga Town council. All the participants were selected purposively and participate in the study based on the set inclusion criteria.

All study participants who were engaged in the research were based on the following pre-set inclusion criteria: being single parent who live with children; being a child who lived with a single parent; and living in Buyaga Town council.

3.3 Sample selection

The total population (N) was estimated to be 70 people and therefore the sample population was 59 respondents, that is to say; 30 children, 20 single parents, 9 key informants made the total of 59 individuals who make the simple size.). The sample size was arrived at using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) methods of determining sample size from the population

3.4. Study population

Children from single parenting families from Buyaga Town Council constituted the target population of the study.

3.5 Research methods

3.5.1 Administering questionnaires

In this method, a set of questions was designed, by the researchers and were given to various groups of the study population who were sampled in order to collect information concerning the study. This method is suitable to the categories of respondents as it helped her to reduce the emotional and other unconsidered reactions and it save time and provide chance to the respondents to offer.

3.5.2 Interviewing

Interviewing refers to a process of direct interaction between a researcher and a client to get the appropriate information. Information acquired from clients was accurate and promoted a valid study.

Face to face interactions with the selected categories of people was used. This was directed to local leaders, regardless of their schedule.

This enabled the researcher to get relevant information as well as first hand information any forms of bias other people.

3.6 Research instruments

While undertaking this research, the researcher used different methods in collecting data in order to make it more certain and reliable. The following research instruments was used; questionnaire, key informants interview, and in-depth interview with children.

3.6.1. Questionnaire

A series of questions in form of in-depth interview was used to collect data from children living with single parents. 30 children were interviewed during this study. A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents (Gillham, 2019). A series of questions on the single parenting will be used to gather information.

3.6.2. Interview guide

An interview guide is a series of questions guiding the conversation between the researcher and key informants who provided relevant information related to the study. The researcher used an interview guide for 10 single parents, 2 probation offices, 2 LC₃Buyaga Town Council and 2 Child Development Officers (CDO) Buyaga Town Council .

3.7 Data analysis

Data from research instruments was, organized, analysed, summarized, edited and coded. The researcher had written meaningful information from the analysis, she had in relation to the literature review, the study objectives and research questions thus drawing proper conclusions and making recommendations.

3.8 Data collection procedures

The researcher contacted the administration of Buyaga town council to gain contact with the single parents and their children. An official letter from Uganda Christian University was submitted to the town clerk. The purpose of the study and eligibility criteria to participate in the study was explained briefly to the town clerk so that he may help the researcher to get in touch with children from single parenting families to participate in the study. After briefing the purpose

of the study to the town clerk, single parents and their children were asked to volunteer to participate in the study.

3.9 Ethical consideration

The ethical consideration and other future concerns were explained on the first meeting with single parents and their children. During clarification of the study purpose to children, those who refused to be part of the study were given full right to withdraw from the study. In this session an informed consent was obtained from study participants prior to the interview. The anonymity, confidentiality and the right to withdraw from the study were some of the issues the researcher took into account in the research process.

3.10 Validity of research instrument.

The self- formulated instrument was submitted to experts for critique, where they assessed the validity and the items. It was then taken to my supervisor and other experts for final assessment before taking it to the piloting.

3.11 Reliability

In research process, the reliability deals with the quality of measurement. The reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. The reliability of instruments was established basing on the preliminary results derived from the pre-test of the questionnaire. This consisted of administrating the questionnaire to 6 individuals, 2 children, 2 single mothers and 2 single fathers. This helped the researcher to adjust the questionnaire in order to be more understandable. This reduced the bias within the research questionnaire. Results realized were discussed with the supervisor and the content reliability of the instrument is expected to be accepted. This contributed to the reliability of the questionnaire. During the analysis process, in cases where the researcher found that further information and clarification of the data is needed, she went back to the informants and found more data to fill the identified gap. By doing so, the data quality and reliability was ensured.

CHAPTER FOUR
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, presentation, data analysis, and interpretation of the findings of the study were done, in line with the specific objectives.

Demographic data of respondents

Sex of the respondents

Table 4.2.1- Sex of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Male	38	64.4
	Female	21	35.6
Total		59	100

Source: primary data, (2024)

From table 4.1, majority of the respondents 64.4% were males and 35.6% were females. Since the researcher gave both men and women to participate in the study, the research study attracted more male participants than females because they were more readily available

Age of the respondents

Table 4.2.2- Age of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	20 - 30 yrs	30	50.8
	31 - 40 yrs	14	24.2
	41 - 50 yrs	10	16.9
	51 - 60 yrs	2	3.3
	Above 61 yrs	3	5.0
Total		59	100.0

Source: primary data, (2024)

As in table 4.2 above, it was clearly indicated that the majority of respondents who constituted 30% were aged between 20-30 years. Followed by those whose age group range from 31-40 years at 24.2%, those in the age brackets of 41-50 years constituted 16.9% of the total percentage; those in the age bracket 51-60 years were 3.3%, and those in the age bracket of above 61 were in the rank occupying 5%. This finding implies that most data collected for the research study was from mature participants whose responses were informed by experience and therefore trustable.

Education level of the respondents

Table 4.2.3 - Education level of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Certificate	25	42.4
	Diploma	20	33.8
	Degree	7	11.8
	Masters	5	8.4
	Doctorate/ PhD	2	3.6
	Total	59	100

Source: primary data, (2024)

From table 4.3 above, it was clearly seen that 42.4% of the respondents had certificates and 33.8% had diplomas, other respondents had degrees (11.8%) and 8.4% with masters while 3.6% had PhD. This indicates that majority of respondents had little education

Marital status of the respondents

Table 4.2.4 - Marital status of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Single	22	37.5
	Married	26	44.1
	Separated	8	13.5
	Windowed	2	3.3
	Others	1	1.6
	Total	59	100

Source: primary data, (2024)

From table 4.4 above, it was found that majority of respondents 41.1% were married, 37.5% were single while 13.5% of the respondents had separated. Only 3.3% of the respondents were windowed whereas 1.6% did not disclose their status. This alone makes this information valid for this particular study.

Religious affiliation of the respondents

Table 4.2.5 - Religious affiliation of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Anglican	22	37.2
	Catholic	15	25.4
	Pentecostal	5	8.5
	Muslim	14	23.8
	Others	3	5.1
	Total	59	100

Source: primary data (2024)

From table 4.5 above, it was found that 37.2% of respondents were Anglicans, 25.4% were Catholics, and 8.5% were Pentecostals while Muslims constituted 23.8% while only 4.3% belong to other religious affiliations. Religious affiliation was considered because religions teach their faithful parenting modes deemed acceptable to their faiths and this study paid much attention to phenomena.

4.3 CAUSES OF SINGLE PARENTING

The first objective in this study was to establish the causes of single parenting. The findings from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were summarized as follows:

Table 4.3- showing causes of single parenting

Descriptive Statistics							
ITEM	SD (%)	D (%)	NS (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Dev.
Death of partner	32 (54.2)	12 (20.6)	2 (3.3)	10 (16.9)	3 (5.0)	3.73	1.149
Divorce	15 (25.4)	6 (10.4)	33 (55.9)	3 (5.0)	2 (3.3)	3.81	1.055
Unwanted pregnancy	5 (8.4)	11 (18.6)	8 (13.7)	19 (32.2)	16 (27.1)	2.98	1.462
Lack of family support	11 (18.6)	20 (33.8)	6 (10.4)	7 (11.8)	15 (25.4)	3.19	1.512
Long distance relationships	6 (10.4)	5 (8.4)	12 (20.3)	23 (38.9)	13 (22)	3.63	1.245
Parents having separate homes	13 (22)	30 (50.9)	4 (6.8)	5 (8.4)	7 (11.8)	3.52	1.302
Average Mean						3.54	

Source: primary data (2014)

Legend

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 4.1 – 5.0 | SA-Strongly Agree | – Very high effect |
| 3.1 – 4.0 | A-Agree | – High effect |
| 2.1 – 3.0 | NS-Not Sure | – Moderate effect |
| 1.1 – 2.0 | D-Disagree | – Low effect |

0.1 – 1.0 *SD-Strongly Disagree* – *Very low effect*

Table 4.3 shows a summary of respondent opinion on the causes of single parenting. The findings from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were discussed and explained as follows;

Death of partner

From the above table, 16.9% of the respondents agreed that death of partner caused single parenting. While 5% of the respondents strongly agreed and 3.3% of respondents were neutral (neither agree nor disagree). On the other hand, majority of respondents strongly disagreed 54.2% with the statement while 20.6% of respondents disagreed.

Since majority of respondents disagreed with the statement, it should therefore be noted that death of partner did not cause single parenting. Similar results were obtained from interviews where it was revealed that death of partner caused single parenting.

Divorce

In reference to table 4.3, it was noted that 5% of the respondents agreed that divorce caused single parenting. 3.3% of the respondents strongly agreed, while majority of respondents at 55.1% were neutral (neither agreed nor disagreed). Contrary to the statement, 10.4% of respondents disagreed while only 25.4% of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement.

Since majority of respondents were indifferent, it is therefore not certain as to whether divorce caused single parenting and similar results were obtained from interviews where it was revealed that death of partner caused single parenting.

Unwanted pregnancy

On whether unwanted pregnancy caused single parenting, it was found out that majority of respondents at 32.2% agreed, only 27.1% strongly agreed, while 13.7% were indifferent (neither agreed nor disagreed). While disagreed 18.6% just as those who strongly disagreed. It therefore gave a clear unwanted pregnancy caused single parenting with similar results obtained from interviews.

Lack of family support

From Table 4.3, majority of respondents with 33.8% disagreed that lack of family support did not cause single parenting. 18.6% strongly disagreed while 10.4% were neutral. On the other hand, 11.8% of respondents agreed whereas 25.4% strongly agreed with the statement.

This therefore indicates that lack of family support did not cause single parenting. Results from interviews also show that lack of family support did not cause single parenting.\

Long distance relationships

Respondents were also asked to give their opinions on whether use of focusing on whether long distance relationships caused single parenting. In fact majority of respondents 38.9% agreed, 22% of respondents strongly agreed, while 20.3% had indifference responses to the statement. Only 8.4% of respondents disagreed, while 10.4 % strongly disagreed.

It should therefore be noted that long distance relationships caused single parenting with similar results obtained from interviews.

Parents having separate homes

From table 4.3, 50.9% of respondents disagreed that parents having separate homes did not caused single parenting. 22% of respondents strongly disagreed, whereas few of respondents 11.8% strongly agreed. Only 8.4% of respondents agreed while 6.8% had their responses indifferent to the statement.

Therefore according to the findings, parents having separate homes did not cause single parenting and similar results were obtained from the interviews.

From table 4.3, the average mean was found to be 3.54 and basing on the legend above, it meant single parenting had several causes. This was at some point in agreement with the data collected from face to face interviews.

4.4 Life experience of children from single parenting families

The second objective in this study was to examine the life experience of children from single parenting families. The findings from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were summarized as follows:

Table 4.4 showing life experience of children from single parenting families

Descriptive Statistics							
ITEM	SD (%)	D (%)	NS (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Dev.
Children from single parenting families experience stigma	7 (11.9)	10 (16.9)	9 (15.3)	24 (40.6)	9 (15.3)	3.45	1.301
Many of the children from single parenting families lack education	9 (15.3)	8 (13.7)	4 (6.8)	26 (25.4)	12 (20.3)	3.39	1.128
Children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care	8 (13.7)	12 (20.6)	9 (15.3)	27 (21.7)	3 (5.0)	3.27	1.201
Children from single parenting families do not have proper nutrition	9 (15.2)	6 (10.1)	4 (6.7)	15 (25.4)	23 (38.9)	3.60	1.309
Children from single parenting families lack better shelter	3 (5.0)	5 (8.4)	10 (16.9)	22 (37.2)	8 (13.5)	3.66	1.045
Children from single parenting families face discrimination relationships	6 (10.1)	6 (10.1)	10 (16.9)	9 (15.3)	28 (47.4)	3.54	1.227
Average Mean						3.44	

Source: primary data (2024)

Legend

4.1 – 5.0	SA-Strongly Agree	– Very high effect
3.1 – 4.0	A-Agree	– High effect
2.1 – 3.0	NS-Not Sure	– Moderate effect
1.1 – 2.0	D-Disagree	– Low effect
0.1 – 1.0	SD-Strongly Disagree	– Very low effect

Children from single parenting families experience stigma

From table 4.4, majority of respondents 40.6% agreed on the view that children from single parenting families experience stigma. 20.3% strongly agreed while 15.3% had their responses neutral (indifferent). 16.9% disagreed with the statement while 11.9% strongly disagreed.

According to the findings of the study, it is true children from single parenting families experience stigma and similar results were obtained from face to face interviews.

Many of the children from single parenting families lack education

As shown in the above table 4.4, 25.4% of the respondents agreed many of the children from single parenting families lack education. Only 10.1% strongly agreed, while 6.8% were neutral (neither agreed nor disagreed). On the other hand, only 13.7% of respondents disagreed with the statement, while 15.3% of respondents strongly disagreed.

Therefore according to the findings of the research study, children from single parenting families lack education. Even results from interviews shows that children from single parenting families lack education.

Children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care

In reference to table 4.4, 21.7% of the respondents agreed that children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care with 5% of the respondents strongly agreed while 15.3% were neutral (neither agreed nor disagreed). Contrary to the statement, other respondents who constituted 20.6% disagreed while only 13.7% of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement.

Therefore, teaching methods limit teacher's knowledge of teaching and learning children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care and this finding is supported with results from interviews where it was also discovered that children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care.

Children from single parenting families do not have proper nutrition

The researcher also intended to find out whether children from single parenting families do not have proper nutrition. 25.4% of respondents agreed; 38.9% strongly agreed and only 6.7% had their responses indifferent. On the other hand, only 10.1% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 15.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

As the majority strongly agreed, therefore, children from single parenting families do not have proper nutrition and this revelation was also discovered from interviews.

Children from single parenting families lack better shelter

From table 4.4, 37.2% of respondents agreed, 13.5% of respondents strongly agreed while 16.9% had their responses neutral. On the contrary, 8.4% of respondents disagreed that children from single parenting families lack better shelter while 5%strongly disagreed teaching methods affect pupil's understanding of subject matter.

Therefore from the study findings, it can be concluded that children from single parenting families lack better shelter./ even results from interviews shows that children from single parenting families lack better shelter.

Children from single parenting families face discrimination relationships

Respondents were also asked to give their opinion on whether children from single parenting families face discrimination relationships. In fact few of respondents agreed with this statement by 15.3% followed by 478.4% who strongly agreed, while only 16.9% of the respondents had their responses neutral. Other of respondents disagreed by 10.1%, while 10.1% strongly disagreed. In fact during face to face interviews, it was also discovered that children from single parenting families face discrimination relationships.

From table 4.4, the average mean was found to be 3.34 and basing on the legend above, it meant that children from single parents had several experiences. This was in agreement with the data collected from face to face interviews where most respondents revealed that

4.5 Ways of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

The third objective in this study was to identify ways of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families. The findings from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were summarized as follows:

Table 4.5- Ways of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Descriptive Statistics							
ITEM	SD (%)	D (%)	NS (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Dev.
Increasing family incomes	2 (3.3)	15 (25.4)	5 (8.4)	30 (50.8)	7 (11.9)	3.16	1.167
Support to child care giving programs	3 (5.0)	4 (6.7)	6 (10.1)	8 (13.7)	38 (64.4)	3.46	1.049
Create strong community support systems	6 (10.1)	10 (16.9)	9 (15.3)	27 (45.7)	7 (11.9)	3.64	.980
Undertaking child rights advocate	10 (14.5)	22 (31.9)	14 (20.3)	12 (17.4)	9 (13.0)	3.18	1.278
Rebuild self esteem for parents	5 (8.4)	3 (5.0)	9 (15.3)	18 (30.5)	14 (23.7)	2.63	1.140
Undertaking community sensitization	6 (7.2)	14 (59.4)	4 (6.7)	12 (20.3)	23 (38.9)	3.64	.897
Average Mean						3.37	

Source: primary data (2024)

Legend

4.1 – 5.0 SA-Strongly Agree – Very high effect

3.1 – 4.0 A-Agree – High effect

2.1 – 3.0 NS-Not Sure – Moderate effect

1.1 – 2.0 D-Disagree – Low effect

0.1 – 1.0 SD-Strongly Disagree – Very low effect

Increasing family incomes

From table 4.5, 50.8% of respondents agreed on the view that increasing family incomes will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. 11.9% strongly agreed

while 8.4% had their responses neutral to the statement. On the other hand, the study found that 24.4% of respondents disagreed while 3.3% strongly disagreed with the statement.

It is therefore affirmed true according to the findings and data collected from face to face interviews that increasing family incomes will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

Support to child care giving programs

As shown in the above table 4.5, 13.7% of the respondents agreed just as those had their responses neutral on the view that supporting child care giving programs will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families, only 64.4% of respondents strongly agreed. On the other hand, respondents who strongly disagreed with the statement by 6.7% while 5% of respondents strongly disagreed.

From the study findings, it is true that that supporting child care giving programs will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. Even data from interviews indicates that supporting child care giving programs will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

Create strong community support systems

In reference to table 4.5, 45.7% of the respondents agreed that creating strong community support systems will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. 11.9% of the respondents strongly agreed while 15.3% were neutral (neither agreed nor disagreed). Contrary to the statement, 16.9% of the respondents disagreed while only 10.1% of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement.

It was revealed therefore that creating strong community support systems will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families with similar findings from interviews.

Undertaking child rights advocate

The researcher also intended to find out whether undertaking child rights advocate will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. 17.4% of respondents agreed; 13.0% strongly agreed and only 20.3% had their responses indifferent. On the other hand, only 31.9% of the respondents disagreed with the statement and 14.5% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Therefore, child rights advocate will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. Even data from face to face interview support this view thus child rights advocate will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

Rebuild self esteem for parents

From table 4.5, 30.5% of the respondents agreed while 23.7% strongly agreed with the statements that rebuilding self esteem for parents will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. Majority of respondents (15.3%) had their responses indifferent to the statement. On the contrary, 5% of respondents disagreed while 8.4% strongly disagreed that rebuilding self esteem for parents will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

Therefore rebuilding self esteem for parents will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families with similar findings from interviews showing that rebuilding self esteem for parents will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

Undertaking community sensitization

Respondents were also asked to give their opinions on whether undertaking community sensitization will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. Only 20.3% of respondents agreed with this statement; followed by 38.9% who strongly agreed; while 6.7% of the respondents had their responses neutral. Majority respondents disagreed 59.4% and only 7.2% as the least number of respondents who strongly disagreed.

Therefore, undertaking community sensitization will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families. This was in line with results obtained from face to face interviews

where it was revealed that undertaking community sensitization will help enhance the wellbeing of children from single parenting families

From table 4.5, the average mean was found to be 3.37 and basing on the legend above, it meant that there are a number of ways of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presented a discussion of the findings of the study, the conclusions, and recommendations and finally areas for further research. This was done basing on the objectives of the study.

5.2 Summary

5.2.1 Causes of single parenting

The study found that death of partner can lead to single parenting. Death of a partner is classified to be a common cause of single parenting. It may be caused by diseases and results in a widower or widow being solely responsible for taking care of the children.

Also results of the study show that divorce cause of single parenting. When parent divorces, the responsibility of taking care of the children and other family members falls under one parent which rinks the welfare of children. Most children will spend several years in a single-mother family. Some will eventually live in stepparent families, but because stepfamilies are more likely to break up than intact

Additionally, unwanted pregnancy was also found to contribute significantly to single parenting. Some out of wedlock births are intended, but many are unintentional. Where out of wedlock births are accepted by society, they may result in single parenting and children born as a result suffer poor wellbeing.

Study findings indicate that lack of family support contributes to single parenting. Where one spouse fails to get the necessary support, he/she may opt to stay alone leading to to single parenting.

Other results of the study findings show those long distance relationships a contributory factor to single pare4nthood. Spouses loose contacts as well socio-emotional bond leading to loneliness and single parenthood.

5.2.2 Life Experience of children from single parenting families

Study findings show those children from single parenting families experience stigma. a single parent family also called ‘solo parent’ usually refers to a parent not living with a spouse or partner that has most of the day to day responsibilities in raising the child or children. A single parent is usually considered the primary caregiver, meaning the parent, children have residency with the majority of the time. In a single parent family, there is a gap caused by the absence of the second partner as it will be highlighted in the following part.

It was discovered from the study results that many of the children from single parenting families lack education. They lack scholastic and academic support to study and as a consequence, they suffer from enrollment and retention. Others dropout of school.

Additionally, study findings revealed that children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care. They suffer from different ailment but cannot access treatment thus affecting their welfare

Further, findings show that children from single parenting families do not have proper nutrition and this lowers their general welfare.

Other findings show that children from single parenting families lack better shelter and this has in large measure affected their welfare

Other study results show that children from single parenting families face discrimination relationships.

5.2.3 Ways of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Increasing family incomes enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Support to child care giving programs enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

It was also revealed that creating strong community support systems may help to enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Undertaking child rights advocate as noted by the study may also help in enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Further, results show that rebuilding self esteem for parents will help to enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Even undertaking community sensitization as a way of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families was one of the findings of the study

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 Causes of single parenting

It is true, death of partner can lead to single parenting but the findings did not indicate a situation where a partner may be resourceful enough to take care of the children well. A single partner may be too rich to support the family in absence of one partner and no study participant mentioned that.

It is also true as per the study findings that divorce cause of single parenting. Because when parent divorces, the responsibility of taking care of the children and other family member's falls under one parent which risks the welfare of children.

As found out by the study, unwanted pregnancy was also found to contribute significantly to single parenting. Children born outside wedlock lack the necessary life support needed for them to thrive.

Further results show that lack of family support contributes to single parenting. It is therefore true that where one spouse fails to get the necessary support, he/she may opt to stay alone leading to single parenting.

Long distance relationships as indicated by the study results contribute to single parenthood. Spouses loose contacts as well socio-emotional bond leading to loneliness and single parenthood.

5.3.2 Life Experience of children from single parenting families

According to study findings, children from single parenting families experience stigma. a single parent family also called 'solo parent' usually refers to a parent not living with a

Also the study results that many of the children from single parenting families lack education. They lack scholastic and academic support to study and as a consequence, they suffer from enrollment and retention.

As study findings revealed, children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care. They suffer from different ailments but cannot access treatment thus affecting their welfare.

Findings show that children from single parenting families do not have proper nutrition and this lowers their general welfare. And this affects the welfare of children raised in such a situation.

According to the study findings, children from single parenting families lack better shelter and this has in large measure affected their welfare.

Other study results show that children from single parenting families face discrimination relationships.

5.3.3 Ways of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Increasing family incomes may help to enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families but study participants did not take about the failure of distributional measures that keeps families in deeper poverty.

It was also revealed that supporting child care giving programs may in long term help to enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

It was also revealed that creating strong community support systems may help to enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

Also, undertaking child rights advocacy as revealed by the study findings may also help in enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

As per the study findings, rebuilding self esteem for parents will help to enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

Finally, undertaking community sensitization as a way of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families was one of the findings of the study.

5.4 Recommendation

5.4.1 Causes of single parenting

Death of partner caused single parenting.

Also divorce leads to single parenting families.

Another cause of single parenting families is unwanted pregnancy

Even lack of family support can lead to single parenting families

Additionally, long distance relationships lead to single parenting families

5.4.2 Life Experience of children from single parenting families

Children from single parenting families experience stigma

Many of the children from single parenting families lack education

Children from single parenting families lack appropriate medical care

Children from single parenting families do not have proper nutrition

Children from single parenting families lack better shelter

Children from single parenting families face discrimination relationships

5.4.3 Ways of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Increasing family incomes may enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Also, supporting to child care giving programs may enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Another way of enhancing wellbeing of children from single parenting families is through creating strong community support systems

Additionally, undertaking child rights advocate may enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families

Even rebuild self esteem for parents may enhance wellbeing of children from single parenting families.

5.5 Areas for further study

- 1) Effect of divorce on weltering of children
- 2) Role of single parenting on educational achievement of children
- 3) Effect of single parenting on nutritional status of children

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Appendix 1: Table for determining sample size from a given population by Krejcie & Morgan (1970)

Table for determining sample size from a given population					
N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20200	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	1000000	384

Note: N is population size

S is sample size

THANK YOU!

APPENDICES

Appendix A: In-Depth Interview for Children from Single Parenting Families

Dear Respondent,

I am a student of Uganda Christian University undertaking a research on: “*Effect of single parenting families on the wellbeing of children; a case study of Buyaga Town Council*

Bulambuli District,” please kindly give information on the above subjects. All information will be treated with confidentiality.

Your positive response will make this research a success. All information will be treated as confidential.

SECTION A: BIODATA

(Fill with the required information of tick where applicable)

Age

10 to 12 13 to 15
16 to 18

- **Sex:** Male Female

- **Government parish**.....

- **Level of education:** Primary Secondary
Tertiary

Religion: Protestant Catholic

Muslim Other (specify).....

Child’s caregiver: Father Mother Other **SECTION**

B: LIFE EXPERIENCES

COGNITIVE ASPECT

1. Do you and your parent relate with each other well? (Schooling, finances, dressing, food, etc.)
2. Do you consider yourself to be academically very good, good or fair?

HEALTH ASPECT

3. When you are asked to do a routine work, do you follow the directions easily or you ask for clarity?
4. What type of power do you experience? (Authoritative, authoritarian, laissez-faire....)
5. When your get ill or sick does your parent do take promptly or takes a day or two?
6. How many meals do you take in a day?
7. Were you protected against the six killer's diseases under immunisation policy?
8. Do you have any deformity as result of your caregiver's negligence?
9. Do you have any scars as a result of neglect of your parent?

SOCIAL ASPECT

10. Do your brothers and sisters treat you nicely?
11. Does the family you live with care and love you?
12. How do you feel when you are asked about the missing parent?
13. Do other children welcome you unconditionally with your single parent?
14. Do you do excessive domestic work because of having a single parent?

EFFECT OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

15. What is the ownership of the house you live in?
16. Do you go to school?

17. How do you relate to your teachers?
18. How does your single parent relate with the school?
19. Do you enjoy being in school? What is your experience?
20. What is the source of income to your family?
21. Have you ever gone out to beg because of poverty?
22. What are the causes of single parenting in Buyaga Town Council?
23. What is the impact of single parenting on the wellbeing of these children in Buyaga Town Council.
24. What are the major ways of enhancing the wellbeing of children from single parenting families?
25. Do you have anything to say about the wellbeing of children from single parenting families?

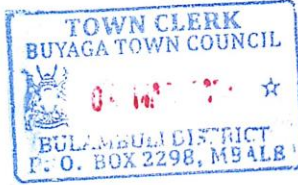
THANK YOU!



UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY
A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Office of the Academic Registrar

To THE OFFICE OF
BUYAGA TOWN COUNCIL



Permission
granted
for Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,
Re: Academic Research
Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss. ACHENG ENINAH
Of Registration Number; S22/muc/BPAM/002 pursuing a Masters'
Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
He/ she is required to carry out an academic research on the topic
EFFECTS OF SINGLE PARENTING FAMILIES ON THE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN; A CASE STUDY OF BUYAGA TOWN COUNCIL

and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK) copies for Postgraduate students as a University requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.

We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.
Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Akampurira Timothy
Academic Registrar

