

**EFFECTS OF SINGLE PARENTING ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS IN BUTULA SUB-COUNTY, BUSIA  
COUNTY, KENYA**

**BY**

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**DECLARATION**

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for award of a degree or for any other similar purpose in any other institution.

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This research project has been submitted with my approval as the university supervisor.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this piece of work to my beloved mother Margaret Kemunto, my father Valentine Sabatia and my siblings for their continuous support and motivation during the entire research process.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

A.G.M – Annual General Meetings

P.T.A – Parents Teacher’s Association

S.P.S.S- Statistical Packages for Social Sciences

T.S.C- Teachers Service Commission

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Academic performance** – is the extent to which a student, teacher or institution has attained their short or long term educational goals.

**Single parent** - is a person who lives with a child or children and who does not have a spouse or live-in partner.

**Single parenting** – is a parent bringing up a child or children alone without a partner.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The researcher aimed to investigate the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary schools students in Butula sub county, Busia County. The purpose was fulfilled through three specific objectives: To find out the causes of single parenting, to find out the difficulties facing single parents when raising their children and lastly to find out possible solutions to prevail the identified difficulties facing single parents when raising their children. Single parents are caused by divorce, death or separation. Single parents pass through many difficulties such as; inability to buy school requirements, lack of enough time to check student's exercise books and poor communication. The learners who are raised with single parents goes through some challenges such as; lack of school resources, lack of support from parents, economic hardships, life stress and depression. The researcher employed the use of questionnaire to the students, parents and teachers. Purposive sampling was used because of the the nature whereby the teachers and the students were to give their views regarding effects of single parenting on academic performance. After collection of the questionnaires, the researcher read through them to ascertain their numbers to see whether all the items were responded. Quantitative data was analysed by use of descriptive statistics which employed the measures of central tendencies. The data obtained through questionnaires was organised and computer excel programme was used to convert the data into tables. The findings included three objectives which are causes of single parenting, difficulties facing single parents and possible solutions to prevent them. The sample size of the study was twenty students, twelve teachers and forty parents. All respondents returned questionnaires. The students' response rate was 28%, teachers' was 16% and parents 56%.



## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This chapter aims to discuss the background of the study, statement of the research problem, the purpose of the study, conceptual framework, objectives, significance of the study, delimitations of the study and limitations of study.

### **1.2 Background of the Study**

Nyarko (2011) considered that in order to curb the difficulties in education system, then there must be the appropriate parenting which children should be given so as to assist in lifting the quality of education. Tan-Kuick & Ng, (2011), believed that one of the parent is created as the child lack the supports from the parents. Addo Adeku, Opare and Banini (2003) confirmed that single parenting is caused by divorce or death of one partner which later on leaves everything in the hands of a single parent.

Zill, (1996), also believed that both parents must be available so that they won't be affected with anything that may hinder them from performing well in their academics, but when a parent misses to provide the child's necessities then the child may be affected. Salami and Alowade (2000), also believed that single parenting is brought about by death, divorce, separation which leaves the responsibilities and the roles in the hands of a single parent.

Zill, (1996) asserted that a student who comes from a family where he or she has both parents perform well in their academics while students who comes from a family where he or she has a single parent tend not to perform well in academics. Nyarko , (2011), he believed that a child who lacks parents to watch over their academics and also supervising their work tend not to perform well in academics.

### **1.3 Statement of the Research Problem**

It has been noted that single parental has been affecting students in their academic performance. It has been a great challenge facing many countries in the world wide. Students who lives with a single parent tend to perform poorly in terms of education, since they do not get fully support from both parents.



Single parenting and its effect on students' academic performance has been tackled by different researchers but no study was conducted in secondary schools in Butula sub county, Busia County. This study was therefore brought about to determine the effects of single parenting on academic performance of public secondary schools in Butula sub county, Busia county.

**1.4 The purpose of the Study.**

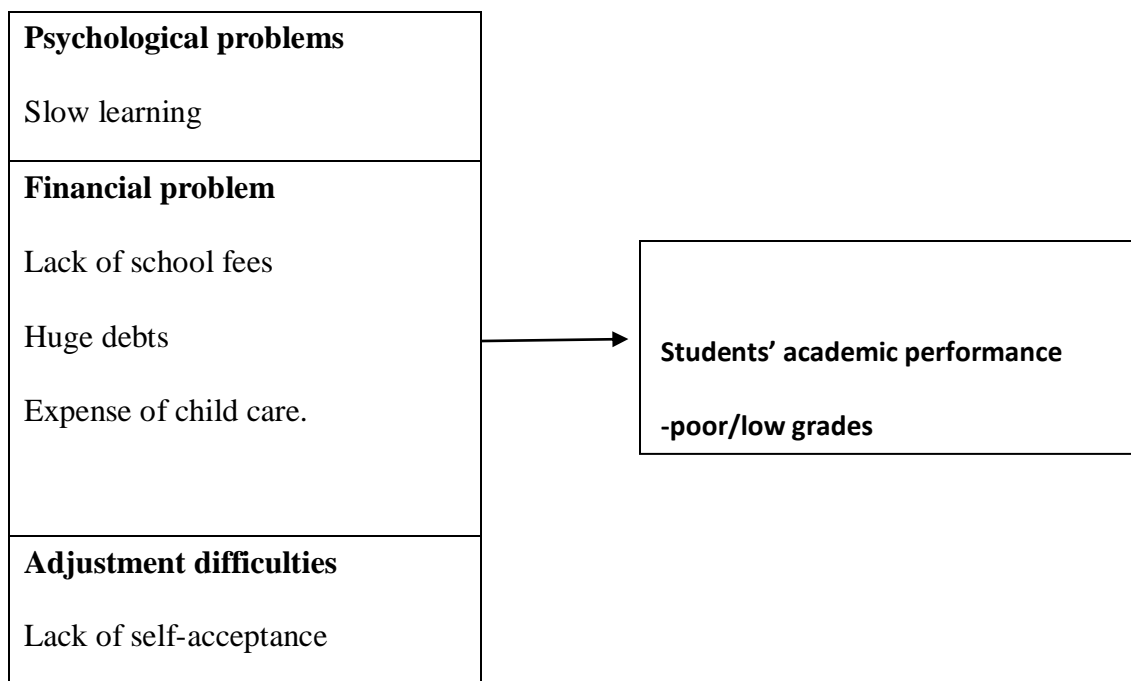
The purpose of this study was to find out the effects of single parenting on academic performance of public secondary schools in Butula sub county, Busia County

**1.5 The Conceptual Framework**

The figure below shows variables which are the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary school students. They are: emotional problem, financial problems and adjustment difficulties, While dependent variables are students' performance.

**Independent variable**

**Dependent variable**



**Figure 1: Study Conceptual framework**

## **1.6 Objectives of the Study.**

### **1.6.1 General objective**

To investigate the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary school students in Kenya, Butula sub county, Busia County.

### **1.7 Specific Objectives**

- i. To find out the causes of single parenting which affects students in their academic performance?
- ii. To find out the difficulties facing single parents when raising their children.
- iii. To find out possible solutions to prevail the identified difficulties facing single parents when raising their children.

### **1.8 Research Questions**

What are the causes of single parenting?

What are the difficulties facing single parents when raising their children?

What are the possible solutions to prevail the identified difficulties facing single parents when raising their children?

### **1.9 Significance of the Study.**

This study was to establish the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary school students in Kenya, Butula sub-county, Busia County. This aimed at finding possible solutions to prevail the identified difficulties facing single parents when raising their children who are learning in secondary schools. This study was to enable law makers to have a deeper interest regarding on single parenting and on the need to act fast since of its impact on the nation.

The study was to enable students to understand that the issue of single parenting is everywhere and remarkably but they should rather strive to achieve excellent in their academics. The study was also to enable the secondary school teachers to understand and assist those students in terms of giving them Guidance and counselling for them to be able to

achieve well in their academics. This study was to enable the secondary school teachers to understand and assist those students in terms of giving them guidance and counselling for this enables them to achieve well in their academics.

### **1.10 Delimitation of the Study**

Even though single parenting affects students in various areas of their lives, this study focused on its effects on the academic performance of secondary students. The study was carried out in two selected schools in Butula sub county, Busia County.

The study was also confined to three specific objectives; Causes of single parenting, the difficulties which parents face when raising their children and how to prevail the identified difficulties parents face when raising their children.

### **1.11 Limitations of the Study**

Time was a limitation that I faced on the study. Time allocated for data collection was so minimal forcing the researcher to deploy people to help in distribution and collection of the filled questionnaires from the respondents. The researcher encountered ignorance on the side of the respondents. Some of the respondents did not know how to read and write. To help in solving the problem of ignorance on the side of the respondents, the researcher had to read and interpret the questions for those respondents who could not read and write

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses related literature to the purpose of the study to investigate the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary school students in Butula sub county, Busia County. Literature review particularly focused on the following objectives; Effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary school students in Butula sub county, Busia county, to find out the causes of single parenting, finding out the difficulties facing single parents when raising their children and the possible solutions to prevail the identified difficulties facing single parents when raising their children.

### **2.2 Effects of Single Parents on Academic Performance**

#### **2.2.1 Emotional Problem**

Bates and Pettit (2004) stated that children undergoes a lot of sufferings from self-esteem problems, they may need the love and affection from their parents, which they may not get enough from their parents.

#### **2.2.2 Financial Problems.**

Ramon (2005) argued that many people pass through a lot of stress especially adolescent mothers. Rothstein (2004) argued that the economic status affects the academic performance of students since parents lack enough money to pay for school fees which may lead to poor performance in secondary schools.

#### **2.2.3 Adjustments Difficulties**

According to Epstein (2002) argued that when both parents are available to their children, then there can be a better performance of the children at school. This is because when both parents are present they make sure that the child does not lack anything at school.

### **2.3 Causes of Single Parenting**

According to Duke (2000) single parenthood is caused by divorce, separation, death and many others.

### **2.3.1 Death**

According to Wilson, (1993) single parent's passes through many challenges, of which he or she may be stressed up because it is not easy to carry all the responsibilities alone as a mother or a father. Blankenhorn, (1995), many children do not have a father and this becomes a greater challenge to the society of today. According to the researcher, when one of the partners dies in the family, it becomes a problem in the society especially in Kenya. The properties of the deceased are taken resulting to the forcing of women and children. This case had made children to drop out of school or not performing well in school.

### **2.3.2 Divorce**

Divorce cases have been increasing for more than 100 years. Bumpass, (1990). Learners Dictionary (2006), Divorce is the termination of marriage between a couple. Recently, divorce cases have increased rapidly. Most people assume that first marriages will not last for long, but a stable marriage remains still. Bumpass, (1990; Jallinogu, 2000).

### **2.3.3 Early Pregnancies**

Kenya, just like other counties in the world, faces social disintegration as women passes through difficulties of teenage pregnancy. Women who are single parents usually undergo through the feeling of disgrace of being poor, widowed, unmarried and are under pressure from the society. Single parents take a huge risk so that they can support their children. They are most likely to do prostitution and trafficking. Wilson, (1993).

## **2.4 Difficulties Which Single Parents Face**

Single parents face a lot of problems since they are the ones to carry all the responsibilities alone. Single parenting has led to many challenges such as dropping out of school, engaging on crimes, early pregnancies and many others. Sander, (2001).

### **2.4.1 Financial Problem.**

According to McLanaham (1994) gave three descriptions of resources such as parental, social and financial which explains the outcomes of being raised by a single parent. Learners who come from families which have higher incomes tend to attend best public schools. Income

affects school performance. Those learners who come from poor background tend not to do well in academics Sander, (2001).

#### **2.4.2 Parental Occupation**

According to Akinsanya (2011) argued that a child who comes from a high social class is able to excel in his or her studies since they don't lack anything. Farooq (2011) stated that a parent's occupation matters to the student performance in school. A parent who comes late from work and finds the children are asleep can offer very minimum time to the student which may lead to low performance at school.

#### **2.4.3 Time and Money Management**

Cummings and Davis (1994). Argued that a single parent faces through many challenges since they have a lot of responsibilities to make on their own as they need enough time and money to meet their daily standards. Musgrave, (2000) stated that, managing time is not simple for single parent students. This is because those students tend to perform a lot of tasks hence they don't have time to focus on their studies.

### **2.5. Possible Solutions to the Problems**

#### **2.5.1 Financial Problems**

To curb the problems single parents face is to use the funds allocated for bursary which helps them in fee payment as the children will not be sent from school.

#### **2.5.2 Parental Occupation**

According to ( Tess, 2001), to curb this problem which has been a great challenge to single parents, the single parent has to make sure to balance his or her work so as to be able to have time for the children at home and even at school.

#### **2.5.3 Time and Money Management**

The single parent must meet the responsibilities so as to ensure that the child do not lack anything at school and even at home. So the parent should be able to talk to the employer and explain the situation which is at hand. Then the employer if he or she understands should give him or her enough time to spend with the children at home.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

According to Bowles (1989), argued that when the parent is not present, then the parent may end up disturbed because of the many responsibilities they withhold the talents of the children may not be fully developed.

Erick Erickson's theory of psychology developmental suggests that when there is someone who cares for the children and even supports them, then it means the children will acquire trust and even self- awareness. This will enable them to have good performance in their academics.

L.S Vygotsky's reasoning behind cognitive development argued how the children are able to develop when the parents are present and not in the hands of the guardian. If the children are left in the hands of the guardian then their academics may not be fully supported.

## **2.7 Summary of Identified Gaps in the Reviewed Literature**

It has been noted that the public schools faces a lot of deviations in their performance due to single parents, this problems which the children undergoes are adjustment difficulties, economic problems, and financial problems.

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter gives the details on target population, data collection techniques, research design. Sampling techniques, data analysis which the researcher used while in the field.

### **3.2 Research Design**

Descriptive research design was the one which the researcher carried out in the field. It involves giving details as they were in the field. The researcher used this design so as to get description of the effect of single parenting on academic performance of secondary students.

### **3.3 Study Location**

The research was limited and carried out in public secondary schools to determine the effects of single parenting on academic performance on Butula sub-county Kenya. The researcher was interested in the area of the study because it was flexible and familiar with the sub-county and therefore, it was more convenient for her to get the necessary information from the respondents.

### **3.4 Target Population**

The target population were two schools. In this study, the target population were teachers, students and parents. The two schools had a total enrolment of 950 students which were mixed schools, 16 T.S.C teachers including the school principals and the deputy principals.

### **3.5 Sample Size**

The researcher therefore decided to select two public secondary schools. The respondents consisted of 20 students, from each school 6 teachers were selected and 40 parents were also included. Total sample size of the respondents was 72.



**Table 1: Composition of respondents of secondary schools in Butula sub-county**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Sampling Techniques</b>
1	Parents or guardian	40	Purposive sampling
2	Students	20	Simple random
3	Teachers	12	purposive
4	Total	72	

### **3.6 Sampling Techniques**

The researcher used purposive sampling because of the nature whereby the teacher and the students were to give their views regarding effects of single parenting on academic performance.

### **3.7 Research Instruments**

The researcher conducted the use of questionnaire in the field. The questionnaire was conducted to the students, teachers and parents.

### **3.8 Validity of Measurement**

There was the use of questionnaire which the researcher carried out.

The researcher also carried an analysis of the literature and research in order to obtain enough information from the responsibilities.

### **3.9 Reliability of Measurement**

In order to maintain reliability on the study, the researcher administered the same type of questionnaire to the entire subject which was the students who participated in the research. They were given the same type of questions with the same interpretation of the questions. The researcher made sure that all the questions were constructed in English language so as to be easily read and understood by all subjects.

### **3.10 Data Collection Techniques**

#### **3.10.1 Questionnaire**

McMillan (2010) stated that a questionnaire is a useful tool where the researcher can employ it to collect people's opinion on the nature and effective of the programme. The researchers used both open ended and closed questions. The researcher employed the use of questionnaire because the study was concerned with variables that cannot be directly observed such as feelings, opinions, and views of the respondents.

In this study therefore, the questions were suited in collecting the respondents' opinions on the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary students in Butula Sub County. The questions enabled the respondents to answer questions easily without wasting time. The researcher administered questionnaires to students so as to get information on the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary students.

#### **3.11. Data Analysis**

After collection of the questionnaire, the researcher read through them to ascertain their numbers and to see whether all the items were responded. Quantitative data was analysed by use of descriptive statistics which employed the measures of central tendencies. The data obtained through questionnaire was organised and computer excel programme was used to convert the data into tables.

#### **3.12 Logistical and Ethical Consideration**

Gray, (2009) Insisted on the need of the researcher to observe the principles of ethics when conducting the research. This is because the respondents could be in danger or may be experiencing harm if their opinions are known to their superiors. It is not right to violet the rights of any individual just because of searching for information.

## CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATIONS

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter, indicates data being analysed and enhanced the discussions. The findings included three objectives which are causes of single parenting, difficulties facing single parenting, difficulties facing single parenting and possible solutions to prevail them.

### 4.2 Response Rate

The sample size of the study was 20 students, 12 teachers and 40 parents. All respondents returned questionnaire. The students response rate was 28%, the teachers was 16% and parents were 56% because they all returned questionnaires.

**Table 4 1: Response Rate**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Students	20	28
Parents	40	56
Teachers	12	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>

### 4.3 Availability of Learning Resources

The figure below indicates those students who agreed that their parents provide for them the learning resources and those who don't provide learning resources.

**Table 4 2: Availability of Learning Resources**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	4	20
No	16	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

There were 20 students who participated in the study. Whereby 4 (20%) were the one who had the learning resources to aid their studies. That is 2 males and 2 females

While 16 (80%) respondents that are 5 males and 11 females. These were the one who lacked learning resources to aid their studies.

### 4.3 Payment of School Fee by Parents

**Table 4.3: Payment of School Fee by Parents**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	5	25
No	15	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

5 (25%) respondents concluded that their parents were able to pay their school fees on time. There were 4 males and 1 female who agreed. While 15 (75%) respondents concluded that their parents did not pay their school fees on time. Those who disagreed were 4 males and 11 females.

### 4.4 Parental involvement in School Activities

16 (80%) respondents. There were 7 males and 9 females concluded that their parents usually get time to attend school functions and meetings such as P.T.A and A.G.M. While 4 (20%) respondents, there were 3 females and 1 male. They concluded that their parents usually do not have time to attend the school meetings

**Table 4.4: Parental involvement in School Activities**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	16	80
No	4	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

### 4.5 Parental Assistance in Homework Assignments

3 (15%) respondents, they were 2 females and 1 male who concluded that their parents usually assist them in doing their school assignments. While 17(85%) respondents who were

12 females and 5 males concluded that their parents usually do not assist them in doing their school assignments.

**Table 4. 5: Parental Assistance in Homework Assignments**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	3	15
No	17	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **4.6 Student Engagement in Commercial Activities**

17 (85%) respondents who were 5 males and 12 females agreed that they engaged themselves in commercial activities to support their education. While 3 (15%) respondents who were 3 males and 1 female concluded that they did not engage themselves in commercial activities

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	17	85
No	3	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **4.7 Parental Engagement in Co-Curricular Activities**

13 (65%) respondents who were 6 males and 7 females agreed that their parents engaged them in co-curricular activities. While 7 (35%) who were 2 males and 5 females agreed that their parents did not engage them in co-curricular activities

**Table 4.6: Parental Engagement in Co-Curricular Activities**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	13	65
No	7	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.8 Whom do you stay with?

11 (55%) respondents who were 5 males and 6 females agreed that they stay with their mothers. 5 (25%) respondents who were 2 males and 3 females agreed that they stay with their fathers and 4 (20%) respondents who were 3 females and 1 male concluded that they stay with their guardians.

**Table 4 .7:Whom do you stay with**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Mother	11	55
Father	5	25
Guardian	4	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.9 Whereabouts of the other parent

3 (15%) respondents who were 2 females and 1 male concluded that the other parent is dead. 5(25%) respondents.

**Table 4. 8: Whereabouts of the other parent**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Dead	3	15
Divorced	5	25
Separated	12	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.10 Number of Siblings

5(25%) respondents who were 3 males and 2 females agreed that they don't have siblings. 8 (40%) respondents who were 3 males and 5 females who agreed that they have approximately 2 to 3 siblings. 7 (35%) respondents who were 2 males and 5 females agreed that they have approximately 4 to 5 siblings.

**Table 4 .9: Number of Siblings**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
None	5	25
2 to 3	8	40
4 to 5	7	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **4.11 The Parent is Employed**

7 (35%) respondents who were 4 males and 3 females agreed that their parents were employed. While, 13 (65%) respondents who were 4 males and 9 females agreed that their parents were not employed.

**Table 4 .10: The Parent is Employed**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	7	35
No	13	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

### **PARENT ANALYSIS**

According to the researcher's data, the total number of the respondents was 40 parents. All of them answered the questions which were issued to them by the researcher.

#### **4.12 Gender**

In the study, there were 16 (40%) respondents who were male and 24 (60%) respondents who were females.

**Table 4.11: Gender**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	16	40
Female	24	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

**4.13. The number of Children**

20 (50%) parents concluded that they have approximately 2-3 children. 16 (40%) respondents concluded that they have approximately 4-5 children and those who had more than 5 children were 4 parents of which are 10.

**Table 4.12: The number of Children**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>2-3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>
4-5	16	40
More than five	4	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

**4.14 Do you discuss with your child about education and his or her interests**

Those parents who agreed that they do discussions with their children concerning education were 24 of which is 60% and those who concluded that they don't do discussions with their child according to their own reasons were 16 of which is 40%.

**Table 4.13: Do you discuss with your child about education and his or her interests**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	24	60
No	16	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>



#### 4.15 Employment

24 parents of which are 60% concluded that they have a job while 16 parents of which is 40% concluded that they don't have a job

**Table 4.14:Employment**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	24	60
No	16	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.16 Cause of a Single Parent

12 parents of which are 30% concluded that the cause of being single was death of the other partner. 12 parents of which are 30% concluded that the cause of being single was divorce and the rest who were 16 respondents of which is 40% concluded that the cause of being single was separation.

**Table 4.15:Cause of a Single Parent**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Divorce	12	30
Death	12	30
Separation	16	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.17 Salary satisfaction

**Table 4.16: Salary satisfaction**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	16	40

No	24	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

Those respondents who agreed that their salary is well satisfactory to their family were 16 of which are 40% and those who did not agree were 24 parents of which is 60%.

#### 4.18 Financial Help

Those respondents who concluded that they do get financial help from the other parent were 12 of which are 30% and those who concluded that they don't get financial help were 28 parents of which is 70%

**Table 4.17: Financial Help**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	12	30
No	28	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>

### TEACHERS ANALYSIS

According to my study, the total number of the respondents was 12 teachers. All of them answered the questions which were issued to them by the researcher.

#### 4.19 Gender on Teacher Analysis

In the study, there were 5 (41.7%) males and 7 females of which is 58.3%

**Table 4.18: Gender on Teacher Analysis**

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	5	41.7
Female	7	58.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.20 Complaint Received from Students

10 (83%) respondents concluded that they received complaints from students who are raised by a single parent that they face problems at their home. While 2(16.7%) respondents concluded that they have not received any complaints from the students that they are facing problems at home.

**Table 4.19: Complaint Received from Students**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	10	83.3
No	2	16.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>

**4.21 Parents Cooperation with Academic Matters of their Children**

5 (41.7%) respondents agreed that the children's parents cooperate with academic matters of their children. While 7 (58.3%) respondents agreed that their parents do not cooperate with academic matters of their children.

**Table 4.20:Parents Cooperation with Academic Matters of their Children**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	5	41.7
No	7	58.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>

**4.22 Do their parents or guardians attend PTA /AGM meetings?**

3 (25%) respondents concluded that the parents attend PTA or AGM meetings regularly. While, 9 (75%) respondents concluded that the parents do not attend PTA or AGM meetings.

**Table 4.21: Do their parents or guardians attend PTA /AGM meetings**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	3	25

No	9	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100</b>

**4.23 Are parents capable of providing their children with adequate learning materials?**

4 (33%) Teachers agreed that the parents are capable of providing their children with adequate learning materials. While, 8 (66.7%) teachers concluded that the parents are not capable of providing their children with adequate learning materials.

**Table 4.22: Are parents capable of providing their children with adequate learning materials?**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	4	33.3
No	8	66.7
Total	12	100

## **CHAPTER FIVE:SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary school students in Butula Sub County. The chapters had various aspects of challenges. Chapter one to three was done by the researcher and chapter four the findings which was presented, analysed and discussed. This chapter give included the conclusion, summary and recommendation of the study.

### **5.2 Summary of the Study**

The aim of the study was to determine the effects of single parenting on academic performance of secondary school students in Butula Sub County. The researcher's objectives and questions were three. The study used Erick Erickson's, Vygotsky's and Bowles's theory in theoretical framework which indicates the effects of single parenting on academic performance. The literature review relied on the information concerned to research which is related to objectives of the study. The sample comprised of 20 students, 12 teachers and 40 parents. Data collection was done through questionnaires.

### **5.3 The findings of the Study**

#### **5.3.1 Causes of single Parenting.**

These findings indicated that single parenting is caused by divorce, death, early pregnancy. It was noted that students who came from a family which is divorced, death or separation suffers in academics. Those students do not perform well due to challenges they face, which leads to poor performance.

#### **5.3.2 Difficulties facing Single Parenting.**

Single parents passed through many challenges which are financial problems, parental occupation, and time and money management. It was discovered that low income of parents or guardians made them not to provide enough school requirements for their children. Low income also forced some students to take part in the income generation activities to support the families for themselves so that they can get their needs. This tends to affect their

academic performance in school. However, children who comes from family with high income, they viewed payment of school fees as an affordable. Also, it was found that parental occupation is also a challenge, the parents has to balance his or her work with meeting the needs of their children, which is not easy for many single parents. Time and money management was also a great challenge, in that, the single parent has to work extra hand and if possible to explain his situation to the employer, so that the employer can give him or her the time to spend with the children.

#### **5.4 Possible Solutions to Prevail the Identified Difficulties facing Single Parenting.**

Single parents should make use of state funded child care programmed and medical insurance so as to reduce financial problems. The problem of parental occupation should be overcome when the single parent has to balance his or her work with meeting the needs of the children. The problem of time and money management has to be overcome when the single parent has to explain his or her situation to the employer so that the employer could give him or her time to spend with the children at home. In the case of money management, the single parent has to budget their salary and try to conserve energy, saving money on bills and also cut down the amount spent. (Battle 1998).

#### **5.4 Conclusion**

The researcher concluded that when both parents are available to their children, the children will do great in their studies. The children need cooperation from their parents whether they are raised by single parents or both. Effects like emotional problem, financial problems and adjustments difficulties affect the academic performance of the students. Also, some parents have no time to be with their children due to their work, thereby not having time to check their school work.

#### **5.5 Recommendation for Policy or Practice**

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the researcher recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Single parents should make use of bursary and CDF funds so as to reduce financial problems.

2) School system should introduce Guidance and counselling department where learners who are facing problems at home or School to be able to share with the teacher and assist the learners where it is needed.

3) Teachers should advise parents to co-operate with the school administrations so as to do supervision of their children academic progress and through balancing of domestic chores with studies at home. This will improve their studies.

### **5.6 Recommendation for Further Research**

It is suggested that a similar study should be conducted in Busia county especially Budalangi region using a bigger sample than this as this was done only in two public secondary schools. Additionally, research should be conducted to investigate effects of single parenting on academic performance between day scholars' students and boarding students in public secondary schools.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Questionnaire

#### Section A: QUESTIONNAIRES FOR STUDENTS

1. Do you have enough learning resources?

Yes  No

2. Does your parent pay school fees on time?

Yes  No

3. Does your parent assist you in doing your assignments?

Yes  No

4. Do you engage in commercial activities?

Yes  No

5. Does your parent allow you to engage in co-curricular activities?

Yes  No

#### Section B

1. Whom do you stay with?

Mother  Father  Guardian

2. Whereabouts of the other parents?

Death  Divorced  Separated

3. How many siblings do you have?

None  2-3  4-5  More than 5

4. Is your parent employed?

Yes  No

## QUESTIONNAIRES FOR PARENTS

1. What is your gender?  
 Male     Female
2. How many children do you have?  
 2-3     4-5     More than 5
3. Do you discuss with your child about education and his or her interests?  
 Yes     No
4. Are you employed?  
 Yes     No
5. What caused you to be a single parent?  
 Death     Divorced     Separation
6. Is your salary satisfactory to your family?  
 Yes     No
7. Do you get any financial help from the other parent?  
 Yes     No

## QUESTIONNAIRES FOR TEACHERS

1. What is your gender?

Male       Female

2. Have you ever received any complaints from students who are raised by single parents that they are facing problems at home?

Yes       No

3. Do parents or guardians attend PTA or AGM meetings regularly?

Yes       No

4. Do parents or guardians capable of providing their children with adequate learning materials?

Yes       No