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**IMPACTS OF SINGLE PARENTAL FAMILIES DUE TO FATHER MIGRATION ON
OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN LEFT-BEHIND**

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to figure out the impacts of single parental family due to father migration on overall development of their children left-behind. For this purpose, study focusing on the impact of absence of father in order to examine the father's role in child development and personality making. Besides, the effect of father's absence, this study also aimed to explore the role and responsibilities of Single mother being a single parent from the perspectives of children, focusing on the experiences of prolonged parent-child separation. This is a qualitative study that obtained the data from 20 families of migrant including mothers, children and grandparents. The results revealed that children with absent fathers evident many internalized developmental and behavioral problems such as sadness and depression, sex role difficulties, social functioning and lower self-esteem.

Keywords: Father Migration, overall development, left behind

INTRODUCTION

Single parental families are elaborated as single parents by death outcome, solo parents by decision/choice, divorced, separated with legal agreements or migration and this absence ultimately become sufferance for the other spouse (**Effectivepaper blogspot, 2011**). Single parenting is a condition, when one of the spouse got died or absent due to any reason and responsibilities directly shifted to the remaining parent. Paternal absence whether due to any cause have major effects on a child's emotional development (**Amato & Booth, 1991**). Probably the least traumatic effects of paternal deprivation is result of prolonged or temporary father absence since these effects are reversible. The severity of impact of father absence is different on children regarding their age (**Sigle-Rushton & McLanahan, 2002**).

In 2007 UNICEF reported regarding the well-being of children in developed countries. The report showed that children particular in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. rank extremely low in regard to social and emotional well-being. Many theories have been explored to explain the poor state of children and revealed a fact that had been largely ignored; particularly by the policymakers is the prevalence and

devastating effects of father absence in children's lives.

There are many Causes of paternal absence such as divorce, separation, death, career demands and migration which ultimate caused father absence. In all the cases the fathers are compel to leave their families left behind and move. These movements that cause absence of father in the family have drastic effects on the children as they don't get proper parent care and guidance in single parent family. **Jokhen** further mentioned that in absence of father children may have both negative as well as positive impacts on their behavior. sometimes this absence may have progressive outcomes among children such as strong social relation, effective dealing and other may have negative influences including insecurity and loneliness, on the whole this absence upshot many physical and mental deprivation among the children. But here we can't ignore the importance of remittance that can also play a vital role in improving the conditions of family (**Male Jokhen, 2007**).

Absence of the father affects the child physically, emotionally and economically. These affect can be observed by different aspects such as role model, discipline and economics. **Lange & Zagorsky (2001)**

explained that these affect can be taken as three phases affects namely self-neglect, suicide, cardiac illness which is brought by severe stress. In post-industrial age, when the educational qualifications of an employee and earnings success was major concerned of thinkers. Studies demonstrated quite conclusively that children who live in a single mother family's score lower on measures of academic achievements than their counterparts in two parent families (Fomby, & Cherlin, 2007).

Rational of the Study:

This study explores the lives of single parent and their dependent children ason their wellbeing in different channels and the overall experience of raising children without partner. This research study indicated the affects of father absence onover all development of children due to migration, Social identity is something that is rooted for identification which a person carried himself throughout life but in single parenthood single parent lost some of its contents by dealing with children duties , bearing their responsibilities as both father and mother, in the regard he/she lost the sum of responsive and responsible aspects of the true self-identity unmanageable trust issues, social deprivation, no appreciation gestures, un accepted attitude. The main aim of this study

is to explore the effects of single parenting in regard with the social attitudes and the reaction brought by these effects over all it also concerned with the attached all essential social components included parent's worth in family, their absence, roles, duties needs, and economic satisfaction, education, and health standards in a family structure

This study also attempts to provide the definite understanding and importance of father. The present study will help parents to improve the socialization pattern of children and attainment of their rights, opportunities, and duties. This study will also beneficial in the regard of relationship status between parent and children along with their psychological wellbeing. This research study could be beneficial for the single parent to have proper check on the loopholes in the providence of the basic all facilities for children .This study can help the Government to take serious initiatives towards the rights of such parent,should develop proper job opportunities for single parent that led them to overcome the problems and cover up the needs, Government also instigates the policies for empowerment, improving living standards economic stability and health management.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Father may be absent due to divorce, separation, and work. The researcher focuses on the behavior and relation of children where the father is absent from family. Fathers make their children learn many things and develop their personalities. But in father absence they children are more responsible and are well balance persons **(Helena Whyte, 2010)**.

Children need a balance life and it is maintain by both of parents. He believes that mothers are more responsible and fathers are considered each and every demand. A home is seems to empty in absence of father especially for the children. In this case children feel alone. They are having different emotional problem and low self esteem **(Jeanette Rodgers, 2009)**.

Father absence is somehow pathological effects on the children. They face many problems in developing and sustaining self esteem, recognizing their feelings etc. they can't express their feeling with others. He said in mid nineteenth century more and more father are migrated for various economic reasons and they have less time for their family left behind. This absence effects child and structure of family **(Danis Abalcom, 1998)**. Nina Chen is of the view that fathers presence help in developing high

esteem in their children and they are having optimistic approach towards their role Their children are having better personal adjustment. But in father absence children are not having proper guidance. They are facing problem in education and behavioral adjustment.

Absence of the father affects the child economically and emotionally he further mention that father absence can affect by different aspects such as role model, discipline and economics **(Bridget Webber, 2010)**. Family has to go through conflicts and issues in absence of father. Vigorous involvement of fathers rising and improves academic performances and behavior of the children. As fathers presences always contribute a lot in the development of social behavior and intelligence of the children. Father attention also can improve and overcome the problem likes depression and anxiety of the children. He said that girl child face more problem like emotional troubles and lack of moral support etc **(Rick Nauvert, 2011)**.

The study proved significantly that there is great contribution of father presence in the higher achievements in academics of children **(Ermisch, & Francesconi, 2001; Corak, 2001)**. Bridget said that both parents bring different supportive outcomes to the

family and a single mother can't able to provide all the facilities to their family in the absence of the father from home (**Bridget Webber, 2010**).

The data verify the effects of father absence on academic performance on children. The data shows a difference of 75% and 32% of intact father and absence in the academic achievements. The research also proves that female children are more affected than male children due to father absence and gain more academic achievements due to father involvement (**Ahmad, 2014**).

Education is also a very strong deterrent of migration. It has inevitable effect on the family and its cohesion. Migrations have definite positive effects on the specific expenditures such as education, health, and housing and on income distribution (**Muhammad Salman, Tariq Muhammad Nasir, and Fiaz-ur-Rehman, 2010**). Father migration affects on the education and schooling of the children by the money that a migrants send to his family in shape of remittances that brought very significant improvement in lives. Their household budget had increased that ultimately affects the life of the family (**Gianna Cluadia, 2017**). Gianna highlight the role money that creating difference in child welfare and

human development and he discusses the relation between the migration and human income. Because it is a strong economic source for the family of migrants. So in this regard the family has improved a lot but physically and psychologically a child has suffer a lot in absence of his father. Parental absence has bring many changes in the family pattern and responsibilities of the member of the family. Children spent most of his time out of school and as the result are drop out from the school (**Gianna, 2011**).

As a result adult children perceived problems in the academic competence and expectation regarding gender related role differences who are belong to the families having more and less parental participation. Researches also mentioned that family is a primary source of socialization, and having great influence on children regarding learning roles performance, because most of the thing children are learn through imitate and observing their parents. Father's involvements in adult children's academic achievements and competence work as the accumulating body of the work as he has significance influence on the cognitive development of male child (**William & Norma Rodin, 1999**).

Similar gap are found when grades rather than test score are used to measure

academic success. Children who live with two biological parents receive the highest grades and children who live with their mother and an unmarried partner receive the lowest grades (**Thompson, Hanson, & McLanahan, 1994**). School aged children of involved fathers are also better academic achievers, they are more likely to get “A” (**Nord & West, 2001**), also have better quantitative and verbal skills, have higher grades point average, get better achievement test scores, receive superior grades, perform a year above their expected age level on academic tests, obtain higher scores on reading achievements, or learn more and perform better in school (**Murnane, Maynard, & Ohls, 1981**).

Children of involved fathers are more likely to enjoyschool (**Scott-Jones, 1984**), have a positive attitude towards school, and participate in extracurricular activities. They are less likely to fail “A” grade. Delinquency of children, and in particular boys, is promoted by father absence (**Cavanagh, & Huston, 2006**). The problem with not having father in children’s lives can be so severe that they can cause an 86% increase in the likelihood that a child will become a psychotic delinquent. Some of the widely recognized statistics of the ills, and cost to society of father

absence include, 90% of all homeless and runaway children, 70% of juveniles in state operated institutions, 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers, 85% of person youths, and talk about promoting a danger to woman, up to 80% of rapist, motivated by displaced anger (**Grimm-Wassil, 1994**).

There is also a threefold increase in the likelihood that a child will be involved in group activity. Over the existing population there is a 200% increase in the likelihood that a child will require psychological treatment, with 85% of all fathers absent children exhibiting behavioral disorders (**Sigle-Rushton, & McLanahan, 2002**).

This is a crucial point for consideration for any attorney, and every judge that separate a fit father from his children. They are promoting behavioral disorders. Low self-esteem is promoted by both girls and boys. There is a 200% increase in attempted or successful teen suicide with 63% of all youth suicide from fatherless homes. Female observation and perception is dependent upon whether they lost their father to divorce, death and at what age. How and why a father is absent will have an impact on emotional and material outcome for the child (**Grimm-Wassil, 1994**).

Strong relation between father and children is help in reducing those entire factors that can cause the youth delinquent behavior. Father involvement in their children can reduce the chances of behavioral issues. According to him girls are not as much affected by father's absence as compare to boys. Boys have great chance to indulge in delinquent activities if their father is not around them. Father presence has very favorable and positive effects on the behavior of male child (**Doborah A.Cobb-Clark & Erodol Tekin, 2011**).

Lee. A Beaty has focus on socio-cultural factors which influenced the structure of the family. In his study "Effects Of parental absence on the male adolescents peer relation and self image" his entire focus is on the children whose father were absent from the family since their childhood. These children were mostly belonged to the age of five that that time. According to him male child that are facing father absent in their childhood are consequently can damage their adjustment to their peer group as they don't find role model like their father in the home (**Lee. A Beaty, 1995**).

There are many negative impacts of labor migration on the health of their children left behind. Their children mostly have poor health status and have less chance of healthy

activities. They start having drugs in very early age like smoking and other substances. They moving here and there instead of going school and mostly get dropout from the school. They are having good pocket money due to sand huge amount in shape of remittance. So they spend lavishly on their entertainment like excessive use of internet, drinking alcohol etc. Father absence also weak the sense of behavior of their children. Female child are facing more emotional problems like they are disappointed and always being in state of insecurity. Change in family structure due to parental absence brought about drastic variation in family role that effect the education, life style, responsibilities of family members, these all effect are grantee unfavorable condition for psychological development and emotional development of the children (**Yang Gao-li-p-li, Jean H Kin, Nathan Congdon, joseph Law and Sain Griffiths, 2010**).

Jeffery has tried to examine the impact of father presence on the behavior of the children. Previous studies also show the influence that a father brings on the level of socialization of the child like education, social and psychological behavior. Researchers come to conclusion that fathers who are involved in the upbringing of the child are having better and healthier social

psychological responses behavior. He further added that both father and mother both are playing a vital role in personality development of a children and generating healthy responses of their children. According to him the children those who are having their father around them are more confident and having better IQ levels. They are also having good cognitive capacities that help them to perform better intellectual functioning. On the whole presence of father in the family has not only authoritative and positive influence on the children and keep them clam and help to reduce their depression and frustration (Jeffery Roseneberg & W. Bradford Wilox, 2006) . The wife of labor migrants have to face many problems in the absence of their husband. According to researchers, they are always depress and in state of stress because they are alone responsible for their own and their husband household task. They all are always staying over burden. These all things make them emotionally weak that leads them towards the variance psychological problems but these psychological pressure can reduce if they have good social support from family members. Many studies evident that advance technology and facilities such as internet, mails and telephones have eased the communication level among the migrants and

other family members (Scott Vabika-victor, Agadjanian and Arusyak Sevoyan, 2010). Sadafmuhmood (2010) has illustrated that Pakistan is one of the largest recipient of remittance in the world as it is a major key source of foreign exchange. He further added that near about ten thousand household are depend on this for their livelihood. This money also contributes in their future security, good investment, or counter balancing and improving their economic conditions. As in return of all these economic benefits, they have to bear the absence of the member of their family for months or years. If in this case father is absence from family its adversely affect the behavior of the children (Sadafmuhmood, 2010).

Research Question

Q: What are the impacts of father migration on over all development of their children left behind?

Objective of the Study

1. To examine the effects of father migration on over all development of their children left behind.

METHODOLOGY

Sample and procedures

This qualitative study was conducted under the Qualitative research paradigm, which is intended to gain in-depth information regarding impact of single parent

families due to father migration on their children left behind. The sample is comprised of 20 families selected by the help of purposive sampling method. Two FDGs is also conducted, in which 10 persons are participated in each group, who belongs from family of migrant including wife, children and grandparents. The study revealed many factors which influence the behaviour of migrant families and overall development of their children and as a result father absence due to migration. The respondents were informed about the study and they were requested to cooperate with researcher.

RESULTS

It is not easy for a person to left behind his family and goes abroad for the purpose of earning and securing the future of his children but still people took this step for the sake of their families without considering the problems that their wives and kids can face in the absence of their husband/father due to migration.

Behavioral Issues

The children whom father is living abroad for years they usually missed their father's love and sometimes the children emotionally engage with their fathers too much and when they are unable to find them around for long months / years they get emotionally disturbed and behaved uncertain. They even have poor

relationships with their mothers they also show high levels of emotional distress or strange behavior, they are less cooperative and get lower grades on tests of intelligence such children can also get more love. *In one case researcher found that mother of the children was tried to fulfill all his as well as her husband's responsibilities that made her tried but in spite of all her effort still their kids were not happy and missed their father. And always compared her and with their father and this thing depress her a lot.*

We have found many cases during our research where at least one children of the family of a migrant is suffering from behavioral issues and their mothers are worried and having difficulty to cope up with such issues. It was also observed by the researchers that in some cases children blame their mother and considered their mother responsible for his father absence. *One of our respondent shared, my children some time behave vary strangely and I can't handle the situation. They frequently asked me about my question regarding husband migration, and some time when they more disturb they said you and your demand force him to go.*

Other respondent told the researcher, *my children always compare our family condition with rest of the families. My children always complain and said why our*

father not lives with us like other families. And asked me question such as, Is he don't love us? Why he don't come back?.

Mostly male children had more behavioral issues and rather than girl child. It is observed by the researcher during research that girls are become more responsible and boys were becoming more aggressive.

Low Attention in Education:

Wife of a migrant have to play many responsibilities related to their household responsibilities and related to children. But most important task a wife has to play is socialized children in formal and on informal way. Formal way of socialization is base formal schooling. During the research it was found that most of the children that are living with their mothers is the absence of their migrated fathers tends to be less attentive to their studies, they do not take their studies too serious, secure lower marks in their exams and bunk their classes more often comparing to two-parent families.

During researcher also found difference in the attitude of a girl child and a boy. In the companion of her mother by observing their mother struggling for their families and fulfill the needs of the family, girls are become more responsible. They were having sympathy for their mother. Their attitudes and behavior towards their mother was too

much supported. As a respondent told her, I have 3 daughters and one son, though my all children are facing problem and missed their father but in spite of all this reaction of many kids are different,. I have to face more problem to handle my son as compare to my daughter.

Though due to the remittances their family receives, these children have got much better educational facilities than others and are enrolled / studding in well renowned schools / Institutes but their interest in studies found very low, while asking the reason of their less attentive behavior towards studies a mother told us that it might be the less parental monitoring of school work, and less overall social supervision that encourages children to take studies as granted.

Involve in Immoral Activities

The risk of having drugs, to be abused, get mental illness, having poor educational performance and involvement in moral and criminal issues are increased dramatically among the children of male migrants.

Our research reveals that the most of the children of male migrant families are involved in such immoral activities. They do not obey to their mothers and even sideline them. Some of them have started using drugs as no male member of the family is there to stop them.

Insecurity among Girl Child

It is obvious when there is an absence of male parent the insecurity among the other family members especially in female increases. In our study where the head of family migrated and left behind his wife and children there the risk of victimized and to be abused cannot be slides down. This is why the girl child feels insecurity more than the boy child.

While asking the question of insecurity some respondents shared that sometimes their daughters complain that people around them at schools / colleges / universities and even on roads stare them and passes some ugly comments as they know that there is no male member of the family is there to give a shut up call to them.

Male Child Miss his Role Model Around

Every child considered his/her father as a role model and always try to spend and materialized their life according to his / her role model, but once they were not able to find their role model around they feel a big gape among themselves and that gape can never be filled. Our research found that similar incompleteness in some of the children that were missing their fathers (the role models), they were yet confused what they want from their lives and where it is taking them.

Aggression:

When there is behavioral issues, educational deficiency, involvement in immoral activities and insecurity increased in the child of a male migrant the aggression ultimately arrives in once attitude and sometimes this aggression cost the family very badly as the child commits some severe mistakes that leads to crime during their aggression.

One of our respondent shared that after the migration of her husband she found aggression in her elder son, who always ready to fight on petty issues, though she tried a lot to calm his aggression but she couldn't manage as well as her husband can do. One day he was playing cricket with his friends and on a small issue they got indulges in a dispute and on aggression his son severely injured a person from other group with his bat due to that the other party lodged FIR against her son and the police arrested him and now he is on bail and his case is in court.

CONCLUSION / SUMMARY

The most important task and responsibility that made a single mother always tense is socialization of the children especially personality development of male child. Father migration adverse affects the children that are left behind. All the respondents were frequently share their worries and concern

about their growing children. They shared with the researcher that it has been always difficult to satisfied the growing needs of their kids begin single mother. Children were missed their father very much at every event. This absence made them emotionally and psychologically weak. As the result Children were facing different behavioral social issues. Same issues are discussing **Gerald C. Ogbuja (2008)** said that “A woman in husband’s absence has with a reduction of protection, discourages and disinterested in every phase of achievements. Children with absent fathers manifest in numbers of internalized behavioral problems as sadness and depression, sex role difficulties, social functioning and lower self-esteem.”

Researcher had observed different behavioral issues among boys and girl child. Researchers are also of opinion that female children were more in secured in absence of their father then male kids. Boys were more aggressive and hyperactive and mostly were involves in immoral activist. They have less interest in studies. Their results was not good though their families enrolled in vary reputed education institutions and given large fees.

Khan Azhar Ahmed (2007) also observed same results during his research and mentioned that emigration improved the education attainment of the children, housing

conditions, income status in the society but having the adverse effects children behavior and control over them. A father’s absence can influence a child’s mental, physical and emotional health drastically. The male children consequently face many psychological strains.model, discipline. As the result Physical and mental deprivation among the children can easily notice among children of migrants. Male children were engaging bad and immoral activities. After having detail discussion with the respondents and analyzing their conditions researcher come to the conclusion that though the economic condition of the families are no doubt improve but their families were paying huge amount in shape of their social and psychological sufferings due to absence of their male guardian.

Bridget said that both parents bring different supportive outcomes to the family and a single mother male children may not found masculine figure around them. Female children may feel insecure in absence of her father. A mother can’t discipline her children and can’t safe her children from immoral activities, in this regard father’s role is important then mother because only father is one who can save him from engaging him bad and immoral activities. On the other hand children are also suffer from lack of

economic resources as they don't get the enough money and also have few can't able to provide all the facilities to their family in the absence of the father from home. The effect of absence of the father is seen and observed on children. Especially father migration is drastically effects the male children in compare to girl children and these changes can be unfavorable as choices to fulfill their needs especially they don't even get enough food, quality food. These things encourage them to get early employed and try to be economically sufficient. Father's absences have significant effects on the health of children because a single mother is less affective and is not able to handle and provide the proper treatment to the children when they needed. A father's absence also leads towards lack of parental support, poor guidance, care, low economic resources etc.

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