

**THE IMPACT OF BROKEN HOMES ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS'  
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

**OLUTONA, GODWIN OLADELE**

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of single parenting on the academic performance of undergraduate students in Bowen University. Descriptive survey research design was employed. A total of 120 students randomly selected from five faculties in the university were involved in the study. Designed questionnaire were also used to collect information as regards their gender, religion, denomination, type of home they come from, family relationship, influence on academic performance, influence on social behaviour and possible solutions. SPSS statistical package version 17.0 was used for the statistical analysis. Simple percentage and student t-test statistics were used to analyse the data collected. Results indicated that students from intact homes had significantly better academic achievement than those from single homes. Significant difference at  $P < 0.05$  was found between students from single parent families and those from intact families; male students from single parent and male students from intact homes; and female students from single parent families and female students from intact homes. It was also revealed that the service of the university counsellor and the chaplaincy was grossly under utilized by these students. On the basis of these findings, it is recommended that appropriate counselling programmes such as group counselling, family counselling, home visits and supportive associations should be designed to help students from single parent families. More Baptist pastors with specialisation in various subject disciplines should be employed as teaching staff so as to buffer the services of the university chaplaincy.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

The findings of this study conclude that students raised in single parent households have many more barriers between themselves and education than students raised in two parent households. Findings of this study have implications for counsellors and psychologists, social workers, parents, teachers, youth and the society at large. Single parents have negative effects on the academic achievements of the undergraduate their talents, abilities and interest may not be fully developed to allow them to achieve self-actualization in life. Hence, all hands should be on deck to assist students with poor academic achievement.

## **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the above findings, the followings suggestions are therefore recommended:

Governments, private organizations and individual concerned with the business of academic should endeavour to address the obstacles hindering the effective academic performance of the students. This can be done by the developing achievement motivation in students through achievement motivation training.

There is need for recognition of individual differences in students and to deal with them accordingly. Counsellors should provide the necessary assistance and psychological support for students from single parent family so as to overcome their emotional problems.

There is needed to keep enlightening the parents of the importance of the home structure on the life of children. This is a necessary so that parents can understand the implications and consequences of parental separation and thus mobilize all resources to curtail the problems arising from the situation.

There is need to combat the continuing declining state of education by providing more funds and materials for the upliftment of our educational system. The private universities should be given subvention by the federal government.

The single parents should be counselled on social needs of their children so that their academic work will not suffer at school. Children and their parents should be counselled along their religious affiliations, as it affects their children's academic achievement.

Appropriate counselling programme such as group counselling, family counselling, home visits, and supportive association should be designed to help children from single parents and their parent so as to improve their children academic performance at school.

Further, appropriate counselling programme should be designed and implemented to nip in the bud in our society and it does not lead to proper and successful moral, emotional, physical, social and educational development of the children.