

**CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF SINGLE PARENTING IN ANAMBRA STATE**

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**Abstract**

*The study examined the challenges of single parenthood to Igbo family system in Anambra State. High rate of single parents in modern Igbo society motivated the researcher to research on the challenges of single parenthood to the Igbo family system. The objectives of the study are to state the reasons for single parenthood and highlight its influence on Igbo family system. The study also identified the effects of single parenting in church and society. The study is a qualitative research that made use of phenomenological method in interpreting data. Structural functionalism theory formed the theoretical framework. Findings show that single parenthood disrupts the communal training of children in Igbo society. The study also discovered that single parenthood impedes extended family relationship and Igbo family welfare services in contemporary society. In-view of the findings the researcher recommends the introduction of centre for Igbo family life education to train newly couples. Government should also help by enacting laws that will prevent couples from appealing for divorce so as to reduce the rate of single parents in the society.*

**Keywords:** Single parenting, Anambra State, Nigeria, Family, Government

**Introduction**

Parenting or parenthood involves the processing, nurturing and building up the physical, emotional, social, intellectual and moral life of a child from infancy to adulthood. Proper parenting is therefore an integral part of transferring solid norms to, and raising a responsible citizen among younger generation. This explains why the Bible aptly links proper parenting to a healthy and well organized society (Deuteronomy 6: 4-9). However, poor parenting has become a common, universal problem that threatens the wellbeing and survival of contemporary societies. More so several other social problems that are rampant in the modern era are by-products of the problem of poor parenting models. Particularly, the Old and New Testament writings contain patterns of parenting that tend towards raising children who are wholesome individuals and who go on to ensure a healthy society. This goes on to reveal God's intention to build human societies that are devoid of corruption, indiscipline and violence. Furthermore, it lays the foundation for each individual patriotism and construction

Single parenting is another terminology that has grown exponentially in the recent times. The term mainly applies to people who have a child or children outside wedlock or are either separated or officially divorced and who continue to raise the child or children alone despite the challenges involved. For Kelterings Harm (2007):

Single-parent households do face many challenges, both for the parent and the child but the children in these families can and do thrive in society. There are also single children who have gone through a divorce may have problems with depression, emotional stress, and difficulties in school. It has been found that adolescents from single parent families were found to be three times more likely to be depressed than those with two parents. Single parent homes are also associated with criminal activities in the U.S. Children from a single parent household account for 70% of teenage murderers, 60% percent of people who commit rape crimes and are eleven times more likely to exhibit violent behaviour. These statistics are astounding and the problems that accompany single parenthood appear volatile.

Despite all these, single parenthood is on the increase now in Nigeria. Many young women now give birth to children outside wedlock. On the other hand, it has been observed that when there is only one parent, the family is often less well off financially and this is the main reason for so many family problems that are not there when the two parents are involved in the family. This becomes a concern in Nigeria and the Igbo family system. In the Igbo family system, one person does not parent a child. The system is communal and not a single system but today single parenthood is a common practice which results in problems, like lower education levels and lower economic achievement which can result in leaving the child feeling lonely and isolated. Being a single parent and struggling for money often coincide. It is also true that children of one parent households are generally less supervised, their actions are less monitored and there is usually less communication between the children and parent. Single parenthood does not give a comprehensive touch to parenting. While it is true that a single parent may have minute to minute supervision of the child, there are things she or he may never see with the eyes of a single parent no matter how close he or she looks. It would appear that a part of a single parent household indicates a negative family environment.

### **Brief Discourse on Single Parenting**

Parenting is one of the greatest privileges anyone can ever have. It is a great responsibility because it saddles one with the task of inculcating values in another human being and watching how they crystallize into mature, healthy and wholesome personalities.

However, in today's society, the task is getting tougher and tougher and the society is becoming more violent and restless, making it more difficult to bring up a child in such an environment. This means that the children of today are exposed to so many challenges and are easily influenced by so many external factors.

Single parenting is a new phenomenon affecting child bearing and upbringing all over the community. It is a complete deviation from the traditional norm of jointly bearing and bringing up children. The necessity of this investigation stems from the ever increasing number and alarming rate of single, parentage in Anambra state.

A single parent family is one in which one of the parent to the child may be separated temporally or permanently. The absent parent could be the mother or the father. Single parenthood can rise in a nuclear family unit where the couple has been separated due to divorce, death of spouse or separation. It could also arise when either the male or female decides to produce and raise a child by choice outside marriage. Infiltration of western life style has brought about this ugly trend, sadly though, sometimes too, it comes as a result of teenage pregnancy at which the father disowns or denies the pregnancy or the teenage mother could not locate the real father. These conditions could compel the mother to single handed raise the child. The characteristics of single parents may differ according to types but the common features among them are that they raise their children without a partner.

Unarguably, the 21<sup>st</sup> century society is a very complex and complicated one in which the whole world is seen as a global village due to the high scientific and technological advancement in all areas of life. This development no doubt, has contributed positively and immensely to the socio- economic religious, political card cultural progress of the human race. More so, these improvements, which are recorded in the medical agricultural, social and mechanized sectors, cannot be denied. However, these advancements have also come with severe race in terms of the maintenance of positive societal norms and values that help in upholding the moral order in the society.

Jane Mattes, (CSW) is a physiotherapist and the founder of single mother by choice, a non-profit for women who was thinking about a pursuing, single parenthood. Mattes says she founded the organization in 1981, shortly after becoming a single parent herself, having a wonderful family and friends but realized she needed more of a support system, so she started asking to be connected to more single mothers by choice just through words of mouth. She says because of this was before the internet, her new social network of solo parents communicated through snail mail. Mattes connected people in the group with each other and over the decades, the network has grown to over 30,000 members. Now there are local chapters where single mothers by choice members can meet up in person in addition to the connecting on the site. She also says she is seeing a shift in the age of people who are becoming single parent by choice, before members were mostly 35 and older, but now there are many more people in their 20s who are what we call serious thinkers, which means they really want to consider single parenthood and do it.

According to few researches, 75 percent of single adults describe dating as very difficult. Two-third of those who are single and looking for a relationship or dates say their dating life is either going not too well or not at all well. More observations show that more people are having trouble finding a partner they can see themselves having kids with. They are also seeing example of what being a single parent by choice looks like in action. And that contribution is shifting parenthood as we know it.

### **Religious view of single parenting**

In Nigeria contemporary society, many parents are finding it challenging raising their children into responsible adults. Some blame it on the perverseness of this generation while others simply say that a child who chooses to be responsible will be responsible irrespective of the environment such a child is groomed. This assertion may not be far from the truth. However, the societies as well as personal choice are factors that are very important in making a child who he becomes. Many parents, who have left their work undone in their children's early years, usually find themselves blaming it on the child or society afterwards. This is not fair to the child who in the first place has not learnt certain basic norms of life, such as the precept recorded in Proverbs 22:6 "train up a child in the way he should go and when he grows, he will not depart from it." If as a parent one plays one's role well when one's child was young, then one will not have issues seeing him grow into a wise thoughtful adult.

Apart from the knowledge of the existence of God and His love for the world, which is the goal of every human being; Ugwu (2011), points out some basic virtues children should learn from parents. They include:

**Respect:** According to Nelson Bible illustrated dictionary (Nelson: 1986), respect is showing favouritism or partiality toward some people as opposed to others. The most disheartening thing about this generation of young ones is that many of them lack manners. They neither fear nor respect the elders. This is why they go about without regard for anyone. It is not surprising that many of the children in the contemporary Nigerian society, from cradle, were not exposed to the words of the Ten Commandments saying "Honour your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land the lord your God is given you". Apostle Paul's instruction 1Timothy 5:1-2, to treat old men as fathers, young men as brothers, older women as mothers and younger women as sisters, are neglected.

Following respect is compassion: According to Encarta (2009), compassion, means "sympathy for the suffering of others, often including a desire to help". Compassion involves sympathy, empathy, kindness, concern, care, or consideration. Also Morgan (1979), asserted that Compassion, a feeling with and for others, is a fundamental and distinctive quality of the biblical conception of God, and to its prominence the world owes more than words can express. Along with it goes mercy, which in the OT means the same thing.

Many of the ills perpetrated in the society are borne out of lack of compassion for one another. It is quite unfortunate that our young ones are bereft of compassion, hence the prevalence of armed robbery, rape, kidnapping and terrorism in the society. Another virtue a child should learn from a parent is honesty. Walker (1979) explains: that "honest" has to do with adhering to a particular standard, often with legalistic nuances. Very close in the meaning to this are sincerity, integrity and truthfulness. Many of our young ones are not trustworthy because they did not learn to be faithful from home. Various aspects of fraudulent dealings have become the order of the day in the country. Owing to the harsh economic state in the country, some parents have thrown caution to the winds when they do shabby deals without the knowledge that their children are closely watching. No wonder there is an unhealthy quest for instant wealth among the youths. Children need to learn from parents that "A good name to be chosen rather than great riches and favour is better than silver and gold. In addition to this, is the truth about the sanctity of life. If children are taught when they are young that life is sacred, holy and pure. When they are adults, they will value it and shun any act that can take his life or his neighbour's. This simply means that unholy acts like abortion, ritual

killing, rape, murder etc. will not be found among the youths as they abound in the contemporary society.

Lack of Optimism and Innovations on the part of some parents are other setbacks that inhibit the realization of responsible children. A whole lot of parents hardly see the light at the end of tunnel in the cases of their children, especially when the latter make mistakes. Such parents are quick to write off a child without any effort to restore the child back on the right track. A good parent should be able to guide his children in making good choices of friends, dressing, entertainment, and even career and partner.

Lastly, parents should teach their children time management from cradle by scheduling their activities for them so as to help them know when to do what. There should be time for everything: spiritual, domestic, academic, and social activities, as well as siesta. Once children get used to schedules at a tender age, it becomes a routine and a way of life for them and this helps them grow into responsible adults who value time and use it wisely. Child rearing is only difficult or challenging for parents who have not imbibed the truths mentioned above. The earlier you began leaning and passing them to your children, the better.

Biblical parenting can certainly provide the tools needed for family to gain victory over the battles confronting them every day. It may be time for an attitude revolution, and Biblical parenting has a great role to play. MacArthur (n.d) observes:

There is no question that society as a whole is in a serious state of moral and spiritual decline. So the question that faces Christian parents today is whether they can plant some trees that will shade future generations from what may well be the blistering heat of anti-Christian values and anti-Christian world. Are they planting the right kind of shade trees, or are they leaving them children totally exposed? ( p.3)

After enumerating the challenges facing the contemporary society, MacArthur (n.d: x) went further to explain:

Christian families are self-destructing all around. As society has waded deeper into the morass of humanism and secularism, the church has too often failed to stand against the perilous time. Unfortunately, the impact of widespread worldliness and compromise in the church is taking a toll on

Christian families. More than ever, Christians need to know what the Bible teaches about parenting and begin to put it to practice. (p.27).

In essence, the biblical parenting is simple and should be presented simply because of its importance. Parents have the best years of the child's life to explain, clarify, stress, and reemphasize basic biblical truths. The key is to be faithful and consistent in both teaching and exemplifying the biblical truths. One of the worst things parents can do is be intimidated into thinking someone else would make a better evangelist for their child, thus abdicating their most crucial responsibility, missing the best opportunities for reaching their children, and forfeiting the best blessings of parenthood.

Teaching children the gospel by no means exhausts the parents' teaching responsibility. The principle of Deuteronomy 6: 6-7 also makes that the duty of teaching children the wisdom for living is a parental responsibility. The gospel is the necessary starting point, because "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". No one is truly wise who rejects or disregards the gospel message. Yet, beyond the basic truths of the gospel are also many vital biblical lessons about character, integrity, justice, prudence, discernment, and all the practical issues of life.

To show the importance of teaching tolerance in the family, Fatimah laments that peace and harmony continue to elude the world because man has refused to acknowledge that we are indispensable to each other, if a calamity besets one nation, others cannot escape sharing the consequences. According to her, tolerance can be inculcated through parenting by teaching children at the earlier stage of their life to be doing the following:

- ❖ To focus and work on the common values and teachings of different religions and cultures of the world instead of emphasizing on the differences that tear us apart. For those with no religion, keen observation of nature is recommended because nature is always at peace with itself.
- ❖ To behave like friends to each other with pure heart, sympathy and good intentions.
- ❖ To let decent behaviours, sincerity and kindness be our second nature in life.
- ❖ To desist from abusing and insulting other peoples' holy personages, cultures and races.

- ❖ Nations should avoid policies that are only beneficial to themselves. For example, immigration policies, that hinder the coming together of people of different beliefs.
- ❖ To show respect, love, understanding and tolerance to all humans irrespective of race and religion.

### **Social view of single parenting**

Parenthood is challenging under the best of conditions. With one parent, the challenges are multiplied. Coping with child raising for single parents becomes more difficult because of responsibility overload, with one parent makes all the decisions and provides for all the family needs, task overload, when the demands for work, house work, and parenting can be overwhelming for one person, and emotional over load, when the single parent must always be available to meet both their own and their children's emotional needs. Alone or in combination these result in problems for single parent, including loneliness, anxiety, and depression. Support from friends and relatives can offset the effects of over load with friends offering a buffer against loneliness and relatives giving more practical help (Gladow and Kay 1986). One difficulty is asking for help in a society that defines the family as an autonomous unit responsible for its own circumstances and well-being.

However, few single parents can successfully raise children alone, despite the social expectation that non-custodial parents, (usually the father) should only be responsible for supplemental financial support while the custodial parent, (usually mother) takes on both parenting and economic roles (Goldscheider and Walte, 1991). Some suggest that the ideal of an independent family head represents a Eurocentric view which is challenged by an African-american model of motherhood (1994). In this model the importance of caring for and supporting a child in the context of community development and social activism is emphasized. Children are cared for and raised by their own mothers (blood mothers), other women in the community (other mothers) and relatives. African-American children are more likely to live with a grandmother than white and Hispanic children.



### **Causes of Single Parenting in Anambra State**

Many factors give rise to single parent in Anambra state, Nigeria. They include the following:

Divorce- there is increasing cases of marital separation through divorce. Apart from unwanted pregnancies among teenager, all other single parent families in Anambra results from divorce. Many reasons lead to divorce, which include: the problem of infertility and absence of male child in the family. There are powerful antecedent factors that lead to divorce. There are those whose marriages have been marked by hostilities, lack of support and neglect hence they find relief in bringing up their children alone.

In spite of the unhappy and hostile marital homes, there are some dependent wives ten to be crushed by the storms of divorce because they were parasitic on their husbands. The upbringing of children by such dependent wives after divorce is disastrous to the child and society. Divorce is also cause of infidelity by one spouse, frigidity, importance, cruelty, incompatibility, failure to support the family, and wife beating. All these factors cause divorce that lead to single parenting in the society.

Death- single parenting is also brought about by death, in situation where one parent is lost through death, the living parent undertakes the responsibility of up bring of their children alone.

Premarital relationship: Immorality has led so many youths suddenly becoming parents through unwanted pregnancy. Teenage pregnancy has made teens to become mothers having children out of wedlock, unprepared even without knowing who their fathers are. These young people at times are not legally married but through premarital sexual relationship pregnancy comes. This has contributed to the greatest numbers of single parenting in Anambra. Instances abound where young men after impregnating a girl denied and deserted the girls. In the situation, the young girl is left at the mercy of taking care of the baby alone. The psychological problem linking the never married single parents is and ability to cope with the challenges of training the child.

The society embarrasses the children more by labelling them bastards and this is also psychologically devastating for the child and parent. This affects their self-worth and self-esteem. The outcome in the situation becomes disastrous; the children sometimes become battered and emotionally wrecked for life.

Culture- Some cultural practices in Anambra state have equally contributed to single parenting. In Anambra, the death of a male spouse does not terminate a woman's marriage to that family. Such widows are recognized. Such widows are inheritance, while the woman still remains in the late husband's family, she is free to have affair with other men within the family and outside the family and continues giving birth to children if she still within child bearing circle.

Unfaithfulness in Marriage: unfaithfulness in marriage is another cause of single parenting. Mr. Afam Ilo interviewed narrated a story of one man he came across who swore never to have slept with his wife and was not responsible for the pregnancy of his wife. There are some instances of unfaithfulness in marriage where husbands reject the children's training and this sometimes leads to divorce and cause single parenting

### **Effects of Single Parenting**

Affection imbalance: in a two parents' family, the loss of one per destroys the group solidarity and cohesion. The destruction of the family structure creates pressure on the parent who may either over pamper the child or exhibit inconsistent disciplinary measures that can lead to low self-esteem and the development of negative image. Failure to express affection and the denial of negative feelings may restrict problem solving efforts. It leads to family socialization and poor personal adjustment of the family members since children require love and security in order to develop in a healthy manner.

Effective Child training: in spite of certain changes in the sex role orientation in our society, the attitude towards the traditional sex based power structure is still upheld in Anambra. The belief that men should be in positions of authority over women in the family is viewed as normal. Therefore, the society frowns at and resents the authority of a female head. Society places full responsibility in the upbringing and discipline of children in the hands of parents. The parent present, thus becomes the only power figure in a single parent family. In this situation, the child sees the authority as something personal rather than consensual and the removes some of the legitimization of the society. Children brought up in this climate might be aggressive and authoritative.

Financial problems: single parents face the problem of how to negotiate for child care in order to have time to work outside the home. Those without marketable skills are force to fall back on tier parents for child care assistance and they may be financially depended. The wages from the available job opportunities for single

parent woman may not be good, hence meeting cost of child care, health needs, education and maintenance of the home could be quite tedious and sometimes unattainable by the single parent. Failure to meet the financial demands of the family could have drastic consequences for the single parent family members.

**The Problem of support Resources:** the government does not support single parent with any welfare package. Hence the parents of the single parent or the paternal relations of their children have to provide an additional source of support that they can rely on, in the form of financial aid, housing and child care. In cases of divorce, the financial burden could be made lighter through child support and alimony payments. The deserted and unmarried single mothers usually have more serious financial problems. Due to their heavy financial burdens, they are usually frustrated and aggressive.

**Biased Family Communication:** parents act as the channel of communication with adult world. Since they have already internalized the cultural norms and values, this cultural pattern is transmitted to the family through communication. Parents also serve as the contact point between their children and society. Through the socialization process the child relates to the adult world through the way his parents perceive and experience it. The loss of one parent therefore produces a structural distortion in the communication between the child and adult world no matter the level of interest, opinion and values of the existing parent. Other problems that may be dragging single parents down include; fears, self-pity, insecurity, anger, protection, depression, envy, guilt, exhaustion, loneliness, frustration and devastation.

The overwhelming majority of single parent families are headed by mothers (84% of all single parent families in 1998), rather than fathers (16%) still, the number of single fathers has increased since 1970's (9% of all single parent homes where father headed in 1970). The circumstances surrounding the single parent status of men versus women differ. The greatest percentage of single father gained custody of children as the result of parental divorce. Single fathers are more likely to gain custody of children when mothers have either chosen not to retain custody or are perceived to be incompetent. Single father are more likely to have custody of older rather than younger children and of boys rather than girls. By and large, the challenges for single parent and single mothers, are similar and include the difficulties of combining parenting responsibilities and employment, and economic disadvantage. On average, single fathers have higher standards of living than single mothers, which decreases potential stresses within the family. Yet single mothers have been reported to have women and more structured

relationship with their children than single father. Several studies have indicated that once economic factors are taken into account, children from single mother families fare better than children from single father families such difference may be accounted for by these parenting differences or by the aforementioned differences in the circumstances surrounding the father custody arrangement.

Single parent families increased in number and as a percentage of all families from the 1970's to 1990's. Single parent families represent a diverse group of parents raising children on their own through diverse set of circumstances. To understand the way in which being raised in a single parent family affects the lives of children, it is necessary to consider the individual circumstances of families in regard to economic disadvantages, residential instability, parenting competence and parental conflict.

**Financial Effect:** single parents face the problem of how to negotiate for child care in order to have time to work outside the home. Those without marketable skills are force to fall back on tier parents for child care assistance and they may be financially depended. The wages from the available job opportunities for single parent's woman may not be good, hence meeting cost of child care, health needs, education and maintenance of the home could be quite tedious and sometimes unattainable by the single parent. Failure to meet the financial demands of the family could have drastic consequences for the single parent family members.

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### **Challenges on Drug use and Trafficking**

In contemporary times, drug use is one of the most common challenges parents have to tacke against. Sydelle (n:d:l) opines: Drug use by young people is a problem in many countries around the world. In the African country of Nigeria,

things are not different, there many young people indulge in drugs like marijuana and cocaine. These drugs and the addiction they can cause, have several negative sociological impacts. Werner (1986) observes that it is more complicated in families where children with parents who are into drugs because such children are at increased rate of negative consequences. Such early exposure to the adversity of a family members who abuses drugs, according to Wolin and Wolin (1993) made those children to develop tools to respond to extreme stress, disruption, and change, including mature judgement, capacity to tolerate ambiguity, autonomy, willingness to shoulder responsibilities and moral certitude. Nevertheless, drug abuse can lead to inappropriate family subsystems and role taking. For instance, in a family in which a mother uses substances, a young daughter may be expected to take on the role of mother. When a child assumes adult roles and the adult abusing substances plays the role of a child, the boundaries essential to family functioning are blurred. The developmentally inappropriate role taken on by the child robs her of a childhood, unless there is the intervention by healthy, supportive adults.

The effects of drugs abuse frequently extend beyond the nuclear family. Extended family members may experience feelings of abandonment, anxiety, fear, anger, concern embarrassment or guilt, they may wish to ignore or cut ties with the person abusing substances. Moreover, the effects on families may continue for generation, intergenerational effects of substance abuse can have a negative impact on role modelling, trust and concepts of normative behavior, which can damage the relationship between generations. For example, a child with a parent who abuses substances may grow up to be an overprotective and controlling parent who does not allow his or children sufficient autonomy.

Child trafficking on the other hand affects children throughout the world, in both industrialized and developing countries. For trafficked children are subjected to prostitution, forced into marriage or illegally adopted. Also, such children provide cheap or unpaid labour work as house servants or beggars, are recruited into armed groups and are used to sports trafficking no doubt exposes children to violence, sexual abuse and HIV infection and violates their rights to be protected, grow up in a family environment and have access to education. A child victim of trafficking is any person under 18 who is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for the purpose of exploitation, either within or outside a country. However, the invisible and clandestine nature of trafficking and the lack of strong data collection make it difficult to know the global number of child victim. But according to international labour organization (ILO) some 1.2million

children are trafficked worldwide every year. One then may ask, what is the future of those children and what good impact are they going to make in the society.

### **Alcoholism and Drunkenness**

Alcohol fascinates many children in present times. This is because; it is seen as ways of making fun. It is highly challenging especially the rate in which the breweries are on the increase in Nigeria. According to report by Pela and Ehie (1982) to the United Nations office on drugs and crime (UNODC):

The astronomical increase in the number of breweries in Nigeria (over 16 at the last count) has brought, on the one hand, considerable economic rewards in government and investors, while on the other hand, it is beginning to cause concern over alcohol related problems and their attendant economic, social and medical adverse effects upon the individual family and community.

Cohen et al, (1993) observe that in a general population sample of 10 to 20 years old, roughly 12.4 percent (96-776) met criteria for a substance use disorder and maintained that alcohol and other psychoactive drugs play a prominent role in violent death for children, including suicide, traffic, accidents and other injuries. Alexander and Crowther (1995) conclude that aside from death, alcohol and drug use can lead to a range of possible detrimental consequences namely, violent behavior delinquency, psychiatric disorders, risky sexual behaviours, possibly leading to unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, impulsively neurological imperilment and developmental impairment.

### **Poverty and economic challenges**

Poverty and economic instability in the home also expose children to undue peer pressure. For Kaiser and Delanay (1996:44)

Developing positive relationship with parents and families of low socio-economic status and getting them involved with their children's education and school activities is a challenge. In order to address this challenge, it is first necessary to understand the dynamic of parenting affecting many developmental outcomes for children living in poverty. Conditions and by the emotional and psychological stress associated with living in poverty.

This high level of poverty in Nigeria has made parenting quite a difficult task children raised by indigent parents are exposed to too much harm. A proper

sampling of deviants would reveal that majority of them are from very poor homes. Parents in such categories sometimes do not help matters, especially when they give birth to and have more children than they can adequately cater for both in terms of financial responsibility and parental care. They fail to understand or underestimate the tremendous influence of the environment on the child in line with this position Ensen (2009: 33) explain that:

There is no shortage of theories explaining behavior differences among children. The prevailing theory among psychologists and child development specialists is that behavior stems from a combination of genes and environment. Genes begin the process, behavioural geneticists commonly clarify that DNA accounts for 30-50 percent of our behavior (Saudino, 2005) an estimate that leaves 50-70 percent explained by environment.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the most difficult time by far, to be a parent. By spending more time with your child, however you cannot only have a better idea of what they are being exposed to and potentially be able to minimize the threat pace will have to make sure that they have time to develop and nurture the same bonds that they had with their own parents, but Jensen (2009) objects that:

Socio economic status forms a huge part of this equation children raised in poverty rarely choose to behave differently, but they are face daily with overwhelming challenges that affluent children never have adapted to suboptimal conditions is ways that undermine good school performance. Let's revisit the most significant risk factors affecting children raised in poverty, which include, emotional and social challenges, acute and chronic stresses, cognitive lags and health and safety issues.( p.45)

Therefore, beginning at birth, the attachment formed between parent and child speaks volume about the quality of future relationships with teachers and peers and plays a leading role in the development of such social functions as curiosity, arousal, emotional regulation, independence, and social competence (Sroufe, 2005). This is because the brains of infants are hard wired for only six emotions, joy, anger, surprise, disgust, sadness and fear. Hence to grow up emotionally healthy, Stern (1985) was of the view that children under three years need:

A strong reliable primary caregiver who provides consists and unconditional love, guidance and support.

- Safe, predictable and stable environment

- Ten to twenty hours each week of harmonious, reciprocal interaction. This process known as attainment, is most crucial during the first 6-24 months of infants lives and help them develop a wider range of healthy emotions, including gratitude, forgiveness and empathy
- Enrichment through personalized and increasingly complex activities.

However, Gunner Frenn, wera and Van ryzin (2009) state that children raised in poverty are much less likely to have these crucial needs met than their more affluent peers are and as a result, are subject to some grave consequences. Deficits in these areas inhibit the production of new brain cells, alter the path of maturation, and rework the healthy neural circuitry in children's brains, thereby undermining emotional and social development and predisposing them to emotional dysfunction.

### **Effect on Family**

Crisis erupt as a result of children having different problems in the school ranging from poor performance, truancy, dismissal, suspension, loss of school fees or lack of understanding what is been taught in the school. Blames that come from this kind of failure is usually directed to the mother of the children by the husband. Irrespective of the person that is blamed for the weakness of the children in academics, the truth remains that man always feels to be right feels to be right in some issue. This can result in misunderstanding among the couple family are advised to work together and train their children to avoid blaming anybody in future. When any child appears to be naturally unintelligence after many efforts have been put to sharpen his or her intelligent and there is no improvement, he or she can be shifted to another filed to beam something else that can help in future between husband and wife in every family all is to take easy no matter the qualification possessed.

### **Economic Effects of Family Crisis**

Economic effect of family crisis will be observed in two ways as follows:

Poor management: Some crises that occur at homes take place immediately after marriage at homes. Men and women who lack an idea of good management spend a lot during marriage without thinking that what happens after their marriage. The husband at times spend much in their wedding without knowing that he and wife need good sum of money to starts thinking of going back home to their



parents. Money is the beauty of every woman and that made it to be provided for them. Any man who spent a lot in marriage and wedding without having a reserve which we will use to support his family is writing invitation letter to the family crisis.

Management is the process of planning organizing and controlling of things in order to achieve a particular goal or goal. The problem that may families are facing today is because of poor management. Many mothers find it difficult to organize their children and husbands they do not work hard to take good control of their husband and this can make him start looking outside to find someone that will manage him well. When he finds another lady and brings her into the house, problem begin to rise and this can break a family because two captain cannot handle the same ship at the same time to avoid family crisis due to poor management both the husband and wife need to have a good idea of management. They are to make good plans and organize everything about their life properly to have good management, will make their family last until death does them part.

### **Retirement**

This is part of Economic effect of family crisis. This leaving of one's job when he or she comes to a particular age by the law guiding the community. The retirement of a worker from the office can be one for the family crisis as money does not flow in the way it used to enter. The pension paid to some retired workers usually small for him to use it in sponsoring his family. Because of limited money in the family misunderstanding may arise, sometimes to the extent where a fight is experienced in the family, misunderstanding may arise, sometimes to the extent where a fight is experienced in families in the course of sharing the pension paid to the retired man. Fathers and mothers should invest when they are still active in the organizations they wok to avoid a crisis in their family. To make them have reserves to train their children property to any level they want.

### **Conclusion**

Following the summary of findings, the researcher concludes that it is the influence of modernity on Igbo family that increases the rate of single parenthood especially the one cause by divorce in the Igbo society. Modernity has adverse effects on Igbo culture. It made the Igbo to push some of their cherished cultural values aside. The Igbo socio-religious life has been modernized. The family web has disintegrated to excessive individualism thereby increasing the rate of single

parenthood, civilization and western culture dismantle Igbo family life. Western culture makes it very difficult for extended family to operate effectively in the society today. The modern Igbo family life is characterized by nuclear family life, individualism and single parenthood. This explains the reason for child abuse, child neglect, high rate of sexual immorality, cultism and among others in the society.

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