

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.804.181>

Parenting among Intact and Single Parent Families

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ABSTRACT

Parenting is a process where the children are supported and promoted in all the domains of development from infancy to adulthood. Hence the study was taken up to know parenting and factors influencing parenting among urban and rural mothers from intact and single parent families from Bidar District. The sample comprised of 120 single mothers and 120 mothers from intact families from urban and rural areas of Bidar were selected using purposive proportionate random sampling method. The criteria for selection of respondents included at least one school going child in the age group of 8-16 years. The tools used for the study were general information schedule for gathering the personal information and Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (APQ) by Frick (1991) to assess the parenting practices. The results indicated that majority of the mothers from intact and single parents had average level of parenting and there was no significant association as well as difference found between the mothers from intact and single parents on parenting. Garrett mean scores indicated that majority of the mother from intact and single parent families followed positive parenting. With regard to factors like education and socio economic status had a significant influence on parenting among rural and urban area of intact and single parent families. While in case of single mothers from urban and rural area the factors like age, education, socio economic status and child's gender had a significant influence on parenting.

Keywords

Parenting, Single mothers and Mothers from intact families

Article Info

Accepted:

12 March 2019

Available Online:

10 April 2019

Introduction

Single-parent families is a concept that defines, families in which either the father or mother is absent because of divorce, marital separation, pregnancy out of wedlock, or death (Greenberg, 2002). A single parent shoulders most of the day to day responsibilities for raising children. Traditionally death of the spouse was common cause for single parent family but

now more and more single parent families are evident like divorce, separation, never married mother-adopting a child. As the single parent has the double responsibility of running the family and parenting the children alone.

Parenthood itself is challenging under the best of conditions. But with single parent, the challenges are multiplied. Coping with parenting for single parents becomes more

complicated because of added responsibility, when single parent makes all the decisions and satisfies basic family needs along with the office work/housework. The parenting can be devastating for single person with emotional burden, where the single parent must always be available to meet both their children's emotional needs and their own needs. But on the other advantages of being parenting a child alone like developing greater self-confidence making adjustment and facing the challenges by both single parent and their children. Making it against odds not only gives the children a better foundation for the future in respect to working hard and winning out, it adds tremendously to their self-confidence and sense of independence. They may work harder because they have faced the hardships in life from an early age and learn how to deal with life on its own terms. But this positive outlook is often hidden in many of the single parents. Hence the present study was taken to know parenting and factors influencing parenting among urban and rural mothers from intact and single parent families from Bidar district.

Materials and Methods

The target populations of the study were the intact and single parent families from rural and urban areas of Bidar, Karnataka, India. From Bidar district, two taluks were selected and two villages from each taluk were selected using purposive proportionate random sampling method. From each village 15 single mother and 15 mothers from intact families in the age group of 20-45 years were selected which comprised of 60 single mothers and 60 mothers from intact families from rural areas of Bidar. Similarly in urban area 60 single mothers and 60 mothers from intact families of urban areas with overall samples of 240 were selected for the study. The criterion for selecting the single mothers included as they should at least one child in

the age group of 8-16 years. The information was gathered by personal interview method among intact and single parent families using general information schedule and problem faced by the single mothers. The socio-economic status of the family was assessed by using socio-economic status scale developed by Agaarwal *et al.*, (2005). The scale consists of 22 statements which assess education, occupation, monthly per capita income from all sources, family possessions, number of children, number of earning members in family, education of children, domestic servants in home, possession of agricultural land and non-agricultural land along with animals and social status of the family, Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (APQ) by Frick (1991) was used to assess the parenting practices which measures five dimensions of parenting such as positive involvement with children, supervision and monitoring, use of positive discipline techniques, consistency in the use of such discipline and use of corporal punishment. Sum up all items in the scale to obtain a total scale score where the mean scores are obtained and based on the mean scores ranking given and the total scores divided into four category as poor parenting, average parenting, above average parenting and high parenting. Where higher the scores better the parenting. The reliability was established through Guttman Split half coefficient method for Alabama parenting questionnaire was found to be 0.81.

Results and Discussion

The table 1 pointed out the individual characteristics of mothers from intact and single parent families from Bidar district. With respect to age the mothers from intact families, 31.70 per cent belonged in the age group of 36 - 40 years followed by 28.30 per cent belonged to 41- 45 years and 26.70 per cent belonged to 31- 35 years. Similar trend was found in case of urban single mothers.

Whereas from rural area is 28.30 per cent of mothers from intact families were in the age group of 25- 30 years followed by 26.70 per cent in the age group of 31- 35 years and 25.00 per cent were in the age group of 41 - 45. While the single mothers from rural area 38.40 per cent were in the age group of 36 - 40 years followed by 28.30 per cent were in the age group of 31-35 years and 25.00 per cent of them were in the age group of 41- 45 years.

With respect to education of the respondents 28.30 per cent were 10th passed but <graduation followed by 23.30 per cent had completed the graduation and 21.70 per cent had completed the primary education <10th standard. In case of urban single mothers 26.70 per cent were 10th passed but <graduation followed by primary passed but <10th standard (23.30%) and graduation (18.30%). Whereas from rural area mothers from intact families 35.00 per cent had completed primary /literate followed by 26.70 per cent were just 10th passed but <graduation and 21.70 per cent were primary passed but <10th standard. The single mothers from rural areas 55.00 per cent were primary or they were just literates followed by primary passed but <10th standard and 10th passed but <graduation (15.00%) and illiterates (11.70%).

With regard to occupation 30.00 per cent were laborers<Rs 5000 income/housewives followed by 23.30 per cent had serviced in central/state/public undertaking or owner of a company employing or professional and 18.30 per cent serviced in private sector or independent business. While the single mothers from urban area 31.70 per cent were laborers<Rs 5000 income, housewives followed by 26.70 per cent were self employed with income >Rs 5000 and 18.30 per cent were serviced in private sector or independent business. While the rural mothers

from intact families 40.00 per cent were laborers <Rs 5000 income, housewives followed by 30.00 per cent serviced at shops, home, own cultivation and 13.30 per cent were serviced in private sector or independent business. In case of rural single mothers 40.00 per cent serviced at shops, home, own cultivation followed by 38.30 per cent were laborers<Rs 5000 income, housewives and 16.70 per cent were self employed with income >Rs 5000.

With regard to socio-economic status 53.30 per cent belonged to upper middle socio-economic status followed by 26.70 per cent belonged to high socio-economic status and 16.70 per cent belonged to lower middle class of socio-economic status. In case of urban single mothers 46.70 per cent belonged to upper middle socio-economic status followed by 31.70 per cent belonged to lower middle socio-economic status and 11.70 per cent belonged to poor middle socio-economic status. Whereas the rural area mothers from intact families 46.70 per cent were from lower middle socio-economic status followed by 35.00 per cent belonged to upper middle socio-economic status and 13.30 per cent were from high socio-economic status. Similar trend was observed in case of rural single mothers.

Table 2 indicated the child characteristics of intact and single parent family from Bidar district. With regard to children from urban intact families, in case of gender 60.00 per cent were female and 40.00 per cent were male, while children from single parent family 51.66 per cent were male and 48.33 per cent were female. Whereas children from rural intact and single parent families found female (58.33 % and 60.00 %) and male (41.66 % and 40.00 %). In case of age of the children from urban areas both intact and single parent families belonged in the age group of 14-16 years of (45.00 % and 56.70

%) followed by 11-13 years (36.70 % and 30.00 %). The trend was same in case of children from rural areas of intact and single parent family. With regard to ordinal position the children from urban areas intact and single parent were families were first born (45.00 % and 41.70 %).

With regard to class of children from urban intact family of Bidar district found that 55.00 per cent were studying in primary education and the remaining 45.00 were in secondary education. The trend was same in case of children from rural intact families. In case of children from urban single parent families 56.70 per cent were studying in a secondary education and 43.30 per cent were studying in primary education. The similar trend also found in case of children from rural single parent families.

The table 3 showed the parenting among mothers of intact and single parent families from Bidar district. The results revealed that majority of the urban mothers from intact and single parent families were average parenting (73.30 % and 60.00 %) followed by above average parenting (21.70 % and 35.00 %) and very few were had high and poor parenting. In case of rural mothers from intact and single parent families had the similar trend. There was no significant association found in case of parenting among both urban and rural mothers from intact and single parent families. With respect to comparison between the urban and rural areas the mothers from urban area had higher mean scores compared to rural indicating that urban mother had better parenting skills compared to the rural mothers but there was no statistical significant difference found between the localities with parenting. The reason may be that the parenting as a mother was same in case of mothers from intact and single parent families where the maternal warmth does not change as the family pattern

changes. MacCallum and Golombok (2004) showed that children in fatherless families experienced more interaction with their mother, and perceived her as more available and dependable than their peers.

The table 4 found the Garrett ranking on parenting among mothers of intact and single parent families of Bidar district. In case of both urban and rural areas mothers from intact and single parent families, the Garrett mean scores are high in terms of positive parenting which is ranked first and the last rank was given to inconsistent discipline and corporal punishment. There many of the parents expressed that they were keen about the growth of their children, practiced positive disciplining techniques and had positive attitude as a parent. It was happy to know that many of them didn't practiced corporal punishments because it would harm the child physically and emotionally.

Table 5 indicated the effect of individual and child factors on parenting among mothers of intact and single parent family of Bidar district, where the regression analysis was performed to predict the combined effect of individual and child factors on parenting. The results indicated that among urban mothers from intact families, the predictors accounted for about 16.7 per cent of variance on parenting. Education was significantly negative predictors bringing about a change of 3.446 while socio-economic status was also a significant predictors bringing about the change of 0.835 for one unit change in parenting. In case of single mothers from urban area the predictors accounted for about 14.0 per cent of variance on parenting. Age and education were significantly negative predictors bringing about the change of 1.737 and 3.788 while socio-economic status and child's gender were also a significant predictors bringing about the change of 0.790 and 0.762 for one unit change in parenting.

With regard to rural area from Bidar district indicated the similar results.

The rural mothers from intact families' predictors accounted for about 12.5 per cent of variance on parenting. Education and socio-economic status were significant predictors bringing about the change of 2.836 and 0.111 for one unit change in parenting. In

case of rural single mothers the predictors accounted for about 11.30 per cent of variance on parenting. Age was significantly negative predictors bringing about the change 0.319 while education and socio-economic status was also a significant predictors bringing about the change of 2.843 and 1.061 for one unit change in parenting.

Table.1 Individual characteristics of mothers from intact and single parent families from Bidar district

| Sl. No | Particulars | Bidar | | | |
|----------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Urban | | Rural | |
| | | Intact | Single | Intact | Single |
| 1 | Age(In Years) | | | | |
| | 25-30 | 8 (13.30) | 2 (3.30) | 17 (28.30) | 5 (8.30) |
| | 31-35 | 16 (26.70) | 13 (21.70) | 16 (26.70) | 17 (28.30) |
| | 36-40 | 19 (31.70) | 18 (30.00) | 12 (20.00) | 23 (38.40) |
| | 41-45 | 17 (28.30) | 27 (45.00) | 15 (25.00) | 15 (25.00) |
| 2 | Education | | | | |
| | Illiterate | 3 (5.00) | 5 (8.30) | 6 (10.00) | 7 (11.70) |
| | Primary/literate | 3 (5.00) | 9 (15.00) | 21 (35.00) | 33 (55.00) |
| | Primary passed but <10 th | 13 (21.70) | 14 (23.30) | 13 (21.70) | 9 (15.00) |
| | 10 th passed but <graduation | 17 (28.30) | 16 (26.70) | 16 (26.7) | 9 (15.00) |
| | Graduation | 14 (23.30) | 11 (18.30) | 3 (5.00) | 2 (3.33) |
| | Post-Graduation /Professional | 10 (16.70) | 5 (8.30) | 1 (1.70) | - |
| 3 | Occupation | | | | |
| | Service in central/ state/public undertaking or owner of a company employing or professional | 14 (23.30) | 6 (10.00) | 6 (10.00) | 1 (1.70) |
| | Service in private sector or independent business | 11 (18.30) | 08 (13.30) | 8 (13.30) | 2 (3.30) |
| | Service at shops, home, own cultivation | 10 (16.70) | 11 (18.30) | 18 (30.00) | 24 (40.00) |
| | Self employed with income >Rs 5000 | 07 (11.70) | 16 (26.70) | 4 (6.70) | 10 (16.70) |
| | Laborers<Rs 5000 income, housewives | 18 (30.00) | 19 (31.70) | 24 (40.00) | 23 (38.30) |
| 4 | Socio-Economic Status | | | | |
| | High | 16 (26.70) | 6 (10.00) | 8 (13.30) | 8 (13.30) |
| | Upper Middle | 32 (53.30) | 28 (46.70) | 21 (35.00) | 13 (21.70) |
| | Lower Middle | 10 (16.70) | 19 (31.70) | 28 (46.70) | 37 (61.70) |
| | Poor Middle | 2 (3.30) | 7 (11.70) | 3 (5.00) | 2 (3.30) |

* Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage

Table.2 Child characteristics of intact and single parent families from Bidar district

| Sl.No | Particulars | Bidar | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Urban | | Rural | |
| | | Intact | Single | Intact | Single |
| I | Gender | | | | |
| | Male | 24 (40.00) | 33 (51.66) | 25(41.66) | 24 (40.00) |
| | Female | 36 (60.00) | 29 (48.33) | 35 (58.33) | 36 (60.00) |
| II | Age(In Years) | | | | |
| | 8-10 | 11 (18.30) | 8 (13.33) | 14 (23.30) | 3 (5.00) |
| | 11-13 | 22 (36.70) | 18 (30.00) | 22 (36.70) | 23 (38.30) |
| | 14-16 | 27 (45.00) | 34 (56.70) | 24 (40.00) | 34 (56.70) |
| III | Ordinal Position | | | | |
| | First Born | 27 (45.00) | 25 (41.70) | 19 (31.70) | 19 (31.70) |
| | Middle born | 17 (28.30) | 18 (20.50) | 22 (36.70) | 26 (43.30) |
| | Later born | 16 (26.70) | 17 (19.30) | 19 (31.70) | 15 (25.00) |
| IV | Class | | | | |
| | Primary | 33 (55.00) | 26 (43.30) | 36 (60.00) | 26 (43.30) |
| | Secondary | 27 (45.00) | 34 (56.70) | 24 (27.00) | 34 (56.70) |

* Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage

Table.3 Parenting among mothers of intact and single parent families from Bidar and Dharwad district

| Parenting | Bidar | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | Urban (n=120) | | | Rural (n=120) | | |
| | Intact (n=60) | Single (n=60) | Modified χ^2 | Intact (n=60) | Single (n=60) | Modified χ^2 |
| Poor (42-83) | 01 (1.70) | 01 (1.70) | 4.07 ^{NS} | 01 (1.70) | 02 (3.30) | 3.67 ^{NS} |
| Average (84-126) | 44 (73.30) | 36 (60.00) | | 38 (63.30) | 39 (65.00) | |
| Above Average (127-168) | 13 (21.70) | 21 (35.00) | | 21 (35.00) | 19 (31.70) | |
| High (169-210) | 02 (3.30) | 02 (3.30) | | 00 (0.00) | 00 (0.00) | |
| Mean (± SD) | 120.60 ± 17.31 | | | 118.36 ± 19.02 | | |
| t-test | 1.04 ^{NS} | | | | | |

Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage

NS – Non-Significant

Table.4 Garret ranking of parenting among mothers of intact and single parent families of Bidar District

| Parenting | Urban | | | | Rural | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| | Intact | | Single | | Intact | | Single | |
| | Garret Mean Score | Rank |
| Involvement | 63.50 | II | 34.08 | III | 46.50 | III | 47.00 | III |
| Positive Parenting | 68.91 | I | 65.41 | I | 64.33 | I | 67.50 | I |
| Poor Monitoring/Supervision | 42.33 | IV | 64.50 | II | 35.66 | V | 60.33 | II |
| Inconsistent Discipline | 44.16 | III | 47.58 | IV | 64.00 | II | 41.33 | V |
| Corporal Punishment | 31.91 | V | 39.83 | V | 39.50 | IV | 33.83 | IV |

Table.5 Effect of individual and child factors on parenting among urban mothers from intact and single parent families of Bidar district

| Model | Urban | | | | Rural | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|--------|------------|---------|------------|
| | Intact | | Single | | Intact | | Single | |
| | B | Std. Error | B | Std. Error | B | Std. Error | B | Std. Error |
| Age | -1.623 | 0.907 | -1.737* | 1.309 | 1.333 | 0.654 | -0.319* | 0.731 |
| Education | -3.446** | 3.291 | -3.788** | 1.269 | 2.836* | 1.968 | 2.843* | 1.945 |
| Occupation | 1.368 | 1.274 | 1.730 | 1.954 | 1.550 | 1.126 | 0.985 | 1.293 |
| Socio-Economic Status (SES) | 0.835* | 1.526 | 0.790* | 1.304 | 0.111* | 1.283 | 1.061* | 0.270 |
| General Stress | 0.566 | 0.776 | 0.300 | 0.873 | 0.055 | 0.732 | 0.030 | 1.703 |
| Parenting Stress | 0.186 | 0.694 | 0.214 | 1.007 | 0.274 | 0.202 | 0.964 | 1.795 |
| Mental Health | -1.108 | 1.307 | -1.322 | 1.192 | -1.256 | 1.165 | 1.245 | 1.163 |
| Child's Gender | 1.275 | 0.505 | 0.762* | 1.700 | 1.577 | 0.519 | 0.766 | 0.703 |
| Child's Age | 1.595 | 1.276 | 1.973 | 1.805 | 1.807 | 1.303 | 1.493 | 1.621 |
| Child's Ordinal Position | 0.577 | 0.964 | 0.554 | 0.741 | 0.640 | 0.504 | 0.825 | 0.714 |
| Class | 0.100 | 0.840 | 0.299 | 0.918 | 0.171 | 0.782 | 0.645 | 0.966 |
| Child Adjustment | 0.009 | 0.614 | 0.123 | 0.536 | 0.159 | 1.507 | 0.524 | 0.388 |
| Total Behavior Problem | 1.108 | 1.307 | 0.155 | 0.333 | 0.456 | 0.273 | 1.250 | 1.424 |
| R | 0.581 | | 0.399 | | 0.469 | | 0.441 | |
| R ² | 0.167 | | 0.140 | | 0.125 | | 0.113 | |

** p≤ 0.01 level of significance

* p≤ 0.05 level of significance

Park and Lau (2016) showed that parents were more likely to endorse child independence and child obedience if they had higher formal education and he also revealed that socioeconomic status would be individual predicted individual parents' prioritization of child independence and obedience; higher social class predicted a greater likelihood of endorsing independence and not endorsing obedience.

In conclusion, majority of the mothers from intact and single parent had average level of parenting and there was no significant association as well as difference found between the mothers from intact and single parents on parenting. There was no significant difference between the urban and rural mothers from intact and single parent families. Garrett mean scores indicated that majority of the mother from intact and single parent families followed positive parenting. With regard to factors like education and socio economic status had a significant influence on parenting among rural and urban mothers from intact and single parent families. While in case of single mothers from urban and rural area the factors like age,

education, socio economic status and child's gender had a significant influence on parenting.

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How to cite this article:

Krutika Chanda and Lata Pujar. 2019. Parenting among Intact and Single Parent Families. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 8(04): 1560-1567. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.804.181>