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The Effect of Single Parenting on Girl Child Academic Performance in Public Secondary Schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria

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Abstract:

This study sought to establish whether single parenting can affect the negative Academic Performance of a girl child in Public Secondary Schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Sub-variables like Student Parental fiancé, Students' Self-concept and their Locus of control were used for the research. Relevant theories were used. Three research questions as well as three null hypotheses were formulated to control the research. Ex-post facto research design was adopted by the researcher. The population of six thousand two hundred (6200) girl students suffering from single parenting was realized from twelve (12) Public Secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Government Area where one thousand five hundred and fifty-seven (1557) girl students were derived as samples for the research with purposive sampling techniques. The instrument 'Single Parenting Effect on the Girl Child Academic Performance Questionnaire' (SPEGACAPQ) of two (2) sections A and B with 25 items was used to generate data. Reliability test using Alpha Cronbach was conducted. Independent t-test was used to analyze the hypotheses. Parent finance, Self-concept as well as Locus of Control can influence the academic performance of girl child from single parenting home schooling in Public Secondary Schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. As a way of minimizing or curtailing this generational menace, the researcher recommended amongst others, a kind of holistic campaigns on the all-round negative effects of Single Parenting in form of seminars, counselling sessions, workshops as through the three(3) tiers of educators which are the Parents, the Clergies and the Government.

Keywords: Effects, single parenting, academic performance and, public schools

1. Introduction

Irrespective of the fact that most countries, if not all, placed very important value on education because of its importance on any nation's development level as this is demonstrated in the way and manner Akwa Ibom State government invests and spends on education pursuit through the free, qualitative and compulsory education scheme practiced in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. In this present dispensation, nobody jokes with the awareness of education benefits. This was asserted by Malima (2016) as that, which attract considerable attention from the component of the society are the family, community and of course, the government.

Notwithstanding the awareness of her importance, the huge finances and money invested, her produce or outcome seems not too meaningful or encouraging because of canker worm called a single parenting. This phenomenon called single parenting is a method or style whereby a spouse decides to raise up his/her child/children single-handedly. Nevertheless, this condition, more often than not, may not be a happenstance occurrence, rather could be caused by certain factors like, maybe such child was got outside wedlock or any of the spouses may be experiencing separation, conflict, friction, divorce or even death. The occurrences of any of the aforementioned factors often leave the role in the hands of either of the survivor thereby tagging him or her 'Single Parent' for single parenting duties. In the case of pregnancy outside the wedlock, most responsibilities of rearing, if not all, rest solely on the mother of the baby or by extension, the maternal grandparents or relatives.

However, when one of the parents is absent, especially in a girl child situation, a gap and a vacuum are created thereby causing the child to miss the support that would have emanated from both parents. Tanibiaja (2017) supports this assertion by saying that, as children (girl child) raised with intact parenting system gain better care and love, so will such a child perform academically better comparatively. For Tanibiaja, (2017), when both parents are present and in harmony, the training, postulated by Proverb 22; 6, which says, 'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will

not depart from it', becomes easier and fruitful. This training is a kind of general training that will comprise Spiritual, Social, behavior and academic aspect of the children's (girl student) life.

The effect of single parenting cannot and should not be overlooked, as its negative effect is not only on the present and future of the children (girl student), but that of the future generations as well. In fact, family parenting practice is very vital because each spouse has a role to play for a proper growth and development of a child, especially for a girl child. This is corroborated by Yawn (2018) who claims that maternal's (mother) role is that of child care and home making, while paternal's (father) role is that of economic responsibility and discipline of children (girl student). Yawn (2018) says that the mother's capacity to bring up her girl child through single parenting can greatly be influenced by the direct Godly and indirectly ungodly assistance and support she receives from friends and relatives which may, at times, lead to unpleasant situations. This assertion supports the postulation of Mennde (2019) that says that the challenges, a girl student, in public secondary school, faces are multiple and self-contradictory as none can stand or exist on their own. Such challenges include but not limited to: poor education attainment, poor academic performance, poor attendance in classes, dropout of school and engagement in bad behavior, premature pregnancy and children outside wedlock.

The fact remains life, in a single parenting system, can be very stressful for both the child (especially, the girl child) and the parents (especially, the mother). Kunz (2018) confirms that such families are faced with the challenges of diminishing financial resources. No wonder Amwakohene (2016) reveals that the relationship between single parenting and academic level of performance has some exceptional problems like absence of spouse, loneliness amongst others than poverty and insecurity which creates difficulties to raise children, especially girl child. From my observations, single parents, who cannot meet the financial needs of their children, do expose such children (girl students) to selling before going to school in order to make money, thereby promoting and encouraging negative occurrences such as always arriving at school after one or two lessons and such can affect academic performance, expose the children to premarital sex (especially, girls). These attitudes do promote unpleasant practices that do result in all or some of social vices like premature pregnancy that can lead to abortion, dropout of school or even death.

We should rely on the assertion of Professor Amato (2017) who warns that many girl children bared of single parents are born into undesirable circumstance which can lead them to being poor, committing crime, using drugs, school dropout due to lack of interest in schooling. And in addition to the necessity of girl children in all spheres of development through mostly academic attainment, the researcher becomes interested in the academic performance of girl children in selected public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area, of Akwa Ibom State. In view of these, therefore, the researcher chooses to research on the effect of single parenting on girl children in selected public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, through some sub-variables like financial status of single parents, and then Self-concept and Locus of Control of girls of single parenting.

1.1. Problem of the Study

The problem of this study is the poor academic performance of girl children in selected public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria caused by single parenting which is on the increase. These serious abnormalities called single parenting that has destroyed almost all sectors of life could be because people (spouses) venture into marriage without any training compared to how adequate and sufficient trainings are given to other careers, professions and vocations. This lack of required training promotes mismatch in marriage thereby encouraging directly and indirectly single parenting aside from the ones caused by the death of a spouse.

Besides many abnormalities caused or fueled by single parenting, the researcher becomes keener by the one that borders on academic performance of girl children in Akwa Ibom State in general and in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in particular. This could be perhaps because, it is often said that when you educate a woman (girl student), you educate the nation. In addition, the level and extent of one's country development hangs on the level and extent of their country's education standard or level. Hence, the research on 'the effect of single Parenting on the girl child academic performance in public Secondary Schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State' proofs its contribution in promoting, abating and sponsoring of anti-social behavior due to Parent financial Status, Self-Concept and Locus of Control. Again, the researcher having known the importance and the position of a girl student (mothers) in the society and the implications of other challenges affecting the morals and values, decides to settle for how such practices can affect them negatively with the mind of searching for solutions to such serious menace.

In short, the problem of this study, therefore, is the effect of single parenting on the girl child academic performance in selected public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

1.2. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the research was to determine how single parenting could influence the academic performance of a girl child in public secondary Schools, in Ibiono Ibom local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Specially, the study was designed to determine:

- Whether the financial statute of a single parent can influence the academic performance of the girl child in public secondary schools, in Ibiono Ibom local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.
- Whether self-concept of a girl child in public Secondary Schools, in Ibiono Ibom local Government Area and that of their parents can influence the girl child academic performance.
- Whether locus of control of a girl child from single parenting in public secondary schools, in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area can influence her academic performance.

1.3. Research Questions

In this research work, the researcher formulated three research questions which were answered to guide this study:

- How does financial status of single parents influence the academic performance of the girl child in public secondary schools, in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area?
- How does self-concept of a girl child in public secondary schools and that of their parents influence her academic performance in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area?
- How does locus of control of the girl child in public secondary schools that of their parents influence her academic performance in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area?

1.4. Research Hypotheses

The following three research hypotheses were formulated and tested at .05 level of significance to guide this study:

- Financial status of single parenting does not significantly influence the academic performance of the girl child in public secondary schools, in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area.
- Self-concept of the girl child in public Secondary schools and that of their parents does not significantly influence their academic performance in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area.
- Locus of control of the girl in public secondary schools and that of their parents does not significantly influence their academic performance in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area.

1.5. Scope of the Study

This research was strictly delimited to girl students from single parenting family, who, by the time of this study, were schooling in public secondary schools, in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area. The period of this research is 2021/2022 school session and some selected psychological sub-variables such as financial status, Self-concept, locus of control were covered.

Literature was reviewed on relevant works related to the study. Based on these, the major emphasis of these was anchored on theoretical framework, conceptual review, and review of empirical studies and summary of related literature reviewed.

2. Theoretical Framework

Relevant theories to the study were reviewed; these are Operant Conditional Theory by Skinner's (1938) and Cognitive development Theory by Vygotsky's (1978) and Jeans Piaget (1896-1980). Then the following conceptual reviews were carried out on Parental financial Status, Student Self-concept and Locus of Control.

2.1. Parental Financial Status and Academic Performance of Secondary School Students

It is established that, many decades ago, finance and even its management among husband and wife have been noted as one of the most common factors or variables that can promote disagreement that can lead to friction which, if not properly handled, may instigate many and different types of vices including marital instability which can be passed for fuel that can negatively affect academic performance of a girl student (children) in the family (Bemon, 2016).

The necessity of finance in academic performance cannot be over-emphasized. Many researchers such as Thompson (2017), Kalu (2015), Udoh (2015) & Umana (2020) have been able to prove the relationship that exists between finances and academic performance. This was proven by Kalu (2014) who investigated 819 girls (students) from low income single parents in respect of their academic performance. According to the findings, it was revealed that lack of finance hindered academic performance of students (girl children). According to him, amongst other things, there existed positive correlation between finance and academic performance of girl children.

This research result was affirmed by the observation of Udoh (2015) that says that for the purpose of rapid and constant positive academic performance, parent should, irrespective of their marital instability, pay serious attention to children (girl children) in order to help, as the lack of finance seems to promote much negative effect on the academic performance of students (girl children) due to lack of ability to purchase educational and learning materials. Many theorists in Nigeria have different propositions about couples' finances, finance management and agreement as they are related to academic performance of children (girl students). But all the theorists, in one way or the other, look or see couples finance and finance management as acts that can hinder academic performance of children (girl students) where proper consciousness is not applied. This is based on the fact that most women believed in the olden practices that wives are only to help in household chores, farm and children bearing and rearing, while husbands are the sole responsible beings for bread winning and children training.

Then, in the case of separation or divorce where single parenting is applied, finance becomes a very serious problem in the training of the children from such home to the extent of affecting negatively their academic performance. Thompson (2017), in investigating family disorganization with the use of 1200 couples as sample, postulated that money, household chores and quality time between the couples are the three facets of positive academic attainment, hence, higher academic performance. In line with this, Fedeyi (2015) suggested that both parents should play roles in girl children education irrespective of their marital status. By his opinion, when the father is absent and the mother is not privileged enough to cater for all the basic needs as well as supervise the academic performance of the child, the child may be backward or even withdrawn from academic pursuit. This is because the process of socialization that starts from the

family depends on the effort of both parents playing a complementing role in the children upbringing. This postulation was because more than two-third of the respondents confirmed that money management and agreement are issues that can either ginger or hinder academic performance of students.

Olanyinka (2015) and Effiong (2018) in their different submissions postulated that single parent inability to finance a girl child educational and learning material needs can be a ground for academic threat, thereby hindering academic performance. With this, the necessity of finance in academic performance cannot be over-emphasized as it is capable of dampening student Self-concept.

2.2. Self- Concept of Girl Child and Academic Performance in the Public Secondary School

Self-concept, which is a combination of one's Self-image and Self-esteem, is a kind of character that one (girl students) can develop through internal factors like home conditions/environment and or external factors like peer influence. This variable, called Self-concept, which is how students (girl children) think about themselves, cannot be directly observed except through one's behavior and perhaps personal assessments of the victims. The importance of Self-concept cannot be over-emphasized as it positively or negatively affects one's behaviors and attitudes thereby controlling such person's moral that is the instigator of motivations whether low, high, positive or negative. Self-concept, which is what controls persons' behavior, characters and conduct, is derived mostly from one's family. Little wonder family is seen as an indispensable sub-system in learning/academic institutions. This is because once human beings (girl children) are concerned, life existence starts in the family, revolves around the family and lastly, ends in the family either through birth, marriage or adoption.

In addition to the aforementioned researchers, Peter (2017) reveals that students' (girl children) self-concept has major roles in academic performance of girl children because such students, based on the pains they suffer in their single parenting rearing and training, may decide not to respect any authority anywhere, school inclusive. And these insubordinate attitudes are bound to affect academic performance negatively. Students' (girl children) self-concept is a serious issue because it controls a student's (girl child) sense of moral life. Therefore, to avoid or prevent this menace, single parents and their children may have need of professional help through either individual or group counseling session for curative or preventive purposes. As a matter of urgency for better academic performance, school Counsellor upon finding out of a Student reared and trained by single parent should call for counselling in order to build positive Locus of control as a way forward to promoting positive academic performance.

2.3. Locus of Control of Students and Academic Performance in Secondary Schools

Locus of control significance lies on the fact that one's failure or success in any human endeavor including academic activities depends on the type or kind of the person's locus of control. Ekeng (2018) asserts that the two types of locus of control, which are internal locus of control, and the external locus of control, are responsible for either the positive or negative academic performance of students (girl children).

2.3.1. Internal Locus of Control

Internal locus of control, according to Stanly (2016), makes one (girl student) believe that she is solely responsible to the income and outcome of her academic performance. She, by this internal locus of control, believes that whatever action or reaction, it is as a result of the previous way of life and not due to the reason as being caused by her parenting type or instigated by outsiders.

2.3.2. External Locus of Control

External locus of control is that type of control that makes one (girl student) think that all her negative occurrences in life, especially, academic performance, are caused by external factor/s like their single parental rearing/training pattern. The general happening is that such students (girl children) are always restless and misled by external forces like behaviors of other students, friends, relative and parenting type. Be it as it may, students, with external locus of control, blame outsiders for any of their short comings, including academic performance.

3. Review of Related Empirical Studies

This section focused on the scientific research carried out by different scholars on the subject matter of the study.

Amoakohene (2013) conducted a study on the relationship between single parenting and academic performance of students in Secondary schools in Okpoi Local Government Area in Rivers State. Using stratified sampling, the local Government Area was divided into 3 locations which were: the rural, semi-urban and urban. The population of the study was 34,000 students from 10 secondary schools. 50 students were stratified and randomly chosen from each school making a total of 500 students. Data were gathered from structured questionnaire called Level of Academic performance of student from single home (LAPSSH). Data collected were analyzed using measure of central tendency. The study revealed that single parenting has negative effect on students' academic performance. The study concluded with an appeal on parent to show more interest in their children schooling irrespective of their marital differences in order to improve the students' academic performance on the positive.

The study is related to the present study because both studies focused on the relationship that exists between single parenting and students' academic performance. However, while Amoakohene's research work considered other variables such as age of the student, gender of students, self-concept of the parents and of course, moral aspect of the student in Secondary schools in River State, the present study focused more on the Student's self-concept, in public

secondary schools, in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State. The gap in the body of knowledge is what this study came out to fulfill.

Philip (2016) conducted a study on the relationship between behavior and academic performance as concerned girl students from single parenting schooling in public secondary schools in Calabar-South Local Government Area in Cross River State. The population of the study was 1450 students. Data were gathered from questionnaire, where 430 students were randomly selected for the study. Independent t-test, Frequency and percentages were used to analyze the result. The study shows that girl students from single parenting, that have good self-concept of themselves, performed better academically than their counterparts that looked down on themselves because of the single parenting status. The researcher recommended that school counsellors should, from time to time, organize group counselling session for better self-concept among girl students in public secondary schools in Calabar-South Local Government Area of Cross River State. The present study focused on the effect of self-concept on the academic performance of girl students in public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area. The present study is tended to find out if what happens in Calabar-South can also occur in Ibiono Ibom, hence this research study.

Okokon (2018) conducted a study in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State to find out if financial status of single parents affects negatively their children's academic performance. The population studied was 2,000 students. Data were gathered using group interview of random sampling of 30 per group. The grouping was based on age (12-15) and type of parenting (single mother or single father). The studies revealed that financial status of single parenting has so much effect on the academic performance of students mostly girl children of age 12 years with single mothers. Whereas, the present study focused on the effect of parental financial status on girl students within the age of 9—20 years in public secondary schools, in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area. This gap is what this study intends to fill up.

4. Summary of the Literature Review

The study investigated the effect of single parenting on the girl child's academic performance in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area. One theory formed basis of the study. Conceptual review was done on parent financial status, self-concept of students and locus of control.

From the empirical studies reviewed by the researcher, it was found out that some of the studies were different based on the location, variables, sample size, data collected, statistics and method used, and others are similar but they are not exactly the same work used by the researcher in the present study. However, the reviewed ones were relevant to the present study, with a gap that existed in the body of knowledge of the subject matter, which the present study tries to fill.

5. Methodology

5.1. Research Design

The research design adopted was ex-post facto design as the researcher was not able to manipulate the sub-variables. The researcher relied on the choice of the ex-post facto because of Denga and Ali (1998), in Udo (2018). According to information services in the Ibiono Ibom Local Government Council, the Area of study, which is Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area, is named after a deity called Anantia. She was created out from Itu Local Government Area in December 5th, 1999, under the leadership of General Sani Abacha. She, being one of the 31 Local Government Areas in Akwa Ibom State, is one of the Local Government Areas in Uyo Senatorial District. She has 13 wards divided into five geo-political blocks which are: Eastern, Western, Central, Northern and Southern. Ibiono Ibom, with so many villages, is grouped into nine (9) clans which are: Use, Ididep, Ntan, Ibiaku, Mbiabong, Idoro, Utit Obio, Ikpanya and Afaha. The Headquarters of Ibiono Ibom is situated at Oko Ita. Ibiono Ibom happens to be one of the thirty-one (31) Local Government Areas in Akwa Ibom State. She can be accessed through local Government Areas like Uyo, Itu and Ikot Ekpene local Government Areas respectively.

Ibiono Ibom Local Government has twelve (12) Public Secondary Schools with more than twenty thousand students (20,000).

Tables 1 and 2 below show the names of Public Secondary Schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area and their different clans.

S/N	Names of Public Secondary Schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area
1.	Community Secondary School Use Ikot Amama
2.	Community Secondary School Idoro
3.	Community Secondary Commercial School Ono
4.	Ibiono Community High School Edem Uran
5.	Community Secondary Commercial School Itukuh
6.	Union Secondary School Ibiaku
7.	Comprehensive Secondary School Ikot Uneke
8.	Community Secondary School Ikot Usen
9.	Presbyterian Senior Science School Ididep
10.	Secondary School Ididep Mbiakpan
11.	Community secondary Commercial School Ibiono Western
12.	Lordgurey Baptist Secondary School Afaha Obio Eno

Table 1

S/N	Public Secondary Schools for the Research Work	CLAN
1.	Community Secondary School Use Ikot Amama	Use
2.	Ibiono Community High School Edem Uruan	Utiti Obio
3.	Secondary School Ididep Mbiakpan	Ididep
4.	Comprehensive Secondary School Ikot Uneke	Ibiaku
5.	Community Secondary School Ikot Use	Ntan
6.	Lordgurey Baptist Secondary School Afaha Obio Eno	Afaha

Table 2

5.1.1. Population of the Study

The target population for this study is six thousand two hundred (6,200) single parenting students studying in the twelve (12) public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State.

5.1.2. Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample for this work was drawn from the population of six thousand two hundred (6,200) girls from single parenting family. Using twenty-five percent (25%) of the population, a sum of one thousand five hundred and fifty-seven (1557) samples size was selected out from six (6) schools from all the clans as shown on Table 2 above using stratified random sampling technique. The choice of 25% is based on Denga and Ali in Ekpenyong (2020) that asserted that for the result of a research to be valid, the percentage of the population that makes up the sample should be between 10% and 30%, though the researcher chose to use 25% for wider coverage. Again, the researcher used purposive sampling technique to choose four classes which were Junior Secondary 2 and 3 and Senior Secondary 2 and 3 (JSII, JSIII, SSII and SSIII). They were found in all the Six (6) Schools.

5.1.3. Research Instrumentation

Single parenting effect on the girl child academic performance Questionnaire (SPEGCAPO) was constructed and developed for girl children schooling presently in Six (6) public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government in Akwa Ibom State. In constructing the items, experts made up of lecturers in counselling, test measurement and evaluating departments were consulted with items already generated.

This instrument of two sections A and B, with 27 items, was constructed for use to test the formulated hypothesis. The respondents were asked to tick what is appropriate in their case in sections A and B which have options for each of the items which is measured by the modified 4 – point likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The items were scored 4 for (SA), 3 for (A), 2 for (D) and 1 for (SD). For the positive items, then revise for the negative.

5.1.4. Validity of the Instrument

The entire Single Parenting Effect on Girl Child Academic Performance Questionnaire (SPEGCAPO) constructed by the researcher with fifty (50) items divided into two sections of A and B was given to experts to confirm the face validity of the instrument.

5.1.5. Reliability of the Instrument

The researcher conducted face validity and reliability test to examine the extent to which this instrument can measure what it is set out to measure. Before conducting the pilot testing on fifty (50) girl children who were exempted from the main exercise, unwanted items were excluded from the instrument.

5.1.6. Procedure for Data Collection

The research instrument that was developed out from the defined problems of the study was administered on the purposive selected girl children schooling in public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in all with the assistant from two (2) volunteers/ teachers.

5.1.7. Method of Data Analysis

The three (3) hypotheses that are used in this study are stated in the null form and the appropriate statistical analysis was applied using independent t-test at .05 level of significance during testing. The three (3) null forms of hypotheses are thus:

Hypothesis 1: Parent financial status to girl child schooling in public secondary school does not significantly influence her academic performance.

Independent Variable: Parent financial status (Positive or negative).

Dependent Variable: Academic performance.

Statistical Tool: Independent t-test.

Hypothesis 2: Self-concept of single parenting girl child in public secondary school.

Independent Variable: Self-concept of girl child dependent positive or negative.

Dependent Variable: Academic performance.

Statistical Tool: Independent t-test.

Hypothesis 3: Locus of control of single parenting girl child in public secondary school.

Independent Variable: Locus of control (internal or external).

Dependent Variable: Academic performance.

Statistical Tool: Independent t-test.

Scoring of Instrument: During scoring process, statistical calculations were performed on the derived

6. Data Analysis and Discussion

The results and discussion of the research findings are presented by hypothesis with independent t-test as their statistical

6.1. Hypothesis One

Parent Financial position does not significantly influence academic performance of a girl child in public Secondary school in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State.

Independent variable: Parent financial position of a girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State.

Dependent variable: Academic performance

Statistical tool: Independent t-test

The result in table 3 reveals that the calculated t - value of 3.43 is greater than the critical t -value of 1.96 at .05 alpha level of significance with 1092 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis of no significant influence of parent financial position on academic performance of girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom was rejected meaning that academic performance of girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom in Akwa Ibom state is influenced by their single parent financial position. Thus, the level of parent financial position is a determinant factor in the academic performance as it is displayed in table 3 below.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	t - Cal	T - crit	Decision
Parent financial Position						At .05 alpha
Academic Negative	596	74.79	8.43	3.43		1.96 S
Performance Positive	804	76.21	6.60			

Table 3: Result of Independent t-test Analysis on Parent Financial Position and Academic Performance S = Significant at Df = 1092

6.2. Hypothesis Two

Self-concept of girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom does not significantly influence their academic performance.

Independent variable: Self-concept (positive or negative)

Dependent variable: Academic performance

Statistical tool: Independent t-test

The result in table 4 reveals that the calculated t - value of 4.72 is greater than the critical t -value of 1.96 at .05 alpha level of significance with 1380 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis of no significant influence of self-concept of girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom in Akwa Ibom state on academic performance of girl child was rejected. This means that academic performance of a girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State is influenced by her own concept. Thus, the type of self-concept is a determinant factor in the academic performance of a girl child. And this is displayed in table 4 below.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	T - Cal	T-crit	Decision
Girl Child Concept						At .05 alpha
Academic	770	74.73	6.09	4.72		1.96 S
Performance	630	76.68	8.75			

Table 4: Result of Independent t-Test Analysis on the Influence of Girl Child Self-Concept on Academic Performance S = Significance at Df = 138

6.3. Hypothesis Three

Locus of control of a girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom local Government in Akwa Ibom State does not significantly influence academic performance.

Independent Variable: Locus of control (Internal or External)

Dependent Variable: Academic performance

Statistical tool: Independent t-test.

The result in table 6 reveals that the calculated t - test value of 3.25 is greater than the critical t-test of 1.96 at .05 alpha level of significance with 1261 degree of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis of no significant influence of locus of control of girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom in Akwa Ibom State on academic performance was rejected. This means that the academic performance of girl child in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom Local

Government Area in Akwa Ibom State is influenced by her locus of control. Thus, the kind of locus of control is a determinant factor in the academic performance of a girl child.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	T Cal	T - crit	Decision
Girl Child Locus of Control						At .05 alpha
Academic	573	74.83	7.27	3.25	1.96	S
Performance	827	76.14	7.56			

Table 5: Result of Independent t-Test Analysis on the Influence of Girl Child Locus of Control on Academic Performance $S =$ Significance at $Df = 1261$

7. Discussion of the Findings

7.1. Academic Performance of Girl Child in Public Secondary School in Ibiono in Akwa Ibom State Depends on Finance Position

The result of this hypothesis revealed that this variable significantly relates to academic performance of Girl Child. By this result, it is proven that the presence of Finance is significant to academic performances as finance is another crucial issue in the academic performance. These correlations necessitated the interventions of authorities like accountant, educationists by way of bringing to light the essentiality of economic strength which include needs of finance as regards to academic performance. Thompson (2017) clarifies this assertion by supporting that once a husband is financially handicapped perhaps as the result of extravagancy to the extent of not being able to provide his family daily needs including his children's educational needs, such may lead to academic performance hindrance.

From the research findings, it has been revealed that irrespective of the method the couples (parents) operate in their house hold finance, such method not only tampers with marriage happiness and stability, but can also affect either positively or negatively the academic performance of their children (girl children) (Kalu, 2011; Udoh, 2015; Umanah, 2020). The findings prove that finance and academic performance go and work hand in hand because lack of sufficient finance for academic materials can affect negatively not only the academic performance of the student (girl child), but her reputation by dampening her self-concept (Olayinka, 2015; Effiong, 2018).

7.2. Academic Performance of a Girl Child Depends on her Self-Concept

According to the result of the findings; the academic performance of a girl child depends on her Self-Concept. The result shows with the assertion of Okokon (2018), concerning the uniqueness of self-concept as far as teaching\learning as well as academic performance are concerned. The result reveals that the girl child's self-concept, which happens to be derived from her family self-concept, controls her academic performances. That is why, if a girl child is mentored from home with negative self-concept, such a girl child is bound to perform negatively even in academic (Nathaniel, 2019). The result of this research goes to support the postulation of Gabriel, (2019) that postulated that, responsive encouragements as a support from stable family are structural variations for one's self concept, girl child inclusive. Following this perspective, self-concept becomes a base where positive academic performance can be placed. The result of this finding corroborates what Peter (2017) revealed concerning the role of self-concept of a girl child reared and trained by a single parent can play when it comes to academic performance based on the pains she might have passed through that promote the spirit and manners of disobeying the school authorities.

7.3. The Academic Performance of a Girl Child Is Significantly Influenced by Her Locus of Control

Locus of Control seems to be a major factor in one's life because it controls both the internal and the external behavior of a person. With this, when the result of the research revealed that the Locus of Control significantly influenced the academic performance of a girl child by showing that those with internal Locus of Control performed positively better in their academic performance because they accept responsibility (ies) while those with external Locus of Control performed negative academically because they refused to take\accept responsibilities, rather place their shortcoming on others. With this result, the assertion of Ekeng (2018) is confirmed. This research result goes a long way to confirm the earlier research conducted by Stanley (2016), that asserted that, when one believes and operates on internal Locus of Control, such a person is bound to achieve positively better even in academic performance, not minding his\her parenting type or instigation by outsiders. Unlike those with external Locus of Control, they are always looking for someone/something to blame for their misfortune. Such things or beings could include outsiders, as well as parents.

8. Summary and Conclusion

The study was conducted over the effect of Single parenting on the girl child academic performance in public secondary school in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State. The implication of the study comes as a result of much interest and the concern the researcher has as a teacher over the girl child and her academic pursuit. To control the research, the following were made:

- 4 Hypotheses were formulated,
- The significant of the research established,
- The scope, limitations, assumption, and terms were operationally defined,
- Literature review was carried out.

The sample of 1,550 girl children (students) being twenty five percent (25%) out from the population of six thousand two hundred (6,200) girl children were chosen from six public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local

Government Area for proper control. An ex-post facto design was adapted. The Single Parenting effect on the girl child academic performance questionnaire (SPEGCAPO) was the instrument used to derive responses from the sample used in the research.

This questionnaire has two (2) sections (A and B) with a total of twenty seven (27) items divided into 7 and 20 items in their respective sections. A pilot test using 50 respondents was conducted to verify the validity of the instrument. Experts ascertained the content and face validity, and then the reliability was derived using Cronbach alpha reliability estimate of 0.72 for academic performance. This process proved the fitness of the instrument for the study.

To measure the coded responses, the modified 4 points likert scale, which were: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) were scored 4 for positive responses, while the reversed were for negative. Independent t-test and certified scoring patterns were appropriate statistics used. The research revealed many ills suffered by girl child from single parent home. Amongst such are: financial constraint, negative self-concept, low academic attainment as well as External locus of control. In the whole, the research would have been interesting and enjoyable but for challenges, experiences from time to administering of the questionnaire, the cost and even in the sampling technique.

9. Conclusion

Since from the research result, it has been revealed that sub-variable like parent financial position, self-concept of the girl child, locus of control as well as academic attainment significantly influence academic performance of Girl Child in Public secondary schools in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State, it becomes necessary to enlighten the public before and during marriage union through Clergymen, Civic Society Organization (CSO), family counsellor to try as much as possible to be financially productive before marriage in order to prevent this ugly scene of negative effect of single parenting which can be caused by many factors including even death.

10. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made by the researcher based on the findings of this research:

- Class teachers should develop means of discovering girls from single parent families and send them to the school counsellor for counselling.
- School Counsellors should, at least once in a month, conduct foster counselling session for girls (students) from single parenting family.
- Principal General of secondary schools should always place the girls (students) from single parenting family on the preference list during any financial benefit from any individuals, organizations, etc.
- The State Government as well as the local Government should be providing special financial grant to girls (students) from single parenting family as a way of preventing negative occurrence ranging from morals up to even academic performance.

11. Implication of the Study

The implications of this study are:

- This result will contribute to bank of knowledge during literature review of single parenting and the child's academic performance.
- Family scholars and researchers will find the results of this research useful during their academic research.
- School counsellor may incorporate the research findings during their preventive group counselling.
- The research result reveals that beside emotional and depressive mood suffered by a girl children from single parenting family, their academic performance can also be tampered negatively.

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