

Divorce And Child Behavior Among Single Parents In Kyeizoba Sub-County-Bushenyi District

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Abstract

The research topic was Divorce and Child Behavior Among Single Parents In Kyeizoba Sub-County-Bushenyi District. The study considered three objectives that is, To find out the clear understanding of divorce in Kyeizooba Sub County, To find out ways of improving child behavior in Kyeizooba sub-county and To establish the relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county. The researcher began by extensively reviewing the existing literature on divorce and its effects on child behavior and development, particularly among single-parent households. This helped to identify the key variables of interest and develop hypotheses about the potential relationships between divorce, single parenthood, and child behavior outcomes. Having established a conceptual framework grounded in previous research, the next step was to determine the study design and method of data collection. It was decided that a quantitative research approach utilizing a survey methodology would be most appropriate to collect data from a large sample of participants. The population of interest was defined as primary school-aged children between the ages of 6-12 years old living in single-parent households headed by either a divorced or separated mother or father in Kyeizoba Sub-County. Probability sampling techniques were used to select a random sample of 200 children meeting these criteria from the rosters of local primary schools. Informed consent was then obtained from the parents of each selected child. A self-administered questionnaire was developed to measure key variables like the child's age, gender, length of time since parental divorce or separation, relationship with the absent parent, and aspects of the child's behavior and emotional functioning. The questionnaire utilized several standardized scales that had been validated in prior research, including the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire to assess behavior problems. It was pre-tested on a small sample to ensure the wording and scales were suitable and understandable for parents in the local context. Trained research assistants were deployed to distribute and collect the completed questionnaires from the parents over a one-month period. Basic demographic information was also collected about the parents like education level, occupational status, and income. A high response rate of over 80% was achieved. The collected data was coded, entered into SPSS software, and cleaned to address any issues of missing values or inconsistencies. Appropriate statistical tests were then run to analyze relationships between variables, including independent sample t-tests to compare behavior scores between groups. According to the study findings, majority agreed that it is when the two couples separate (66%) and the least concluded that it is the end of marriage (18 %). This showed that respondents understood what divorce is and its effect to the children and the society itself. The community should be actively involved in decision making for any activity carried out by the church or civil society.

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Background of the study

Divorce is the process of ending a marriage or conjugal union. Divorce usually refers to the annulment or arrangement of legal obligations and responsibilities from marriage, thereby dissolving the marital bonds between a married couple according to the law of a particular country or state (Vincent & Peter, 2023). Divorce is a legal act. between married people to terminate their marital relationship. It can be characterized as the dissolution of a marriage and, in essence, a legal act that terminates a marriage before the death of one of the spouses (Joventa et al., 2023). Child behavior is defined as actions, reactions, and functioning in response to everyday environments and situations (Jac & Kazaara, 2023). Child behavior is a term used to describe behavior that interferes with a child's daily life (Patrick C., 2017). Behavioral problems such as aggression, disobedience, hyperactivity, and destructive behavior are part of normal early childhood development, but young children who exhibit high levels of these behaviors are at greater risk for continued behavioral problems, including a higher risk of engaging in violent behavior. behavior as well as drug and alcohol abuse (Mercy et al., 2023). Parent training programs are identified as the most effective prevention and intervention strategies for reducing behavior problems in children. They aim to change children's behavior by supporting changes in parents, including enhancing their knowledge, confidence and skills. These programs have been developed based on theories such as Patterson's social learning model, which posits a

strong link between coercive parenting and antisocial behavior in children (Christopher et al., 2022). However, there is some evidence that the relationship between child behavior and parenting may vary across cultures. For example, Lansford and colleagues collected data on mother-child dyads from China, India, Kenya, the Philippines, and Thailand and noted that although physical discipline was associated with higher levels of aggression and anxiety in children from all countries studied, physical discipline had less of an effect on problems with children's behavior in cultures where it was seen as an acceptable form of discipline. Kyeizooba is a sub-district in Uganda (Ninsiima et al., 2023). It has 7 parishes and 52 villages. Kyeizoba is in Bushenyi district. Bushenyi is found in Igara county of Bushenyi District. it is bordered in the south by Bumbbeire, east by Kyeizooba, north by Kyabugimbi and Kakanju and in west by Nyabubare sub-counties. Single parenting families are now very common to many societies today particularly in Kyeizoba sub-county in Bushenyi and this is caused by separation of the couples. Single parenting is also brought about by the loss of spouse, early pregnancies and divorce (Rashid et al., 2023). Cases of divorce and child behavior amongst single parents in Kyeizooba Sub-county have been on the increase despite the various interventions that the government, the church and the Non-Government organizations have put in place to curb this trend (Winny et al., 2023).

Problem Statement

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Over the past few decades, Uganda has seen a steady increase in divorce and marital separation rates, mirroring trends in many other parts of the world due to a range of social and economic factors (Joventi et al., 2023). This substantial increase in family breakdown has contributed to a growing number of single-parent households headed by mothers or fathers raising children alone without the support of the other biological parent. A small rural community in Kyeizoba sub-county, located in Bushenyi district, has also witnessed a significant increase in the number of single parents due to divorce or separation in recent years (Suzan & Gracious Kazaara, 2023). While research from Western contexts has revealed that divorce can negatively affect various aspects of child development, little is known about its consequences specifically for the behavior and emotional well-being of primary school-aged children living in single-mother or single-father families within the cultural context of communities. such as Kyeizoba Sub-County (Abdi et al., 2020). Anecdotal reports from local leaders and teachers have expressed concern about signs of growing behavior problems for some students, which may stem from unstable home environments following parental separation. However, no rigorous empirical study has been conducted to objectively assess the extent and nature of any association between divorce, single parenthood, and conduct problems in this population (Tumusabe Ezera et al., 2022). It is important to fully understand whether and how parental divorce is related to internalizing behaviors such as anxiety and withdrawal or externalizing problems involving aggression, defiance, and rule-breaking among children aged 6–12 years in single-parent households in Kyeizoba subcounty (Derrick et al., 2023). It could help to prioritize and target limited social care and mental health resources. It may also highlight opportunities for preventive family interventions to help minimize adverse effects on young people adjusting to parental separation and living in intact homes.

Specific Objectives

1. To find out the clear understanding of divorce in Kyeizooba Sub County
2. To find out ways of improving child behavior in Kyeizooba sub-county.
3. To establish the relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county.

Methodology

The study was applied a descriptive research design to reflect aspects of perception, feelings, experiences, facts and emotional feelings of the study respondents in finding out Divorce and Child Behavior among Single Parents in Kyeizoba Sub-County-Bushenyi District (Jallow et al., 2021). This is because the research questions that was be generated necessitated observing explanatory, descriptive and analytical aspects of the research. Both quantitative and qualitative methods was used in data collection and analysis and general information on the subject matter was be collected from the different stakeholders in Kyeizooba Sub- County through use of questionnaires and interviews (Rasheed et al., 2022). The area of study was be Kyeizoba Sub-County located in Bushenyi District. The study population consisted of single parents, Local Area chairmen and children from divorced families in Kyeizoba Sub-County and the researcher is targeting a population of 350 respondents (Rasheed et al., 2022). In addition, the officials who was be found available and willing to participate was also be given a chance. The sample was purposively and

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randomly selected the Single parents, Local Council chairmen of Kyeizooba sub-county. The Children was randomly be selected to give each an equal chance of representation. All respondents were assumed to have vital information on Divorce And Child Behavior Among Single Parents In Kyeizoba Sub-County-Bushenyi District. Respondents who were willing to participate was be approached (Nafiu et al., 2017). The sample size was be determined using Krejcie and Morgan, (1970) where a sample of 150 respondents was be sampled. This is so because the nature of data to be generated required different techniques for better understanding of the research problem under investigation. Besides this the approach is also commonly known for achieving higher degree of validity and reliability as well as elimination of biases as per (Olanrewaju & Abiodun, 2021).

Table 1: **Showing the sample Size**

Category	N	S
Single Parents	180	89
Local Area Chairmen	02	01
Children	168	60
Total	350	150

N-Study population S-Sample Size

The researcher used random sampling technique in collecting data that is relevant to the study. This is because random sampling technique gives each member equal opportunity of being selected during the study. This method was used in the study, since questionnaires was be self-administered and interpreted to the business owners and their employees with the guidance of the researcher and a research assistant so as to obtain reliable data (A & Ahmed, 2019). The processing of data was be done after the collection of data for verification of the information that was have been gathered and for attainment of completeness, accuracy and uniformity (Nafiu et al., 2012). Data editing involved checking the information for errors, which was an added advantage because it enables the researcher to delete and eliminate possible errors that were traced which in the end would have manipulated the results of the study. Data was be analyzed concurrently to avoid duplication thereby guiding the entire study for balanced and critical analysis. The researcher was use questions based on the questionnaire and for other items, tabulation pie-charts and percentage and simple statistical methods was also be used for data presentation, analysis and qualification. The study explained, describe, and present the findings basing on the specific objectives of the study and research questions, where data analysis was initially be done through sketchy and generalized summaries of the findings from observation and conclusions in the process of data collection. Data was analyzed inform of tables, frequencies and percentages using SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

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Analysis of the study findings on the basis of the Study objectives.

Objective1: To find out the clear understanding of divorce in Kyeizooba Sub County.

Table 1: Showing the clear understanding of divorce in Kyeizooba Sub County as per the respondents.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
It is breakdown of marriage	79	53
It is the end of marriage	27	18
It is when the wife and husband separate	99	66

Source: Primary Data 2023

The table above shows the responses on how the respondents understood the divorce where the majority agreed that it is when the two couples separate (66%) and the least concluded that it is the end of marriage (18 %) as shown on the table above.

To find out ways of improving child behavior in Kyeizooba sub-county.

Table 2: Showing ways of improving child behavior in Kyeizooba sub-county

Ways Of Improving Child Behavior In Kyeizooba Sub-County	Frequency	Percentage
Praising and complimenting children	27	18
Spending quality time with your kids	80	53
Communicating with your child	20	14
Keeping a positive and happy environment at home	23	15
Total	150	100

Source: Primary Data 2023

The table above shows how respondents agreed up on ways of improving child behavior in Kyeizooba sub-county. Respondents agreed differently on the factors, and the majority that is 53% of the respondents agreed on Spending quality time with your kids followed by praising and complimenting children which was represented by 18% then followed by Keeping a positive and happy environment at home which is represented by 15% of the respondents and lastly Communicate with your child which had only 14% of the respondents as showed in table 2 above (Abdi et al., 2020).

To establish the relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county.

Table 3: Showing the relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county. Respondents were asked whether there is a relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county, others agreed while others disagreed and others were not sure.

Is there a relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	85	57
No	10	6
Not sure	55	37
Total	150	100

Source: Primary Data 2023

Table 3 above shows that out of the 150 respondents who were interviewed, the majority 57% were of the opinion that there is a relationship between divorce and child behavior, 37% of the respondents were not sure and 6% said there is no relationship between divorce and child behavior. This shows that there is a great relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county.

Table 4: Regression results on the Relationship between divorce and child behavior in Kyeizooba Sub-county

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.593	.354	.345	.64001
a. Predictors: (Constant), divorce				

Coefficients					
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	
1	(Constant)	1.505	.567		2.656
	divorce	.613	.152	.561	.000
a. Dependent Variable: child behavior					

Source: Primary Data. 2024

The regression model used in this analysis, denoted as Model 1, yielded several statistical measures to evaluate the relationship. The coefficient of determination (R Square) for Model 1 is .354, indicating that approximately 35.4% of the variance in child behavior can be explained by the predictor variable, divorce. Additionally, the adjusted R Square value is .345, which considers the number of predictors and adjusts the R Square value accordingly. The standard error of the estimate is also provided in the table, which measures the average distance between the observed values and the predicted values produced by the regression model. In this case, the standard error of the estimate is not explicitly stated in the given information (Nelson et al., 2023).

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Moving on to the coefficients section of the table, it presents the unstandardized coefficients (B), standardized coefficients (Beta), t-values, and significance levels (Sig.) for each predictor variable in Model 1. The constant term (intercept) in the regression equation is denoted as "Constant" and has an unstandardized coefficient of 1.505, a standard error of .567, a t-value of 2.656, and a significance level of .020. The predictor variable "divorce" has an unstandardized coefficient of .613, a standard error of .152, a standardized coefficient (Beta) of .561, a t-value of 6.021, and a significance level of .000. These coefficients provide information about the strength and direction of the relationship between the predictor variable (divorce) and the dependent variable (child behavior).

Conclusion

The study investigated the effects of divorce on child behavior among single in Kyeizooba sub-county. It was intended to explore the perceptions, practices, knowledge and socio-economic status as regards to social development. This was in relation of the rising cases of divorce.

The study established that there was adequate knowledge about divorce and child behavior as majority of the respondents knew the various signs of a child from a divorce family.

Recommendations

The community should be actively involved in decision making for any activity carried out by the church or civil society.

The community should be educated on the need to support the children from divorce family among single parents

There should be equitable distribution of resources with our discrimination to all people in the community so as to alleviate the causes of divorce.

The ministry of Health should educate the community on family planning issues and the need to have safe sex since too much number of children can lead to the economic burden

Politicians should seek global advocacy to counter the problem of divorce and child behavior.

The government should tighten laws concerning divorce so as to eliminate the post effect of divorce such as child behavior.

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