

The Effect and Consequences of Family Crisis on the Children in Kaiyamba Chiefdom, Moyamba District, Southern Sierra Leone.

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ABSTRACT

The research conducted looked at the effect and consequences on children in Kaiyamba Chiefdom, Moyamba District Southern Sierra Leone fifty (50) single parents were interviewed both male and female. Oral discussion and focus group discussion. A family is said to be a group of people living together and sharing things in common, these people loved and care for each other's. In this chiefdom there is a lot of single parenthood either through divorce, separation, death or in pursue of job or further education. Crisis is bound to happen within the family when a single parent takes care of the chiefdom. When a crisis is raised up something or someone may be affected by one or more serious problems which may lead to calamity. disaster, catastrophe, trouble, dilemma predicament etc. When crisis arises children are most affected, there Hopes and future may be shatter and think that things will never get better or nothing will change. any if not managed properly, they act in aggressive manner, engage in bullying behaviour, drop out of class or low school performance, feeling anxious, sad, hopeless, bored, worried, or sometimes overwhelmed with situation become irritable, rebellious or worst of it talk about suicide or murder. They become gamblers, get chronically ill, domestic abuse, insult, drug addiction, drunker (alcoholism) and cause unrest at homes, school, community and the country as a whole. They listen more to negative peers and they end up in poor emotional development, beyond bars or prisons. To avoid all these there must be an intervention as a recommendation such as parent communicate with their children, involved them in issues concerning them, find out coping strategies, maintain school and community relationship, a suitable mentor or counselor, parent to support or encourage good parenting and facilitate contact with non-resident (parent chaw the one et all 2003).

The researcher came out with recommendation and suggestions to minimize this effect and consequence on children.

The government to instill or strengthen family support unit.

- Institute a guidance counselor unit at mentors at school.

- Good community and school relationship.
- Parent to pay visit to school and access their child behaviour and improvement in school.
- Social Workers to maintain good parenting towards their children welfare, family are to set up family values, goals and standards. And there would be a healthy family, community and nation.

INTRODUCTION

When we say broken family, it is not a strange thing, rather common and experiencing problem in and around us. Family life is a crisis when some problems aroused and causes separation of members in the family (Ruksana Saika) family crisis is a crucial time of event that result in a major re-organization of family systems. It is a situation that marks a turning point or when things cease to go on as usual, it's often affects family relationship, family goals, value and standards (M. S. Ahmed) It is a turning point wither they get better someday or worse.

Most children in kaiyamba are to be found taking care of by single parents and a massive increase in teenage pregnancy, school dropout (drugs addict, gambler, arrogant and aggressiveness) by school going children especially at adolescent, these children tend to have behavior problems or attitude towards their parents at home and teachers at school. They do not want to co-operate with any instruction or assignment given to them, they tend to lean more to a negative peer pressure and if a parent is not strong, he/she will not be able to bring then up in a good adulthood. Affected children disagree with things as they become confused with different things going on in the family or at school. They have feelings of frustration, stress, disagreement, they become arrogant, aggressive and violent with their peers, parents and teachers. They resist directive and can only take directive from the negative peers.

The main cause of family crisis on children may include the following:

Different personalities and clash: When a couple get married and live together, they both came from different homes and were brought up with different, culture and tradition. They differ in the abilities of likes and dislikes; some can be introvert and some extrovert. Thus, before a couple get married, it is important that they go into courtship so that they understand each other's likes and dislikes and get adjusted to them before getting married. Clashes can occur as they disagree on certain issues and this can cause a serious family problem. It is therefore advisable that they incurred good communication channels.

Loss of family members (death). It is a serious crisis in any family. The death of a family member can shatter the issues of the other members. E.g., bread winner could be the loss of hope for children education and psychological development of the child (M.S. Ahmed).

Divorce: A broken marriage means a broken home. Divorce is a serious crisis in a family. It tears family members apart; in many cases the children are the worst affected as it leads to change of hopes for children. Affected can result in misbehavior, delinquency, early marriage, disabilities, criminals, prostitution and cultism etc., if the party taking over the children is not strong (M A, Ahmed).

Impotence: It is also a major crisis, when a couple get married, they need sexual satisfaction, and to reproduce their kind if the man is impotent then the woman will tend to go out and find some else, and she may become unfaithful restless as she may want to Reproduce, she will then match out of the relationship, the husband will become frustrated to or even commit suicide.

Bareness: When a woman is infertile or is unable to give birth. There will be pressure on the part of the family members calling the woman all type of names such as been a witch especially on the part of the husband's relatives who would want to see their grandchild. This can cause a serious crisis. The husband would want to go in search for another wife who can give birth; cynical attitude towards relationships and harbor feelings of mistrust both towards their parents and potential romantic partners (psychologist Carl).

Children problems/behaviour: Children may experience behaviour problem with teachers, acting not against peers, not wanting to cooperate with any assignment or instructions, difficulties concentrating and understanding assignment.

They may lean towards the negative side of peer pressure.

Adolescent mood: At this stage there is a high level of parent's child disagreement. Children might be confused with different things going on in the family or at school and they have feelings of frustration, more disagreement may occur behavioral problems tends to increase for boys when a step. Father is introduced. And a step mothers for girls,

In single family homes: Children develop greater autonomy where they tend to spend more time to or with peers. It was found that some are more likely to resist directives, rules; daughters typically have a close relationship to their mothers and may tend to compare their educational level or achievement with her.

Violent Marriage/physical, emotional abuse tends to have great effect on the child. Such children in this type of homes will behave likewise and even when they grow up among their peers and at adulthood

Drinking or tempered: abuse causes injury, the relationship become unsafe for the partner and children. Victim partner and children fled the marriage for safety or married a second wife. Or find another husband, there will be quarreling and fighting in the house. These make the children loss hopes and thinks there's is finished on earth.

New Step Parents or Step brothers and sisters: The word step parents are the spouse of someone parents and not there biological or adoptive parents. Being a step father (male, step mother (female) step brother (son) and step sister (female) son the step there means they are not biologically related, and one in a million treat their step children in a right way. Children knowing that they are growing up with a step parents that have a negative feeling about their them, they might begin to think about what actually happens or brought the separation between their parents, this leads to mistrust, frustration, stress, reliquary chronic etc. illness, disability, loss of hope bored etc.

Alcoholism (drunkenness/drug addict) most spouse who are involved in alcoholism will tend to have an impact on the children they spend their money on drugs and alcoholic academic performance ass there will inability of paying fees, buying of school materials, texts to anxiety and depression, poor emotional development and will find it difficulty with intimate relationship with others. They can even copy of follows suit these habits thinking that it is a fashion

Domestic violence: - living with domestic violence can cause physical and emotional harm to children and the weaker sex; and might cause anxiety and depression emotional distress, eating and sleeping disturbance and physical, symptoms such as headaches and stomach ache, low self-esteem be aggressive towards friends and school mates, feel guilt or blame themselves for the violence, having trouble forming positive relationship. have less empathy and care for others. They may be involved in abuse of drugs and alcohol, engage negation and behaviour, (Terrapene st Catherine University SO PH (A)).

Differing standards and Rules: As a result of individual differences, individuals tend to have differing standards and norms. In a family situation, when parents set differing standards and rule, a crisis is bound to result. One parent could issue orders which the other may oppose. As a result, children may find themselves in a very difficult situation as they strive to obey parents with opposing

standards and rules. It is therefore, necessary that each family identifies values, set goals and establishes standards and rules which will be acceptable to all family members. (E.U. Anyakoha).

Statement of the Problem

Family can be regarded as an institution where they set out goals and standards to achieve the standard living in this part of the country there are a lot of broken homes which has an effect on the holistic development of the children. Most of the children became dropout, aggressive, lawless, juvenile delinquency (drug addict and drunkard) prostitution, teenage pregnancy, may develop chronic infection, maternal death mortality, public nuisance, thieves, stress, frustration, disability, gambler, cultism because they are either brought up by a single parent or a foster parent and lived out of their home. (street children).

Since these children are to be future leaders of tomorrow, the researcher wanted to know found a lasting solutions or ways of coping with family crisis so that we have a healthier nation tomorrow looking at the list of problems, and can create a lot of problems with family, community and the nation. This problem has been boarding issues for family members, country and nation as a whole. Most of these youths are found around doing nothing but creating problems since they are the future leaders of tomorrow will may want to find out solution to minimize these problems caused by family crisis, in order to rear up a more positive youth.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

AIMS

The general aim of this research work is to assess the effect and consequences family crisis on children so as to minimize the causes of these crisis specific objectives of the research are as follows:

OBJECTIVES

- To identify the different types of family crisis in kaiyamba chiefdom, Moyamba District.
- To examine the causes/problems of family crisis on children.
- To find the affect and consequences of family crisis on the children.
- To find ways of minimizing /coping with family crisis.
- To find recommendation for the government and other NGO's dealing with family problems.

METHODOLOGY

The research was carried out in kaiyamba chiefdom. The targeted group comprises of fifty (50) single parents either by divorce death, separation, in search of job/employment. It comprises of both male and females who provided the necessary information on family crisis.

The data collection tool used was interviews, face to face discussion, and questionnaire. The questionnaires developed contained items on the different aspect of the objectives, information solicited on items developed while discussion and conversation were also held with different categories of respondents. Both quantitative and qualitative method were used to analyse data and result presented in tables form and a foot note for proper explanation,

ANALYSIS OF DATA COLLECTION

The chapter deals with the analysis of data gathered from both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the research.

Figure 1: Explain the cause of family crisis, the main causes of family crisis are said to be cheating on one’s partner (unfaithfulness). Extra mental (Domestic Violence such physical and sexual abuse, drug use, alcoholism, divorce or separation, new step parents or step brothers, mental disability, unsafe or mad, arguing parents, jealousy and fighting between family members, feeling of being unwanted or rejected by spouse relatives’ in-law’s interference, inadequate personal relationship, economic and other stress. Impotency, bareness, redundancy, poverty.

TABLE I

TYPES OF FAMILY CRISIS

TABLE I – SHOWS THE TYPES OF FAMILY CRISIS

TYPES OF FAMILY CRISIS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
Divorce /Death	8	16
Bareness	7	14
Important	7	14
Poverty	10	20
Violent marriage (domestic violence)	5	10
Alcoholism/drunkenness	8	16
Disability	1	02
Different personality	4	08
Total	50	100

Marriage (domestic violence) these type of crisis May causes disability, physical, emotional, stress and frustration in the family. 16% alcoholism/drunkenness if a family member is a negative

interaction, trust, risk of cognitive behaviour and emotional problems, there is a tendency of dishonesty and academic problems.

2% Disability, most of these disabilities can be caused by accident, fall from a height, motor bikes etc. There may be a behavioral problem. 08% different personality clashes, some couples can be introvert and some are extrovert. It is sure that clashes may occur among family parties which came from different background, culture, and religion and if they do not agree at one point crisis is bound to occur in the family.

The table above explains the different types of family crisis. Death of part and divorce can be the most serious challenges that can be happened to couples and children in the family. But this is not a strange thing. It is very common. 16% of that interview says one of the causes is divorce and death,

14% Bareness/inability for a woman to give birth to children/child is also a main cause of family crisis as when couples get married, they are to give birth or reproduced their kind. 14% important on the part of the man is also a treat and another cause of crisis is in the home, the women with tend to be unfaithful to the man and these may cause a crisis at home.

10% poverty: One cannot run a home if the basic needs of its family members are not good, food, clothing, and shelter, Education, Health and Security. This is another cause of family crisis 10% of violent to negative peer groups. Feels with stress that they are on top of the world.

10% Early Marriage: Teenage pregnancy because the girls think all is lost, and do not have any hope at puberty stage. They listen to negative peers and go in search of materials things or fashion; they become pregnant, and go either. Get married or not because of under developed biological make up, poverty they end to suffer during pregnancy and child birth, such as anemia, ascuevagina vistula, malnourished, low birth weight, infection still births, maternal and infant mortality.

18% Drug Addict and Alcoholic Children: These children listen more to negative peer and therefore at puberty stage will tend to take drugs and alcohol. When these drugs and alcohol are taken, they behave insane and because mentally disoriented and finally may become mad, and become nuisance in the community, causing rayait and be place in prison. Some may even commit suicide or murder, rape, stabbing, less concentration. 116% became gamblers and thieves, because these children think they do not hope and things will not get better, they go into gambling and thieves and spend their lives in jail.

10% Academic problems, some parents would not have money to pay fees, buy text books and other school materials like uniforms, shoes, bags, etc. these will have effect on the performance of the child, they will become bored, worried, over whelmed, outburst sad and a drop in grade performance

at school, feel withdrawn, hopeless and feels things will never get better or nothing change and finally they become affected physically, emotionally and socially at school. Children who behave in such way are said to come from broken homes

FIGURE II SHOW THE INTERVENTION OR WAYS TO MINIMIZE FAMILY CRISIS ON CHILDREN

The family is a group of persons, living together and sharing in peaceful home with both parents rearing them up in a home. The following can help to minimize that effect on children.

- 1) There should be a positive communication between the children and parent. Listen to them kindly and allow them to explain their problems and find solutions to these problems by helping them find coping strategies and facilitate their support.
- 2) Facilitate contact with the next parent who is not with children at home (Douglas G. 2005)
- 3) Parents are to maintain a good relationship between the school and the home.
- 4) Parents should be frank with all discussion with their children.
- 5) Parents are to explain the case of family crisis so that the child will understand the problem and get adjusted to situation.
- 6) Counseling of children especially at puberty or adolescence stage
- 7) Parent /family should set up family values, norms, and life style, be a role model to the child.
- 8) If possible, provide a mentor for the children, so that they may be mentored on their future.

TABLE II: SHOWS THE EFFECT AND CONSEQUENCIES OF FAMILY CRISIS ON THE CHILDREN

TYPE OF EFFECT AND\CONSEQUENCIES	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
School drops out	8	16
Early marriage/teenage	8	16
Drug addict/ alcoholism	12	24
Gamblers /thieves	12	24
Academic problem	10	20
Total	50	100

The table above shows the effect and consequences family crisis has on the children.

16% of respondents asked mention insecurity as an effect on the child with insecurity the child may feel worthless, I felt guilt or self-hatred, loss of concentrative, they may even become rebellious both a house and at school feeling that things will never get better or go back to normal.

16% Dropout from School: normally a family can be a place of refuge and security, but for some it is a source of pain and disappointment, to stress and frustration with their academic work, without advice. For girls especially at adolescent they listen to more to a negative peer group and they fall sought, they become pregnant, drop in grade performance, practice and become prostitution, alcoholism, chronically ill with sexually transmitted diseases, lawlessness, behave in an aggressive and bullying behaviour. For boys they also became disinfested in school hoping that all is lost, play truancy, low and poor performance at school work, outburst irritable, gambling, dung addicts, feeling rebellious and even talking about suicide or cause death publics nuisance and causing unrest both to phone and at school can only listen.

TABLE IV: SHOWS THE WAYS OF COOPING /WITH THESE FAMILY CRISIS

SUMMARY

The right against the effect and consequences of family crisis on children in Kaiyamba Chiefdom, Moyamba District Southern Province, Sierra Leone. Can only be achieved when every facet of the society makes' it a responsibility to be a role model o

And counsellor. Most of these children are the once that cause violence and indiscipline in the communities where ever they find themselves. We can only have a healthy home/community and nation if our younger youths are grown up to fruitful and decent adult. The government has to strengthen the social welfare Ministry by recruiting social workers who may visit schools and serves as a link between the students, parent and teachers in other to create a healthy community and school relationship.

CONCLUSION

Most children with crisis problems tend to be misled by negative peer group as they always think that all is lost, they tend to grow up been violence and indiscipline and they cause unrest in the communities they see it as a fashion and best for them. Parents, guidance, teacher, social workers should facilitate communication between themselves and the children and find network for support and enabling conflict management, resolution and reduction. There should be formidable counsellors

and mentors to mediate, prevent or find solutions to problems as they arise. such indiscipline such as anti-social behaviour, sexual assault, rioting, stealing, cheating, physical and social abuse, secret cults. Early marriage, teenage pregnancy should be taken for granted and prompt action taken to minimize or prevent such in discipline

RECOMMENDATION

The Effect and Consequences of Family Crisis on Children is becoming alarming as youth are becoming indiscipline and found in the streets insane and with mental problem, gamblers drug addict, thieves and murderers, with these in mind the researcher has recommended the following:

- Government to strengthen the social welfare unit with social workers attached at each institution to lease with the community/home and school.
- Government to strengthen the family support unit at the police forces to assist in setting disputes and punish law breakers
- Schools to create a formidable relationship with the home/parents so that both parties are greatly involved in the activities and welfare of the schools.
- Schools to create a guidance counselling unit, so that student with difficulties or problems will know where to find redress/ on counselling.
- The parents to create a fair communication with these children and involved them in decision concerning their welfare.
- NGO's dealing with the social welfare provides mentors at schools.
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to include family life education, family living as a compulsory subject at junior secondary school level in the curriculum. As at this age children will be experiencing adolescent
- Government to provide juvenile conferment or correctional centers at regional headquarters to correct the negative to a more positive one.

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