

Comparative Profiles of Problem Behaviors in Children from Single Versus Dual Parent Families

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ABSTRACT This study uses a cross comparative two group random survey design on a sample of 300 children in age group of 6-18 years hailing from an equal number of single and dual parent family homes to examine their reported prevalence of problem behaviors in relation to certain socio-demographic child as well as parent characteristics. Based on a considered choice after review of related literature on available tools or procedures for assessment of problem behaviors in children, the school-age version of 'Child Behavior Check List' (CBCL) was used in this study. Results show that, on the whole, children from dual parent family homes have fewer behavior problems than those from single parent households. Within the single parent group, children from single father households have greater propensity for problem behaviors than those from homes of single mothers. In relation to associated variables, more girls than boys and more rural over urban children are reported as having additional problem behaviors within the studied sample of single parent households in the present study. The results are discussed along with its implications for deeper analysis as well as utility towards planning parent training and home enrichment programs for the mounting population of single parent families in our country.