PATERNAL ABSENCE: A LITERATURE REVIEW
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Introduction

Father is an important figure in a family who gives care and protection to his children. Parental absence is a common source of misinterpretation for children today who are growing up without a father in a home and not clearly defined or differentiated between a father's absence due to death, parental relationship problems, or other reasons. Brown (2018) focuses the experiences of daughters who grew up with absent fathers and the effects for them as adults at home, at school, in their social life, and in their decision-making processes. Perceptions of the father and child relationship have is important because they can impact the equality of the parent-child relationship as well as relations between them (Brown, 2021).

Literature Review

It is essential to experience the father's connection and presence since this is necessary for the child's emotional, psychological, and socioeconomic well-being. Freeks (2017), fathers should be aware that it is important to recover and restore the original meaning of what it is to be a man and father, and to embody God's image in a world hungry for virtuous and responsible fathers. Furthermore, because they build the foundation for future relationships, fathers have the capacity and willingness to make a difference and influence their families.

Being a father involves responsibility and a choice, and having a father to grow up with brings happiness to a child. This study focuses on the effects of parental absence on children as they grow up.

Paternal absence arises all over the world. Freeks (2017) conducts an empirical study of fathers' childhood experiences in able to educate and train them to be engaged and effective fathers in their families. Lam and Yeoh (2019) also focus on the experiences of
Indonesian and Filipino children who have been abandoned by their migrant parents in their home countries, how they engage with and respond to different changes in their daily lives. Qureshi, Khattak, and Ahmad (2021) look at the impact of a father's absence on male children's depression levels and differences in depression levels between fathers present and absent children.

Brown (2018) focuses the experiences of daughters who grew up with absent fathers and the effects for them as adults at home, at school, in their social life, and in their decision-making processes. The objective of Zulu and Munro (2017) was to discover the conversational devices used by father missing female students who demonstrate success and how their father's absence did not appear to harm their identity or academic performances.

However, research with more specific methods continues to show the effects of paternal absence on the well-being of children (McLanahan, Tach, and Schneider 2013). While All Answers LTD (2018) is concerned about the significance of active fathers in the development of their children and the impacts father absence may have on their children, particularly daughters. (Tarrant and Ward 2017.) The crisis of fatherlessness and how children are developed.

Paternal absence has a positive and negative effect on children and as they grow up. On the review of literature, I have read the negative effects it causes on children. Ahmad, Qureshi, and Khattak (2021), when a male child loses his father because he goes abroad or died, he develops depression, which leads to a range of emotional problems and suicidal thoughts, a variety of serious physical diseases.

Furthermore, father absence affects social-emotional development during adolescents through increasing aggressive behaviors and harmful behavior, such as smoking or early pregnancy, and has a significant and persistent negative impact on high school graduation.
The latter finding suggests that the effects on educational attainment are caused by an increase in problem behaviors rather than a decrease in cognitive ability. Father’s absence also affects adult mental health, implying that the psychological effects experienced during childhood persist throughout life (McLanahan, Tach, and Schneider, 2013).

According to Brown (2018), the study revealed that the social influence of family, school, and social environment influence a person. The importance of being independent, appreciating the people who stayed with them, and making a better life for their children by modeling good parenting or choosing a better person were among the abstract meanings that participants received from having absent fathers, emphasizing the importance of social influence in terms of the impact of growing up with an absent father on adult daughters’ decision-making processes which focuses on open sexual behavior, sexual risk-taking, and dating violence.

The participants in this study showed a need for a father-figure in a relationship or have been emotionally unavailable, unstable, or unreliable males because they believed such qualities to be normal. While, Lam and Yeoh (2019) left behind children’s story revealed how they grew from “passivity and incapacity” into active adolescent and the narratives described by left-behind children in this study reveal their direct and subconscious actions, affecting their family’s care arrangements, performances of gender roles and even their parents’ decision-making. Zulu and Munro (2017) discussed an assumption of poor educational outcomes and how they developed strong academic orientations in two black female university students whose father’s absence did not appear to have a negative impact on their lives or studies. Likewise, the overall view among fathers was that the father as the leader and authority figure should manage his family according to Biblical principles because his duty had been restored (Freeks, 2017).
Paternal absence is indeed a worldwide phenomenon. Just like any other crisis, it has both positive and negative effects on children and unfortunately, it affects not only one aspect of a life’s child but holistically.

**Conclusion**

As a result, we, therefore, conclude that the effects of paternal absence on a children’s life are somehow relative. Many causal factors are considered when taking into account the effects of Paternal Absence and a few of them are:

1. The quantity of affection a child receives from other family members may have an effect in that although not seeing his father figure, he receives so much love that it is somehow equivalent to and sufficient to his needs;

2. How the exosystem, mesosystem, and macrosystem reacts to the said situation, in particular to discrimination and bullying, if the above-mentioned systems react in a toxic manner, this gives more probability for the children to develop negative effects but if the said systems react positively then the child will be less likely to develop cognitive effects;

3. Children are born differently, and their responses may change. They can be both pessimistic and optimistic, and their upbringing may play a role in this. Their perspectives on the world, life, and a lot of other matters. Factors that contribute are other important factors to consider. How well provided they are with the material things, how strong their emotional support is, how committed their systems are to nurturing them with love.

Choosing to be kind in this cruel world and this unfair life is the best solution to contribute a little kindness and love for everyone. The more we focus on the negative and
cruel aspects of the world, the more we feed into this type of energy. Instead, we need to focus on the positives and strengthen this energy to grow and develop.

References


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