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ABSTRACT

Factors Contributing To Resilient Attitude Formation Among Excellent Children from Low SES Single Parent Family

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Theory suggests that children whose parents are warm and responsive to their offspring's emotional needs and at the same time firm in setting limits on inappropriate behavior are better able to self-regulate and explore their environment (Baumrind, 1971; Thompson, 1998). According to Masten & Coatsworth, (1998) parents teach their children the skills they need to succeed in later developmental tasks, set guidelines for acceptable behavior, and provide opportunities for cognitive and social stimulation. Research also demonstrates a positive marital relationship may increase children’s emotional security, which in turn affects the ability to cope with daily stressors (Davies & Cummings, 1994). Conversely, marital conflict threatens children’s sense of security and induces emotional distress, rendering them vulnerable to emotional and behavioral dysregulation (Davies & Cummings, 1994).

The present study aims to identify the factors that contribute to resilient attitude formation among children who scored excellent results in UPSR. This study used a descriptive research design (Issac, 1995; Kerlinger, 1979). Samples were selected using purposive sampling since the study is only limited to single parent’s family from low socio-economic status (SES). Samples consisted of low SES single parents (mothers) from rural areas. This study was carried out in two phases; (i) structured interview with single parents (n=15) and (ii) handing out questionnaires and interviewing children (boys, n=6 and girls, n=9). The researcher has divided the interview into two types, namely the unstructured interview and the structured interview. Samples were interviewed and their stories were analyzed using the constant comparative method. Transcript data were coded and analyzed using the grounded theory approach (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). Recurring words, phrases and themes in the transcripts were coded, commonalities and contradictions within and among the interviews were noted. While constantly comparing the data, themes and meanings were analyzed to develop theoretical interpretations and implications of the data. After the data had been analyzed, results were compared with the literature to determine the degree to which the findings confirmed prior research.
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