

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

*TITLE: CHALLENGES FOR SINGLE PARENT STUDENTS FACE IN
ATTAINING IN SCHOOL (YABARUS SECONDARY SCHOOL)*

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate the challenges that single parented students face in attaining secondary school education. The study was conducted in one secondary schools in Wolkite town yabarus secondary school. The study had three objectives with related tasks and questions. The study investigated the challenges encountered by single parented students in secondary school, how the challenges affected their education attaining and possible solution to the identified challenges. Qualitative approach was used. Data collection methods included interview, documentary analysis and focus group discussion (to discuss one point of problem and identify this problem it). The sample of the study included 107(one hundred seven) single parented secondary school students, 1(one) head of secondary school and 03(three) secondary school teachers. Data were analyzed thematically. Findings revealed that challenges that single parented students face in attaining secondary education are not only multiple but also complex. They are complex because no single challenge that stand on its own and be able to explain the challenge without connected to the other. It was also revealed that these have affected single parented students' education attainment as they have poor academic performance, poor attendance, drop out of school, and engaging in bad behaviors. In the view of the findings it was recommended that single parent students who are living in economic hardship must be identified so as to be helped by the government in the payment of the fees(to help off encourage student attaining school). Also community, media, school administration are encouraged to offer guidance and counseling services to single parent students in order to encourage them to work hard and accept single parenthood and also to their parent on how best to rear these children.

CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

1.2 Background of the Problem

The word family can have different meaning. The term refers to a group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, adoption, and residing together in a household. Furthermore family is defined as two or more persons who love and care for each other. These share resources, responsibility for decisions, values and goals and have a commitment to one another over time. The cause of single parent is, the children are nurture by single parents due to multiple reason most commonly because of divorces, death of spouse, unintended pregnancies adoption that consequences lead to many problems such as psychological trauma, mental health, emotional, financial hardship, low performance at school (academic performance), social and psycho social factors. Emotional impacts of the single parents' students are this Chillers are the psychological well-being and leads of feeling of violence, anxiety, depression, anger, isolation, lack of social interaction, negative perception for self and sometime leads to suicidal ideation (N.Manuza,sk Thwala,clo okeke(2014)). Otherwise the single parent students are social impact then social isolation than married parents. the workers Lange house and received less emotional and less parental support and the tended to have less stable social network and experiences more marital stress full life challenges (American Association of family and Consumer Sciences, 2004). Families provide emotional, physical, and economic mutual aid to their members. It is characterized by intimacy, intensity, continuity and commitment among the members.

According to McLanahan and Booth (1991), Ferrell, (2009), children from mother only families have poorer academic achievement; these children are likely to have higher absentee rates at school; and to drop out of school, these lead them to poverty. Further; they are more likely to marry early and to have children at tender age, both in and out of marriage; to divorce, if they marry; and to commit delinquent acts such as drug and alcohol usage. On the other hand, Wendy and Kathleen, (2003) assert that children from mother-only family are likely to be suspended

or expelled from school, are likely to have problems with their teachers in doing their homework or paying attention in class. Vassar (2000) explains that the family has to carry out its duties and

responsibilities as the principal educator and supervisor of morals and character. In that regard, if the family is headed by a single parent it is often very difficult for the single parent to provide the required children nurturing as per expected moral standards of the particular society. Thus, this situation at the end may affect the children's effectiveness in school activities

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Single parenting children are increased in at world due to the cause of divorces, immediately problem (accidents) and the cause death of family spouse and other problem. Then this problem is affected at the world challenges single parent students in facing attaining school.

In Our Ethiopia from the background information, single parenting children are increase numbers, because day to day situation. Due to students who experiences separation, divorces or death of one of their parents do not always perform well or achieve. Also, they are at risk of not reaching their full potential. The number is increasing rapidly so this need research to identify the challenges encountered by these students as this increase is big in five years. Despite the fact that Ethiopia has a number of students undertaking secondary education coming from single parent families, the available literature does not state the challenges facing the single parenting students in attaining secondary school education, except data obtaining from best, these data are collecting from secondary schools in Ethiopia from students' personal particulars in schools' documents. Though in Ethiopia there are also primary school single parent children and youth. who are also experiencing the mentioned challenges this research singled out secondary school student as these are no longer children, they are now youth hence they know the value of education, if these students drop or do not do well in school, academic subjects that means there is a problem? Because lack of material like uniform pen/paper and other affects so this problem is identifying students this problem and possible solution. Researching has been conducting related to single parenting and its effect on challenges single students' academic performances these problems include bitterness towards the absent spouse, loneliness, poverty, insecurity about

raising children alone without a help. Then the academic performances and single parenting are negatively related. Because the more casing of single parenting student the poring academic performances. So, the studded researcher to way fined possible solution.

Therefore, the researcher has decided to study the challenges in yabarus secondary school in Wolkite town which is manageable to her. This were able to give indicative views on single parenting students' challenges. Studded attempts to invest the challenges facing single parenting students on attaining school yabarus secondary school education in wolkite town.

1.4 Research Questions

This study was guiding by the following research questions

- 1:** To find out the challenges encountering by single parenting students Yabarus Secondary schools?
- 2:** What are the effects of challenges to the single parent students' academic performances?
- 3:** What are the possible solutions to the challenges identifying?

1.5 Purpose and objective of the study

Thought and feeling of single parents' students focus facing attaining school and how future good life live with another person or social

1.6 General Objective

The general objective of this study was identifying the challenges that single-parenting students face in attaining school (yabarus secondary school).

1.7 The Specific Objectives of the Study

The study was guiding by the following specific objectives:

- (i) To identify the challenges encountering by single-parenting students in wolkite town.

- (ii) To investigate the effects of these challenges on secondary school student's education attainment.
- (iii) To find out the possible solutions to the identifying challenges.

1.8 Significance of the Study

The study intends to provide a detailing description of challenges single-parenting students face in attaining education in secondary schools in wolkite town (yabarus secondary school). More specifically, the findings are expecting to contribute knowledge to the existing literature about challenges single-parenting students face attaining school in yabarus secondary schools in wolkite town. This contribution was added knowledge of dealing with challenges facing single parent students in secondary schools in relation to academic performance. Such information can lead to further research on single-parenting students and its effects on education at different levels. This can shed light to policy makers on how best to deal with the challenges by formulating proper policies which to address these challenges in order to increase single parent students' completion rates in schools. The studied may also help in raising the levels of academic performance of parents who are the victims of single parenthood. The studied to provide a detailed description of challenges single parents' students facing attaining education in secondary school in wolkite town.

More specifically, the finding are expected to contribute knowledge to the exist literature about challenges single parents' students in facing attaining school (Yabarus secondary school in wolkite town)

1.9 Conceptual framework

Study is guided by both socialization and economic conceptual model.

Becker, (1975) and (1981); Bryant, (1990) as cited by garasky (1995), explain that both theories are relating to family and

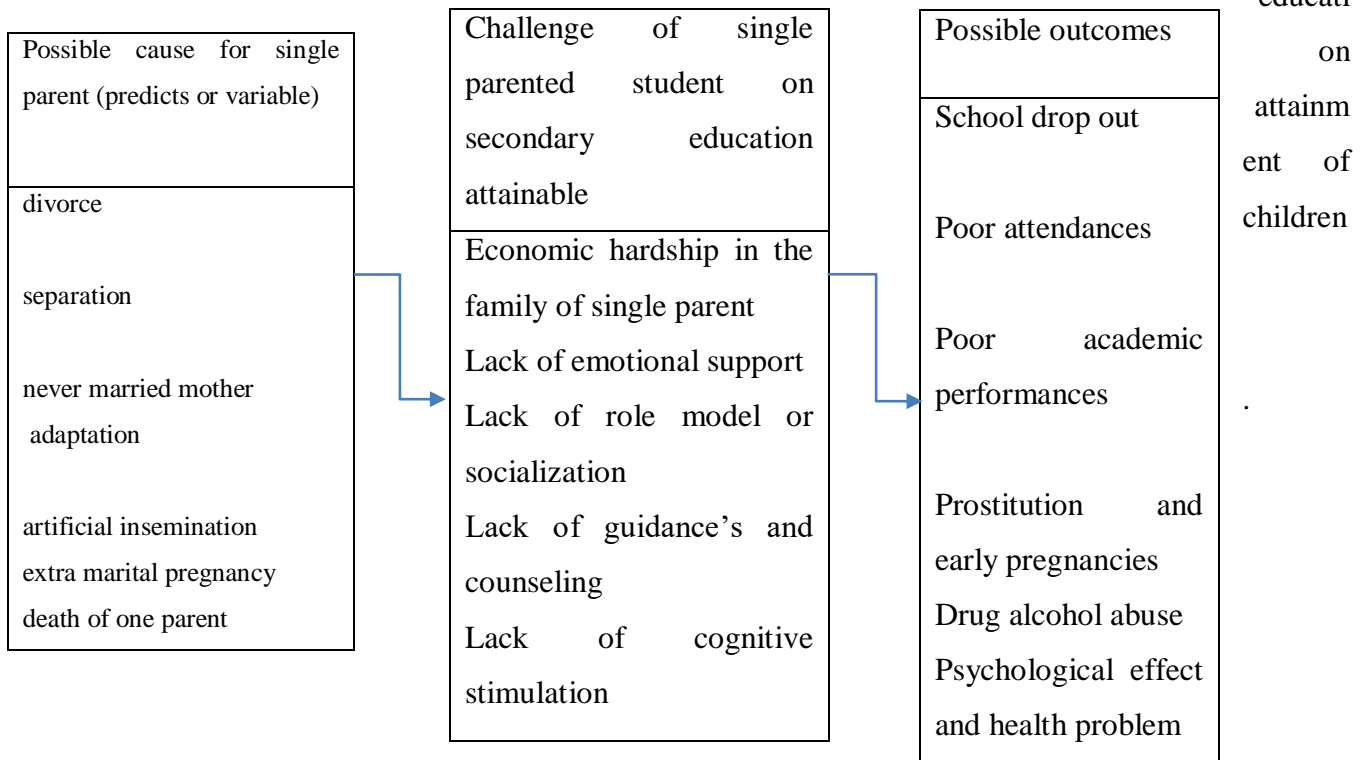


Figure1:1 major variable and possible outcomes presumed from single Family and setting.

Sources: Adapted and modified from Becker, (1975 and 1981) and Bryant, (1980) as cited by Garasky, (1995)

1.10. Organization of the Study

The study is organized into five chapters; chapter one to chapter five. Chapter one is concerning with introduction and background to the Study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the Study. Chapter Two constitutes a review of relevant literature in relation to the challenges facing single parent students. Chapter three is about research methodology, which covers research approach, research area, the target Population,

sample and Sampling techniques, data collection methods, Validation of instruments, data analysis plan and ethical considerations. Chapter Four dwells on data Presentation, analysis and discussion of the research findings and. Chapter five comprises a summary, conclusions and Recommendations

1.11 Limitations of the Study

When conducting this research, the researcher faced some problems such as by the time the researcher was granted research clearance to go for data collections process the schools were starting the end of year vacations. Thus, the researcher had to spend quite some time waiting for schools to resume classes so that I could start collecting data. Such situation made the researcher to lag behind schedule during data collection contrary to the expected time schedule. Due to the fact that the study was exploring sensitive issues some participants didn't feel free to express what they face hence when interviewed had strong feelings to the extent of crying therefore this prolonged field work as the researcher had to take time to use psychosocial skills learnt in guidance and counseling such as building rapport to reinforce participants willingness to speak and console those who cried bitterly.

1.11. Operational definition

Academic Performance (AP): A In this study, Academic performance means student's grade or marks obtained from National examinations.

Parenting: In this study, parenting means the skills and task responsibilities of raising child/children.

Single Parenting:. In this study single parenting means a mother or father who looks after children on their own, without the other partner.

CHAPTER TWO

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

According to Combo and Tromp (2006) literature review is an account of what has been publishing on a topic of accrediting scholars and researchers. It involves examining documents, such as books, magazines, journals, and dissertations that have a bearing on the study being conducting. Therefore, this chapter focused on the challenges facing single parent students in their schooling in relation to academic achievement. Firstly, it focused on developed counter and then in the developing countries Ethiopia including. Also causes of single parents are going to be discussing then the challenges that single parent students' face at school, and the effects of the challenges to their education attainment are discussed and lastly conclusion.

2.2 Family Background

Family background is a key to a student's life in and outside of school. It is the most important influence on student's learning and includes factors such as socioeconomic status, two parents versus single parent households, divorce, parenting practice and aspirations. Two parent and single parents are difference developing growing children at psychological, social, emotional and may be psychical. And otherwise single students not support achieve learning because may be parents are pouring and lack of material or economical (hardship). And social isolation than social interaction because the single students are not good feelings own. At social aspects negative attitude for single parent, feeling of inferior, to find single parents how to accept the house holder and support. The family both parents are social feeling or aspects are good and may be support. Others are to developing good psychological development, social, and emotion devotement. (Eamon 2005). The environment at home is a primary socialization agent and influences child's interest in school, and aspiration for the future. Actually the parents are mainly responsible for the educational and career development of their children, but divorce and separation of various kinds or death of one spouse may leave the roles in the hands of a single parent and that is where problems arise to the victims. Parents are very important to developing children to developing attaining school. Students from nuclear intact families had the best academic performance, while students from alternative family types such as stepparent families

and single-parent families performed not so well. Children who are raised in a single parent family home are at risk of not reaching their full potential. However, performance of students from stepparent families became that of single -parent families (Sander, 2001).

2.3 Review of Literature in Developed and Developing Countries

2.3.1 Developed Countries

A review of literature shows that the single parent children are on rise in developed countries. In United State children being raised in two parents' families has dropped from 85% in 1968 to 70% in 2003, while the proportion of those living in single-parent homes has nearly doubled. (Center for Marriage and Families, 2005). About 85% of single parent families are headed by a woman and almost half of these households are living below poverty line. (Martin, Emery, and Paris, 2004). This affects children's participation in education due to economic hardship that their families face. Single mothers on average; spend a total of about nine years raising children without partner being present. (Bianchi, and Casper, 2000). Marsigilo and Amato (2001) claimed that the absence of a male adult is detrimental to child's development, which may explain the disproportionate pathologies found among the children of single parent households.

Further, the authors argue that the presence of both mother and father contributes to the health development of a child which is very important in the education of the children hence the absence of an adult male in the house seems to be a disadvantage for children. Ponzetti (2003) explains that number of single parent families in 2000 was 22% in Canada, 20% in Australia, 19% in Denmark. The increased number of single parent families implies the problems in upbringing those children who are the victim of single parent families.

These children score lower because they have fewer intangible resources (such as parent time and cultural communication) which are important to children. Demo and Acock (1991) on the other hand advocate that in mother-only families, children tends to experience shorthand long-term economic and psychological disadvantages, higher absentee rates at school, lower levels of

education, and higher dropout rates with boys being more negatively affected than girls, and more delinquent activities including alcohol and drug addiction.

Ferrell, (2009) conducted a quantitative study on the effect of single parent households versus two parents on academic success, attendance and suspension in United states of America the result

Will be the relationship between the number of times a student was absent and the type of households whereby by absent was order of the day of students from single parent households.

Generally single parented children in developed countries face many challenges in their development as far as their education is concerned. The challenges and the effects of those challenges are economic hardship, lack of guidance and counseling, lack of parental care, poor academic performance, poverty, early marriage, high rate of dropout and absentees, indiscipline in schools and low level of education. Now let us have a look on developing countries.

2.3.2 Developing Countries

In developing countries the challenges that are facing single parented students are not different from those in developed countries. Also its number is increasing. Literature will cite the following countries; Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya and lastly will focus on studies with bearing on Ethiopia. In Nigeria the number has increased due the increase of single mother, (including teenagers), death, divorce and separation. Many single mother lived their husband because of adultery, cruelly, and desertion. (Libel and Wagtaff, 2006). Study conducted by Salami and Alawode (1998) in Nigeria about the influence of single parenting on academic achievement of adolescents in secondary schools the findings showed that single parenting children has poorer academic achievement, high rate of absentees, lower self-esteem, lower tolerance which lead them to be indiscipline, these findings corroborates the findings of other researchers such as Bichley, 1976; and Akinade 1994; and Agbo,

1997. In South Africa, Wilcox, Lippman and Whitney (2009) explain that many children in South Africa are reared by single parents for example only 36% of children live with both parents, this differ with Egypt where 91% live with both parents. UNESCO Institute for statistics (2006) conducted a study in Colombia, Egypt, India, Kenya, Nigeria and Peru. The study involved a

sample of 86727 secondary school children and it was about whether living with parents has effect on education of secondary school students. The result were poor attendance and lower academic grades for single parent students though single mothers' children in Sub Sahara succeeded academically compared to single fathers' children.

In Ethiopia also children are becoming the victims of single parents and encounter the challenges that are said to face these children. This is due to the fact that family life now a day in Ethiopia has changed much. Family conflict rate have increased, women have surged into work place as a result family life in Ethiopia has become more diverse than it was in generation ago. These changes in family have affected not only the form of the family life but also the social, psychological well-being of children and adolescence. (Materu, 2009, and TAMWA, 2006). Hence currently children and youth are living with single parents as a result of increased number of divorce, separation death and unmarried women.

2.4 The causes of Single Parent Families

The causes of single parent families are premarital sex, generation gap, divorce, separation, choice, and death. Each cause is discussed by the researcher as follow; Premarital sex being among the causes of single parent families is common among young people, and to them a young who does not engage in premarital sex is regarded as outdated and not civilized, this stimulate young boys and girls to involve themselves in premarital sex. Premarital activities were very rare in the past but nowadays many adolescence start sexual activities very early. In the past sex was considered to be things for adults only, today things have changed completely. Sexual activities being a source of early pregnancies, and venereal diseases, norms regarding premarital sex have broken in recent years. The increased numbers of children who are reared out of wedlock are among others a source of single parent children. According to Kalokola (2010) societal increase in acceptance of premarital sex has led to an increase in premarital sexual activity hence the increase of single parent children.

Generation gap is also one of the causes of single parent families. Things have changed now a day. What is valued in the past is not valued futures, people are doing things differently, behavior have changed dressing is quite different from the past. May be the reason is the fall of moral standards and the advancement of science and technology. Taylor (2007) argues that the younger generation has a very different set of beliefs and moral codes or values compared to their elders. Now a day is not a wonder for young people to live together as husband and wife without getting married. Later this lead unplanned parenthood which at end one partner leaves and another remain to up bring the children alone.

Apart from divorce which is a result of unresolved conflict many couple practice informal separation because of difficulties in solving their conflicts. Couples may decide to separate informally without following legal procedures. Separation happens when one partner, especially the female, moves out of the house willingly or by force. Furthermore Burke *et al.* (2009) state that separation and divorce are common phenomena in the community today, but still represent a major life stressor for individuals involved, with potentially strong negative consequences for the mental and physical health of all members of the family especially children who will be hanging without knowing which side they belong.

Additionally, conflicts in marriage have discouraged some women to get married. They have Decided to have babies without being married to avoid complications of husbands. Weisenseal (2008) argues that some women choose to become single-parents because they want to be independent. They have their own careers and earn decent salaries, this motivating them to become mothers without necessarily getting formally married.

2.5. Challenges that are Facing Single-Parented Students and the Effects of those Challenges on their Education Attainment in school

There was a rapid increase in the number of single-parent families in the latter half of the twentieth century. This change has been used by some people to argue that we are witnessing a breakdown of the family, with negative effects on children, families and society (Popenoe, 1996). Others suggest that single-parent families have been present in all societies over time and

should not be viewed as abnormal or problematic but rather as an alternative family form. (Koontz, 1997). No matter what people view about the presence of single parent families yet the presence of families headed by one-parent has a major influence on the social, economic and political context of family life as far as education of the children is concern.

Due to the fact that Single-parented children face many challenges throughout their development. The challenges and the effect of challenges on their education are raised and discussed as follow:-

Family background is key to student's life in and outside of school. Social economic status of the family is one of the factors that influence students learning. Eamon, (2005), Hochschild, (2003) have found in their studies that students who have low social economic status are more likely to score low marks, to drop out of school. Most of single-parent families have a low level of economic power and therefore they cannot provide their children with school requirements like school fees, text books, exercise books and other learning materials. Though some of single parent are rich yet many are poor. Family poverty also can lead to other problems such as diseases, poor school attendance and performance and psychological problems. Pong and Ju (2000) comment that for many low-income or single-parent families, the challenges that are mostly faced by children and youths are directly or indirectly related to the poor economic condition for their families, not just to parenting style. Poverty directly reduces the access and quality of resources, social and health services and opportunities such as food, shelter, health care, education, and transportation.

The other challenge is lack of discipline at school. Usually good behaviors, appropriate values and attitude of children are molded by parents as parents are the role models of their children. The children from single parent lack role models as well as supervision from their parents. Due to the absence of one parent income, the remaining parent is forced to use most of her/his time looking for home needs and as a result the children start misbehaving at home and at school. Wendy and Kathleen (2003), observe that adolescents in intact families are less likely to exhibit behavior problems in school and tend to have higher levels of academic achievement.

Children growing up in single-parent households are at a great risk of depression that is manifested in chronic and pronounced unhappiness, sexual promiscuity, delinquency in the form of drug abuse, petty stealing, alcoholism and acts of breaking into intense anger, apathy and restlessness. In so doing these students can't concentrate in studies. (Lahaye, 1982). Also, Mandara and Murray (2006) assert that single parent students are more likely to use drugs and alcohol with boys raised by single father more affected. In connection to lack of discipline at school, drug and alcohol abuse single parent children can commit crime. Mothers who are left alone to raise children use most of their time to look for money and material resources so as to support their families. They have little time for monitoring the family, this leaving a chance and possibility for their children to start misbehaving or committing crime.

2.5 This is caused by lack of monitoring at their homes.

Furthermore, children from single-parent families face health problems due to lack of proper care as a result of financial constraints. For example, their parents cannot afford to get balanced diets for their children and thus the latter are easily attacked by diseases. McLanahan and Booth (1989) state that children in single-parent homes are more likely to experience health-related problems as a result of the decline in their living standard, including unbalanced meals, poor shelter and lack of health insurance for medication. Later on, as children from single-parent families become adults, they are more likely to marry early, have children early, and divorce. Girls are at the great risk of becoming single-mothers as a result of non-child-bearing within a marriage or else divorce. According to Centre for Marriage and Families (2005), children growing up without their own married parents are linked with higher rates of stress, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem during the teenage years, problems that can significantly reduce their ability to focus on classroom work and to achieve in school. In single-parent families 30-50 percent of children suffer depression as compared with only 5-10 percent in two-parent homes. Poor school performance, disturbance in social adjustment and eating and sleeping disorders alert the parent that something is wrong. Aggressive behavior and illness, which are real or imagined, seem to emerge and multiply.

Another challenge that is associated with single parents' children's life is involvement in sexual activities and teen pregnancy. They engage in relationships with friends of the opposite sex to compensate for the missed parental love and joy at their homes.

Nan and McLanahan, (1991) in their study found that family structure is associated with parents' educational expectations and involvement with their children's schoolwork.

On the other hand David and Alan (1988) state that adolescents from divorced single-parent households tend to have greater levels of absenteeism, tardiness and truancy in school as compared with peers in intact families. Parental divorce alters daily routines and work schedules while imposing additional demands on both adults and children living in single-parent households.

Apart from poor school attendance and poor academic performance many students from single-parent families tend to drop out of school due to family poverty. Their parents cannot support their education as they lack money for school fees, school uniform, bus fare, stationeries, textbooks and other school contributions. In turn, such students are themselves forced to run away from school to look for employment so that they can earn money to help themselves and their families. Henslin (1993) has pointed out those children from single-parent families are more likely to drop out of school, to become delinquent, to be poor as adults, to divorce and to bear children outside marriage in general, the literature suggests that single parents' children are facing many challenges in their lives. The challenges are such as economic hardship which leads then to miss school requirements, also others are to drop out from school, to lack discipline, to engage in drugs and alcohol abuse, poor attendance at school, sexual

Activity and teen pregnancy and poor academic performance due to lack of parental involvement in their studies.

2.6 Literature Gap

The review of literature has indicated that single-parenting students face in attaining many challenges at school that can hinder them from attaining secondary education which is very essential for them, their community and the nation in general.

There is no study in Ethiopia that addresses the challenges said to be facing by such students in attaining secondary schools' education in yabarus secondary school. The research had to

identify the challenges, determine the effects on education attainment and find out possible solutions to the identified challenges in connection with single-parenting students in yabarus secondary schools in Ethiopia. I try to solve the provisionally other researcher problem. The next chapter is on research methodology.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology for studying challenges facing single parent family students in attaining school (yabarus secondary school) in wolkite town. It explains the research approach, area of study, targeted population, sample size, sampling procedure and data collection methods. Also, the chapter present ethical consideration and the methods that was employed in data analysis.

3.2 Research design

The study employed purposively sample design, qualitative research approach. Qualitative research approach is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions, and behavior. (Lothario, 1997). The qualitative approach calls for comprehensive and collaborative description of events or people necessary to convey the complexity of situations so as to provide the reader with sufficient information for judging researcher's interpretation of phenomenon (Martens, 1998).

3.3 Study Area

The study was conducting in yabarus secondary school in wolkite town. Firstly, URT (2012) explains that some urban areas still have the highest proportion of female headed households in Ethiopia. It was due to this reason that the researcher selecting to be the area of study as it has the highest proportion of households headed by female single parents. Secondary, researcher's financial and time constrains also forcing this study to be conducting in, Wolkite town. Because to simplify the study. And to the best identifying this problem.

3.4 Target Population

A population is any group of individuals, that have one or more characteristics in common and which are of the interest to the researcher (Best and Kahn, 2006). Population for this study was yabarus secondary school students in wolkite town. The target population for this study involved parenting yabarus secondary school students in wolkite town. They are in puberty stage which need financial, love, care, moral and emotional support from both parents, so the challenges of the adolescence stage may overwhelm the effort to their education if these adolescents are not well cared.

On the other hand, the researcher involved secondary school teachers who deal with students' day-to-day affairs and are responsible for children's intellectual, social, physical and moral development in schools.

3.5 Description of the Study site

The was conduct in wolkite town was founded in 1453, which located in south nation nationality region, gurage zone, which is found the distance of 158 km, south of Addis Ababa far. December, 2013. Its astronomical location south latitude and. One of the reforms in the region and has a town administration, municipality and five sub kebele. From this elevation is belongs to the semi-topic climatic zone.

3.6 Sample and Sampling Techniques

3.6.1 Sampling size

The sample participants or this study is drawn from wolkite town yabarus secondary school. The total students at 9th and 10th grade is (2070), males 470 grade 9th and females 558 grade 9th and grade 10th females is547 and males 547, researcher was take 107 students as a sample (58male and 49 female) using this selected method are purposively. because focusing on only include this problem, 9th grade for selected sample participant 25 males and 23 females and 10th grade for selected participant 24 females and 25 males of sample for the total students of 9th grade and

10th grade (107) the data collection methods are by used purpose sample techniques. This study used purposely sample technique in order to get reliable and accurate information form the present study. Kothari, (2004) defines sample as a specimen or part of the whole drawn to represent the rest. In other words, sample refers to a set of participants selected from a larger population for the purpose of research. Samples are always subsets or small parts of the total number that could be study (Combo and Tromp, 2006). The sample for this study was drawing one school around wolkite town, in yabarus secondary schools in wolkite town. Wolkite town total 3 secondary schools. The sample comprised of 111 participants of whom was yabarus secondary school single parent students. The researcher collected the data through purposely sample techniques. And are used teachers and head of school at this school. One head of school and three teachers in this school

Table 3.1: Sample Composition of the Study Participants

Category of participants	Total
Students	107
Teachers	03
Head of school	01
Total	111

Source: Field Data (2012)

Because accept teachers and head at this research is this reason. In studding teachers was purposely included (discipline masters/mistress) was purposely selected because they deal with day-to-day activities at school. The short way to identify the student’s problem affects attaining learning process

The purpose sample technique is used to sample the head of school. Because head are directly implementer of educational objectives and are the day-to-day supervisors of their schools. They

play a big role in ensuring that school are well managed, teachers and students fully participate in the teaching-learn process.

3.6.2 Sampling Techniques

I used purposively techniques, because only include this problem it. The study employed purposively sample technique.

Simple purposively sample technique is also known include this problem where each and every interview has equal chance to take part in a study (Huberman and Miles, 2002). The technique was used to enable each individual in the targeted population to have an equal chance of being included into the sample. The technique is deployed to obtain a sample of one secondary school involved in the study. Those were yabarus secondary schools. Sample is the act, process or technique of selected a suitable sample, or a representative part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters or characteristics of the whole population (Combo and Tromp, 2006).

3.7 Selection of Participants

The following are the details of each group selected through either purpose sample or simple include this problem sample.

Single parented students

These participating in the study because they could provide required information on the challenges/problems they face in secondary schools on account of their family situation and school. These are the source of information as they have their own life experiences unknown to the researcher. The researcher selected them by writing small by used interviews pieces of papers, and the remaining pieces of paper was written i used six interviews for single parents, five interviews for head of school and four interview for teachers depend on the number interviews schedule.

Teachers

In study teachers was purposely included (discipline masters/mistress) was purposely selected because they deal with day-to-day activities at school. They are the implementer of educational objectives at the school level.

Heads of school

The purpose sample technique is used to sample the head of schools. These were included in the study because they are directly implementer of educational objectives and are the day-to-day supervisors of their schools. They play a big role in ensuring that school are well managed, teachers and students fully participate in the teaching-learning process.

3.8. Data Collection

To collecting data tools by used interviews and asked the from head of school. The data collection instrument from wolkite town, yabarus secondary school. The data instrument tools are qualitative instruments. Data collection refers to the process of obtaining evidence in a systematic way to ascertain answers to the research problem (Cohen, Anion and Marrison, 2000). There are several methods of collecting data, which depend on the nature of the research. This study adopting a combination of research techniques to generate relevant data. The instruments that were employing include interview schedules and documentary review.

3.9 Sources of Data

Primary data are first-hand information tips and responses collecting by the researcher from their original sources. They are normally collected through various methods such as interview and questionnaires (Cohen *et al.*, 2000). In this study primary data is collected from the field as fresh information obtained from interview, and focus group discussion (discuss only one problem and identify it).

Secondary data refer to information which has already been collected and compiled for other purposes. Such sources may consist of encyclopedias, newspapers, books, and compiled

Statistical statements and reports. Secondary data are provided by an individual or individuals who may not have themselves directly observed the event, object or condition (Cohen *et al.*, 2000). In this study, such sources includes the students' school records and statistics, and files of examination results, staff meeting files ,black book ,class journals and attendance registers was obtained from the schools under investigation. The secondary data were collected through documentary review.

3.10 Data Collection Techniques

Triangulation was used in data collection as a practical check to judge the credibility of what the researcher has been told by participants. The major source of data is interview. The technique is complimented with focus documentary analysis.

Interview

An interview is a scheduled set of questions administered through verbal communication in face-to-face relationship between a researcher and the respondents (Kothari, 2004). (I used this interviews methods are for single parent students, teachers and head of school). Interview is a face-to-face version of questionnaire but there is one thing the interview can do which the questionnaire cannot, that is to ask the question

In this study, interview is used in order to allow collection of rich qualitative data due to their flexibility, being focused, and time effective.

Documentary Analysis

Milles and Huberman (1996) define documentary analysis as a process of reading various extracts found in the offices or places dealing with or associated with the issues related to what the researcher is investigating. In this study documentary review is used in conjunction with interview in order to generate data and supplement the data that cannot be obtained through interview only. The researcher used the data from the school administration office. Furthermore,

The documents search guide is employing to supplement information and to check the authenticity of the data obtained through other data collection techniques.

3.12 Data Analysis Plan

Data analysis involves organized data in ways that allow researchers to see patterns, identify themes, discover relationships, develop expectations, and make interpretations, mount criteria or generate theories. (Hatch, 2002 Bogdan & Biklen, (1992) explain data analysis as a systematic process involving working with data, organized and breaking them into manageable units. Data analysis is necessary because it enables the researcher to summarize, categorize and organize the collected data in such a way that it is possible to adequately answer the research questions.

Qualitative research data that was obtained in this study is analyzed thematically.

In this study, data analysis is ongoing process which began in the pre-field work phase

3.12 Ethical Considerations

In conducting this study, the researcher is very careful in mingling with all participants, and had a careful choice of words to use when addressing issues relating to participants. The researcher did this in order to ensure that the study adhered to human right, national policies and morals common in the area of study. Moreover, the researcher also paid reasonable attention to regulations and rules during the process of preparation, conducting research in the field and reporting of the data

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study on the challenges that single parented students face in attaining secondary school education in Wolkite town yabarus secondary school. The research was guided by three specific objectives and those were:

- first, to identify the major challenges encountered by single parented secondary school students;
- second, to investigate the effect of the challenges on student's education attainment;
- Thirdly researcher was to find out the possible solutions from participants to the challenges identified.

The findings are presented and analyzed according to research objectives. Hence the following presentation provides participants accounts (especially single parented students) their life experiences as students. Their accounts emerged from long interviews lasting for one and half to two hours told from students' own perspectives. These accounts are presented in a narrative form. The reason behind is to make a reader to get a first- hand information (real words of a participant). The accounts are structured around questions that guided the interview though they constitute single parented students' stories as they told them. It was not possible to present all stories Stake, asserts that although many researchers would like to tell the whole story, choice is inevitable. So selection was done and decision was made on how much to tell others according to the purpose of the study. Though the central focus in the following discussion is principally focused on single parent students the comments from teachers and heads of schools who are dealing with day-to-day affairs of single parent students at school were also included in this five chapter. Further the researcher used data obtained from documentary review such as attendance registers, class journals, staff meeting, files academic record books or files and black books

which were used in order to check the authentic of the data obtained. On the other hand the names of participants in this study are not used due to research ethics hence participant title was used instead of mentioning the names of teachers and heads of secondary schools, single parent students and single parent(s) participated were also not mentioned this was to ensure confidentiality as the study was probing to inner feelings of single parented students and participants school single parented students, though teachers and Heads of school were also included.

4.2 Challenges Encountered by Single Parented Secondary School Students

Investigating challenges that faced single parented students in attaining secondary education through interview, focus group discussion and documentary analysis the study came out with four issues:

- **Economic hardship**
- **Lack of parental care**
- **Socialization**
- **Lack of guidance and counseling**

(I).Economic hardship

When asked about financial support that they got from their parents, the single parented students reported that their parents did not have reliable source of income to meet their school requirements such as school fees, and other school contributions, stationery, bus fare and even pocket money on time, therefore single parent students were expelled by the school administration to bring fees which the single parent did not have. Out of one hundred seven single parent students who were interviewed, eighty-five observed the issue of economic hardship being the major hindrance of their schooling; hence poor school attendance thus results to poor academic performance. On this, one of the single parented students during interview said: “Last term I stayed at home for a month waiting for school fees, my mother does not have reliable source of income she sells vegetables in the market. We are five children who depend on

her for schooling, food, clothing plus bus fare. We are very poor sometimes we eat only once per day our father disappeared from home when I was in standard five and he has never turned back". (Student from school of yabarus, June 2021) This is an indication that single parented student lived in economic hardship. Commented out that for many low-income single parent families, the challenges that are mostly faced by eighty five children and youth are directly related to poor economic condition for their families. Poverty can reduce the access to quality education, other school requirements and even basic needs such as food. During interview session this comment of economic hardship was common among eighty five single parented students out of one hundred seven who were interviewed, this means that 79.4% of all single parented students who were interviewed were living in abject poverty. I have to do this so as to pay my fees and support my mother to maintain the family for food and ensure of my young brother and sisters. go to school. These challenges make students to become the victims of child labor and other risk behaviors such as prostitution, as single parented student said that he works to get money for fees and other school requirements, and also the story of her sister who dropped out of school due to economic hardship and engage in child labor. A child who misses essential things for schooling always loses confidence to study as well as interest of coming to school. Due to economic hardship even those who attend are not doing well academically due to poor parenting

(ii) Lack of Parental care

Despite the fact that a good number of single parented students live in economic hardship few do not have that problem, their parents can provide school requirements and basic needs such as food, shelter and clothes. The researcher contacted twenty-two single parented students that were 20.6% of all single parented students who reported to have no economic hardship. These single parent students complained that although they get everything that they need for schooling but they missed parental love (fatherly/ motherly love), cognitive stimulation and also, they suffer from lack of supervision, monitoring and role model hence poor parenting. One of them narrated the story as follows: My father gives us everything we need; we are two children in our family our mother was divorced three years ago since then we live with our father. He is very busy. He does not have time to talk, to listen or to chart with us. He has no time to guide us and show us what is wrong or right. He also does not evaluate our academic progress. We plan and direct

ourselves. These problems can significantly reduce their ability to focus on classroom work and to achievement in school. (Centre for Marriage and family, 2005). Also, Lee and Kushner, (2008) these studies revealed that fathers being breadwinners spent a lot of time away from home in search for money which makes them at times unable to provide adequately much needed moral, scholarly and emotional support to their children at home. So, children need the whole package to namely economic support, social guidance and parental love in order to be good attenders at school and thus to concentrate in their learning activities. “Single parent students lack parental care because of the absence of one parent the remaining is over busy in searching for money to earn living therefore both single father and mother cannot concentrate in the affair of their children in order to give them parental love, monitoring and supervision, and emotional support. A good example in this school is one single parent students who was always absent the girl lived with her mother who was over busy she said sometimes that mother could not turn up home even for three days therefore these children were normally handling the home themselves. The girl did not manage to complete form four as she dropped out last year after failing form two examinations”. (Participant from school of yabarus, June 2021) Participant comments on the issue of parental care did not differ from single parented students’ comments. Heads of schools and teachers from the sampled schools explained that single parent students lack parental care, social guidance, monitoring and supervision and also parental love.

iii. Socialization

On the issue of socialization according to gender and role model, single parented students pointed out that they are not comfortable being with only one parent because there are issues that a child learn from the same sex parent. Some issues a boy cannot tell her mother likewise a girl cannot share with her father. These bring inner conflict within the child .The following narration comes from one single parent girl who said her story in a very strong feelings: “I think of facing a female teachers for my problems but I feel not comfortable to open my heart to her, not only myself even my friends feels the same as a result we become frustrated and start missing classes. (student the school of yabarus June 2021). Therefore, with single parent this is very difficult. Actually poor parenting, lack of supervision or monitoring, socialization according to gender, and lack of role model in single parented students dominated all sampled schools to both single parent students (girls and boys) who were interviewed Lack of role model as well as supervision

makes single parent students to engage in bad behaviors at school and home . These obviously affect their academic performance.

iv. Lack of guidance and counseling

Furthermore, all participants from all sampled schools pointed out parental guidance and counseling are important in order to would children's behaviors and cognitive stimulation. Single parented students lack role models as well as guidance and counseling from their parents. The absence of one parent income cause the remaining parent to use most of his/her time looking for home needs and make the children lack guidance and counseling. One participant among the heads of school had these to say: "We have single parent students whose parents are so busy in earning their living therefore they cannot get time to guide and counsel their children. Last year one girl single parent troubled us much when summoned her parent for discussion about the behavior of her child, she didn't turn up. When suspended she cried bitterly saying to one teacher about her mother that she will never come because they normally live without her hardly did she sleep at home, there is no one to guide and counsel them on what is wrong or right, they do what they want to do, sometimes they miss important requirements as she is over busy". That's why even when the single parented student misbehave at school and teachers need to see his/her parent for discussion about the child's behavior, they do not have time for that and sometimes that single parent does not know whether the child is attending school or not. They are less involved with their children's academics progress. Domina, (2005), maintains that the effect of parental involvements in children have been linked to both negative and positive influence. Parental involvements prevent behavior problems.

4.3 The Effects of the Challenges on Secondary School Single Parented Students' Education Attainment

- ❖ The challenges that are encountered by single parent students have different effects on their education attainment. Through interview, focus group discussion and documentary review the effects of the challenges were noted by the researcher. The effects that were

obtained in the field work are not only multiple but also complex, as no one effect cast and alone without being connected with the other.

Those effects are:

- Poor attendance
- Poor academic performance
- Drop out of school
- Bad behaviors
- Drug use

This findings collaborate with Mclanahan and Booth (1991), Wendy and Kathleen, (2003), Ferrell, (2009) who found that children from single parent families tend to have poorer academic achievement; are likely to have higher absenteeism rate at school; to drop out of school; to marry early and to have children at tender age; to commit delinquent act such as drug and alcohol usage.

(i) Poor attendance

Through review of documents, it was revealed that single parented students have poorer attendance. Attendance registers, class journals, and staff Meetings minutes proved this without doubt .For example in sampled school the researcher noted that in form four classes, out of 9 students who were normally absent 6 of them were single parented students. Furthermore in the staff meeting files, out of 10 cases of truancy that were discussed 4 of them were of single parented students. When the researcher asked the school management as to why these single parent students were not attending school and subjects periods, one participant argued: “Many of single parent students face economic hardship in their families especially those from single mother so they miss school requirements such as fees and bus fare. Economic hardship affect much the academic progress of these students the effect is greater as they miss school several times due to those challenges

So far single parented students explained how they could not manage to attend school because of the challenges that they face at their home and also how poor attendance affected their academic progress. This is what one single parented student narrated: “Poor life at our home caused my mother to abandon the family so I live with my father who does not have any reliable source of income after being sacked out of his job, therefore we are living in a miserable condition sometimes we miss meals, school fees and other school requirements so this is the source of my poor attendance”.(student from school of yabarus June 2021) Therefore the challenges that single parent student face at home can cause many effects to academics of that child poor attendance being one of them.

(ii) Poor academic performance

Furthermore, poor academic performance is another effect to single parented student that is brought about by the challenges encountered in attaining secondary school educations. The effect was pointed out by all (111) participants during field study. Actually there are many factors at school and at home which contribute to poor performance of single parented student; those are truancy due to lack of school fees and other requirements; poor concentration in classroom due to lack of needs; poor image and poor treatments in school which make them fail to pay attention to their teachers; and lack guidance and counseling as well as follow-up from their parents which make them not to be serious in their studies. All these were noted through interview, focus group discussion and documentary review. Single parent students who were interviewed complained that they are not performing well, the comments from the heads of school and teachers were the same as those of single parented students. Starting with single parent students it was revealed that academic performance was affected by lack of follow-up and guidance from single parent, one of the single parented student (a girl) who lived with her mother (a never married mother) was not having good academic performance. She provided her every school requirement and basic needs that she could need yet the girl pointed out that she missed something which to her is very essential so she could not concentrate in class. Several times we are alone at home as if we don't have a parent, I can't concentrate in class. Am supervising the home, sometimes I don't feel like going to school hence I always get low marks. Smith (2008) insists that parents are responsible in providing psychological and emotional support, education and career development for their children so whenever one of those things misses a child is much affected.

In this research it was revealed that whenever single parent family is poor more emphasis is on how to get money for survival than on how to struggle in order to attain education. This is revealed in Table 4.1 which shows the table below single parent students' performance in the past one year in the sampled schools.

Table 4.1: The Academic Performance of Single Parent Students in the Sampled School for the Year 2021

YEAR	GRADES				
	A	B	C	D	F
2021	7	10	45	30	15
percent	6.5%	9.3%	42.1%	28.1%	14%

Source: documents reviewed in the five sampled class about single parent students' performance (2021))

so, the above table are is show that getting best grade are few percent or getting A grade are only 7 at the percent are 6.5%, getting the B grade are only 10 single parents students or 9.3%, the lowest register grade are many 45 single parents students getting or 42.1% C grade as well as getting D grade are 30 or 28.1% and lowest grade register are 15 student or 14%.

(iv) Drop out of school

Furthermore, drop out of school is noted to be the effect of those challenges to single parent students. Many single parents' students are becoming the victims of drop out from school due challenges that they face at home and at school. Research findings from documentary review interview and focus group discussion in this study showed that an average of 28% of single parent students in secondary school dropped out of school each year (Table 4.2).

According to the participants (single parents students and other participants such as Heads of Secondary schools and teachers), single parent students drop out of school due to challenges that they face daily in their lives those are such as economic hardship, lack of monitoring and supervision, poor parenting and parental role models and lack of emotional support. Apart from those who have already dropped out of school there is fear that many single parent students will

continue to drop out of school due to the fact that those who have not yet dropped out of school are having the highest rate of absentee and truancy is a common phenomenon to them.

Table 4.2: The Dropout Rate in the Sampled Schools from 2010 to 2013

Year	Total number of single parent students	Total number of single parent students who dropped out of school	Percentages
2021	107	30	28%

Source: documents reviewed in the sampled schools

As indicated in the Table 4.2 through documentary review the number of single parent students who are dropping out of school is increasing each year the table shows an average of 28% dropped out of school each year. Through interview the researcher noted that apart from those who have already dropped out of school. One of the single parent students said this to the researcher:

(iv) Bad behavior

On the other hand lack of monitoring, supervision, guidance and counseling and parental care was pointed out by all participants to be the source of bad behaviors to single parent students. The absence of one parent income cause the remaining parent to use most of his/her time looking for home needs and as a result the children start to misbehave at home and at school. One participant among the heads of schools had these to say: “We have few cases of single parent students who engaged in misbehavior, in many cases single parents are not ready to turn up for discussion about the behaviors of their children at school. I can remember last year we toiled a lot with one single parent student who was very cruel I think the guy was using marijuana. Several times he was using abusive language to teachers, thrice he was about to fight with teachers, stealing fellows’ properties was the order of the day to him. The boy was suspended twice finally he was expelled as he had a gang star which was very powerful in convincing other students to join him. He was living with his mother who was over busy searching money for taking care of her four children. We summoned her to

school several times she didn't turn-up until her son was expelled it is where she came and started complaining about what happened.

(V) Use of drugs

Furthermore, the participant pointed out that boys also may drop due to the excessive use of drugs and alcohol which is associated with behaviors problems this affects their education because he cannot concentrate in studies hence they can fail, drop or expelled. One boy who during interview showed the sign of being affected by drugs reported this: "I did not want to use drugs but due to economic hardship in our home a certain friend of mine who dropped out of school advised me to engage in selling drugs and using alcohol so as to forget home problems, Since then I cannot live without using at least one.(student from school of yabarus June 2021)" The boy looked tired, weak, and unhealthy. The researcher had interest to ask if the boy attends school daily. This is what he said: "No, I just came today to take my money from a certain boy, I remember I last attended last year October. The findings of this study revealed that both are affected regardless of the gender of single parent who is rearing a child. Therefore from the participants the researcher learn a lot on how education of single parent students is affected by the challenges that they face in attaining secondary schools those effects are such as poor performance, poor attendance, dropout of school early pregnancies and use of alcohol and drugs these cause the single parent student not to attain secondary education as intended so to minimize or solve problems is very important because the number of single parent student is increasing every year as indicated in this study, further as days go, the world continues to change also the challenges are becoming more complex so efforts to help this group is very important. To sum up the discussion in an attempt to answer the questions posed in this study one would say that the challenges that face single parent students in secondary school are many. As revealed in this chapter, the challenges are not only multiple but also complex this is due to the fact that one challenge is creating a number of many other challenges and many more effects go direct to single parented students and make them to be unable to attain secondary school education as intended.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter gives summary of the study, outlines the major findings, and provides conclusion and recommendations. Assert that the fifth chapter of the research includes a brief statement of problem and a description of the procedures used in the investigation, the findings, and the conclusions. This study examined the challenges facing single parent family secondary student in attaining secondary education in Wolkite town yabarus secondary school. In that regard, the chapter circles around concluding observations and remarks of the themes of the study.

5.2 Summary of the Study

The study investigated the challenges facing single parent secondary school students in attaining secondary education in Ethiopia. To achieve its objectives the study employed three research tasks hereunder:

- To find out the challenges encountered by single parented students in secondary schools (ii)
- To investigate the effects of these challenges on students' secondary school education attainment.
- To find out possible solutions to the challenges identified

The study was guided by the conceptual framework adapted and modified from Becker (1975, 1981, and Bryant, 1990) It uses two variables namely predictor variable which is root cause leading to other factors that precipitate the decision of the students to withdraw from school and precipitating variable (the challenges) are 76 poor economic condition that leading to inability to support children, lack of parental care, and role model, lack of

guidance and counseling and cognitive stimulation. That is to say causes of single parent such as divorce, death may affect parents' academic support for children as well as psychological effect to the mindset of the children which might lead the child into poor academic performance, poor attendance early pregnancy, truancy, psychological problems, bad behaviors and drug usage and school dropout. Literature related to the research problem was reviewed. It covered issues associated with challenges facing single parent students in attaining secondary education. So relevant literature were organized objective wise for the purpose of establishing what is already known and hence identifying the knowledge gap that guaranteed conducting the present study. The study was carried out in one secondary schools in Wolkite town, 107 single parented students, 1 heads of schools, and 03teachers. Purpose selects the study samples. Interview, focus group discussion and documentary review techniques were used to collect data for this study. During data analysis, the qualitative data were analyzed according to themes in form narration

5.3 Summary of the Main Study Findings

Those challenges and the effects of the challenges to single parent students' secondary school education attainment are summarized as follow.

(I) Poverty and economic hardship in the family of single parent student

Poverty and economic hardship in the family of single parent students is the greatest challenge to education attainment of these students. Poverty is reported to be the source of many other challenges to single parent students, some of those challenges which are brought about by economic hardship in those families are failure to get school requirements such as school fees, and bus fare and even pocket money; this cause single parent students to have poor attendance due to either being chased home by the school administration or failure to attend due to lack of pocket money and bus fare.

(ii) Child labor Apart from that some single parent student

When fail to get school requirement they decide to engage in child labor so as to curb the situation of economic hardship, so whenever this happen the student could not attend school

hence he engages himself in manual work or petty business so as to earn living. So the challenge of economic hardship is putting the single parent students into another new face which can affect more the education of these students and destroy their future completely

(iii) Poor performance and drop out of school

Furthermore, when single parent students face economic hardship and engage in child labor so as to earn living and get school requirement surely he will either attain poor performance or drop out of school due to poor attendance. This is because when their fellow students are in class, they doing petty business somewhere or manual work and sometimes they might be in class but they cannot concentrate in lesson thinking of money. U.S Department of Justice and Delinquency, (2001) explain that student with low attendance often end up dropping out of school and put themselves at another long-term disadvantage in becoming productive citizens.

(iv) Lack of guidance and counseling

Also, economic hardship makes single parent students to lack guidance and counseling, monitoring and supervision, role model and parental care. The absence of one parent income cause the remaining parent to use most of his/her time looking for home needs this cause the students not to get the right parental care hence failure to get parental care cause students to guide their ways themselves, therefore any child (student) need a parent or guidance to monitor and supervise her/him so if this child (student) is guiding him/herself it is obviously that he/she will not have anyone to monitor and supervise her/him and make follow up on academics progress as well as behavior monitoring

(v) Bad behavior

Due to lack of guidance and counseling, monitoring and supervision, and follow up, students can start to engage in misbehavior at home and at school.

They do not attend school regularly they can start to abuse teachers and use drugs which is very harmful to their health as well as academic progress. Good behavior is molded by parents as they are the role models of their children. Therefore, if parents fail to provide proper care to these students, the students will engage in misbehavior and drop out of school or being expelled hence they cannot attain secondary education. This shows that students need not only material things but also parental care and love, socialization monitoring and supervision in order to be comfortable and work hard. Generally single parent students face many challenges that affect their education attainment. Economic hardship being the major challenge that cause other more challenges pronounced effects such as poor attendance, poor academic performance, to engage in child labor.

5.4 Conclusion

This conclusion covers brief the main ideas in the findings as Kombo and Tromp, (2006) assert that conclusion of the study should be very brief and it should indicate what the study result reaffirms. In this light the conclusion of this study is made. It was noted that secondary school single parent students are facing many challenges in attaining secondary school education. The challenge that seen to be the causative of a number of other challenges is economic hardship in the family of these students. Single parent had insufficient financial resources to devote children upbringing and education expenses therefore they could not get school requirements, at the same time failed to get proper care from their parents, monitoring and/or supervision, emotional support and cognitive stimulation. Also the findings of this study revealed that children need not only financial support but also parental love, emotional support as well as guidance and counseling is important to them, this is because even those who were from single parent economical stable families were not comfortable with the situation in their families as their parents failed to provide emotional, psychological, love and moral support that they needed much. Furthermore it was revealed that the challenges that single parent student face have effects to the secondary education attainment of these children.

5.5 Recommendations

Findings show that the challenges that single parented students face affect much them

Education as 79.4% failed to attain good academic performance grades; an average of

28% are becoming the victims of drop-out of school as they engage in child labor,

Prostitution and moreover some are becoming the victims of drug abuse. Therefore

To find out the solutions for the challenges or to minimize those challenges is

Inevitable. Based on the study findings the researcher is expected to point out whether there are areas that deserve further investigation. (Kombo and Tromp, 2006). The researcher recommends the following research area closely related to this study should be conducted in order to cover the existing gaps. The central focus of this study was on the challenges facing single parented secondary school students on education attainment. The study adopted qualitative approach in a small sample. It is therefore suggested that study could be conducted focusing on a large sample and adopt a survey design so as to establish the magnitude of the problem and be able to generalized the findings. I reduce dropout and low academic performances used counseling and guidance.

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Appendix
WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

1: Interview Schedule for Single Parent Students

1. Whom do you stay with? Why?

2. Is your parent able to provide all necessary school requirements? If not what school Requirement do you miss?

3. Have you ever failed to attend school this year? Why? How many times have you failed to attend school?

4. Have you ever participated in any work so to get some money in order to earn living? Do you remember those kinds of work? -

5. Do you know any fellow single parent student who dropped out of school? Why did he/she Drop?_____
- _____
6. What do you think should be done to help other children from single parent families_____
- _____

Appendix 2: Interview Schedule for Heads of Secondary Schools

1. How many students do you have in your schools? Do you have students who are from single Parent families? If yes what is the number of those students? Is the number increasing?
- _____
- _____
2. Do students from single parent families in school face any serious challenges compared to those from two parent families? What are these challenges?
- _____
- _____
3. Do school administration and individual teachers assist students from single parent families to overcome the challenges that they face? If yes how?
- _____
- _____
4. What is the academic performance of single parent students in your school?
- _____
- _____

5. What can be done to ensure that these students' challenges are solved or minimized?

3: Interview Schedule for Teachers

1. Do you have students who are from single parent families?

2. In your experience at this school do students from single parents face any serious challenges compared to those from two parent families? What are those challenges?

3. Do you think the children from single parent families need any special assistance? If yes what assistance should be given to them?

4. Suggest any other ways that the government, schools and community can help to solve the Challenges identified?
