



ISSN: 0975-833X

RESEARCH ARTICLE

PERSPECTIVES ON INFLUENCE OF SINGLE PARENTING ON STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG ABUSE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF KAKAMEGA EAST SUB COUNTY

***Olive Taabu Baraza**

Department of Educational Management and Foundations, Maseno University, Kenya

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 16th November, 2017

Received in revised form

13th December, 2017

Accepted 16th January, 2018

Published online 28th February, 2018

Key words:

Perspectives, Influence,

Single Parenting,

Student Involvement,

Drug Abuse,

Secondary Schools Kenya:

Kakamega East Sub County

ABSTRACT

In Kenya according to countrywide survey students as young as 13 years of age are subject of drug abuse. According to National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) students use all tricks possible to abuse drugs during school visits, during school entertainment or at night in their dormitories. Children initiate alcohol and substance abuse at the age of 13 both at home and school. The commonly abused drugs are alcohol, khat (miraaj), tobacco, bhang, kuber and even heroin in some quarters. This is mainly revealed when students engage in drinking sprees and sex orgies. It is commonly alleged that children of single parents are easily lured into use of drugs. In Kakamega East Sub County, between 2006 and 2011, eighty percent of the schools had experienced cases of drug abuse. Therefore, the objective of this study was to establish the influence of single parenting on student involvement in drug abuse in secondary schools in Kakamega East Sub County. The study established that respondents disagreed marginally on the view that single parenting influences student involvement in drug abuse as overall percentage for disagreed was 45.9, agreed 42.2 and undecided 11.4. The commonly abused drugs were alcohol, khat (miraaj) and cigarettes. The less commonly abused drugs were bhang', kuber, spirits and inhalants. The study concluded that single parenting had influence on student involvement in drug abuse. The study recommended that school administrators should involve single parents in dealing with cases of drug abuse.

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Citation: Olive Taabu Baraza, 2018. "Perspectives on Influence of Single Parenting on Student Involvement in Drug Abuse in Secondary Schools in Kenya: A Case Study of Kakamega East Sub County", *International Journal of Current Research*, 10, (02), 66126-66134.

INTRODUCTION

Family plays an important role in children's life. It not only provides children with physical, economic, and emotional support, but is also the smallest unit of socialization where people first socialize with others. Families play a very important role in instilling discipline in their children based on the accepted norms in the society. In a school set up, student discipline is a matter of concern to all and sundry. The importance of school discipline is emphasized repeatedly in surveys, polls and literature about education and student achievement (Gary & Angus, 2011). Studies that have been done indicated that single parent families can have both positive and negative effects on the children. According to Magar (2012), development of close bonds with parents can be one big positive effect of single parenting. Single parenting involves looking after the child's requirements alone, which amounts to a large time to be spent with the child. If the parent is successful in turning these moments into deep bonding sessions, it would create a permanent goodwill and strong relationship between the parent and the child.

This is supported by Kunz (2010), on the effects of single parenting on child's behavior who found out that children in single parent families often form close bonds with their parent, as they are closely dependent on each other throughout the child's life. Children from single-parent families may also form closer bonds with extended family members or family friends, as these people often help raise them. Single parenting however, can also have negative effects on children. In U.S.A, Silbereisen and Sharma (2007), on revisiting an era in Germany from perspective of adolescent in mother-headed single parent families, observed that adolescent from mother-headed single parent families and step-mother were significantly less comfortable with their family environment in comparison to adolescents living with biological parents. Further study by Ketteringham (2007) in U.S.A, observed that single parent fathers do not communicate with their children as much as mothers. This leads to children from single father households being more likely to use marijuana and use illicit drugs, to have been drunk three or four times and to have had sex at an earlier age. This contradict the fact that most people think that fathers are more strict than mothers, when in fact they tend to be less stricter than mothers. This study is supported by Fenster (2011) who observed that once a child is subjected to growing up in a broken family, her propensity

*Corresponding author: Olive Taabu Baraza,

Department of Educational Management and Foundations, Maseno University, Kenya.

towards using drugs, alcohol, and engaging in unprotected sex becomes much higher than for a teenager who lives in a home where both of her parents are still married. According to him, statistics show that a teen girl who is the product of divorced parents is more likely to become pregnant. Simatwa, Odhong', Juma and Choka (2014) found that drug abuse by students in Kenya was spreading at an alarming rate and if not checked it could destroy the youth. Otieno and Ofulla (2009), found out that in Kisumu city students were exposed to drugs and it affected all age groups. These studies did not address the issue of single parenting and student involvement in drug abuse, the gap this study sought to fill.

Research Objective

The research objective was to establish the influence of single parenting on student involvement in drug abuse in secondary schools in Kakamega East Sub County.

Synthesis of literature on influence of single parenting on student involvement in drug abuse

A number of studies carried out show those students in secondary schools abuse drug. The major cause of concern is that a significant proportion of these young people eventually get addicted posing a threat to their own health and safety. Parents and family members can influence children's use of drugs and their behaviour. They hold the greatest responsibility and opportunity to shape children's choices when it comes to trying and continuing abusing drug. In United States of America, Magnier (2007), in a study on the effect of single parenting on children observed that single parenting had adverse mental, emotional and psychological effect on the child. The direct effect of being raised by single parent is especially visible in child's thinking and mental mind set. A study on single parent household and how it affects the children in USA by Ketteringham (2007), found that in single father homes, it had been noted that children were more likely to use marijuana and to have illicit drugs, to have been drunk three or four times and to have had sex at an earlier age. These statistics contradict the fact that most people think that fathers are stricter than the mothers. This study is supported by Jablonska and Lindberg (2007), on risk behaviours, victimization and mental distress among adolescents in different family structures, found out that adolescent in non-intact families (single mother/single father and shared physical custody) were at higher risk for use of alcohol, illicit drugs, drunkenness and smoking than their counterpart in intact families.

In addition, adolescent in shared physical custody were at a higher risk of drunkenness than youths in two parent families. The two studies did not address the influence of single parenting on wine, spirits, cigarette smoking, *chang'aa* and *miraai* chewing. In USA, Fenster (2011), on divorce, single parenting and teen pregnancy make a triangle, observed that once a child is subjected to growing up in a broken family, her propensity towards using drugs, alcohol, and engaging in unprotected sex becomes much higher than for a teenager who lives in a home where both of her parents are still married. Statistics show that a teen girl who is the product of divorced parents is more likely to become pregnant. Further study by Hemovich and Crano (2009), on national center for biotechnology information, revealed that children of father-only single parent families were significantly more likely to

use marijuana use than children from mother-only single-parent family structures, whose marijuana usage, in turn, significantly exceeded that of children of dual-parent families. However, they further noted that girls living in father-only family structures used significantly more marijuana than girls living in single-mother families or in dual-parent households and that marijuana usage of girls in single-father households was comparable to that of boys in the same family structure. They also found out that drug use among daughters living with single fathers significantly exceeded that of daughters living with single mothers. These studies were limited to marijuana use. However, did not address *chang'aa*, cigarette smoking, *miraai* chewing, wine and spirits influence of single parenting influence on student involvement in Kakamega East Sub County. Magar (2012), on single parenting effects in USA, observed that, the most immediate and largely observed effect is a significant drop in the performance level of the children. This leads to the development of a negative attitude towards life, which further reduces academic, extracurricular or co-curricular performance. This vicious circle of pessimism and bad performance, ultimately gives way to larger evils like depression, alcohol or drug abuse, development of hateful thinking process and similar problems. This study addressed alcohol. However, the study did not address the types of alcohol that are abused by children. The study did not also address the types of drugs abused by children.

In Ghana News Agency (2011), observed that low socioeconomic status of single parents contributed immensely to children in such homes exhibit anti-social behaviours, unnecessary aggression and being saddled with problems at school. According to Agbeko (2011, as cited by Ghana News Agency 2011), children who ended up tied to their maternal side faced many challenges like low-level of education, high absenteeism in school and high drop-out rate with the boys engaging in delinquent activities like alcoholism, armed robbery and drug addiction. Not all single parents are poor. Maithya (2009), on drug abuse in secondary schools in Kenya: Developing a programme for prevention and intervention found out that drug abuse among students is common; majority being in boys schools. The greatest ratio of drug abusers to non-abusers among the sampled schools are aged between 20 and 22 years. There is a significant relationship between drug abuse and age, use of drugs by other family members and easy access to drugs. He used descriptive survey research to collect both quantitative and qualitative data using questionnaires and interviews. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in data analysis, thus there was a mixed model research design approach to data analysis. However, this study did not address different types of drugs abused. A study on effectiveness of communication on students discipline in secondary schools in Kenya by Kindiki (2009), observed that the level of discipline in many secondary schools in Kenya was very low and that the most prevalent cases of indiscipline include drug abuse, fighting amongst the students, bullying junior students, insubordination, sneaking from school, destruction of school property and stealing other student's property. This study focused on different forms of student indiscipline. However, the study did not influence of single parenting on student discipline in Kakamega East Sub County, hence a gap in knowledge that was exposed for this study. In a research on drug abuse in Kisumu town, Western Kenya, Otieno and Ofulla (2009), found out that high numbers of secondary school students in Kisumu town were exposed to drugs and that the problem affected all age groups although the

age group 16-18 was particularly vulnerable. They further noted that most students abused drugs for enjoyment and those from low-income areas were more at risk and that the family members were found to be an important link in the initial development of the drug taking habit. The study used cross-sectional survey design. The study did not address types of drugs abused and the influence of single parenting and drug abuse in schools. Muturi (2012), on how divorce affects children observed that children from divorced families are more vulnerable to drug use away from home and indulge in promiscuous sex. This does not apply to all the children raised by single parents. It was important to find out the influence of single parenting on drug abuse. Cases of drug abuse have also been experienced in Kakamega East Sub County.

According to the data from the Sub County Education Officer (2011), cases of drug abuse had been experienced in 28(80%) schools. It is against the background that the researcher sought to establish the influence of single parenting on student discipline in Kakamega East Sub County. From the studies reviewed, Jablonska and Lindberg (2007), on risk behaviours, victimization and mental distress among adolescents in different family structures found out that adolescent in non-intact families were at higher risk for use of alcohol, illicit drugs, drunkenness and smoking than their counterpart in intact families. This study is supported by Hemovich and Crano (2009), in USA, who found that children of father-only single-parent families were significantly more likely to abuse marijuana than children from mother-only single-parent family structures, whose marijuana usage, in turn, significantly exceeded that of children of dual-parent families. In Kenya, a research on drug abuse in Kisumu town western Kenya, Otieno and Ofulla (2009), found out that high numbers of secondary school students in Kisumu town were exposed to drugs and that the problem affected all age groups although the age group 16-18 was particularly vulnerable. Further study by Maithya (2009), on drug abuse in secondary schools in Kenya: Developing a programme for prevention and intervention found out that drug abuse among students is common; both boys and girls have abused drugs with the majority being in boys schools.

Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework postulates that single parenting does influence drug abuse. From the conceptual framework it should be noted that single parenting does influence drug abuse among students. A single parent who teaches moral responsibility, offers guidance and counseling to his or her children, monitors student behaviour, ensures children adhere to rules and regulations and mentors him or her child discourages their children to bully others, to get involved in drug abuse and to be delinquent while a single parent who does not offer guidance and counseling, teach moral responsibility, mentor, monitor children behaviour nor ensures a child adheres to the rules and regulations encourages their children to bully others, get involved in drug abuse and to be delinquent. However, the intervening variables namely students attitude, community values and school environment moderates the influence of single parenting on students involvement in drug abuse. In situations where the intervening variables mitigate the single parenting influence on students' debut into antisocial behaviour, student involvement will be minimal and vice versa. The conceptual framework helped in focusing on the variables of the study in data collection on the influence of single parenting on student involvement in taking *chang'a*, bhang among others.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study used descriptive survey research design. The study population consisted of 10696 students, 35 deputy principals, 35 guidance and counseling teachers, 180 class teachers and one Sub County Education Officer. The study used saturated sampling technique to select 32 Deputy principals, 32 Guidance and Counseling teachers, 140 class teachers and one Sub County Education Officer. Simple random sampling was used to select 370 students. Data were collected by use of questionnaires and interview schedules. Face and content validity of the instruments was determined by experts in educational administration whose input was incorporated. Reliability of instruments was established through a test re-test method in 3(9.6%) of the schools that were not involved in the

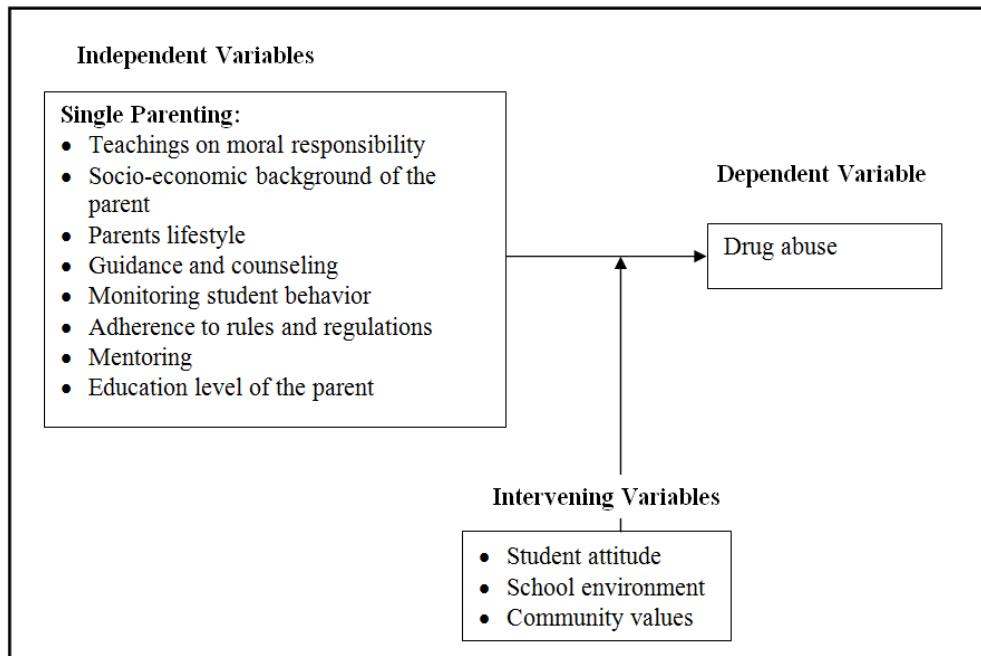


Figure 1. A Conceptual Framework showing the Influence of Single Parenting on Student Discipline

main study. Pearson r for the deputy principals' questionnaire was 0.84, class teachers' questionnaire was 0.79 and students' questionnaire was 0.89. The instruments were therefore, reliable. Quantitative data from closed-ended items of the questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics in form of frequency counts and percentages. Qualitative data from the open-ended items in the questionnaire and interviews was organized and analyzed in emergent themes and sub-themes.

RESULTS

Research Question

The research question responded to was: What are the perspectives on influence of single parenting on student involvement on drug abuse in secondary schools in Kakamega East Sub County? The responses to this research question were as shown in Table 1. From Table 1, it can be observed that twenty eight (88%) of the deputy principals disagreed, 2(6%) agreed while 2(6%) were undecided on the view that single parenting influences student involvement in smoking cigarette. This means that majority of the deputy principals were of the view that single parents do not influence student involvement in cigarette smoking. However, 2(6%) of the deputy principals were of the view that single parent families encouraged their children to smoke cigarette while 2(6%) were undecided. According to the class teachers the influence was as follows: 98(70%) disagreed, 28(20%) agreed while 14(10%) were undecided. From the findings, majority of the class teachers were also of the view that single parents do not influence student involvement in smoking cigarette, 28(20%) were of the view that single parents influenced student involvement in smoking cigarettes while 10% were undecided. According to the students, the influence was as follows: 305(82%) disagreed, 39(11%) agreed while 26(7%) were undecided. It can be observed that majority of the students were for the view that single parenting does not influence student involvement in smoking cigarette, 39(11%) were of the view that single parent families encouraged their children to smoke cigarettes while 26(7%) were undecided. Twenty five (78%) deputy principals agreed, 1(3%) were undecided while 6(19%) disagreed on the

view that conditions in single parent families such as poverty encourage their children to take *chang'aa*. This indicates that majority of the deputy principals were of the view that conditions in single parent families such as poverty encourage their children to take *chang'aa*. However, 6(19%) of the deputy principals were of the opinion that conditions in single parent families such as poverty do not encourage their children to take *chang'aa* while 1(3%) percentage of the deputy principals were undecided. According to the class teachers the influence was as follows: 100(71%) agreed, 36(26%) disagreed while 4(3%) were undecided. From the findings, majority of the class teachers were of the view that conditions in single parent families such as poverty encouraged their children to take *chang'aa*, 36(26%) were of the opinion that conditions in single parent families such as poverty do not encourage their children to take *chang'aa* while 4(3%) percentage were undecided. According to the students, the influence was as follows: 263(71%) of the students agreed, 62(17%) disagreed while 45(12%) were undecided. This means that majority of the students were of the view that conditions in single parent families such as poverty encouraged their children to take *chang'aa*. However, 62(17%) were of the view that single parent families did not encourage their children to take *chang'aa* while 45(12%) were undecided. Thirteen (41%) deputy principals agreed, 12(38%) disagreed while 7(22%) were undecided on the view that conditions in single parent families like lack of commitment to their children encouraged their children to smoke bhang. This means that majority of the deputy principals were of the opinion that single parenting encouraged their children to smoke bhang. However, 12(38%) were of the opinion that conditions in single parent families like lack of commitment do not encourage their children to smoke bhang while 22% were undecided. According to the class teachers the influence was as follows: 94(67%) agreed, 35(25%) disagreed while 11(8%) were undecided. This means majority of the class teachers were of the view that conditions in single parent families such as lack of commitment to their children encouraged their children to smoke bhang, 35(25%) were of the opinion that to smoke bhang while 11(8%) of the class teachers were undecided. According to the students, the influence was as follows: 299(81%) of the students agreed, 44(12%) disagreed while 27(7%) were undecided.

Table 1. This indicates that majority of the deputy principals were of the view that conditions in single parent families such as poverty encourage their children to take *chang'aa*.

Influence	RES	Responses							
		A		U		D		T	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Single parents encourage their children to smoke cigarettes	D/P	2	6	2	6	28	88	32	100
	C/T	28	20	14	10	98	70	140	100
	S	39	11	26	7	305	82	370	100
Conditions in single parent families such as poverty encourage their children to take <i>chang'aa</i> .	D/ P	25	78	1	3	6	19	32	100
	C/ T	100	71	4	3	36	26	140	100
	S	263	71	45	12	62	17	370	100
Conditions in single parent families such as lack of commitment encourage their children to smoke bhang.	D/ P	13	41	7	22	12	38	32	100
	C/ T	94	67	11	8	35	25	140	100
	S	299	81	27	7	44	12	370	100
Single parents encourage their children to take taking wine	D/ P	10	31	5	16	17	53	32	100
	C/ T	66	47	24	17	50	36	140	100
	S	119	32	106	29	145	39	370	100
	D/ P	24	75	1	3	7	22	32	100
Single parent families encourage their children to take spirits.	C/ T	69	49	10	7	61	44	140	100
	S	213	58	26	7	131	35	370	100
Single parents encourage their children to chew <i>miraaj (khat)</i>	D/ P	4	13	10	31	18	56	32	100
	C/ T	0	0	0	0	0	140	100	100
	S	63	17	66	18	241	65	370	100
Average percentages on A, U and D				42.7		12.4		45.9	

Key: S -Students; D/P-Deputy Principals; C/T-Class Teachers; Res- Respondents; F -Frequency; A- Agree; U- Undecided; D- Disagree; T- Total.

Seventeen (53%) deputy principals disagreed, 10(31%) agreed while 5(16%) were undecided on the view that single parents encourage their children to take wine. This means majority of the deputy principals were of the view that single parents do not encourage their children to take wine. However, 10(31%) of the deputy principals were of the view that single parents encouraged their children to take wine while 5(16%) were undecided. According to the class teachers the influence was as follows: 66(47%) agreed, 50(36%) disagreed while 24(17%) were undecided. From the responses, it can be observed that majority of the class teachers were of the opinion that single parents encouraged their children to take wine. However, 50(36%) of the class teachers were of the opinion that single parents do not encourage their children to take wine while 24(17%) were undecided. According to the students, the influence was as follows: 145(39%) disagreed, 119(32%) agreed while 106(29%) were undecided. This means that majority of the students were of the opinion that single parenting does not influence their children to take wine, 119(32%) of the students were of the view that single parents do influence their children to take wine while 106(29%) were undecided. Twenty four (75%) deputy principals agreed, 7(22%) disagreed while 1(3%) were undecided. on the view that single parent families encourage their children to take spirits. From the responses, it clearly means that majority of the deputy principles were of the opinion that single parent families encourage their children to take spirits, however, 7(22%) of the deputy principals were for the opinion that single parent families do not encourage their children to take spirits while 1(3%) of the deputy principals respondents were undecided.

According to the class teachers, the influence was as follows: 69(49%) agreed, 61(44%) disagreed while 10(7%) were undecided. This means that majority of the respondents were of the opinion that conditions in single parent families encourage their children to take spirits, a few were of the opinion that single parent families do not encourage students to take spirits while 10(7%) were undecided. According to the students, the influence was as follows: 213(58%) of the students agreed, 45(12%) were undecided and 62(17%) disagreed. It means that majority of the students were of the opinion that single parent families encouraged their children to take spirits while 45(12%) of the students were of the opinion that single parent families do not encourage their children to take spirit while 62(17%). Eighteen (56%) of the deputy principals disagreed, 10(31%) were undecided while 4(13%) agreed on the view that single parents encourage their children to take *miraai* (khat). This means that majority of the deputy principals are of the opinion that single parents do not encourage their children to take *miraai*. However, 10(31%) of them were undecided while 13% were of the opinion that single parents encouraged their children to take *miraai*. According to class teachers, the influence was as follows: 140(100%) disagreed. This means that all the class teachers were of the view that single parents do not encourage their children to take *miraai*. According to the students, the influence was as follows: 241(65%) disagreed, 66(18%) were undecided while 63(17%) agreed. This means majority of the students believed that single parents do not encourage their children to take *miraai* 66(18%) were undecided while 63(17%) were of the view that single parenting encouraged their children to chew *miraai*. The overall view based on average percentages indicates that respondents disagreed marginally on the view that single parenting influences student involvement in drug

abuse as overall percentage for disagreed was 45.9, agreed 42.2 and undecided 11.4. However, does not mean single parenting does not influence student involvement in drug abuse. It has more influence on some drug abuse like *chang'aa*. Bhang, spirits and wine and low influence on *miraai* and smoking cigarettes

DISCUSSION

Basing on the findings, majority of the respondents concurred that single parenting do not influence student involvement in smoking cigarette. During the interviews with guidance and counseling teachers, it emerged that single parents do indirectly influence student involvement in cigarettes smoking because they are not close to their children and gaining access to cigarettes was easy for students. In this respect one of the guidance and counseling teachers stated, "much as single parents do not encourage their children to smoke, they create a conducive environment for their children to smoke cigarettes. They do this by not supervising their children at home. Moreover they give them as much as 150/= for lunch to which they do not care how the money is spent. As a result we have noticed that due to peer pressure this money is spent on smoking cigarettes. The administrators should limit the amount to Kshs. 500 per term." Single parents indirectly influence their children to smoke cigarettes. If their parents are cigarettes smokers, their children are more likely to smoke cigarettes. The guidance and counseling teachers' views agreed with the questionnaire findings that single parents do not influence student involvement in smoking cigarettes. These findings are consistent with those of Agrawal, Hearth, Lynskey, Buchilz and Martin (2005), who concluded that though single parents do not encourage their children to smoke, early family influences: overall separation from the biological parents and the presence of a stepmother were positively associated with regular cigarette smoking.

The results are also in line with a study by Heritage Foundation (2012) that concluded that teens in intact families are less likely to start smoking. Compared to peers in intact families, teens of never-married parents as well as those of divorced parents who did not remarry (but not those of divorced parents who later remarried) were more likely to initiate cigarette smoking. Kakamega East Sub County has witnessed several cases of school unrest (Sub County Education Officer, 2011) some of which was attributed to smoking of bhang and cigarettes among the students. Respondents concurred that conditions in single parents' families such as poverty encouraged their children to take *chang'aa*. Conditions in single parent homes forced them to look for ways of getting income. Most of them brew *chang'aa*. These findings agree with the remarks of one teacher guidance and counseling, who said, "*chang'aa* is locally brewed. Most of our students in day schools especially those from single parent families assist their parents in brewing it in order to earn a living. They are therefore forced to taste the quality of it before selling to their customers. Sometimes they are forced by their customers to taste if it's safe for them to drink. These students sometimes take it as food when there is no food in the house. *Chang'aa* also could easily be sneaked in schools when mixed with juices. It is this fact that saw many schools ban students from carrying juices and other soft drinks to school." Not all single parents are poor. Some of them do not rely on *chang'aa* brewing to earn a living. The views of the guidance and counseling teachers agreed with the questionnaires

findings that conditions in single parents' families such as poverty encouraged their children to take *chang'aa*. These findings support a study carried out by Agbeko (as cited by Ghana News Agency, 2011) who observed that children who ended up tied to their maternal side faced many challenges like low-level of education, high absenteeism in school and high drop-out rate with the boys engaging in delinquent activities like alcoholism, armed robbery and drug addiction.

The findings also support the study by Heritage Foundation (2012), that concluded that compared to peers living in homes where both parents were present, teens living in families with fathers and stepmothers, mothers only, fathers only, mothers and other relatives, or other relatives only (but not those in families with both parents and other relatives, mothers and stepfathers, mothers and other relatives, or other relatives only) were more likely to report that they had been drunk three or more times in the prior year. Basing on the findings, it can therefore be concluded that this is a major challenge in education in Kakamega East Sub County, Kenya. From the findings, it can be observed that majority of the students were of the view that conditions in single parent families such as lack of commitment encouraged their children to smoke bhang, a few were of the opinion that conditions in single parent families such as lack of commitment to their children did not encourage their children to smoke bhang while 27(7%) were undecided. From the responses, majority of the respondents were of the view that conditions in single parent families such as lack of commitment to their children encouraged their children to smoke bhang. During the interview with the guidance and counseling teachers it emerged that single parents had more responsibilities to attend to and as result not able to provide the proper supervision required. In this respect the Sub County Education Officer stated, Single parents have more responsibilities to attend to. A Single parent has to face hardships so that family life will be happy. Children rely on him or her fully for support. He or she will play the role of both father and mother. Where the income is not enough, he or she is forced to engage herself/himself in more than one job to provide for the family. He or she has no one to share with the task of rearing and raising the children and thus children take advantage of this to engage in smoking bhang and other forms of indiscipline. Circulation of bhang is limited within small quarters because it is outlawed in the country and this make peddlers not openly carry out the trade.

The peddlers use students to help in the circulation. They take advantage of single parents' responsibilities to use their children as salesmen/women. One guidance and counseling teacher stated, "most single parents deal with physical, emotional and mental challenges and they may also struggle with loneliness and most resort to abuse of drugs e.g. alcohol, bhang, kuber, wines as coping mechanisms. This interrupts the mental and psychological development of their children and puts them at a higher risk of developing addiction to those drugs. Remember, parents are the role models to their children, they will always imitate what their parents do. Single parents entrust their children with house girls who may not give proper supervision to their children, they take advantage to engage in smoking bhang. Loneliness can also force some single parents to engage in drugs and this may influence their children to take drugs. These findings support the study by Keterringham (2007), who observed that single parent fathers do not communicate with their children as seen with mothers. This leads to children from single father households being more

likely to use bhang and to have illicit drugs, to have been drunk three or four times and to have had sex at an earlier age. This contradicts the fact that most people think that fathers are stricter than mothers, when in fact they tend to be less strict than mothers. The findings are also consistent with Hemovich and Crano (2009), who observed that children of father-only single-parent families were significantly more prone to marijuana use than children from mother only single parent family structures, whose marijuana usage, in turn, significantly exceeded that of children of dual-parent families. However, they further noted that girls living in father only family structures used significantly more marijuana than girls living in single mother families or in dual parent households and that marijuana usage of girls in single father households was comparable to that of boys in the same family structure. They also observed that drug use among daughters living with single fathers significantly exceeded that of daughters living with single mothers. From the findings it can be observed that majority of the deputy principals and the students concurred that single parents do not encourage their children to take wine. Their views were in disagreement with the views of the majority of class teachers who were of the view that single parents encouraged their children to take wine. Deputy principals' views could have been based on their experience in dealing with indiscipline cases while the students' views could have been based on their backgrounds. During the interviews, the guidance and counseling teachers were asked to comment on the use of wine by the students and one guidance and counseling teacher observed, "most people in this region are Christians. When taking Holy Communion, wine symbolizes the blood of Jesus the son of God. So it is not a crime for our children to take wine. Moreover, our religious leaders take it several times when presiding over services and they don't get drunk. If it was bad then our religious leaders could have led by example by condemning it from being taken by the public. They would rather take it than take *chang'aa*.

Most single parents have reduced income. Spirits are expensive. They may not really have money to give to their children. The guidance and counseling teachers' views agreed with the questionnaires findings that single parents encouraged their children to take wine. The findings are in line with Doughty (2012), indicates that Britain has two million single parent families with majority of children raised by mother alone and that the majority of single parent families headed by a mother, 92% of children are female, and he further clarifies that Britain has more single parent families than anywhere else in Europe. He then concludes that children who grow up in one parent families are more likely to suffer from poor health, do badly at school and fall into crime or drug abuse when they are teenagers. During the interviews with the guidance and counseling teachers and the Sub County Education Officer, various interviews expressed different opinions, for instance one guidance and counseling teacher said, "spirits requires money to be purchased. Single parents do not have more income and so the little money received is invested in basic needs. Single parents try to make their children happy by giving them some money as pocket money. Some of the money is redirected to buying spirits by their children. Spirits are also sold over the counter so students with money can easily access it. Furthermore, they are also packed in sachets that make it easy to carry and conceal." Spirits are sold over the counter. Their prices range from 70 shillings to 150 shillings. The students can redirect their pocket money to purchase spirits. The guidance and counseling teachers' views

agreed with the questionnaires findings that single parents encouraged their children to take spirits. The results are in agreement with the conclusion by Jablonska and Lindberg (2007), who concluded that adolescents in non-intact families (single mother/single father and shared custody) were at higher risk for use of alcohol, illicit drugs, drunkenness and smoking than their counterpart in intact families. In addition, adolescents in shared physical custody were at a higher risk of drunkenness than youths in two parent families. Majority of the respondents were of the opinion that single parenting does not influence their children to take miraa. During the interviews, it was observed that Kakamega East Sub County from which the respondents were drawn is dominated by communities from which *miraa* chewing is not wide spread. In this respect, the Sub County Education Officer stated, "in this Sub County, we don't plant *miraa*. Students can only access it when they visit Kakamega town. So parents don't even bother so much discouraging their children to take it as they know very well accessing it is not easy. *Miraa* is wide spread in Eastern province amongst the Ameru (they are the traditional cultivators of *miraa*) and North Eastern Province amongst the Somali who are the majority consumers."

Miraa is wide spread among the Ameru. Students can only access it when they visit Kakamega town. Single parents may not influence student's involvement in *miraa* chewing in Kakamega town. However, a few who visit the town can access it. The Sub County Education Officer's views agreed with the questionnaires findings that single parent do not encourage student involvement in chewing *miraa*. The findings were inconsistent with the study by Fenster (2011), which found out that once a child is subjected to growing up in a broken family, his/her propensity towards using drugs, alcohol, and engaging in unprotected sex becomes much higher than for a teenager who lives in a home where both of her parents are still married. According to him, statistics show that a teen girl who is the product of divorced parents is more likely to become pregnant. According to the data from the Sub County Education Officer, cases of drug abuse had been reported in the Sub County. From 2006-2011, twenty eight (80%) schools in the Sub County were involved in drug abuse (Sub County Education Officer, 2011). The students who were involved in drug abuse destroyed properties in their respective schools. From the data findings, it can be concluded that most of the students could have not abused *miraa*. On the whole these findings are consistent with those of Simatwa et al (2014) who established that drug abuse was a reality in Kenya.

Conclusion

The overall view based on average percentages indicates that respondents disagreed marginally on the view that single parenting influences student involvement in drug abuse as overall percentage for disagreed was 45.9, agreed 42.2 and undecided 11.4. This means that single parenting does influence student involvement in drug abuse. It has more influence on some drug abuse such as *chang'aa*. Bhang and spirits and low influence on *miraa* (wine) and smoking cigarettes. However single parenting is not the single factor that influences drug abuse among students.

Recommendations

Supervision and inspection of students for drugs in schools should be intensified. In light of the finding that pocket money

that is given to the students in some cases for children in from affluent families is spent on smoking cigarettes, the study recommended that school administrators should limit the amount of money that is given to the students per. The administrators should also ensure that strict rules against the use of cigarettes and other substances of abuse are put in place to deter students from these vices. In light of the findings that children from single parenting help in *chang'aa* brewing and selling, house chores and joining their parents in doing other small businesses, the study recommended that parents be advised on the importance of children attending school on daily basis. Children should not be included in hawking as it makes students drift from school and play truancy. Parents should solicit funds from Constituency Development Funds to pay school fees.

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