

Family Disassembly and its Consequences: A Study from the Perspective of Single Parents in Sana'a Yemen

Kamel Ahmed Mohammed Alalimi

Ph.D.Scholar,Ch.Charan Singh University, Meerut, India

Abstract- This paper focuses on the family disassembly and its impact on children, family and society in Sana'a City, the capital of Yemen. It sociologically investigates the causes and factors leading to the family disassembly from the perspective of single parents, and the impacts of family disassembly on the children, on the family itself and on the society at large. The study depends on primary data collected from 100 single parents by using the techniques of interview. Moreover details of aspects were gathered by using case study method documents, and observation. Data collected by using interview guide/schedule (s) were analyzed by using simple statistical techniques, classifying variables of back ground, causes and effects.

The results of the study showed that family disassembly is taking place due to death, divorce and abandonment and lesser ability to perform basic roles for children's upbringing and it led to dispersal of family members and juvenile delinquency and the recommend that relatives should not interfere in the disputes between husband and wife moreover the state, civic society, media and other social networks should pay more attention to family issues to help strengthening family ties.

Index Terms- Family disassembly, single parent, children, society, Yemen

I. BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The family disassembly is considered to be one of the major social problems faced by both developed and developing societies. Family is the cornerstone of any society and it is the pillar which provides security and stability to the individuals in society. For people, family remains a lifeline that ensures their existence. It is the fountain from which everyone drinks what is required in life. Therefore, people think of the family as a source of strength, hope and inspiration and build their own dreams on it. If the family complains from the cases of weakness, disability and poverty, it will not be able to perform its educational, moral and social duties and here appear the human problems to arise in a frightening and terrible way. These problems threaten not only the structure and destiny of family but the structure and destiny of large society as well [1].

Various studies and statistics in many countries have proved that a range between 60 to 80% of Juvenile delinquency have grown up within disassembled families as their families had some disputes that led to either divorce or separation. These averages of juvenile delinquency obviously shows that the collapse of family relationships and ties have created bad situations for children and teenagers to severely suffer. They

have lost security, stability, reassurance and the emotional and psychological balance [2].

Several academic literatures from Arab countries including from Yemen like (Ghaith, 1979), (Alkhwali, 1984), (Rashwan, 2003), (Turkiyah, 2004). (Alkamali, 2008). (Alkhatib,2006). (Algabere and Other, 2001). Tomim (1997), Isa's (1989), (Mubarak, 2006). (Autman, 1986) try to deal on family disassembly, juvenile delinquency, family structure and other family related issues.

The present study is distinguished from the above mentioned research is by the fact that it aims at studying impact of the family disassembly on family, children and society from single parent perspectives.

In the light of the emerging scenario of family studies (above illustrations) and looking at the academic importance, the present study make an effort to examine the family disassembly in the Yemeni Society and its impact on the children, family and society through analytical and comprehensive approaches. The study would also look at the reasons and factors behind such family disassembly, as it is one of the sources of instability in a society and its people. The study has focused upon the following specific questions: What are the causes and factors that lead to the family disassembly? What are the impacts of family disassembly on children? What are the impacts of family disassembly on family itself? What are the impacts of family disassembly on society at large? What may be suggestions .i.e. what can be the suitable ways (recommendations) that may help to check this phenomenon?

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section two deals on review of literature and section three on data and methodology. Section four focuses on the findings of the study and finally section five gives conclusion and recommendation.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This section tries to review literatures on the causes and effects of family disassembly focusing on Arab Countries.

The concept of family disassembly stands for many family problems like divorce, deviation and others that result from social mal-adjustment, the absence of economic status, psychological irritation, and tension of relationships inside the family, the lack of cooperative performances for family roles that sometimes result from the addiction to drugs and alcohol or from collecting the negative experiences for marital relationships. However, Atif Ghaith in his book *Almashakil Alijtimayia* ('Social Problems') defines it any weakness, mal-adjustment or collapse of the ties in the family community for each other. This weakness is not restricted to that in the relationship between the

husband and wife but it includes the relationships between parents and their children [3].

There are many literatures try to touch the causes for the family disassembly. Accordingly, (Rashwan, 2003:100) try to see the cause of family disassembly from the perspectives of faith weakening. According to him the person with weak faith loses a preventive shield incomparable in facing the problems of contemporary life. If the faith of one single parent or both is weak, they are exposed to frequently easy mistakes and sins causing unbounded problems inside the family. He goes on saying that the moral problems such as the commitment of crime, and rebellion against social and moral values, the addiction to alcohols and drugs, hypocrisy, the absence of truthfulness, sincerity is the major cause of family disassembly[4].

Turkiyah (2004:175), try to see the causes of family disassembly from absence of head of the family. The researcher mentioned that there are forms of the absence such as the man indulged in his work, thus the problems will start to emerge in the house because of the lack of sharing between the couple [5].

When the mother is busy with her work, there is no care for in his needs and affairs. If the husband comes back from his work he will find no one other than his attendant who prepared food and place but the wife will come back exhaustive and tired seeking for rest and comfort. Hence, the work of wife outside of her house will hinder the delivery of her natural mission and basic functions in home that is motherhood (Rashwan, 2003:94).

Alkamali (2008:107), state that the absence of guardian constitutes a huge danger that leads to the family disorder. She further elaborate that the family may be exposed to disorder due to the long disease of guardian since a patient does not have health insurance and this affects the family's economies and becomes a burden on its shoulder and exposes it to terrible crises to face the requirements of the patient [6].

The death, divorce or separation of one or both parents and polygamy are causes of the family crackdown and disunity; the death of one basic member of family may lead to the complete collapse of family structure (Rashwan, 2003:101).

Alkhatib, (2006: 200-201) one of the important causes of marital problems is the lack of contact between couples which mainly resulted from the lack of transparency and frankness in the treatment between the couple [7].

On the other side looking at the effect of family disassembly Turkiyah (2004:176) noted that Individuals are victims of family disassembly in the broken family. When facing many problems, the couple will have frustration and disappointment and mal-adjustment and psychiatric health. This may expose them to some psychiatric diseases such as anxiety, depression, hallucination, obsession and illness fears.

When the family gets disassembled and the rally scattered, the individuals get feeling of social insecurity and inability to face up the problems by seeking the easiest way of solution and reaching their goals without reference to how legal is the way used to reach the goals. There is absence of conscience and of adherence to social regulations and standards dominant to guide an individual to the way acceptable to legally achieve the goals. Juveniles from boys and girls are mainly exposed to delinquency and involvement in criminal behavior due to disassembly of their families (Ibid, 177).

On the other hand Algabere et.al (2001: 91- 93) try to explain that the occurrence of family disassembly within the family leads its individuals to be scattered and be busy in their own personal problems rather than their social responsibilities. Instead of being productive in society, the individual becomes frustrated and in need for efforts to be exerted for the sake of his help in solving the problems to face. The family disassembly also generates psychological frustration influential on every individual of the disassembling family. This leads some of them blame the society that does not help in creating the circumstances for avoiding family disassembly. The individual gives blames for the values supported by the society, declaring rebellion against them. The disobedience to this kind indicates as the behavior expressing the dissatisfaction and this in turn may lead to a kind of cultural behavior contradictory to what is familiar and common in his/her society[8].

III. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The study has been conducted in one city, namely Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. Primary data has been collected by using the techniques of interview, documents, and observation. At first the details of aspects were gathered by using case study method. Ten case studies were done. Thus exploration provided help in preparing an interview guide for parents and children separately. At the second stage, data from 100 single parents have been collected by using the interview guide.

The facts, collected through different sources have been analyzed scientifically in a systematic manner. Case studies have been analyzed qualitatively. All the data collected by using interview guide/schedule (s) were analyzed by using simple statistical techniques, classifying variables of back ground, causes and effects. Such techniques have helped in arriving at findings on the proposed objectives.

IV. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Findings are presented here in the from single parents' perspectives. Before describing the main findings of the study, a brief account on the socio-economic background of the sampled single parents will be dealt under section 4.1. And then the causes and effects of family disassembly from single parent's perspectives will be examined at section 4.2.

4.1. Socio-economic background of the sampled single parents

The study has identified some important particular socio-economic characteristics of the single parents in the city. Significant among them are the majority of single parents (61%) are female, and a large number of them are middle aged (between 36 and 45). The phenomenon of single-parenthood is not confined to the 'illiterate' people as there is also a segment (28%) that has secondary level of education.

In terms of economic/occupational background a larger portion (53%) of them belong to public and private sector employments. Majority (53%) of single parents get salaries as their source of income. Large segment (37%) of single parents belongs to income group which range from 36,000 -45,000 Riyal

per month. However, a considerably big number of single parents (42%) feel that their income is insufficient. Although the majority (59%) of them originally belongs to rural places, their present residences are mostly (56%) at the suburbs, and the residential area of a large number (46%) of them points to the fact that they are neither too poor nor well off. Majority of them dwell in small (52%) and rented (56%) houses, and more than half (51%) of them are of medium sized families (of 5 to 8 members) in comparison with the national standard. Majority of single parents show standards of religious/value based life similar to other people in the country.

Majority (76%) of single parents has TVs and large proportions (85%) of family members do not use alcohol in the family of single parents. greater percentage (93%) of family members do not use drugs in the family of single parents. Generally, single parents are not an independent group of people outside the general social, economic and value standards, but

they share many things with others (see table 1 in the appendix part).

4.2. Family Disassembly from Single Parents' Perspective

From single parents' perspective, the cause that led to the single-parenthood of the large majority (70%) is divorce, and according to a considerable number (23%) of among them the divorce took place due to the unwanted interventions by their relatives in the family their marital life. About one third (32%) of family members of single parents only sometimes meet together after divorce (see Table 2).

Table 2: causes of family disassembly, reason for divorce and relationship after divorce.

The causes that lead to the family disassembly	Number	Percentage
Divorce of spouse	70	70%
Abandonment	3	3%
Going to Prison	4	4%
Polygamy	5	5%
Death of spouse	15	15%
Suffering from any disease	3	3%
Total	100	100%
The Reason for divorce		
Infidelity/Betrayal	5	7%
Lack of understanding between the couple	15	21%
The insufficient income of the parent / Financial problems	20	29%
The relatives` Intervention	23	33%
Polygamy	7	10%
Total	70	100%
Inter-relationship after divorce		
Meet always	21	30%
Meet sometimes	32	46%
Never meet	17	24%
Total	70	100%

Source: Field Survey

4.2.1. Impact of Family Disassembly on Children

From the perspective of single parents the impact of family disassembly on children has been observed in terms of children living with/without parent, their visiting the other parent, care by other parent, reasons of inability in providing care by single parents, extent of satisfaction with raising children alone, the reason of dissatisfaction with raising children alone, treatment of children by single parents when coming back home late, whether children have school drop-out, reason behind their school drop-out.

Larger segments (42%) of children are forced to live with their mothers. Majority (54%) of children is not visited by other single parents. Children receive care to some extent by single

parents with whom they live (42%). A Small number (16%) of children with no care provided is due to the reason of inability of single parents to provide security. About 40% of single parents are not satisfied with their raising the children alone and 20% of single parents attribute the reason of their dissatisfaction of their inability in providing enough love and care to children. About 40% of children gets punished by single parents if they come back late. Majority (66%) of children do not drop out their school. A segment (20%) of children drops out their school due to the reason of the inability of single parents to meet the study expenses (see Table 3).

Table 3: Impact of Family Disassembly on Children from single parent Perspective

The children live	Number	Percentage
With the father	22	22%
With the mother	42	42%
Distributed between the two	36	36%
Total	100	100%
Children Visited by parents		
Yes	31	36%
No	54	64%
Total	85	100%
Children Given Enough Care		
Yes	24	24%
To some extent	42	42%
No	34	34%
Total	100	100%
Reasons		
Inability to provide security	16	47%
Failure to meet their needs	11	32%
Inability to solve their problems	7	21%
Total	34	100%
Satisfied With Raising		
Yes	27	27%
To some extent	33	33%
No	40	40%
Total	100	100%
Answer is (not) Why		
The inability to provide them with enough love and care	20	50%
The weakness of my personality to control them.	12	30%
Being indifferent about their appearance and their food times	8	20%
Total	40	100%
The Children Coming Back Home Late		
Never come back late	13	13%
Nothing is done	20	20%
I give them advice	27	27%
Punish them	40	40%
Total	100	100%
School drop-out		
Yes	34	34%
No	66	66%
Total	100	100%
Reason School Drop-out of School		
Inability to meet the study expenses	20	59%
Repeated failure	10	29%
Working to support family	4	12%
Total	34	100%

Source: Field Survey

4.2.2. Impact of Family Disassembly on Family Itself

From their perspective of single parents the impact of family disassembly on family itself has been observed in terms of their feeling after separation of single parents, society's perspective towards single parents, extent of disobedience of children to single parents, whether their behavioral change

towards family members occurs, and extent of their behavior change.

About one third (31%) of single parents feels worried and depressed after separation. A large number (39%) of single parents expressed their displeasure of society towards them by tracking their movements and behavior. A good segment (31%)

of children often disobeys the authority of their single parents. Majority (56%) of single parents does not change their behavior towards family members after separation. A small number (19%)

of single parents who change their behavior is due to the feeling of nervousness and losing temper over trivial things (see table 4).

Table 4: Family disassembly on family itself observed in terms of single parent’s feeling after separation

Feeling after Separation	Number	Percentage
Worried and depressed	31	31%
Isolated from social life	19	19%
Interested in revenge	27	27%
Nothing	23	23%
Total	100	100%
How Society Look upon you		
With sympathy & support and respect	33	33%
With envy and greed	28	28%
Tracking of movements and behavior	39	39%
Total	100	100%
The Extent of disobedience of children		
Always	20	20%
Often	31	31%
Rarely	28	28%
Never	21	21%
Total	100	100%
The Change in your behavior		
Yes	44	44%
No	56	56%
Total	100	100%
The Change you feel		
Tendency towards revenge and hostility	11	23%
Lack of love and care for them	14	34%
Nervous and losing temper over trivial things	19	43%
Total	44	100%

Source: Field Survey

4.2.3. Impact of Family Disassembly on Society

From the perspective of single parents the impact of family disassembly on society has been observed in terms of whether family disassembly affect society, its various effects on society, behavioral problems of single parents observation in children after the family disassembly , feeling of children after family disassembly, suggestions for maintaining the cohesion of the family.

Majority (77%) of single parents feels that the family disassembly affects society at large. About one third (31%) of

single parents, who expresses the effect of family disassembly on society, shows this effect as dispersal of family members leading to disintegration. Large segment (37%) of children, after the family disassembly, acquires the behavior of rebellion. Large segment (37%) of children feels insecure after the family disassembly and the lowest number (17%) who says that children get hatred towards family and relative. A segment (30%) of single parents suggests careful selection of spouse in order to maintain the cohesion of the family (See table 5).

Table 5: Impact of family disassembly on society

Affects society	Number	Percentage
Yes	77	77%
No	23	23%
Total	100	100%
Effects Society		
Disruption of human resources of production	9	12%
Adopt a different culture from the culture of the society as a kind of revenge and rebellion	11	14%
Children turn to be outlaws and criminals in the society	18	23%
Dispersal of family members	24	31%
It weakens relationship among relatives	15	20%
Total	77	100%
The behavioral problem		
Rebellious	37	37%
Deviate	23	23%
Introvert	22	22%
No problem	18	18%
Total	100	100%
The Children feel after the family disassembly		
They feel insecure	37	37%
The feel to be inferior	27	27%
Hatred to family and relatives	17	17%
They feel nothing	19	19%
Total	100	100%
Suggestion		
Careful selection of spouse	30	30%
Relatives must not intervene in internal matters of the spouses	21	21%
To have one wife only/ monogamy	12	12%
To provide children with the necessary needs	18	18%
Family issues should be paid attention by mass media and through family specialized centers	19	19%

Source: Field Survey

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study finds that families in Sana'a are becoming nuclear, the social organizations are taking more responsibilities, and family disassembly is taking place due to death, divorce and abandonment and lesser ability to perform basic roles for children's upbringing. To this extent the findings of present study are similar to the above study of Tomim (1997).

The results of the study also indicates that the size of family, the income of the family create an environment for emerging family problems i.e. divorce which in turn leads the

juveniles to involve delinquency. To this extent the findings of the present study are similar to a study conducted by Al-kamali (2008).

Moreover, the present study shows that the deviant behavior of fathers is imitated by their children those become juveniles. The results of this study further indicates that the weakness of family solidarity, the lack of good family relationship, the divorce and the loss of one parent are factors causing juvenile delinquency.

The present study finds that the family plays an important role in framing children's attitudes. It also indicates that the

family suffering from relationship tensions exposes its children to involve delinquency. Finally, the results of the study indicates that some children absence of one parent become juvenile delinquents.

Therefore this study recommends that relatives should not interfere in the disputes between husband and wife and care should be taken before hand in choosing the partner that is likely to enhance the integrity of the family. Moreover, media should pay more attention to family issues to help strengthening family ties. Finally the role of state and civil society organizations should be activated for resolving the problems of society, family in particular. And more studies and researches in future on the

family problems, especially the problem of family disassembly and its effects, should be undertaken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am thankful to Professor J.K. Pundir, faculty member at the department of Sociology, University of Chaudhary Charan Singh, Meerut, India for assist and guiding me from the inception of this paper.

Table1: Socio-economic background of the sampled single parents.

Sex of the Single parent	Number	Percentage
Male	39	39%
Female	61	61%
Total	100	100%
Age group		
25-35	26	26%
36-45	43	43%
46-55	22	22%
Above 55	9	9%
Total	100	100%
Level of education		
Illiterate	26	26%
Primary	22	22%
Secondary	28	28%
Graduate and above	24	24%
Total	100	100%
Occupation		
Employee	53	53%
Nonemployee	47	47%
Total	100	100%
Occupation		
Employee	53	53%
Professional/craftsmen	8	8%
Farmer	5	5%
Housewife	34	34%
Total	100	100%
Sources income		
Free business	14	14%
Salary	53	53%
Support from others	33	33%
Total	100	100%
Income of the family		
Less than 15,000	14	14%
15,000 – 25,000	16	16%
26,000 - 35,000	22	22%
36,000 – 45,000	37	37%

45,000 and above	11	11%
Total	100	100%
The degree this income is sufficient		
Sufficient	20	20%
Quite Sufficient	38	38%
Insufficient	42	42%
Total	100	100%
The original place of residence		
Urban	41	41%
Rural	59	59%
Total	100	100%
Present place of residence		
The outskirts of the City	56	56%
In the City	44	44%
Total	100	100%
The nature of the residence area		
Lower	41	41%
Middle	46	46%
High-class	13	13%
Total	100	100%
Family size		
2 - 4(small)	22	22%
5-8(medium)	51	51%
9 and above(large)	27	27%
Total	100	100%
Ownership Status of House		
Personal ownership	36	36%
Rented	56	56%
Public(Govt.)	8	8%
Total	100	100%
The house		
Personal ownership	36	36%
Rented	56	56%
Public(Govt.)	8	8%
Total	100	100%
The family have TV		
Yes	76	76%
No	24	24%
Total	100	100%
Use Alcohol		
Yes	15	15%
No	85	85%
Total	100	100%
Use drugs		
Yes	7	7%
No	93	93%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Survey

REFERENCES

- [1] **Alhasan, Ehsan.** Mohammed, _Sociology of crime (Dar Wael for Press, Amman, 2008, pp: 324).
- [2] **Alzuabi, M,** Criminal Psychology (Sana'a University, Markez Aubady, 1997).
- [3] **Ghaith, Mohammed.** Attif, Dictionary of Sociology (The General Egyptian Authority for Book, Alexandria, 1979).
- [4] **Rashwan, Hasan Abdulhamid,** The Family and Society (Shabab Aljamia Establishment, Alexandria, 2003).
- [5] **Turkiyah, Baha addin Khalil,** The Family Sociology (Alahali, Damascus, (Syria), 2004).
- [6] **Alkamali, Jamila,** The Family Disassembly and its Relationship with Juvenile's Delinquency, a Case Study in Sana'a, M.A. Thesis University, Adan, Department of Sociology, Adan, Yemen, 2008.
- [7] **Alkhatib, Salwa Abdulhamid,** A Viewpoint on The Family Sociology (Almasriya for Press Services, Cairo, 2006).
- [8] **Algabere, Ameena, Alsana Salha and Althany, Alanuad,** The Family Disassembly: Causes and Suggesting Solution (Nation Book, Qatar, 2001)

AUTHORS

First Author – Kamel Ahmed Mohammed Alalimi.
Ph.D.Scholar, Ch.Charan Singh University, Meerut, India. E-mail: kml.alalimi@gmail.com