

Exploring the challenges facing primary School pupils in learning after parents'

Divorce in temeke municipality, dar es salaam

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This study explored the challenges which are facing primary school pupils in learning after their parents' divorce in Temeke Municipality, Dar es Salaam. It specifically focused on: Identifying the challenges that face primary school pupils in learning after parental divorce; Investigating how primary school pupils cope with the situation of parental divorce in learning, and highlighting the influence of divorce to primary school pupils in the process of learning. The study employed qualitative research approach, by involving 26 participants. Data collection instruments were by the use of interviews and documentary review. The study found that divorce has a negative influence on the academic performance of pupils in schools, where the influence revealed itself in education attainment or school performance and poor attendance, also poor learning behavior and activities done after school hours. Further study findings discovered that participants experience various psychological traumas like sadness, confusion, hunger, rejection, fear, distress low self-esteem and difficulties in getting along with other family members. It was further noted that participants needed more of emotional support, coping strategies employed involved accepting the situation, studying hard, engaging in petty trade and doing other payable activities so as to generate income. Furthermore early sexual practices were a negative behavior adopted by those who were unable to cope appropriately with the situation so that they could survive. The study concludes that, parents are called to accommodate their family differences and act on the welfare of their children during and after divorce so as to avoid traumatic experiences to their children in the long run. The study recommends that, counseling services in schools should be carried out by professional counselors, who will help these pupils from divorced parents to be free to speak out about their problems including family matters which could help them to cope with the situation. Not only that but also the study recommends that government, through relevant ministries, should join hands with non-governmental organizations, civil societies, parents, religious institutions and school management to work towards supporting pupils from divorced families in providing education.