



Literature Review: Correlation Between Parental Divorce and Success in College

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Introduction

Having divorced parents is a common reality for many children in the United States. Because of this prevalence, it is important to understand how it may affect children, adolescents, and young adults as they continue in their development. Children are naturally resilient but adverse childhood experiences can still affect development. Divorce is considered an adverse childhood experience (ACE). ACE's can affect children in many ways, including their education. There is so much pressure to succeed in college in order to thrive in life. This literature review seeks to focus on how parental divorce affects educational attainment and its relation to success in college.



Coverage

- Literature was identified based on research and key terms.
- Key terms included “affects of divorce,” “varying reactions in children,” “adverse childhood experiences,” “parental divorce,” “college success,” “educational attainment,” and “varying reactions.”
- The Tech Library and Google Scholar were the search engines used for this literature review.

Methodology

- A literature review is a summary, review, and synthesis of already published information or research. It discusses and evaluates a collection of different information and research about a topic.
- Steps for conducting a literature review:
 1. Choose your topic and formulate a research question.
 2. Decide how broad or narrow of a scope is needed.
 3. Select databases for conducting your research.
 4. Search for literature using key terms.
 5. Review the literature.
 6. Organize findings into a literature review.



Significance

- Experiencing parental divorce is common.
- Divorce can have negative effects on a child.
- If educational attainment suffers in grade school, earning a college degree is difficult.
- Education is important for earning finances.
- Success in college is a self-esteem builder and prepares a person to thrive in life.



Results

- The most common definition of college success is earning good grades and high GPAs.
- College students who reported having adverse childhood experiences, were more likely to experience depression during college.
- Adolescents who experience parental divorce have lower academic ambitions.
- Parental divorce negatively affects children’s educational attainment.
- Experiencing parental divorce affects nonwhite and white children differently.
- Lower educational attainment was more likely for children whose parent’s divorce was less likely.
- Children’s reactions to parental divorce vary.
- The likelihood of risky behaviors is higher for children who have experienced parental divorce.

Conclusions

- This literature review concluded that parental divorce may have an affect on a child’s educational attainment and when that is compromised, the likelihood of succeeding in college decreases.
- This is important because something that is commonly happening to children, adolescents, and young adults is having negative implications on how well they thrive in their education and in their life.
- Parents and professionals should be involved in encouraging children’s academic ambition during this time.

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