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Exploring single parenting process in Malaysia: Issues and coping strategies

By [Abd Hamid, SR](#) (Abd Hamid, Siti Rafiah) ^[1]; [Salleh, S](#) (Salleh, Sakinah) ^[1]

Are you this author?

Edited by [Uzunboyulu, H](#) (Uzunboyulu, H); [Demirok, M](#) (Demirok, M)

Are you this author?

Source 3RD WORLD CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE, WCPCG-2012
Volume: 84 Page: 1154-1159

DOI: 10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.06.718

Book Series Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences

Published 2013

Indexed 2013-11-07

Document Type Proceedings Paper

Conference Meeting: [3rd World Conference on Psychology, Counselling and Guidance \(WCPCG\)](#)

Location: Efes, TURKEY

Date: MAY 09-12, 2012

Abstract Parents play a significant role in shaping the emotional and personality development of their children. However, single parents encounter double major roles, i.e. the parenting role and the role of a sole breadwinner for their family. This double role, leads a single working mother into having social and psychological problems. Previous studies reported occurrences of depression and emotional distress among children of single parents, high risks of school drop-outs, substance abuse, premarital sex and teenage pregnancies as well as neglected children. Single parents were found physically, mentally and emotionally unprepared which lead to a collapse of the family structure. Hence, through series of interviews, we explored and validated the coping strategies adopted by a sample of single Malay working widows and divorcees. The result of this study as well as previous studies indicated the importance of social support system in helping the single Malay working women effectively. (C) 2013 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. Selection and peer-review under responsibility of Prof. Dr. Huseyin Uzunboylu & Dr. Mukaddes Demirok, Near East University, Cyprus

Keywords Author Keywords: [Single Parenting](#); [Working Mothers](#); [Support System](#); [Coping Strategies](#); [Counseling](#)

Author Information

Addresses :

▼ ¹ Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Inst Educ, Selangor Darul Ehsan 53100, West Malaysia, Malaysia

E-mail Addresses :

srafiah60@iium.edu.my**Categories/ Classification**

Research Areas: Psychology; Social Sciences - Other Topics

Citation [6 Social](#) [6.178 Gender, Inequality & Social](#) [6.178.516 Family Fertility](#)
Topics: [Sciences](#) [Structure](#) [Dynamics](#)

Sustainable Development Goals: [05 Gender Equality](#); [03 Good Health and Well-being](#)**Web of Science Categories**[Psychology, Multidisciplinary](#); [Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary](#)[+ See more data fields](#)**Journal information**

3RD WORLD CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE, WPCPG-2012

ISSN

1877-0428

Current Publisher

ELSEVIER SCIENCE BV, SARA BURGERHARTSTRAAT 25, PO BOX 211, 1000 AE
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Research Areas

Psychology; Social Sciences - Other Topics