

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENT CHILDREN WITH ONE PARENT

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Abstract

The loss of a close person (i.e. family member, close friend, etc) has lasting psychological and emotional effects. Retrospective studies have revealed that a variety of psychiatric disorders may be caused by the loss of someone; such as depression, anxiety, panic syndrome, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These disorders are of particular interest to study and to further learn how some people cope with the loss in a healthy manner and others don't. The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of the death of a parent, and its effect on the emotional development of an adolescent child. The theoretical model for this study is based on extensive research and theories of death as a traumatic process. A detailed analysis will be performed to examine the relation of the three key elements of this study: death, adolescence and emotional development. More specifically, this study will examine the impact of the death of a parent on the self-esteem (or lack thereof) of the surviving adolescent child, and investigate their capacity to build and maintain healthy social relationships. This study aims to: Analyze the impact of the death of a parent on the adolescent child. Compare the self-esteem and social relationships among adolescents with a parent and adolescents with two parents. Hypothesis: Loss of a loved one affects the self-esteem of the surviving adolescent son /daughter by changing the contents of the social network relations. Instruments to be used in the proof or disproof the hypotheses regarding the impact of self-esteem and social relations of the death of one parent are: the Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale and a questionnaire designed to measure the comparative disparity levels of social attitude among adolescents with and without a parent. Participant ages will be limited to 15- 18 years of age.

Keywords: *death, adolescence, emotional development, social relation networks.*