

Psycho-social Responses of Children Living with Divorced/Separated Mothers as Compared to Children Living with Both Parents on Aggression from The State of Nagaland, India.

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Abstract-

Parents plays a very important role in the development of child in our society. Children deprived of love and affection of father does have an impact on their emotional growth. Aggression is described as an emotional state which is followed by feeling of anger or antipathy resulting in action of unwanted tantrums, blaming, disliking or negative feeling towards others. In the present research children of divorced/separated parents living with their mothers only were measured on aggression and compared with children living with both parents. Purposive sampling was adopted on children, both male and female with a mean age of 8 years. The sample consists of 60 children, 30 children of divorced/separated parents and 30 from the comparative group. All the samples were selected from the state of Nagaland. A socio-demographic information schedule was employed on each participant to collect basic information about each participant. The tool for measurement of aggression adopted was Children's Apperception Test (CAT) Human Figures developed by Leopold Bellak, Sonya Sorel Bellak and Marvin S Hurvich specifically for use of children with 3 to 10 years. The CAT is a projective measure of personality and the children were scored as per the manual using both quantitative and qualitative method. The CAT scores revealed that significant difference in aggression among both parenting family patterns as hypothesized. Divorced/separated children expressed father's anger in their responses and children also showed anxiety in the stories narrated, while children living with both parents did not report much about aggressive behaviours in their stories.

Key words: children, parenting, divorced/separated, aggression, projective, personality.

1. Introduction

Nagaland is a small state in the northeast part of India. There are 16 tribes and sub-minor tribes in Nagaland. These 16 recognised tribes have their own laws and customs, and their tradition and values are passed on from generation to generation. Nagas follows a patriarchal Divorce/separation among the couples is an unplanned event in a family's life. It affects every member of the family and brings stressful experiences that begins with marital conflict before the actual separation and includes many adjustments afterwards (Berns, 2007). With divorce, children suffer the pain of losing their parents and the stable family that they had, since they were born. These children have to deal with multiple stressors due to the changes in their family structure, routine, schools, and friends. Their emotional and economic stability of families is also impacted by their parent's level of adjustment, parental competence, and post-divorce parental difficulties. The combination of all these unexpected experiences put these children in a difficult situation where they have to overcome psychological and economic

hardships, and a set of confusing feelings that may affect their emotional stability and their relations with others (Hughes, 2009). Some studies suggest that younger children may be more affected as compared to the older ones when the parents get divorced, due to the rapid developments during the early childhood (Cavanagh and Huston, 2008; Emery, 2011; Heard, 2007; Pagani et al., 1997; Strohschein, Roos and Brownell, 2009). Young children may not be able to express and understand what is happening to them and may not be able to deal with the situation. (Ambert, 2009; Rogers, 2004). They may have only few friends and teachers to find for moral support during such circumstances. Parental divorce do affect the children psychologically. However, what are consistent are the effects that this traumatic experience may have in their lifetime. Amato (1996) demonstrates that the younger the child is when his parent's divorce, it will negatively affect child's communication behaviour.

Aggression is described as an emotional state which is followed by feeling of anger or antipathy resulting in action of unwanted tantrums, blaming, disliking or negative feeling towards others. Aggression is a behaviour intended to harm others and it is perceived to be hurtful by the victim. Children can be mean to others which can involves physical aggression, verbal insults and nonverbal expression of aloofness and hatred (Underwood, Galen, & Paquette, 2001). DeBord (1997) notes children's reactions to parental divorce may vary by age at the time of the separation. School age children may react with sadness, somatic complaints, and intense anger towards parents. Children from separated families compared with those from intact families are at higher risk of a host of problematic mental health and well-being outcomes including depression, anxiety, aggression, and delinquency (Amato and Keith, 1991).

2. Objectives of the study –

- To identify aggression in children belonging to divorced/separated parents
- To identify aggression in children living with both parents.
- To compare aggression of children belonging to both family pattern
- To discover the patterns of aggression in the children of both family structure

3. Hypothesis

H₀ There exists significant difference among children living with divorced/separated mothers and children living with both parents on aggression.

4. Methods

Both quantitatively and qualitative method of research was adopted to study aggression of both family pattern. There was a clear picture of aggression as the qualitative method was directly based on responses of each child by observing their reactions one on one.

4.1. Participants: The participants included 30 children from divorced/separated parents and 30 from children living with both parents. The age range included an average of 6-10 years who were school going children and both male and female. The participants were from the state of Nagaland belonging to different tribes.

4.2. Tools:

- A socio-demographic information schedule prepared by the researchers and was employed to collect information about every child.
- Children's Apperception Test (CAT) Human Figures developed by Leopold Bellak, Sonya Sorel Bellak and Marvin S Hurvich specifically for use with children only. The CAT consists of 10 human pictures. The CAT is a projective measure of personality traits and attitudes. Each card has a main identification figure with which the child is expected to identify or to take perspective of the figure. The characters signifying mother, father, sibling or relative figures as well as environmental forces. CAT is an attempt to depict scenes which would elicit materials relevant to important situations and problems in the child's life (feeding, rivalry, aggression, loneliness, interactions with parental figures etc).

5. Data Analysis

After the data collection, each and every information collected from the socio-demographic schedule was compiled in tabular form and all the recorded and written stories of respondents who were children, were compiled and each story was read carefully and every detail was scored according to scoring manual of Children Apperception Test (Human Figures). For the quantitative methods, the number of times Aggression occurred in the stories narrated by the children, were recorded in tabular form and interpreted and analysed statistically for which descriptive and inferential statistics i.e mean SD and t-test was applied. The qualitative method followed was done by Mary R Haworth and Lawton as given in the manual where any theme found in the records of 20% of the subjects was defined as a stable theme. Keeping in mind the objective, responses from each participant were carefully scored.

6. Results and Discussion-

The results obtained from the data was analysed systematically and is presented graphically below.

Socio Demographic Schedule of the participants from Different Family Structure

The Socio-demographic schedule was developed by the researchers keeping in mind the objectives of the study. The basic information of every child was presented in tabular form which had been valuable for this particular research study.

6.1 Tribes of the Participants

Figure 6.1.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated Mothers

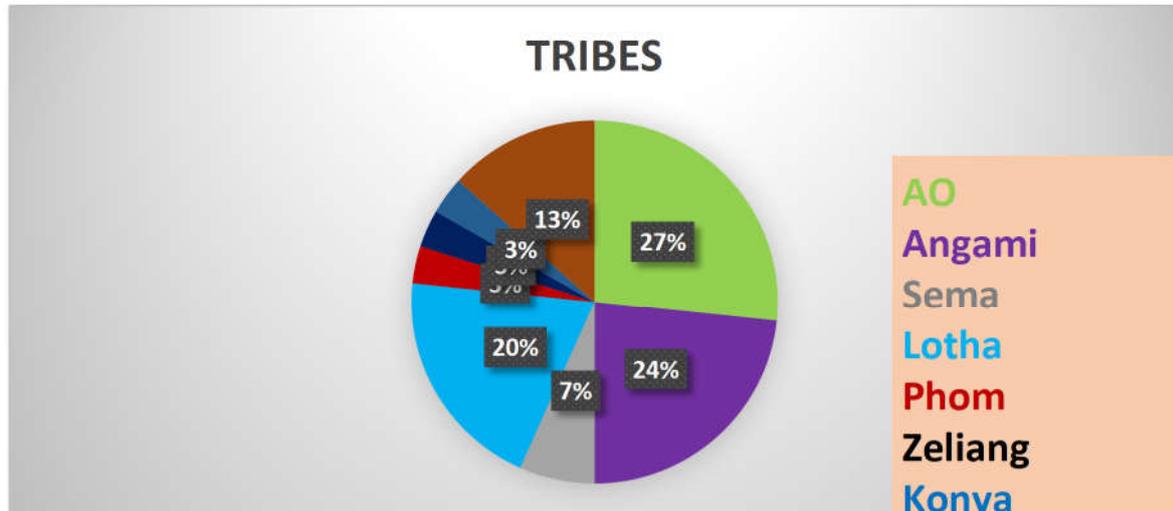
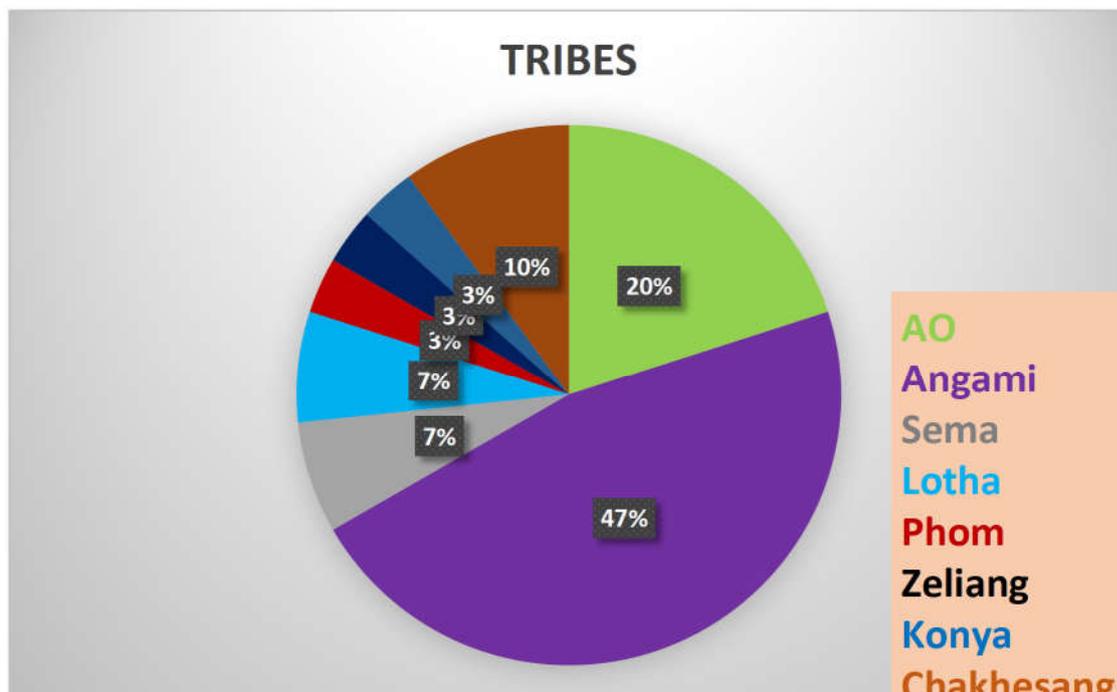


Figure 6.1.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



Figure, clearly indicate that most of the children from both type of family structures belonged to the Ao and Angami tribes. The samples were collected irrespective of the tribes and was done according to the availability of the participants from the different family structure. Irrespective of whichever tribe they belonged to, the concept of separation of mothers from fathers were criticized within the Naga community. Although, sympathy was more for the

mothers whose fathers did not take care of the children and did not bother to spend time with the children.

Figure 6.1.3: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/ separated Mothers

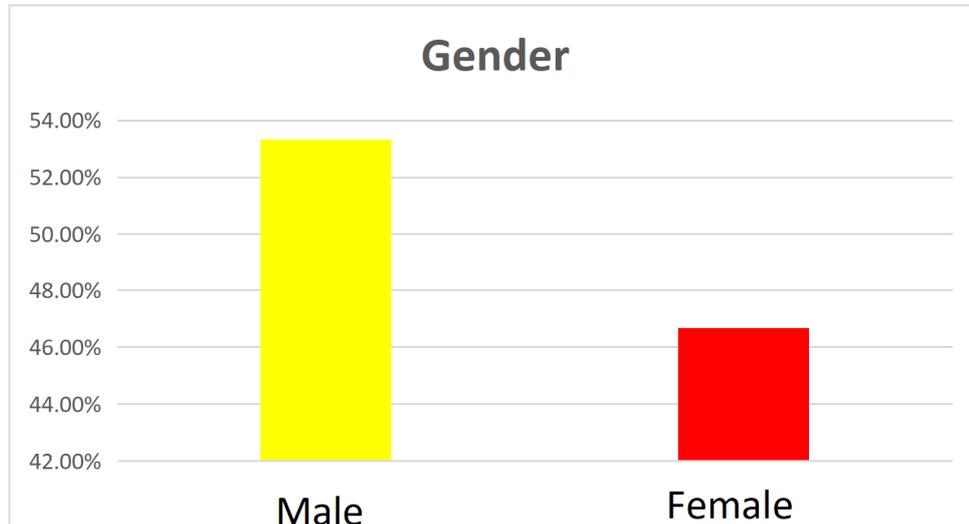
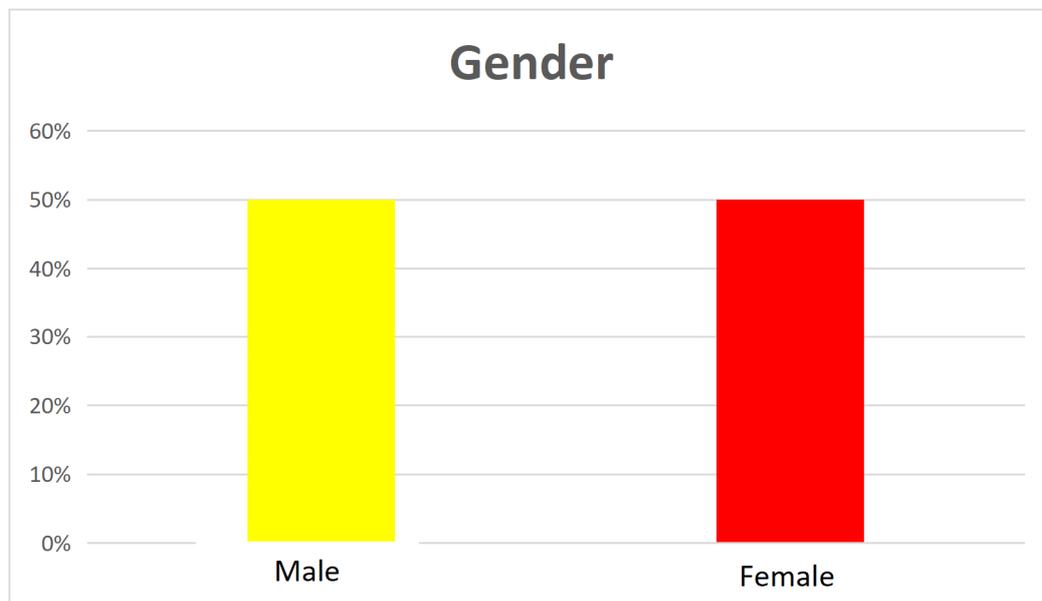


Figure 6.1.4: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parent



The results in the above figure shows the percentage of male and female children who participated in the study. There were 53% male participated and 47% female children participated from divorced/separated family. Both male and female were 50% each from the families were children were raised by both parents. Data were collected according to the availability of the children especially in case of divorced/separated children because children were taken only from those family who were residing with their mothers. The Psycho-social

responses were not collected gender wise and each child irrespective of the gender had given their responses for comparison, with regard to single mother and their upbringing from children perspective and gender bias if at all existed was included in this study. The comparable group which consisted of both parents did show differences in children of both genders in their psycho-social responses.

6.2. Mean Age of the Children

Figure 6.2.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated mothers

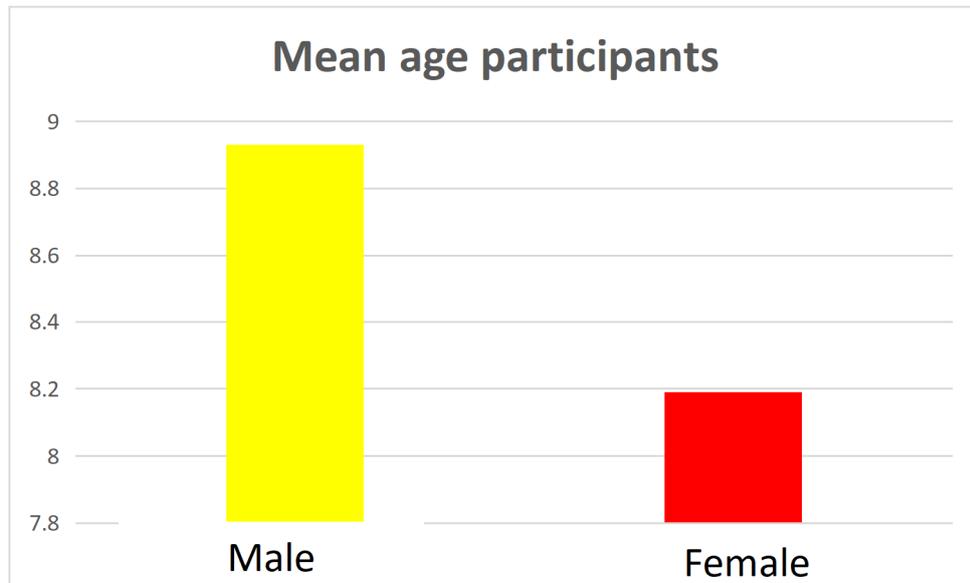
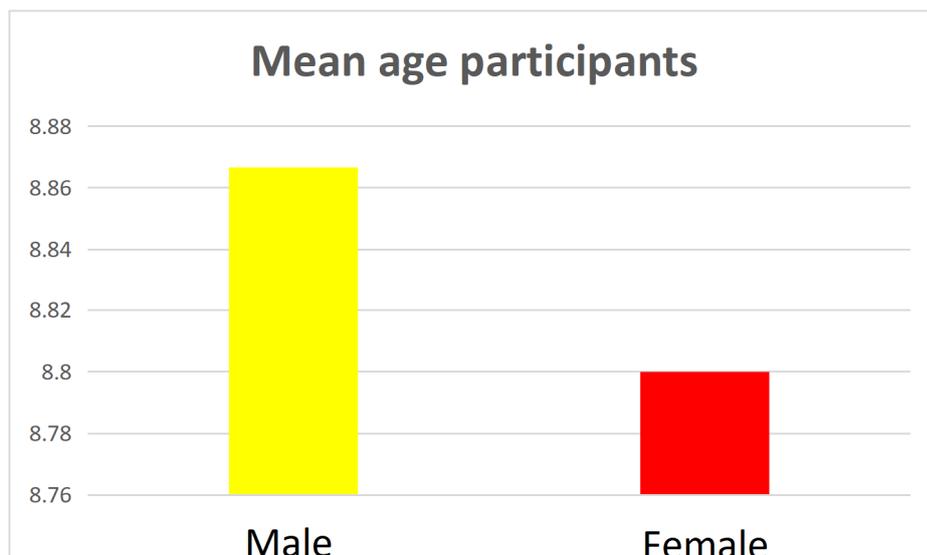


Figure 6.2.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



Children raised by divorced/separated mothers were above 8 years for both male and female as well as 8 years for both male and female children raised by both wedded parents. The age of all the participant were related to the study done by Leopald Bellak, Sonya Sorel Bellak

and Marvin S Hurvich as per the manual where the picture shown were meant for children of similar age group. The average age of the children also did show, that they were of the similar age group among both family types and they equally participated in the present research, yet they had shown significance differences with regard to psychosocial responses produced. Thus, these 2 distinct families did prove that age was not the major contributing factor in the children’s psycho-social responses.

6.3 Standard of the Children

Figure 6.3.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by Divorced/Separated Mothers

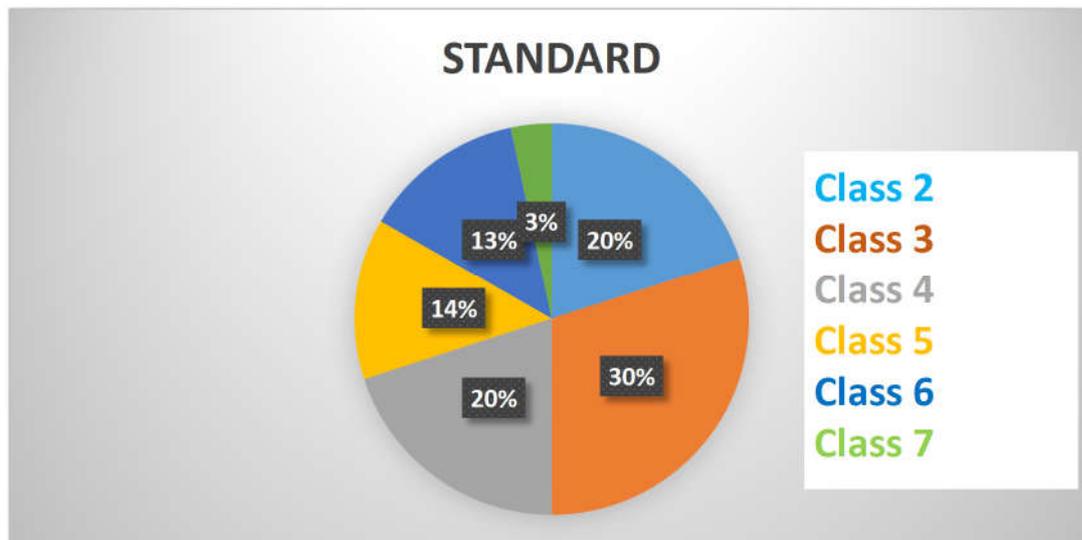
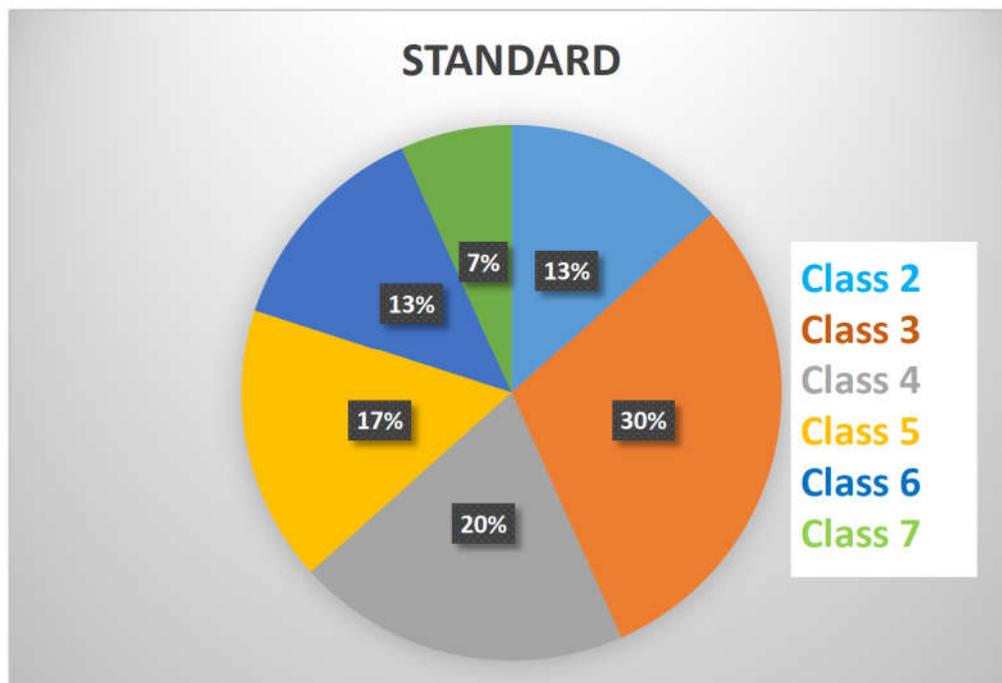


Figure 6.3.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by Both Wedded Parent



Children who belonged to divorced/separated were mostly from class 3 (30 %) followed class 4 and class 2 (20%) and class 5 (14%) and the rest were below 14%. And children who lived with both parents were also mostly from class 3 (30 %) class 4 (20%) class 5 (17%) class 2 and class 6 (13%) and the rest were below 13%. We can see that most children who participated in this research study were from standard 2, 3 and 4 and 5 in both the family patterns. All the participants were school going children. This clearly depicts peer relation that exist among these children were similar and these children did interact with children from other distinct families too. So, their schooling peer interaction, learning opportunities were similar except that the children came from single mother families and the comparable group came from children having both parents, their other activities remain same. Yet differences in their responses do exist.

6.4. Type of Family

Figure 6.4.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated Mothers

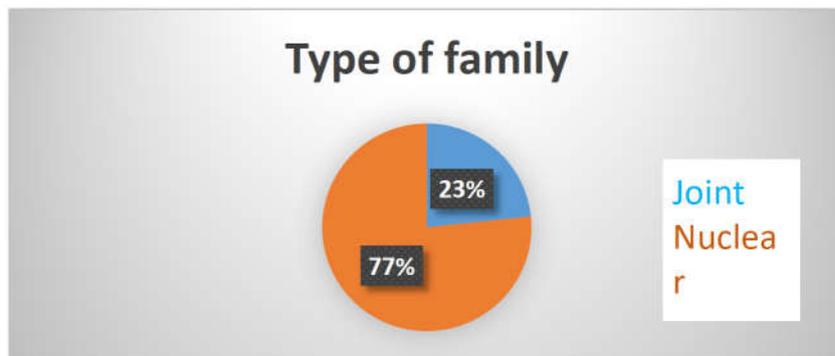
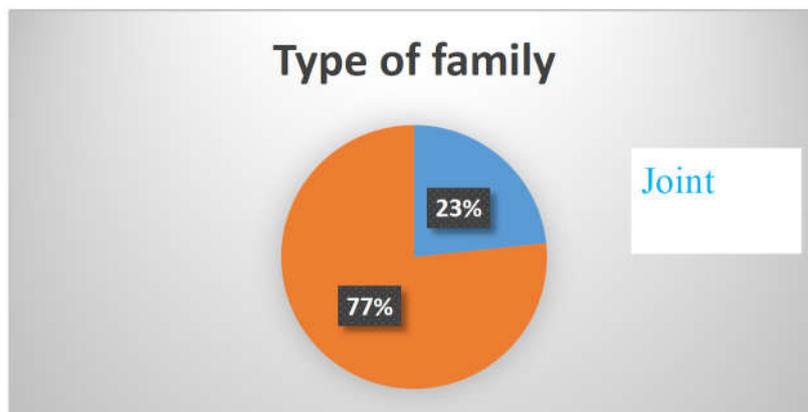


Figure 6.4.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



Above figures shows that 77% of the children live in nuclear family among divorced/separated mothers and same is with children living with both parents incidentally, while among single mothers 23% of them live in joint families i.e with their maternal grandparents. It is also 23%, with the children living with both parents, except that they live with their paternal grandparents in joint families.

From the graphical representation, we can clearly see that the participants belonging to the Naga families were mostly nuclear family. Here, the children from single mothers who lives in a joint family resides with maternal grandparents and maternal aunts and uncles. And for children living with both parents, live with their paternal grandparents. The responses given by each child irrespective of the family pattern they belonged to, did appear clear indicating the absence of father among the children raised by single mothers which was clearly visible from the responses they made in the CAT stories.

6.5. No of Family Members

Figure 6.5.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated Mothers

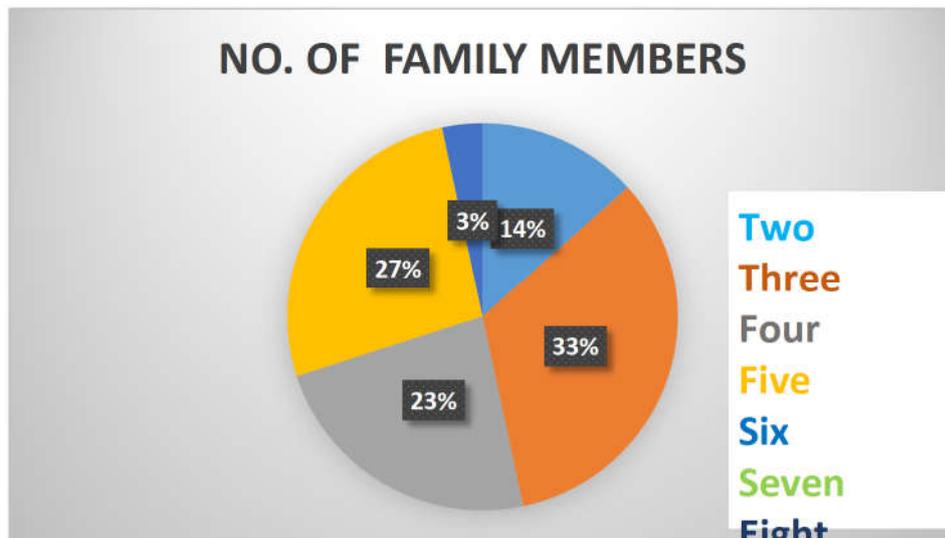
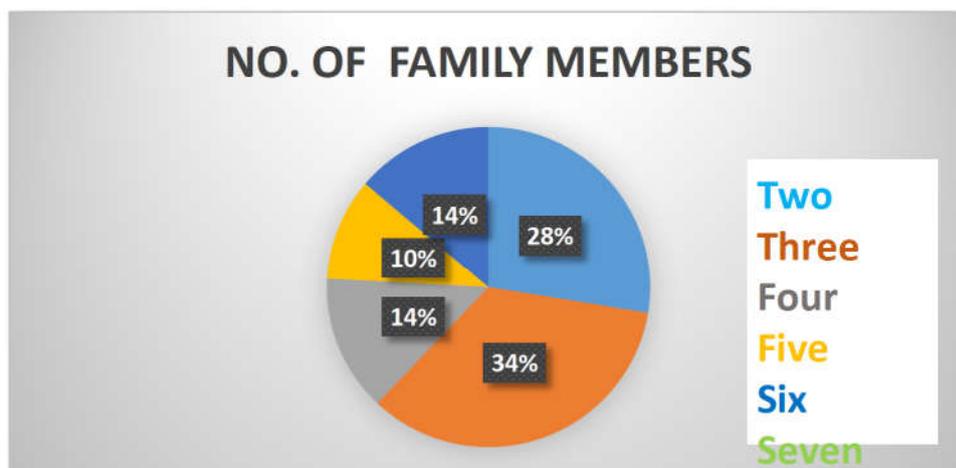


Figure 6.5.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



Divorced family children mostly had 3 (34%) family members. Children with both parents are also having the same number of family 3 (34%). There are no differences in the family members and their interaction because some children come from joint families among the divorced families and also families with both parents. Some divorced mothers have 2 children

and some live with one parent and a child. Overall, all children did get equal opportunities for social interaction even though clear distinction exist in the psycho-social responses among the children from the 2 distinct families.

6.6. Number of Sibling

Figure 6.6.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated Mothers

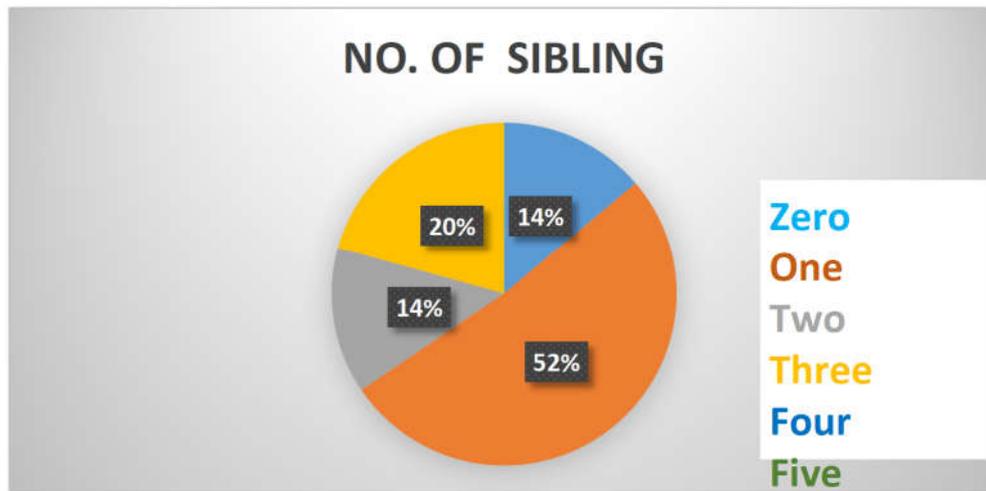
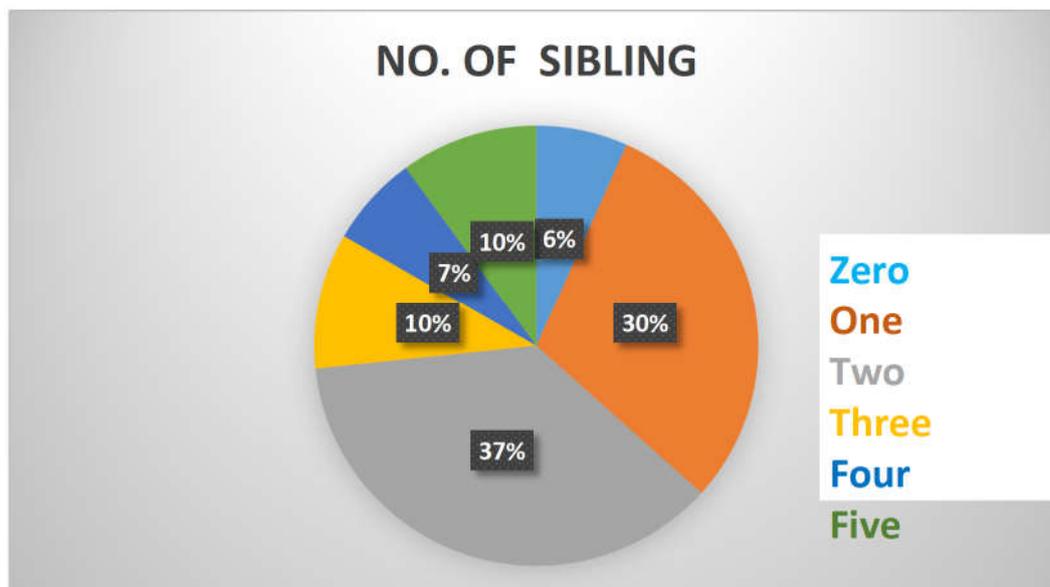


Figure 6.6.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



The child participants from divorced parents had mostly one sibling (52%) and children living with both parents had mostly two siblings (36%). In Nagaland, the concept of family planning is not given much importance and parents give birth to more than 2 children and believe in having larger families. But, interestingly during the course of this research it was discovered that all children who participated in the research from divorced/separated families

did not have more than 2 children. Therefore, the parents did not live longer than 4 to 5 years together before they got separated.

6.7. Father's Occupation

Figure 6.7.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated mothers

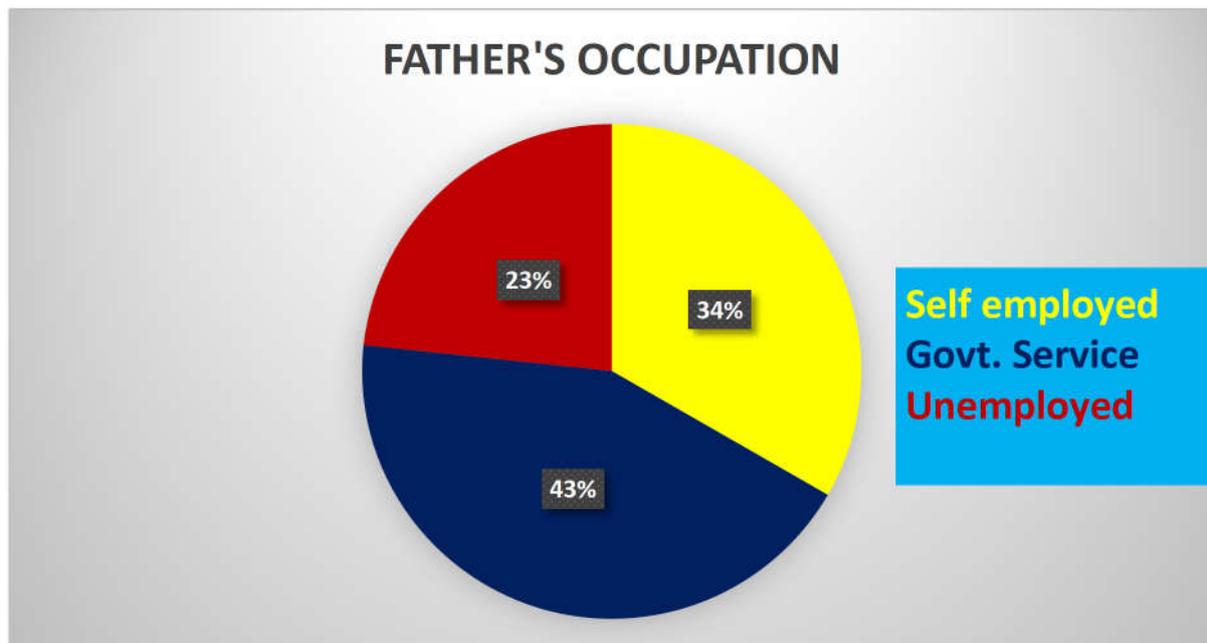


Figure 6.7.2: Graphical representation of Children by both Wedded Parents

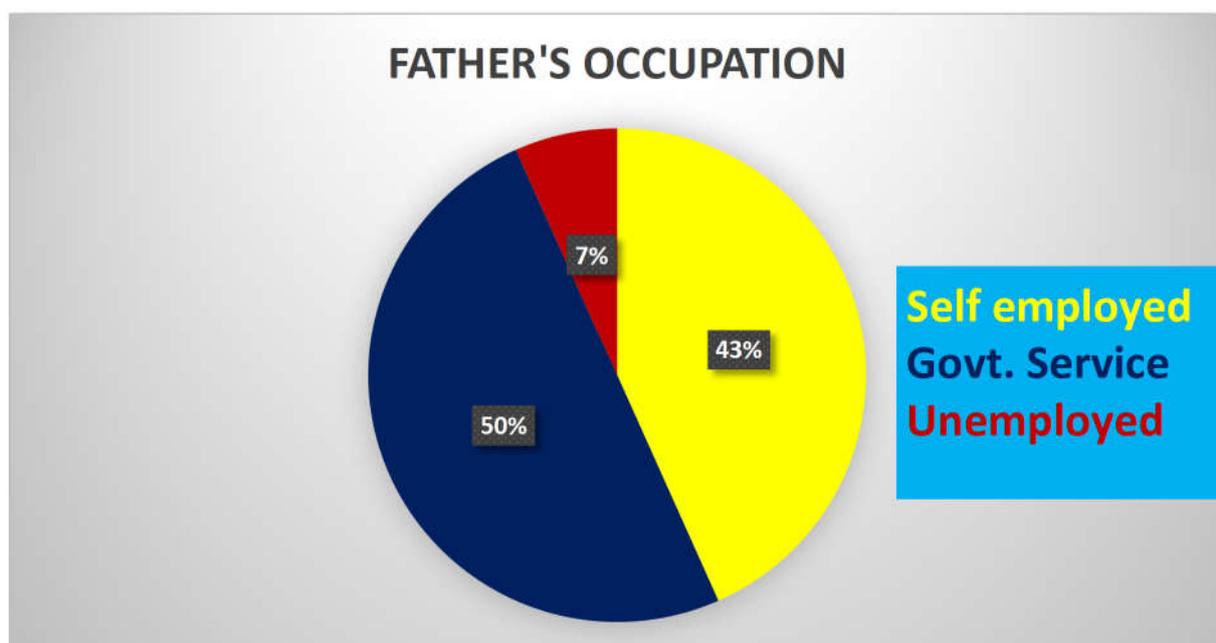


Figure above shows that the father’s occupation of divorced /Separated children were mostly into Government Service (43%) and (34%) were self-employed and (23%) were unemployed. Fathers’ occupation of children living with both parents are mostly into Government Service (50%) and were quite well off. (43%) were self-employed and only (7%) were unemployed. Thus, the fathers with whom the children lived did get better financial benefits then those who lived with their mothers alone.

6.8. Mother’s Occupation

Figure 6.8.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated Mothers

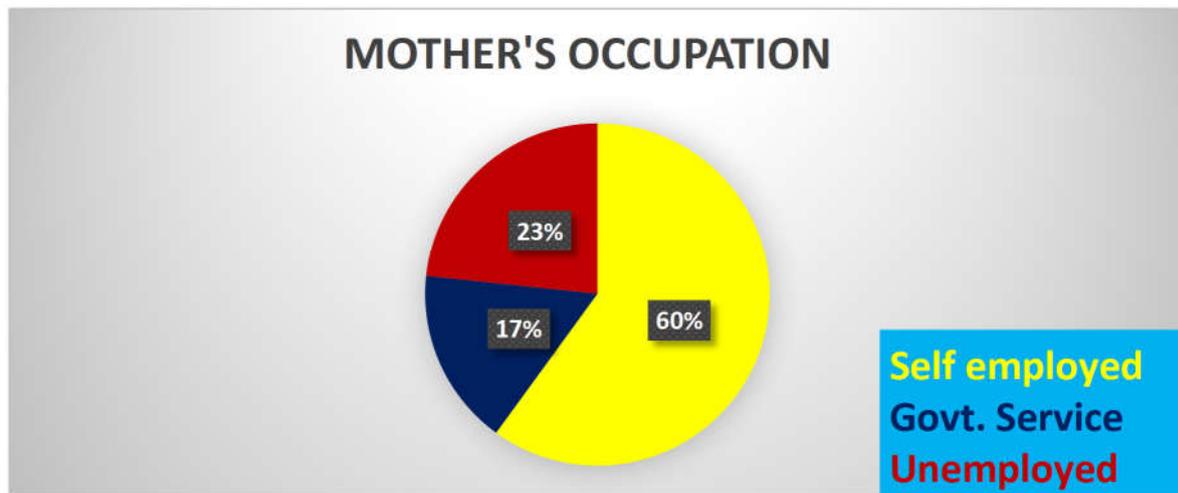
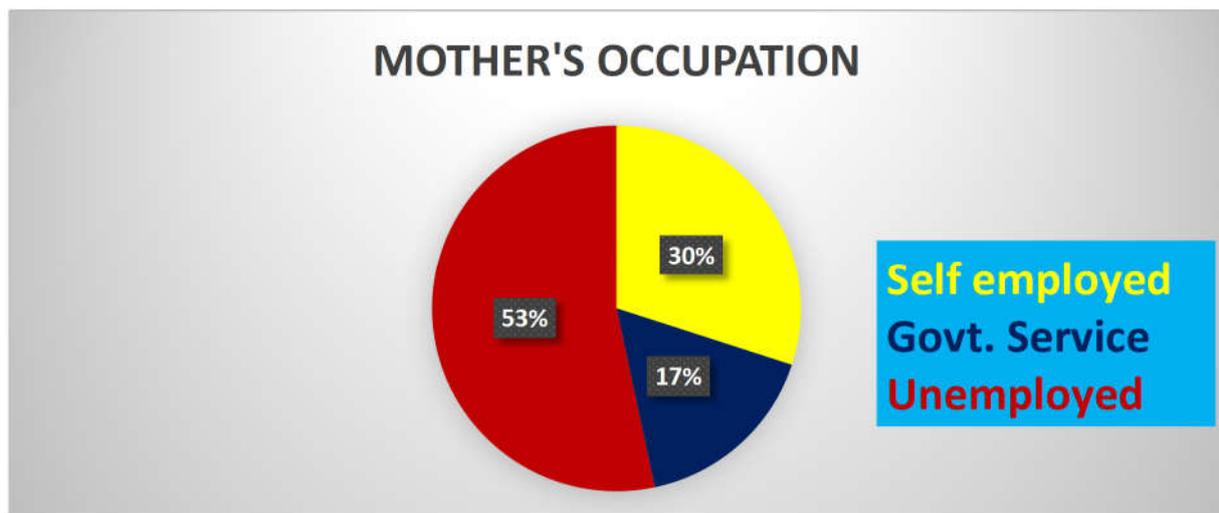


Figure 6.8.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



Mother’s occupation of divorced/separated children are mostly self-employed i.e (63%) as compared to mothers of children who lives with both parents (30%). These mothers of children who live with both parents enjoy the privilege of being financially supported by both parents, but not many of them have both parents employed. Unemployed mothers of children living with both parents is higher. (53%) as compared to divorced/separated mothers of

children which is only (23%). It is observed that the children of single mothers had to be self-employed after their divorce and work hard to take care of the family. Those unemployed mothers from single mother families did get financial help from their maternal grandparents where some even lived with them.

Most of them were engaged in small business to run their families. Some divorced/separated mothers also get alimony from the father of the children to pay the school fees and meet the expenses of the family even after separation. Since, most of the mothers from the wedded family were unemployed, they stay at home and takes care of their husband and children. Thus, the children did get financial support from their mothers even though they did not have a father to support them financially among the separated mothers.

6.9. Substance abuse in the family

Figure 6.9.1: Graphical representation of Children raised by Divorced Children Family

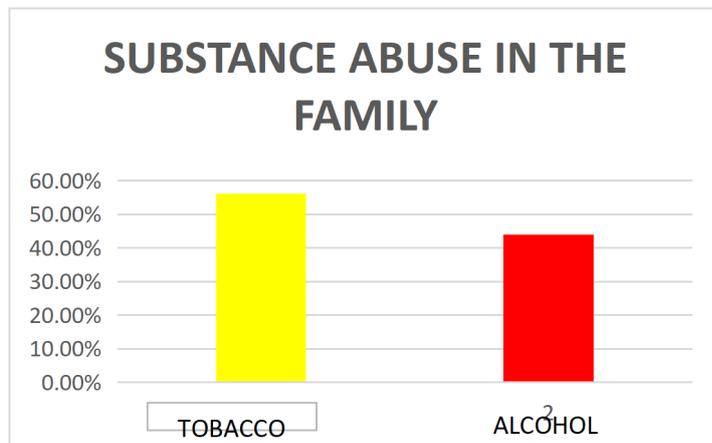
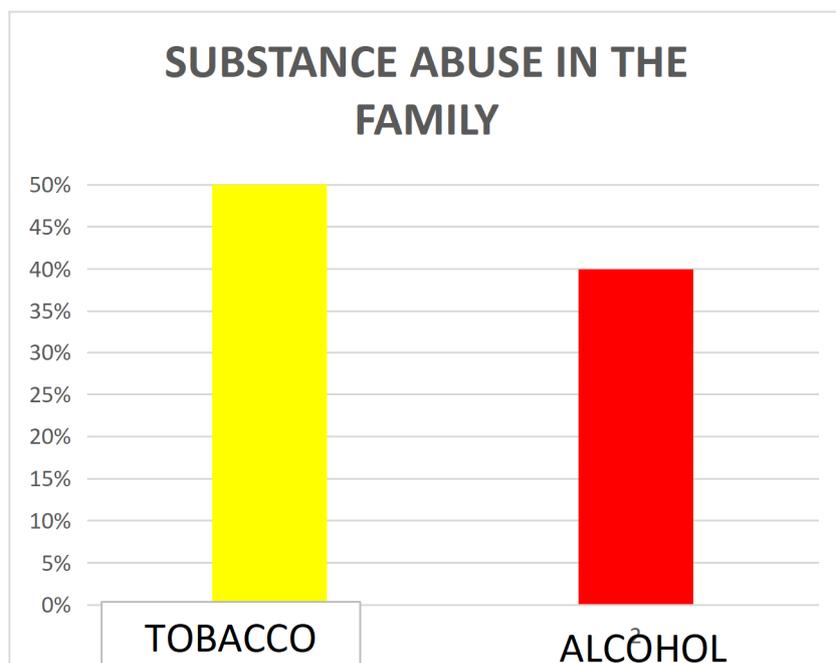


Figure 6.9.2: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



Divorced/Separated family has tobacco abuse which is more than alcohol abuse. The percentage of tobacco abuse is more as compared to alcohol abuse in families where children lived with both parents. It was observed that, the children from different families cited consumption of alcohol by the characters in the story. This was in contrary to the stories narrated by the children in relation to the alcohol where almost all the children irrespective of their family background did mention that the father figure in the story did consume alcohol.

Figure 6.9.3: Graphical representation of Children raised by divorced/separated Mothers

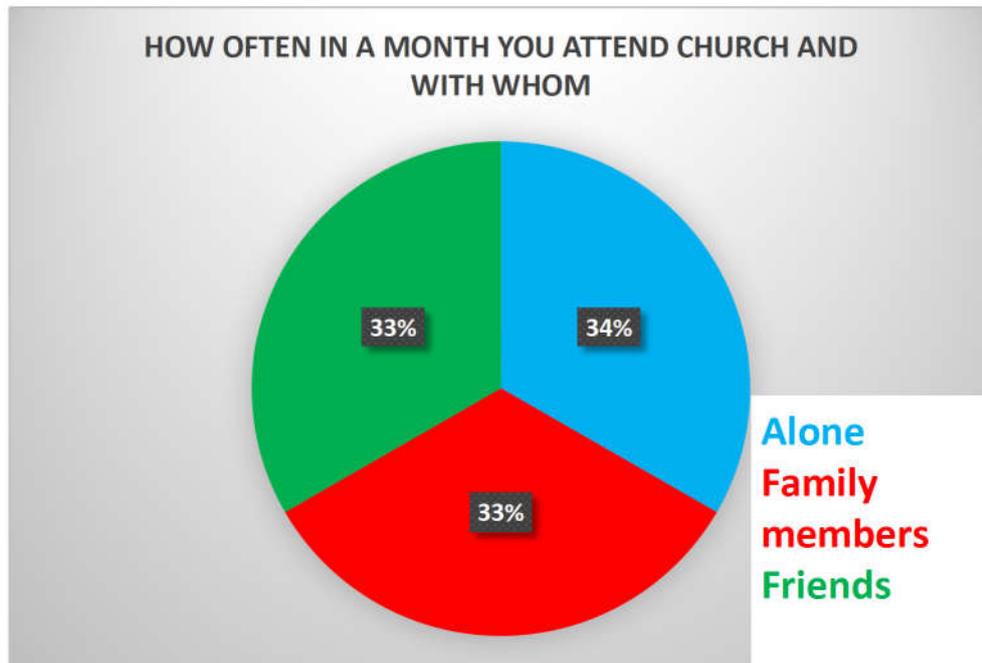
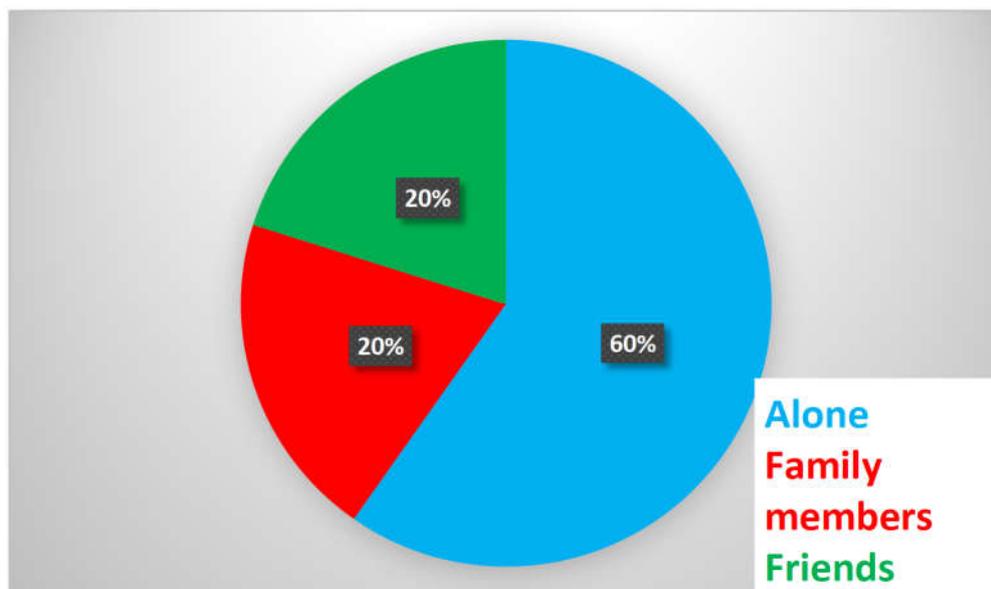


Figure 6.9.4: Graphical representation of Children raised by both Parents



The children of divorced/separated parents who attended the church alone were (34%), with family members (33%) and with friends (33%). Children from wedded parents attend the church alone (60%), Family members (20%) and with Friends (20%). Thus, all the children from the 2 different family structure were Christians and living with their fathers did not signify that they visited the church with their parents most of the time. Irrespective of whatever family background they belonged to all the distinct family did have the concept of religion in them and did understand the meaning of prayers and were aware of the sermons, confessions and Sunday school activities and did have for the knowledge of Christianity.

7. Result and Discussion

The results were analysed both quantitatively as well as qualitatively to justify the main objectives of the present research. Descriptive statistics i.e., mean and standard deviation and Inferential statistics i.e., t- test were calculated to analyse the data quantitatively.

	N	MEAN	SD	d.f	't' value	Level of Significance
Children living with both parents	30	12.05	3.95	58	12.3457	0.01
Children living with divorced/separated Mother	30	36.53	9.94			

From the above table, we can clearly see the scores on aggression as had occurred on the stories and responses given by children of Nagaland belonging to 2 distinct family patterns namely, family of children raised by single mothers who were either divorced or separated and children belonging to families where they lived with both parents. The mean and SD scores of children living with both parents was found to be 12.05 (mean) and 3.95 (SD) whereas it is 36.53(mean) and 9.94 (SD) for children of divorced/separated families. The t value is 12.3457 which is significant at 0.01 level. Hence, there is a significance difference between children who lives with both parents and divorced/separated children.

Discussion: The main objective of the present study was to find the out whether there are any differences on aggression among children living with both parents and children of divorced/separated parents. Children's Apperception Test (CAT) Human Figures developed by Leopold Bellak, Sonya Sorel Bellak and Marvin S Hurvich specifically for use with children aged 3 to 10 years were utilized for the present study. The CAT is a projective measure of personality and the subject were scored as per the manual using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Table 1 shows Children living with both parents $M=12.05$, $SD = 3.95$, Divorced/separated children $M=36.53$, $SD=9.94$, t value = 12.3457 which is significant at 0.01 level which means that there are significant differences between Children who lives with both parents and divorced/separated children. It was observed that divorced/separated children scored high in aggression as compared to children who lives with both parents which was determined on the basis of the psycho-social responses of the children of the 2 family types and the number of times they scored on aggression was scored quantitatively. Thus, the hypothesis that, "There exists significant difference among children living with divorced/separated mothers and children living with both parents on aggression" is accepted. It is interesting to note that the absence of a male figure in the family did not reduce the aggression in children but it is the absence of love and affection which the children of separated/divorced parents did not get appeared to be a cause of aggression.

7.1. Qualitative Analysis of Children living with both Parents

Children mostly narrated the pictures shown to them as happy family, the sibling does quarrel among each but they make peace too. Others, said that parents do scold and beat them but love them too. Many children narrated through their response with the impression that they look forward towards a positive direction. Aggression is not perceived as negative. Aggression, is not at all related to hatred and fear as mentioned in the stories in the form of responses. As for the future also, most children talked about success, they also imagine about taking care of their parents even though their parents beat them sometimes when they are naughty and shout at them now and then. These responses signify affection in contrary to high and destructive aggression, but on the other hand aggression is in milder form which is standard in any culture or family. These, responses were from picture (1) which had one male and one female adult figure. In picture (2) the scene is about a pair. Most, children described the picture as a game as seen in the picture. One child described the pair as a winner and said it was not a fight, but a game and refused to believe that the winner is a fighter, but it is all in a game. Another, story narrated those fights may occur in games but they are forgotten later. Some children did mention about sibling rivalry and aggressive behaviour, especially the looser among the siblings did fight with the sibling, but many others also mentioned about playing together and supporting each other. Picture (3) shows an elderly man and the child. Some children in the picture narrated describing the elderly man as a father figure. Others also show expectation, admiration. Few, say father is a good father and loves the child. Even, if the father got angry when the children were naughty, the father got chocolates, played, got toys, checked on homework and took them out. Some children narrated the characters in the picture (4), as going to a store. Others, said about picnic. Children mostly said positive stories. According, to a child, the two children in the picture are described as brothers and the lady in the picture is the mother carrying the baby who were going for a picnic/shopping on a windy day. In addition to that, some children also mentioned about enjoying the picnic with friends and relatives, they do talk about fights, being scolded and negative behaviour but over all such aggression is considered normal in children and do not reflect negativism. Most children narrated the picture (5) as twins/siblings sharing stories and playing on the bed while the parents are asleep on the other bed in the same room. Quarrels do happen with regard to food, toys which are natural in children but almost all children mentioned about a happy family and

parents take good care and love the children equally. Few also mentioned that their parents do dis-approve of certain behaviour, criticize, blame and even hit them. But yet none of them dislike their parents and believe that their parents love them and consider their family as happy family. The picture (6) is portrayed as a camping site. Many children narrated the story as siblings camping for a few days in the jungle during the vacation few said that it was an organized campaign from school. Children did not show any signs of aggression in picture (6). Most children narrated the picture (7) by identifying the big figure as a dangerous whom they feared. Some children related the picture in a fairy tale form. However, one child described the huge figure as a monster/giant which had come to attack and take away the child, but fortunately the child was saved by the father, whom the child considered as a hero and villagers as brave friends who saved the little one's life. Children mostly narrated the picture (8) as birthday party. One child said "The son in the picture is celebrating his birthday party and the guests in the picture are his mother's friends having tea". Another, little girl said, that the mother is seen as teaching her son good manners on how to behave well and not to be naughty in front of the guests. Most children narrated the picture (9) with fear and no aggression was expressed. One child expressed fear and being scared and woke up crying, and the mother came and comforted the child and put him to sleep. Children living with both parents described their mother bathing and cleaning the child, cooking delicious meals and also expressed togetherness and perceived their parents as protective and they felt secured. One child, as narrated in a story says "child is seen to be scared of water and trying to avoid water". Some children mentioned, the father loved the son so much because he was the only child in the family. Over all, aggression as response narrated by children of parents living together did not show fear, rejection, hatred, insecurity, hostility, bullying, violence etc. Expressive and instrumental aggression was absent among these children.

7.2. Qualitative Analysis of Children living with Divorced/Separated Mothers

Most children divorced/separated mothers the male figure as scary and not a good person. One child described the male figure as shadow, who is the father. Many children said that children in the picture are scared of their father because he scolds and beats the children. Strangely, most children mentioned that the mother left the husband because he beats her. In, the very first story negativism and high rate of aggression was narrated by children. It seemed like the children had either seen their fathers aggress towards the mother or they were told by their mothers about the father not being a positive individual. Many did not even speak about the female figure. There was also no positive response about the female figure by the children of who lived with their mothers and the mothers solely took care of them in the picture (1). In picture (2) the children mostly described the picture as a group of children. One child expressed dislike for another in the group. Another child described the others as friends competing with one another and expressed hatred. Another child also narrated that friend turned to enemies as they were competing in a game. One child expressed dislike towards another pair who won the game. One child displayed sibling rivalry towards the brother who was the opponent and the other figure in the card was described as a friend. Clear aggression was observed in form of hatred, rivalry, physical harm was clearly visible from the responses. Most children narrated the picture (3) as a father with a lot of negativisms. Many children said that the father ignored the child. One child said that the father in the picture is a bad

person. Few also said that the father smokes cigarette and drinks alcohol. Some children said, the father abuse his wife who is their mother. Others, said that the father and did not take care of the child and the wife who is their mother. These, children were sensitive and were full of negative emotions. There, direction of aggression was towards the father figure and the pattern were not physical social but it was emotional verbal. Children narrated the picture (4) very differently than children living with both parents. One child described the picture as a windy and rainy day. One, child said that the mother with the two children was in a hurry to leave for another country or a new place because the father chased them out of the house. Another child said that the mother opted to leave the house with her two children as the father blamed and use to beat the mother quite often. Most of the children blamed the father for not having a happy family. A few expressed negativities for the mother too, One, among them blamed the mother saying she did not allow the father to come home and quarrelled with him. It is evident from the stories that their lives revolved among their parents and craved for love and affection. Their aggression was not towards bullying, hitting, fighting with others but was directed towards family mostly the father. The children mostly related the picture (5) to siblings. One among them described the card as brothers talking with each other sitting on the bed. One other child said that the one of the siblings whom he imagined as his brother woke up in the middle of the night, because he had a bad dream. The elder sister was consoling the little brother. Another child was afraid and elder brother was comforting the little brother at midnight. The brothers are described as being naughty by many of them. When no elderly figure was seen in the picture aggression was not found to be displayed, thus it is interesting to note that aggression was directed towards parents mainly the father. Most children narrated the picture (6) staying away from the father figure for whatsoever reason. A boy child expressed how he and his mother were thrown out of home by the father. Another said they were living in the jungle because they do not have a place to stay. Two siblings had same response where they revealed how the parents fight among each other when they were together. Few children also mentioned that the children would cry and fear their father because he would beat the mother and them. Thus, it is clear from the responses of these children that the aggression developed in them specially for the father because they were either told by the mother or they themselves witnessed or were victimised by the father. So, the pattern of aggression depends on family environment. The children mostly identified the big figure in picture (7) as a bad giant. One child narrated that the Giant was alone like his father. Another said that the figure in the picture is a bad man. One said a dangerous man lived in the cave and dislikes passer-by near his cave. Another boy seeing the picture felt very scared and hid himself. However, most children identified the huge figure as the giant. Few, talked about the little boy in the picture being caught by the huge figure and killed. Negativism did exist among the children of separated parents which were clearly visible from their responses like hatred, hitting, rejection and desertion. In the picture (8) many children narrated misbehaviour of children in the picture. One Child said the mother had asked her son to behave well. Another said that there were guests in the house and they were gossiping about the father's affair with another woman. One child also said that father lives in a faraway land. Few children said that parents fight among themselves because the father is having an affair. Most of the children narrated parent's aggression in their response. They also reflected shame in their response for their father. This must have been instigated by

mother or society. Many children described the picture (9) as the child crying because he was alone. Many children said the father left the child alone. One child said the father had beaten the child and that's why the child was crying. Another child said the father had abuse the baby and ran away. The aggression and negativism were directed towards their father. Most children described the picture (10) as mother bathing/cleaning the child. One child is seen crying and trying to run away from the water because he does not like to bathe. Another child said that the mother is angry and beats the child whenever the child tries to run. Children's responses in this picture were directed towards mothers' aggression too.

8. Major Findings

The response elicited important situations were both family types have displayed different patterns and directions of aggression.

- The aggression displayed by children living with both parents was mild in nature and did not show future negativism, fear, anxiety and hatred while the children raised by single mothers was completely opposite. A study by Spigelman, I Englesson supports our findings except that fear in the children were higher than hostility. This could be due to age in the present research. Another, study by (Riberio, 2007) states that divorce is one major stress that a child can experience.
- The children raised by single mothers seemed to have expressed clearly their negative thoughts towards their father in their responses. This, clearly indicates that they were either told by their mother that their father was a negative human being or the children witnessed aggression in their parents. This is in contrary to the study by (Hetherington & Stanley Hagan, 1995) which says that children express their confusion, anger, resentment through aggressive behaviour by being demanding and un-co-operative. The responses in the present research does not show any of these but express fear and insecurity instead, and believe that they have an aggressive father.
- The aggression in the present research was not directed towards the children themselves but towards the experience and learning they gained in the family environment and induced aggression by their parents. The children who lived with both parents acknowledged love and security more than aggression. Their responses revealed that they valued positivity in both mother and father than their aggression.
- The children living with both parents expressed a secured future and happiness in their response but the children who grew up with single mothers did express insecurity and fear in their responses. This is because their perception was linked with their mother and father's relationship as well as what impression their mother gave them about their father.

9. Implications

- Children learn aggression from their parents, it is the family environment that leads to the growth of aggression. Parents have to keep a check on such behaviour, not in children but in themselves. This will definitely change children's perception on aggression.
- Children feel being loved and being aggressed on. Their insecurities are induced by parents and do not grow on their own.
- Being separated is not an issue but the aggression displayed in presence of children is of great concern.
- The image of father figure if pleasant children feel secure and if unpleasant children feel very insecure. In case of separated parent's, it is important for the mother not to convey negative image of the father to the child.
- Children do not know which parent is at fault in a relationship they believe whatever is told to them or they infer from the displayed aggression. Parents need to keep a check on how they convey.

10. Limitation:

- The chief limitation of the present research was the sample size which is small for generalization.
- The sample was confined to the state of Nagaland only.
- Aggression was not compared among different age groups.
- The researcher did not include parent's interview.
- The researcher could have included another scale of aggression.

11. Suggestions for Future Research:

- The present study was focused only on children. Study on adolescents would have been interesting as the aggression level grows during this age and their emotions are at rise during this period.
- The sample size was small, male and female sample were unequal. Equal responses and comparison would have shown a clearer picture.
- Other emotional variables like fear, anxiety, perceived father child relationship would have made the study more interesting.
- Observing each child's behaviour would have shed light to the findings.
- Parents emotional state and how they deal with aggression would have also enhanced the findings of the research.

12. Conclusion:

It is not the divorce/separation among the parents has been affecting children's aggression but it is the aggression displayed by them that the children learn. It is incumbent on parents to deal with their lives effectively in various walks of lives which will have a positive impact on children's life. When parents get divorced/separated, the children are the most affected emotionally, and it has a drastic change in the lives of children and so parents have to be very

sensible and understand that aggression displayed towards each other will affect their child's aggression towards them. It is important for the parents to be informed that their own behaviours influence the behaviours of the children. The parents need to build a positive parent-child relationship for the well-being of the children even after the separation.

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