

ABSTRACT

This study was carried on the effect of single parenting families on academic performance of pupils in primary schools of Rugando sub county, Mbarara District. It aimed at achieving the set objectives which include; the factors that influence the academic performance of pupils in primary schools of Rugando Sub County, the contribution of single parenting families towards the academic performance of their pupils and the measures through which pupils academic performance of single parent families can be improved. The study employed a case study design which involved both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Parents/community residents, head teachers, teachers and pupils were selected using simple random and purposive sampling Techniques, while data was collected using documentary analysis, questionnaires, observation guide, and interview guide. It was found out that single parenting families greatly influence the performance of learners in primary schools. The study findings revealed that single parents do not have enough time for their children, accessibility to instructional materials is limited hence performance tends to be negatively affected. However, this relationship is not permanent and static. There are single parenting families that do offer opportunities to the children and improve the learning process, though to a limited extent. Basing on the findings, the following recommendations were made; income generating activities should be extended to the single parents. There is need to make people aware of the challenges brought about by single parenting families towards the success and performance of learners in primary schools and the Ministry of Education and Sports should develop a policy supporting children from single parenting families in terms of scholastic materials, funding and other basic requirements. This would help such students/learners to have adequate requirements needed for the success of their education.