The International Journal of
INDIAN PSYCHOLOGY

Research Paper

Attitude of Public towards Single Parenting

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ABSTRACT

This paper intends to study the social perspective on single parenting. Society plays a vital role in grooming the environment for a child from single parents. It's said that different causes of single parents lead to different opinions in the society regarding that family. This may lead to various causes and problems for the child as well as the parent. Effects of single parenting are: psychological effects, educational effects, behavioural effects, economic effects and also effects of single parenting in adult life. As a result this study is carried out to find which age groups have different perspectives towards single parenting and which age groups are likely to share similar perspectives. The data analysis was done using a questionnaire where the questionnaire consists of 19 sets of questions where the individuals need to answer all the questions. The obtained data was organized for statistical analysis. The result revealed that the age group shared similar opinions. The opinion and the response similarities were greatly dependent on questions asked and it was found that populations of the same age group have similar responses.

Keywords: *Single Parenting, Social Perspective, Adolescents*

Parenthood is the process of raising and educating children from birth to adulthood by the child's father, mother or biological father or mother in the family. The term parenting comes from the Latin verb "parere" - "to be born, develop, or educate". This word, in origin, is related to development and educational activity rather than completion (Virasiri et al., 2011).

Parenting is not the same as parenthood, which means to be a father or a mother who gives birth. It is a more comprehensive term than childrearing. And it is limited to the relationships between parents and children, whereas grandparent's relatives, as well as teachers, can take part only in childrearing practices. Certainly, this means 'being apparent'; however, it is more than that. It is the function, role, and responsibility of the parent in the family unit that can imply the commitment of an individual or individuals to provide for the physical and psycho-social needs of a child. (Virasiri, Saovakon & Yunibhand, Jintana & Chaiyawat, Waraporn. 2011)

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Single parenting

A single parent is a parent who does not live with a spouse or domestic partner and assumes most of the day-to-day responsibilities of raising a child. The socialization of children is very important for the continuity of any culture. The family is said to be the most important socialization agent, especially for children. Cause of single parents can be for a variety of reasons, such as the death of a spouse, divorce, or extramarital affairs. Single parents have the burdensome responsibility of raising children. This can have a huge impact on both the child and the parents (Bhat & Patil, 2019).

Effects of single parenting

A child with a father and mother is well cared for and socialized. This is because the socialization process relies on parents who complement each other in raising their children. The problem of being deprived of a second parent is bad enough, but the tragic situation ensues when the remaining parent can't handle the resulting problems. In such situations, the child becomes an outsider of society. A single parent's inability to cope is a result of the double responsibilities the parent faces, requiring additional time, attention, and money from the parent. It features psychological effects, educational effects, behavioural effects, economic effects, and the effects of single parenthood in adult life (Stephen & Udis, 2016).

Solutions to overcome the effects of single parenting
- Talk and listen to the children.
- Protects children from parental conflict.
- Emphasize the positive.
- Children in single-parent families often have more responsibilities and can learn to be independent.
- Give positive attention to children.
- Encourage positive behaviour (Kelly John, 2023).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Children from single-parent families often do worse in school, than children living with both parents. Social control theory suggests that the absence of fathers in the family will have negative consequences for children because the number of adults willing to look after children decreases and even if there are other adults in the family (such as parents-in-law or grandparents), they may have a more distant relationship with the child and are therefore less controlling. Stress Theory emphasizes the role family changes play in children's outcomes, rather than the family structure itself. A major problem in determining the impact of single Mothers on their children's outcomes is selection bias. Thus, traditional tools for correcting selection bias cannot easily address the selection problem of many children who are single parents (Sands & Nuccio, 1989).

There are slight variations in self-esteem, delinquency, and cognitive performance between children from divorced and intact households. The study on children of divorce frequently limit the generalizability of findings and raise the possibility that the poor effects associated with divorce may actually be the result of parental conflict or financial hardship. It does not follow that all children are better off if their parents stay together, even though it may be generally true that two parents may raise children better than one parent. First, if the parents' divorce, the detrimental effects of growing up in a combative family may be avoided. Second, the socialisation that kids who grow up with single mothers undergo may have some benefits. Girls and boys may develop less gender-role stereotyped occupational

aspirations and family values, and children in single-parent, female-headed families may develop greater senses of personal responsibility and self-worth (Barber & Eccles, 1992).

There is a higher chance of assumptions and attitude in cases of what constitutes a good parenting judgement is influenced in case of single parent. It is crucial to identify the factor that involves good parenting. Children from single parent families had roughly twice as many issues with school performance, with children from homes with never married mothers having the highest rates of issues. These issues included repeating a grade, having problems that required a parent-teacher conference, and being suspended or expelled from school (Horowitz, 1994).

Half of the single parents' population are women. Research suggested that single mothers are more subjected to financial problems. They were less educated, less skilled and even poor. They were subjected to social as well as economic discrimination. The major problems contributing to single mothers were sexism, racism and classism. Single mothers tend to suffer from poverty. Not only that, single mothers were usually not addressed properly. The study suggested that if single mothers are addressed and defined with a proper socio-economic status the problem faced by them might be reduced (Bumpass & Raley, 1995).

The study examined the contribution of family leisure activities to family functioning in single-parent households. Data analysis was performed from the perspective of parents, adolescents, and families using two tools. Family Adaptability and Cohesion Scale (FACES II) to measure family functioning and the Family Leisure Activity Profile (FLAP) was used to measure family participation in leisure time. A blocked multiple regression analysis showed a positive relationship between family leisure time variables and family functioning variables in single-parent households. Family unity and family adaptability was affected by both core and balance activities, but family adaptability was slightly more affected by core activity than by balance activity. The results also showed that family functioning was very similar to that of two-parent families, but family involvement in leisure time was lower in single-parent families (Thiessen, 1997).

Single fathers experience stress in their fatherly responsibilities. These stressors include having too much to accomplish in too little time, not having the necessary training for many of the activities, having to satisfy the demands of numerous different family members, and not understanding all of the expectations. According to this study, single parent fathers disagree with the idea that kids need their moms more than they need their dads. The idea that children need their moms just as much as they need their fathers is also supported by the majority of responders. Fathers have been deterred from engagement with their children. According to the results of this survey, respondents firmly believed that single mothers got greater cultural support than single father mothers. This study supports previous research that suggests single parent males are more likely than single parent women to experience cultural prejudice and discrimination (Chima & A, 1999).

The emotional and personality development of children is greatly influenced by their parents. Single parents must simultaneously fulfil the tasks of parenthood and being the only source of income for their family. A single working mother has social and psychological issues as a result of this dual role. Earlier research revealed significant rates of school drop-outs, substance misuse, premarital sex, teenage pregnancies, and neglected children, as well as despair and emotional distress among children of single parents. Due to the physical,

mental, and emotional unpreparedness of single parents, the family system eventually broke down (Hamid & Salleh, 2013).

Compared to living with two biological parents, being raised in a single-parent household has a negative impact on a child's academic performance. This research investigates the impact of the proportion of single-parent families at the school on this unfavourable association. Pooled data from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2000 and 2003, which includes information on 209,300 students at 11,887 schools in 25 countries was used. The study found that having more single-parent students in a class has a negative impact on all students' academic performance. However, there is evidence that, with the exception of the US, the negative effects of attending a school with a higher percentage of single-parent households decrease in nations where the proportion of single-parent families is higher (de Lange et al., 2014).

METHODOLOGY

Objective
To find out different attitudes towards single parents based on different age groups that are 15-20, 20-30,30-40,40-50 and 50+.

Population
Individuals from age 15 and 50 above.

Sample Size
A total of 100 participants were taken for the sample size, where they belong to the age group of 15-50 above years.

Tools
The data will be collected using questionnaires in the google forms to know the attitude of the public towards single parenting. The questionnaire will consist of 19 sets of questions. The individual needs to answer all the questions.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In question 1 it was found that in the age group 15-20 out of 32 (11) thinks that the factor contributing to single parents is marriage affairs then followed by divorce (10), widower (6) and unmarried (5). Age groups 20-30 out of 53, 22 think that divorce is the major factor contributing to single parents followed by marriage affairs (15), widower (7), unmarried (6) and adoption (2). Age groups 30-40 out of 9, 5 thinks that the divorce is the major factor which contributes to single parents followed by marriage affairs (4). Age groups 40-50 out of 4, 2 think that the divorce is the major factor which contributes to single parents followed by widower (1), and then surrogacy (1). Age groups 50+ out of 4, 3 think that the windower is the major factor which contributes to single parents followed by unmarried.

Major population of the age group 15-20 agrees with statement 2. Whereas the age group 20-30 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 30 -40 agrees with the statement. Age group 40-50 half of the population agreed with the statement and half of the population disagreed with the statement. 50+ age groups disagree with the statement.

In case of statement 3, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 20-30 agrees with the statement. Age group 30-40, there is an equal number of people

who agree and strongly agree with the statement. Age group 40-50 agrees to the statement and age group 50+ also agrees to the statement.

In case of statement 4, the age group 15-20 agrees with the statement. Age group 20-30 agrees with the statement. Age group 30-40, agrees with the statement. Age group 40-50 agrees to the statement and age group 50+ also agrees to the statement.

In case of statement 5, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. The 20-30 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 30-40, disagree with the statement. Age group 40-50 disagrees with the statement whereas age group 50+ agrees with the statement.

In case of statement 6, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. The 20-30 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 30-40, neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 40-50 disagrees with the statement whereas age group 50+ agrees with the statement.

In case of statement 7, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. 20-30 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 30-40, agree with the statement. Age group 40-50 disagrees with the statement whereas age group 50+ agrees to the statement.

In case of statement 8, age group 15-20 agree with the statement. Age group 20-30 agree to the statement. Age group 30-40, agree with the statement. Age group 40-50 disagrees with the statement and also age group 50+ disagrees to the statement.

In case of statement 9, age group 15-20 strongly agree with the statement. Age group 20-30 strongly agree with the statement. Age group 30-40, strongly agree with the statement. Age group 40-50, there is equal number of people who agrees and strongly agree with the statement. Age group 50+ agrees to the statement.

In case of statement 10, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 20-30 agree to the statement. Age group 30-40, agree with the statement. Age group 40-50, there is an equal number of people who agree and strongly agree with the statement. Age group 50+ disagrees with the statement.

In case of statement 11, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age groups 20-30, 30-40, 40-50 and 50+ agree to the statement.

In case of statement 12, age groups 15-20, 20-30, 30-40,40-50 neither agree nor disagree with the statement whereas age group 50+ agreed to the statement.

In case of statement 13, age groups 15-20, 20-30,30-40,40-50 neither agree nor disagree with the statement whereas age group 50+ agreed to the statement.

In case of statement 14, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 20-30, 30-40 and 50+ agrees to the statement. In the case of age 40-50 it was inconclusive.

In case of statement 15, age group 15-20, 20-30, 30-40 and 50+ agrees to the statement whereas in the age group 40-50 there is an equal number of people who agree and strongly agree with the statement.
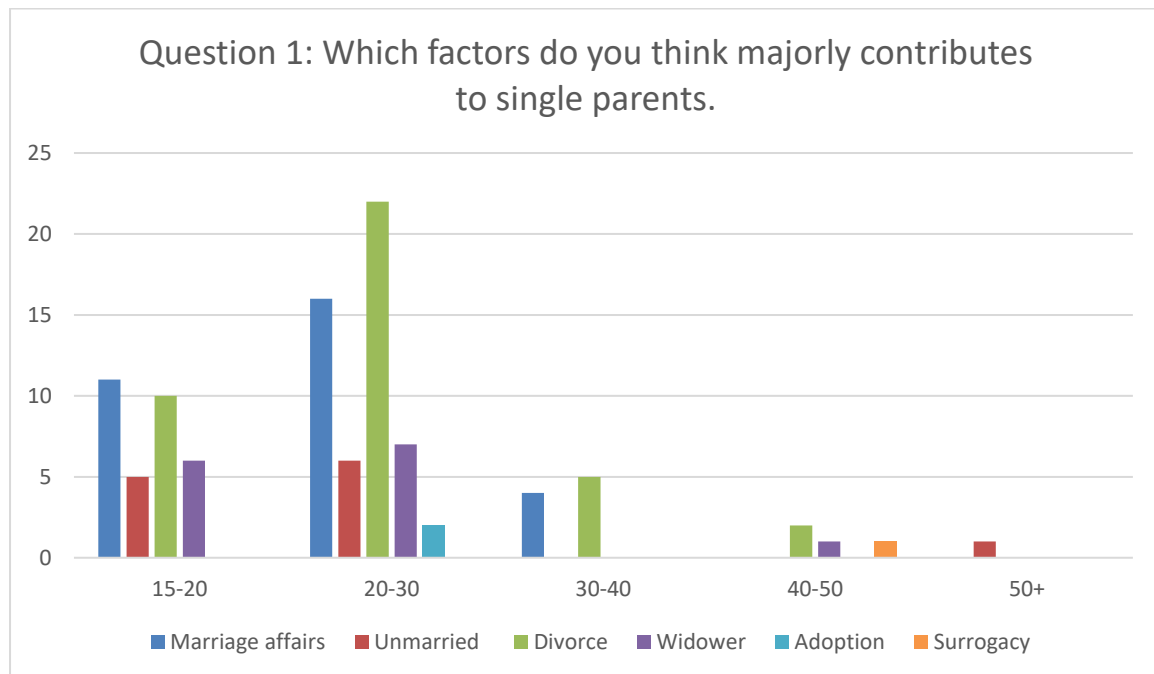
In case of statement 16, age group 15-20 and 20-30 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 30-40 agrees to the statement. Whereas age groups 40-50 and 50+ disagree with the statement.

In case of statement 17, age group 15-20, 20-30 and 40-50 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age group 30-40 agrees to the statement. Age groups 50+ disagree with the statement.
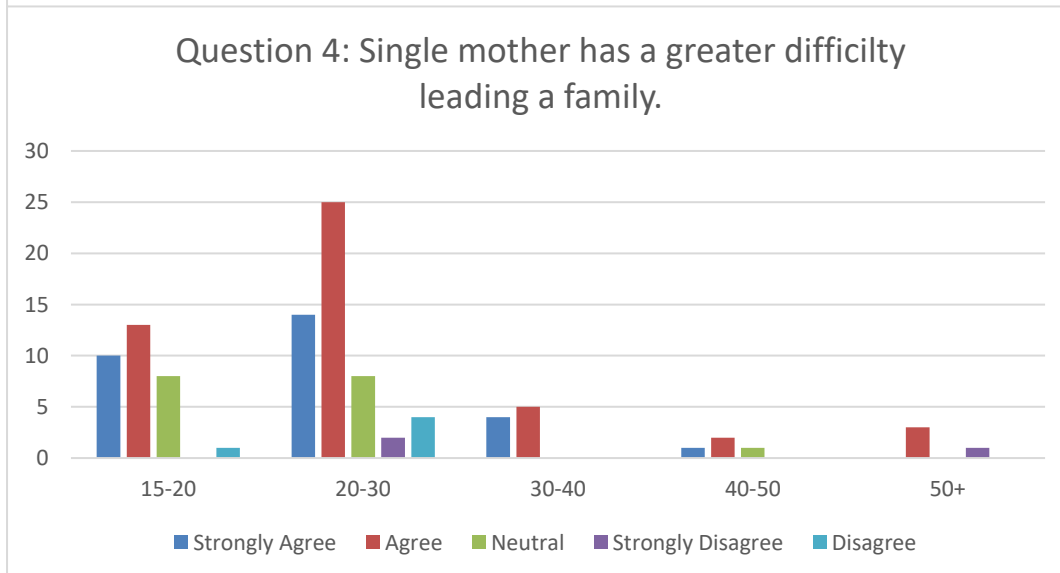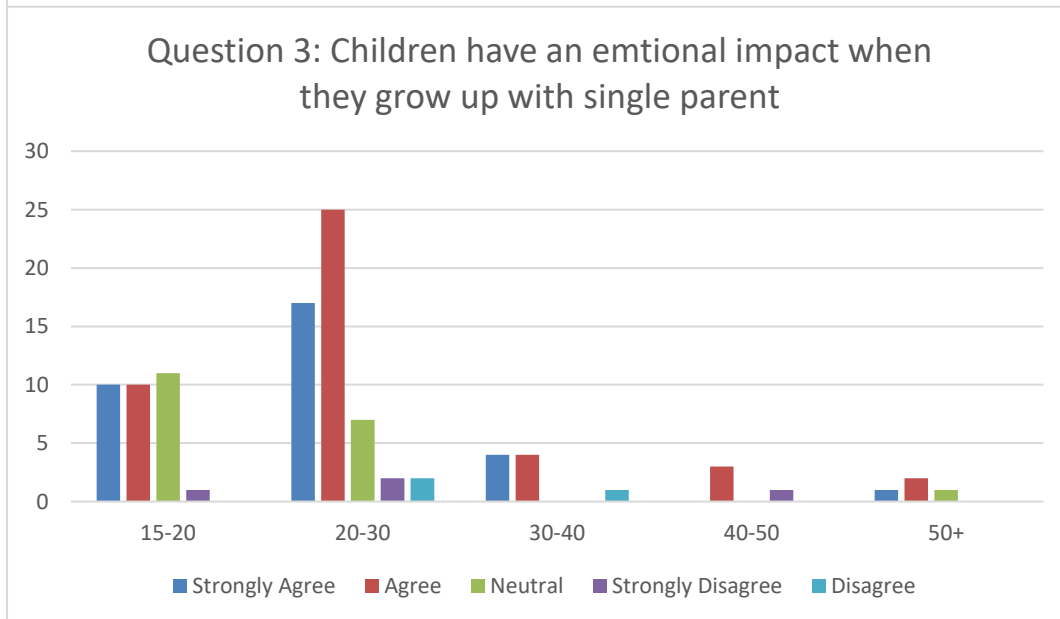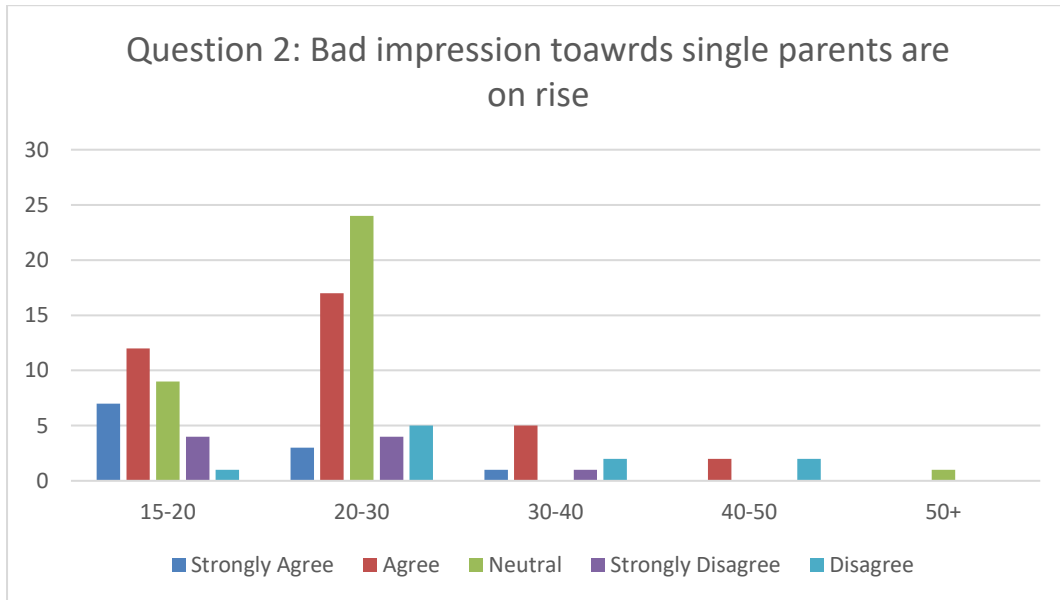
In case of statement 18, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age groups 20-30 and 50+ agree with the statement. 30-40 strongly agree with the statement. Whereas the age group 40-50 equally agrees and strongly agree to the statement.

In case of statement 19, age group 15-20 neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Age groups 20-30, 30-40, 40-50 and 50+ agree with the statement.
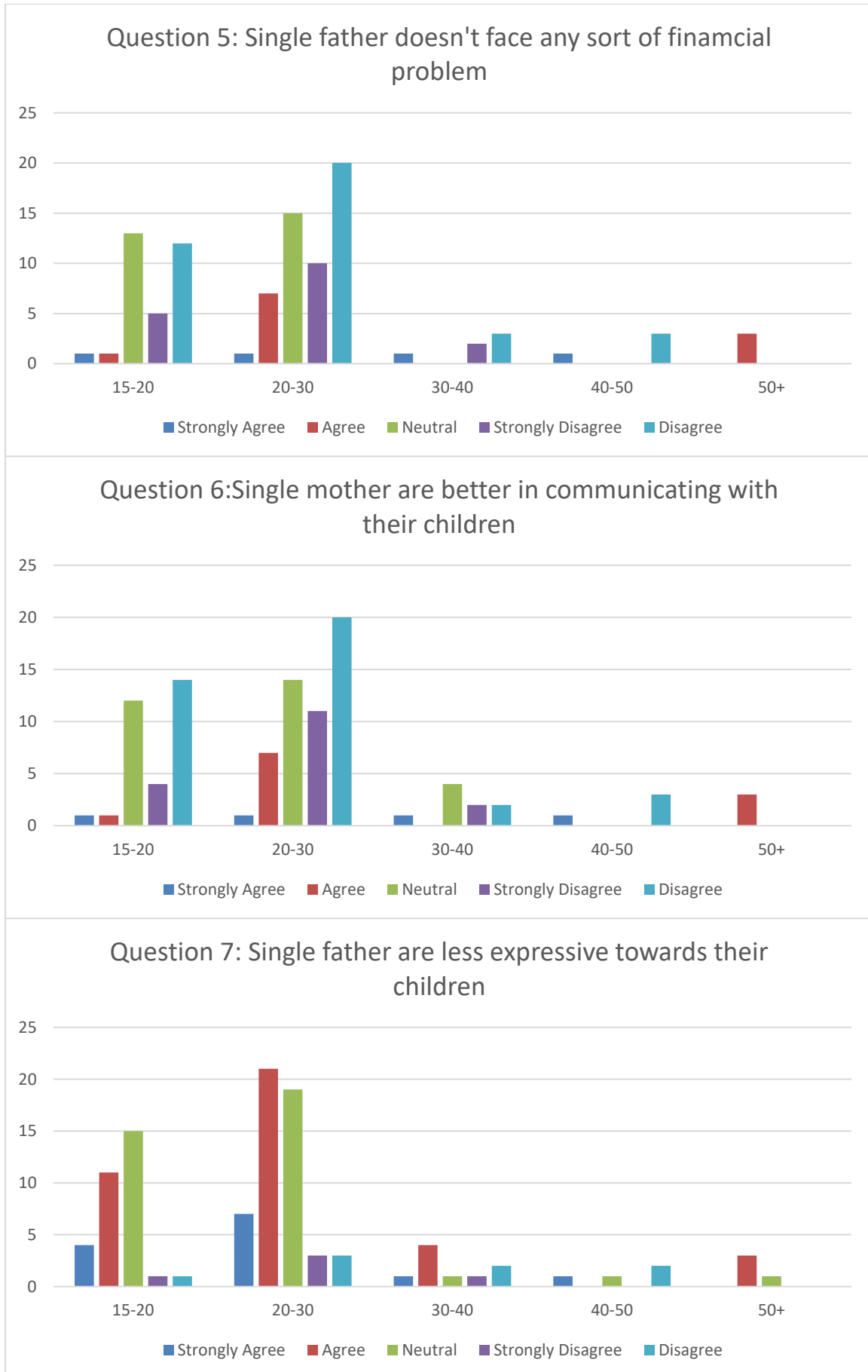
The opinion and the response similarities were greatly dependent on questions asked and it was also found that populations of the same age tend to have similar responses. It was even found that the hypothesis was proven wrong as the opinion was greatly dependent on the type of the question asked and the individual's opinion.

Question 1: Which factors do you think majorly contributes to single parents.
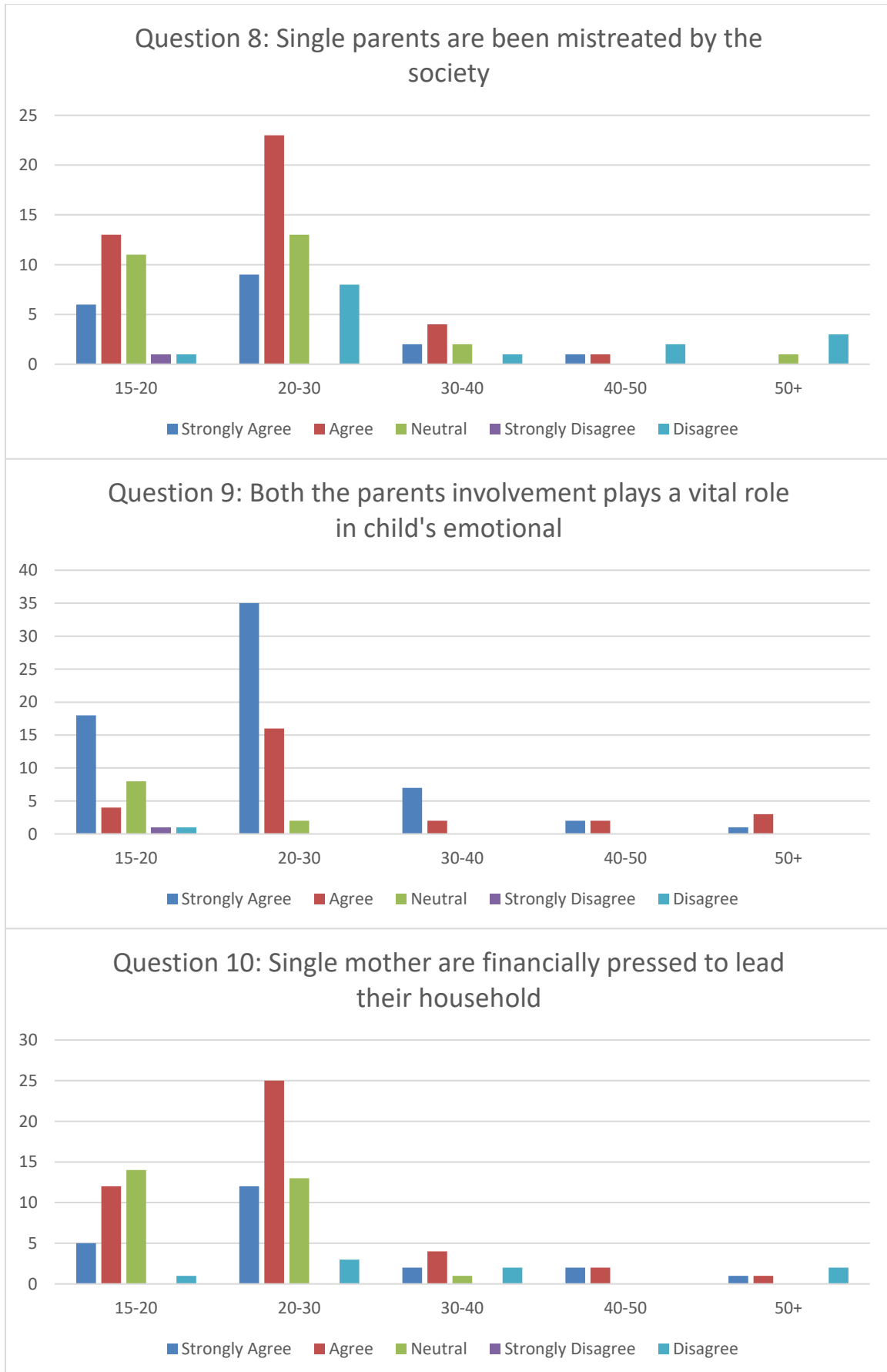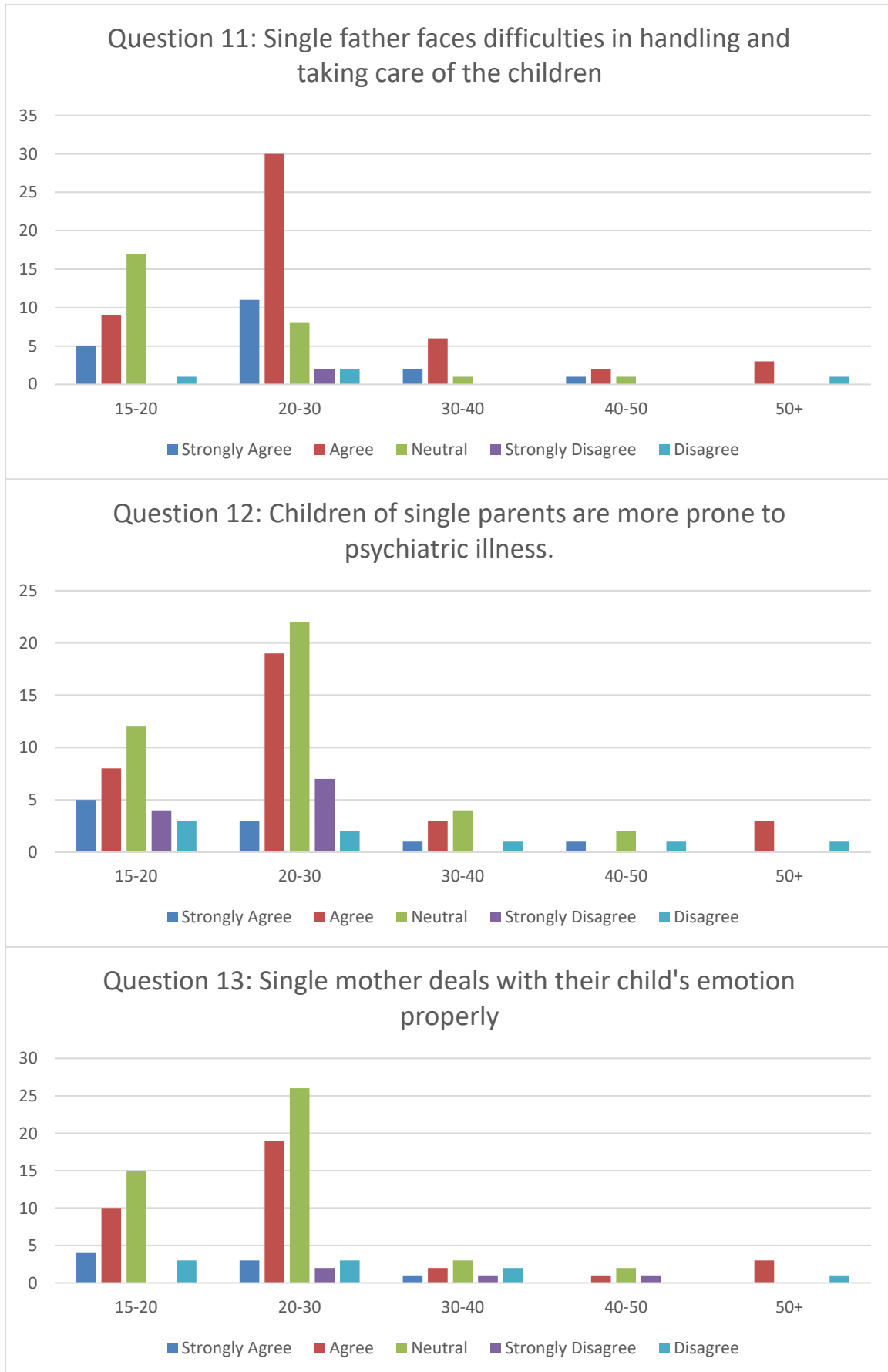
Marriage affairs | Unmarried | Divorce | Widower | Adoption | Surrogacy

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Question 2: Bad impression toawrds single parents are on rise

Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree

Question 3: Children have an emtional impact when they grow up with single parent

Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree

Question 4: Single mother has a greater difficilty leading a family.

Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree

Question 5: Single father doesn't face any sort of finamcial problem

Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Strongly Disagree | Disagree

Question 6:Single mother are better in communicating with their children

Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Strongly Disagree | Disagree

Question 7: Single father are less expressive towards their children

Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Strongly Disagree | Disagree

Question 8: Single parents are been mistreated by the society

Question 9: Both the parents involvement plays a vital role in child's emotional
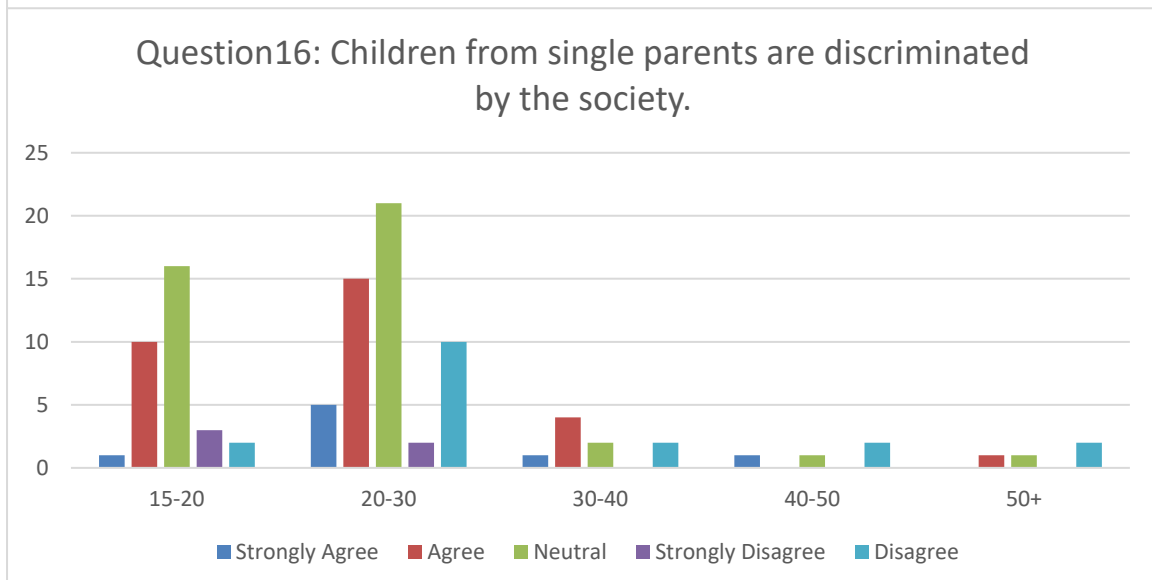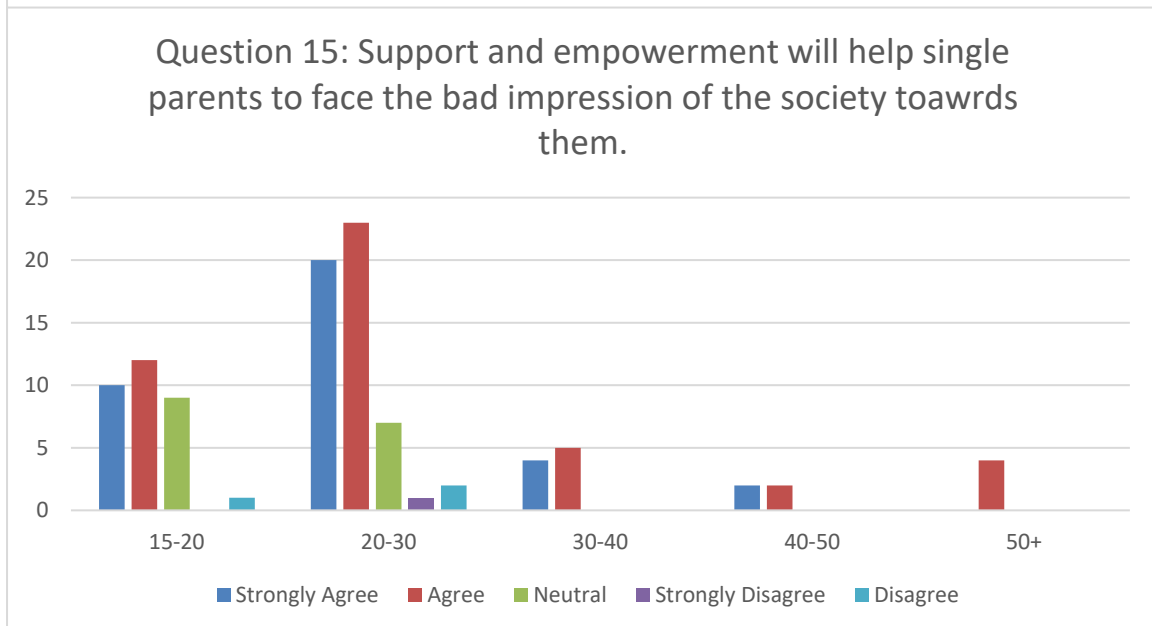

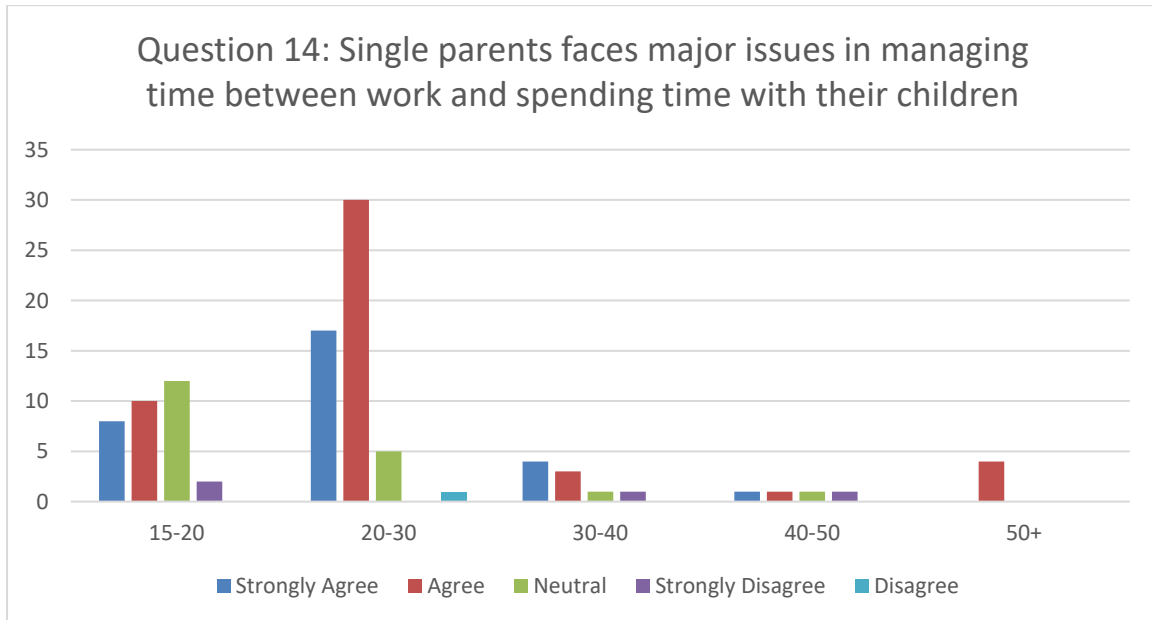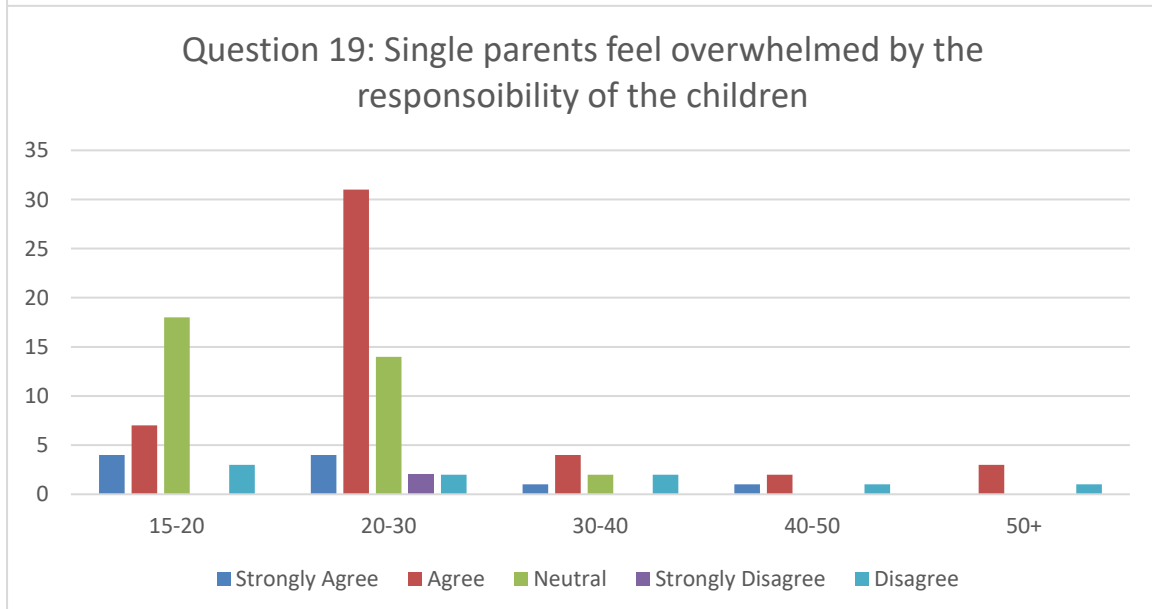## Question 10: Single mother are financially pressed to lead their household
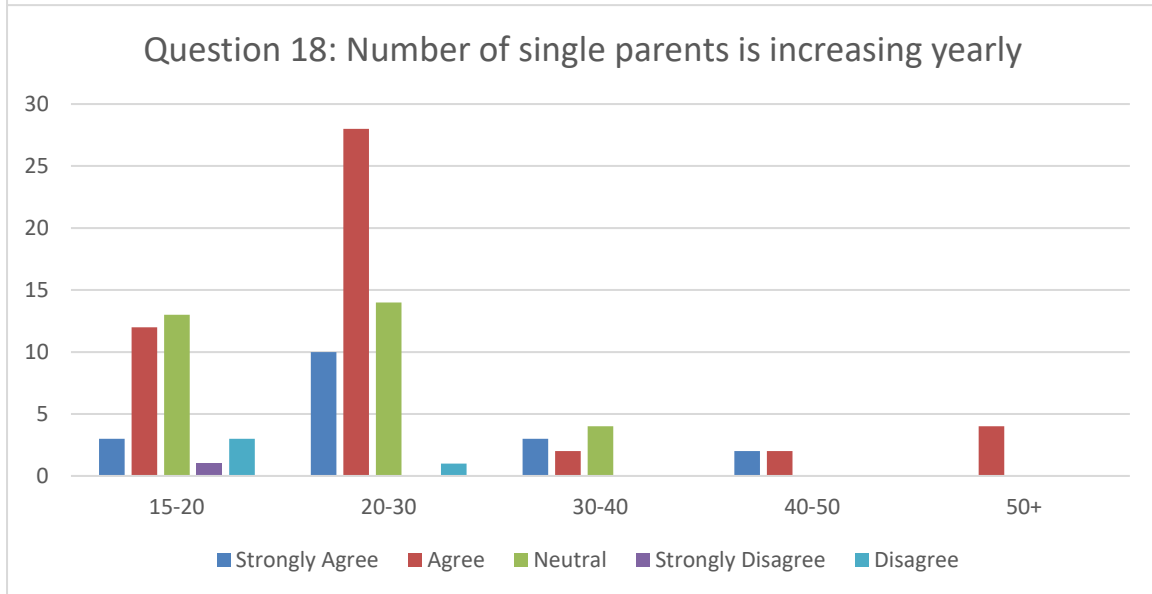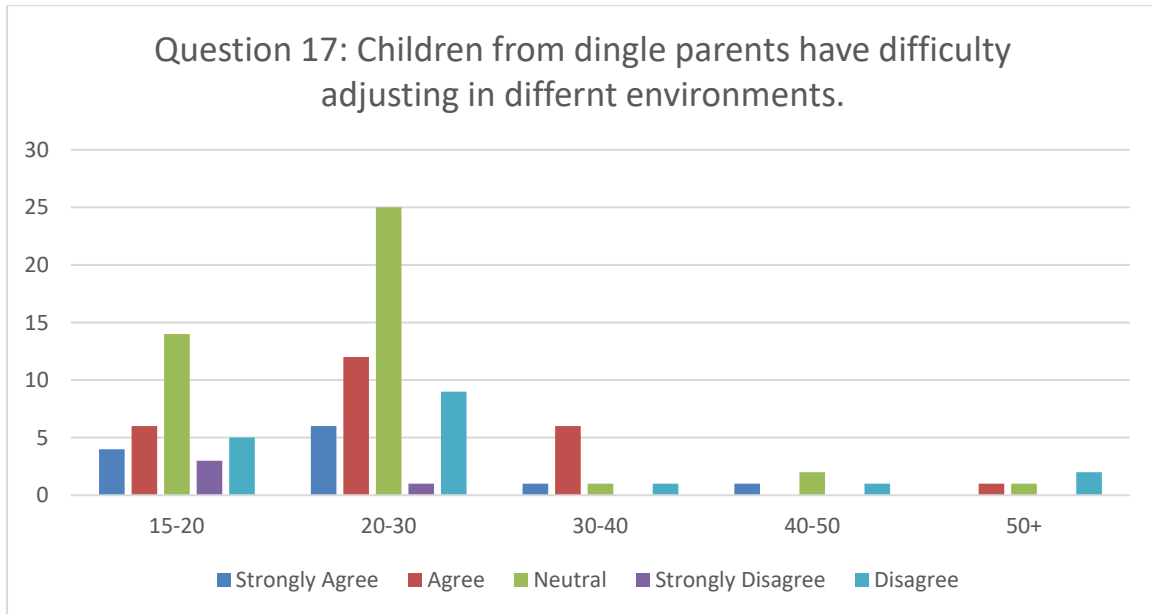
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Question 11: Single father faces difficulties in handling and taking care of the children

Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Strongly Disagree | Disagree

Question 12: Children of single parents are more prone to psychiatric illness.

Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Strongly Disagree | Disagree

Question 13: Single mother deals with their child's emotion properly

Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Strongly Disagree | Disagree

Question 14: Single parents faces major issues in managing time between work and spending time with their children

Question 15: Support and empowerment will help single parents to face the bad impression of the society toawrds them.

Question16: Children from single parents are discriminated by the society.

Question 17: Children from dingle parents have difficulty adjusting in differnt environments.

Question 18: Number of single parents is increasing yearly

Question 19: Single parents feel overwhelmed by the responsoibility of the children

Recommendations
- Questions can be given to single mothers and fathers to have a better understanding of how they feel.
- Questions can be given to single parent children to know more about how they feel and how they respond to different situations.
- Answers from age above 50 should be collected more in person to have a general idea on how they feel about single parenting.

Limitations

The perspective analysed is fully based on the question we made and there might be more than this questions arising about single parenting and its view. The study has only 4 responses from age 40-50 and 50+ as a result the opinion of this cannot be generalized. In the case of the 30-40 age group only 9 responses are there as a result even this opinion cannot be generalized.

CONCLUSION

The general opinion on single parenting plays a vital role in surviving through the environment. This study helped understand how different age groups have opinions towards single parenting. It was found that the age group shared similar opinions. The opinion and the response similarities were greatly dependent on questions asked and it was also found that populations of the same age tend to have similar responses.

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