Abandonment: Factor of Behavioral Problems on Children
Celerina R. Teodosio
College of Industrial Technology, Batangas State University, Golden Country Homes, Alangilan, Batangas, Philippines

Abstract:
The objective of the study is to know the effects of abandonment to various behavioral problems on the children involved. Having a complete family is one of the greatest gift a child could have living in this world of challenges. The researcher used descriptive type of research for an easy and more clarity of presenting the findings. The respondents of the study are those children in a real life situation of being abandoned by their parents from 11 years old to 18 years old. These children can easily give valid statements based on real life experiences. The researcher used face-to-face interview with series of questions. It was noted and recorded to come up with the of being abandoned from 11 years old to 18 years old. These children can easily give valid statements based on real life situations in discussing the case. With this study, it was found out that there are several effects to behavior of children who experienced to be abandoned by their parents. Majority of these are: a. having no life direction, b. laziness c. lack of interest in education, d. insensitivity, and e. disrespectful. With the above findings, it was concluded that abandonment brings great effects to every child behavior and so it is recommended for every parent to be responsible enough on every action and decision they make for it is the children who will be much affected negatively, physically and emotionally. And that it must be in the mindset of every couple that “parenting assumes responsibility and accountability not just to own family but to the society as well.”

Keywords: Abandonment, Behavioral Problems, Culture, Physiological Needs.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the Philippines it is already a big part of its culture that what we called “family oriented people.” Generally, every Filipino family are close to each of the family member. They show their love and respect the way they show their concern and support to each other. Family also serves as their inspiration and the very top reason of their persistence to have a happy, peaceful and progressive way of living. In the family, parents play a very important role to keep the family strong and stays together. They are the one doing the nurturing of their children since the day the mother gave birth. Children are so happy seeing their parents together and very much happy being taking care of and looking forward for the best in the whole family. There are lots of activities being experience by each of the family member like eating together, praying together, travelling, making fun together and a lot more. It is really indeed a happy thing for every Filipino people having a family on their side. However, some situations may not be controlled by each family member from happening, maybe good or bad, whether they like it or not. And most of the time any changes from the existing family situations the children will be the one who are strongly affected. Cases like separation of parents, abandonment, involvement of a family member to illegal drugs, early marriage for the youth, harassment, etc. resulted to a high negative impact for the whole family. It is a long saying that “Young people are the Hope of the Nation.” But what will happen if this young generation will be devastated? Every child once neglected for a moment by their parents feels so alone and lonely, what more if being abandoned? Abandonment is one of the most painful situations that may happened to a child. No parents to talk to, no parents to ask for something, no parents to share with what happened while in school, who are his/her friends, what are their accomplishments, what are those things that made them sad or happy, how do they feel and think, and many others. In the Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, from the first level up to the third level: Physiological/Biological Needs, Safety and Security, and Love and Belongingness, these are basically being provided by the parents to their children. The first one refers to those things that everyone of us needs for survival like foods, clothing, and shelter. Imagine if children were abandoned? Who will do the responsibility of providing such? What will happen if nobody does it? Let us take a look at the second one: Safety and Security which refers to medicines, keeping away from danger and other harmful things or situations inplaces. Who will protect them? Who will be called if they got sick or they feel danger is coming to them? Again, this is a hard thing. Another is the third one: Love and Belongingness. Everyone of us needs love, care, attention and the feeling of belonging to what we called a “family.” How those children would feel if no parents on their side? What if they cannot also feel it with their siblings? All of these things play a very important role in giving the life that we need, the life that we are looking for and the life of being alive! It is a very serious problem for us, and so for the children. Life is really full of challenges and everyone of us should face those and have the strength to fight with it. However, children are too young to experience the challenges of abandonment. Being in the situation, number of factors that affect or change the behavior of the affected children are inevitable. In this study, we will know how abandonment on children affects or change their behavior. It is really a must that all Filipino people can feel in themselves those childrens’ situation in order for us to understand fully the hard thing about them and for us to realize every single happening to those involved children that will lead us to be more responsible and productive citizen of the country for us not to become a cause of such painful case.

II. METHODOLOGY

This presents the overall methods employed in the completion of the study. It is very important to apply the applicable research methodology including the research design, the respondents of the study, the data gathering instrument used, the procedures, as well as the statistical treatment of data to clearly discuss how the
researcher could come up with the discussion of results and findings of the study.

Research Design
The researcher used the descriptive type of research. Descriptive research design is a scientific method which involves observing and describing the behavior of a subject without influencing it in any way (https://explorable.com). It is the most widely used research designs as indicated by theses dissertations and research reports of institutions. Its common means of obtaining information that include the use of the questionnaire, personal interviews with the aid of study guide or interview schedule, and observation, either participatory or not. (https://www.google.com) This is the one applicable for the topic because in this study, we can do observation and interview that would help us to get the information we need and therefore describe the behavior of our respondents.

Respondents
The respondents of the study are those in real life abandoned children coming from a family of 5. Their ages are from 18 to 10 years old, a combination of boys and girls, 4 are normal children and 1 is a special child. They were abandoned for 5 years now. They were chosen to be the subject of this case study because of their actual and real life situation and there is a greater access for the researcher to do the study.

Data Gathering Instruments
In this study, the researcher uses personal or face to face interview one by one. The interview will be done according to the availability of each respondent and the researcher. There are series of questions prepared to be asked and the researcher will take note of all their answers on every question for data collection. The researcher may also do the recording if will be allowed by each participant. The interview questions are focusing on several issues that would be helpful to fully get the subject’s real life situations. Questions are answerable by Yes or No for some but most of it are open-ended questions in order for the respondents to tell everything they are experiencing.

Data Gathering Procedure
The researcher first identifies the best subject for the chosen case and ask for the approval of the respondents and then checks other possible references that can help and support in the data gathering. An actual exposure to same situation as well as number of encounters to children with the same experiences are already a big help for the researcher to easily formulate questions to be asked and understand fully all the responses of the subject. After the formulation of questions, the researcher will start to set the interview schedule with the subjects of the study. During the interview the researcher starts to take notes every uttered word of the subjects. The interviews will be done in two separate days due to availability of both sides: the researcher and the respondents/subjects. After such, the researcher arrange all the data gathered starting from the beginning up to the last minute of the interview. And finally, prepare for the final copy.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
In here, the result of the interviews and note taking are ready to be presented and will be the subject of discussion. The flow of the interview is shown below:

IV. FIRST DAY OF INTERVIEW:
The first respondent was the 18 years old young lady, who is the eldest among the five kids. The first statement stated in number is the question followed by the responses of the subject.
Questions 1. What is your situation right now?
Answer “I’m okay. But quite hard because I am far from my siblings because I need to study somewhere near to the one supporting my studies.”
2. Who is supporting your studies and other allowances? Is it enough for your needs or not?
“My Uncle, the brother of my mother is the one supporting and giving me allowances but sometimes its not enough but I am making it enough in my own ways.” Its hard because it is still better if my parent is the one giving me such. It is shameful to complain or to ask something from my Uncle compared if my parent is the one giving me allowances.”
3. How do you see yourself after graduation?
“I see myself looking for a job and once got one, I will save more money to support my younger siblings and to repair our own house.” “It’s very hard to be in this situation but I should be stronger than my real self for us to get away from this hard situation.
4. How’s your relatives on both sides? From your mother side and your fatherside? Do you have communication with them? Are you close with them?
“Communication…occasionally. Maybe because I am quite far from them because I am here in San Pedro studying. Some of them are okay, some are just okay, and some are not that okay.”
I can talk to them but not that often and I cannot open everything I wanted to say. Those cousins at my same age, yes, I can say we are close every time we are together but we can do that just occasionally not most of the time.”
5. Is the situation okay for you? Or do you have some bad feelings about it?
“Its just okay..I cannot do anything more about it. Its beyond my control. Bad feeling..hmmm..not really. Just sad maybe, because you know.”
6. Do you have communication with your parents? Anyone of them.
“Yes, both of them..but not that much. And I really don’t want to expect more from them because it would be more painful if your expectations and hopes will not happen.”
7. With that situation, do you have bad feeling about your parents?
“In the beginning, yes. Because I am not this old then. And its very hard to be in the house without your parents around and all of you are young. I have to do most of the tasks in our house because I am the eldest. Sometimes I do cry because I feel so tired doing household chores alone with your siblings not bothered of helping you. Its maybe because they are all young also that time our mother abandoned us while our father is out of the country that time.
8. If I will ask you a short message for your parents, what it would be? “Haa...(sigh) I hope you will be together again and come back to us and bring back our family again.” Because its really hard for us experiencing such situation.” Then, she cried. The second respondent was the second child, 17 years of age and a young man. Conversation as follows:
1. How are you?
“Sometimes okay, sometimes not.” (a short laugh)
2. How’s your studies?
“I stopped. I don’t want my course (Senior Highschool student before). It is hard. I told my father already before that I do not want it. It’s not my choice.”
3. So, you have communication with your father?
“Yes before when he was here. But now, very seldom.”
4. Why is it so?
“Everytime we talked, he is always scolding me. And it makes me sick! He didn’t love me anymore and so why should I talk to him?”
5. Sorry to ask this but why do you think your parents separated and abandoned all of you?
“It is just a small thing about them but we really didn’t understand the real reason. My father said before, because our mother is not doing her responsibilities as a real mother to us. Our mother wasted his money which supposedly for us.” Then our mother said that its our father who had a mistake..but we cannot really understand.”
6. Why are you not serious about your studies as your other siblings are saying? Are you not dreaming of having a good job someday? For your own future especially.
“I really don’t know what to say. I want to earn money someday but I don’t know how? I don’t know the right course for me. I don’t know if I still can. Also, its very hard on my part because I am considered as the eldest because my older sister is studying far from us. I am the one who cook, who are required to cut grasses in our surroundings, responsible for washing my own clothes and my “special” brother’s clothes, and many others. My problem also is that my younger siblings are not following me so I’ll just do all the chores.It is really very hard for us.”(He started to cry while saying the last two sentences)
7. If you will be asked, what do you want for your parents?
“I want them to be together again. It is very hard without them. Some of my relatives didn’t see my effort, they are just blaming me for many things. It is not my responsibility anyway, it should be my parents. But why me?”
8. According to your grandparents and other relatives, you are always with your friends almost everyday and for more than 8 hours chatting together, playing with computer. Most of the time also, if not your friends sleeping in your house, its you who is sleeping in your friends’ house. Why do you like such arrangement eventhough your father disallowed you to do such things?
“I feel bored at home. There’s nobody I can talk to and I cannot do anything inside the house.”
9. As per your relatives, they are instructing you to clean up your house as well as the surroundings, why are you not doing it?
“Because its always me. Why always me? I am not the only person here. And why we also survive last year having this same situation?
10. Do you realize sometimes that you should do all those chores because you are the eldest now because of the situation and you should be responsible enough as the “Kuya” of your other siblings?
(Smiling) “I don’t know. All I know is I cannot do such things.”

The third respondent was a young boy, age 14, a 2nd year high school student.
1. How are you young boy? Fine. (smiling)
2. Do you know what is happening in your family?
“Yes. Our parents are separated.
3. How do you feel about that?
“Sad? Angry? (a short laugh). I really don’t know. All I know is its hard because nobody cooks food for us, our “Kuya” is lazy and I don’t know how to cook. We always eat fried like eggs, can goods, hotdogs and then noodles. We can easily cook those.
4. Why are not asking your Kuya to teach you how to cook? Wouldn’t you like to eat fresh fish, meat or vegetables? Not like those foods that you mentioned.
“Oh, I don’t like, its hard to cook. We are so many and Kuya should do the chores.” “I love to eat pork nilaga, fried chicken and some vegetables! But Kuya don’t cook.”
5. How do you take care your younger sister? You have a younger sister right?
“Nothing. She is doing on her own, and I am doing on my own. (laughing).
6. How’s your studies? Your grandparents and Auntie told me that you are always absent. What are your reasons?
“Yes, its true. I do absences. I cannot wake up early. It is very hard for me to wake up in the morning. I always lack of sleep.”
7. Why lack of sleep? What are you doing at night?
“Sometimes I am with my friends and my Kuya in the neighborhood. Sometimes, I play computer in the computer shop and sometimes I watch TV!”
8. Do you think it is the better thing to do eventhough you know that you have to wake up early the next day because you have your school?
“I don’t know. I am happy doing those things.”
9. Is it true that your teacher always visited you and encourage you to go to school? And how’s your grades?
“Yes, many times. I don’t have grades in most of my subjects. I am incomplete in most of them.”
10. Are you happy with that?
“Hmmm…I don’t know.
11. What do you want to say to your parents?
“Uhhmm…Why they separated? Do they know this is hard for us?”
The fourth respondent was the youngest, 11 years old girl. She graduated in Grade 6 last April 2019. Here’s the conversation:
1. How’s your graduation little girl?
“It’s not that okay because in the beginning I really don’t know who will join me on my graduation day.” I am asking one of my Aunties but she is not available. So my father asked one of my cousins to be with me. Though my grandmother is with me also but she cannot go upstairs because of her knee problems. She is old already.”
2. What did you wish for your graduation as a gift?
“Shoes with wheels! I want it because I don’t have a bike and I know it is cheaper to buy a shoes other than a bike.”
3. Do you understand your family’s situation?
“Yes, we are broken family.”
4. What do you feel about that?
(She started to cry) “It’s hard for us with no parents. Like my brothers, they don’t want to go to school. Also, they are lazy. I am the youngest but sometimes they are asking me to do the chores. I missed eating vegetables and pork and chicken and other foods that our father is always preparing for us.”
5. Sorry to ask you this. If you will be given a choice, to whom would you prefer to go, to your mother or to your father?
(crying) “I don’t know. Its hard to choose.” But I will stay here on my father’s place because I am studying here.”
6. Would you like your parents be together again?

“Yes, for us to complete again as a family.” The researcher tried to interview the special child in the family but it’s very hard to get an accurate answer. But as per observation, the special child who is 16 years old already needs the care from his parents and siblings. The young boy did not know how to clean himself fully and he is just depending on his siblings’ instruction in terms of when and what to eat, when to take a bath, what to do the whole day including the washing of his own clothes. But the boy is very good in following. If he was instructed to do something, he is immediately doing it. But sadly, other observations are: a. the siblings always commanding the special kid like going to the store, cook rice, get water for them for taking a bath, wash dishes and other things. b. It takes a long time before the hair of that kid is cut same with his nails. (The boy don’t know how to cut his own nails) c. The special boy most of the time is the one doing the household chores (as instructed by his siblings) d. The kid is not eating 3 times a day and not at the right time. This is because he is dependent on the time his two brothers are eating (who wake up late for breakfast). So sad for the “special child.”

V. FINDINGS

Based on the above interview and as the researcher evaluates all the answers to questions, the researcher formulated below framework to figuratively explain the effects on behavior to children who experienced abandonment of parents:

First, from the interviews with the second and third child, both of them do not really know the importance of knowing what they want in life, their role in doing the household chores, and the importance of education. These show the effects of abandonment in terms of life direction, becoming lazy and having no interest on education respectively. Secondly on the other part, being sensitive and lack of respect are obviously be seen from the two same respondents: the 17 and 14 years old boys. Both of them are not aware that what they are doing were wrong. They don’t even care that much when it comes to their “special” sibling as described in the researcher’s observation. However, on the third evaluation from all of their responses when asked about what they feel and why they want to tell their parents, all of them are sad and experiencing a hard life and most especially, they wanted to get back their parents together. Fourth, in addition to the above, there is a greater effect on boys rather than girls. This is because both boys are doing wrong when it comes to education and behaviour while there is no information saying that the two girls are having problems on education. Well in fact, from their responses the eldest has already a plan after her graduation and the youngest is seems so concern with her education. Finally, there is also greater effect on the “special child. The young boy receives lower care though his kind should be treated as special as he is due to his personal condition.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the interviews above, we can now conclude that there are several effects on children being abandoned by parents and most of them are in a negative way. In connection with this, it is recommended that all the parents out there must all be responsible enough in all their actions and decisions. Parents should be aware of becoming a “parent. They must know their responsibilities to their children, the very important role of being a parent. Every child has the right to be taken care of and well-protected physically and emotionally. Any wrong action of a parent will reflect to every child development. Yes, it’s true that sometimes abandonment makes the child stronger in life but most of the cases are the contrary. Everyone has the right to life and everyone has his/her own responsibilities and obligations to exercise fully so that no child will be deprived of enjoying a happy and peaceful life with what we called a “family.”

VII. REFERENCES

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