Children of Divorce: Negative Effects on Perceptions of Love
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Introduction
Divorce is a very sensitive topic; it brings massive change to children’s lives no matter their age. 30 years of research proves that children with divorced parents have a higher risk of future divorces, anxiety, pessimistic views on life, low self-esteem, and trust issues.[3] Our purpose is to demonstrate how these children tend to be negatively impacted to a point where it can affect their future relationships.

Research Question
How do divorced parents affect the future relationship behaviors in their children?

What might an interactionist say?
Interactionism is one of the three basic sociological perspectives that observes how a tremendous amount of repeated interactions with individuals and groups result in social change and social order in a society. [6] Through a sociological lens, an interactionist would examine divorce and would most likely say that it’s a result from lacking intimate communication between the spouses. Since the children see this weak interaction at home, they will often project what they see, and the likelihood for this projection to lead to negative consequences is quite high. Furthermore, an interactionist would say lacking interaction and a sense of unity within the family may create issues with the children and the way they will perceive future intimate relationships.

Literature Review and Research Plan

Literature Review
Based on the references, divorce can cause psychological problems on children of divorce[1] It causes them to lose confidence in their future relationships, or perhaps strengthen it. The children of divorce tend to be divorced after their parents.[6] They also question if they’re the reason of the divorce, which lowers self-esteem. If gives them a sense that if their parents failed in their marriage, they will too (as if it was hereditary).

Research Plan
Besides referring to secondary research, we would also like to propose our own method of trying to get a clearer understanding of our question. For our method we would want a sample of 30 to 60 individuals, all of which have to fit a criteria; they have to be 21 years or older and their parents must’ve gotten divorced during their childhood. We will then conduct a qualitative study, where a series of questions will be asked in a sort of interview-like setting. Only then will we be able to come to our conclusion of just how great an impact divorce can affect a child.

Findings

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 1996 about 1.3 million children were recorded to have been affected by divorce. Numbers had quadrupled from 1950.

This chart demonstrates that children from divorced families engage in a sexual manner with someone as opposed to children from intact families. [6]

The graph shows the percentage of college students who reported painful feelings due to their parents’ divorce.[5]

Conclusions
Overall, our studies show that children with divorced parents are much more likely to be divorced. They demonstrate to us that because of their fear of commitment, lack of trust, and the misperception that divorce is “acceptable”, it is common for them to have broken relationships. [3] However if parents are able to teach their children the importance of forgiveness and strong relationship-building for the future, it is possible that they can foster healthy relationships of their own and work out their issues with their partner.

References