**Introduction**

- Single parents may feel stressed and overwhelmed by the responsibilities of caring for their children, maintaining a job, and keeping up with the bills and household chores, since they are the sole breadwinner (Gain, 2000).

- Single parenthood can present a range of challenges for the individual parent and the family as a whole, including the community’s negative attitude toward them leading them to experience stigma and isolation (NCSMC, 2009).

- Parenting stress arises from the daily tasks of child rearing, especially when parenting demands exceed the parents’ available resources (Deater-Deckard, 2004).

- High levels of parenting stress negatively affect children’s development. These children are of primary concern due to an accumulation of risk factors, including: poverty as well as insensitive and unavailable parenting (McLoyd, 2000).

- Approximately 95% of mothers in Liberia are single parents. Instead of contributing to the national development, they are primarily preoccupied with their family’s day-to-day (Myers 2011).

- This will be the first study to examine the parental stress of single mothers as compared to dual mothers in the republic of Liberia.

**Hypothesis**

Single mothers in Liberia will present higher parental stress levels compared to married mothers.

**Method**

**Participants**

The study will include 80 participants: 40 single mothers and 40 dual parents who have at least one child.

**Measures**


- The Demographic questionnaire includes 14 questions, such as: the number of children in the family, ages of mothers/ fathers and their educational level.

**Conclusion**

- Liberia has suffered from a 14 year long civil war which has raised the cost of living significantly. Therefore, single mothers in Liberia have to work long-hours in order to survive, leaving them with little time to take care of their children. These two factors contribute to high maternal stress levels in this population.

- This study proposal has the potential of raising Liberia government’s awareness as to the state of the many single mothers in the country.

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