**Comparing Families**

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As the dynamics of family diversity shift from primarily married households to a steady rise in single parent households, it is important to acknowledge the differences in both family types. These discrepancies still predominantly define the psychological and social upbringing of children and adolescents. The statistical rise of the probability of a child living with single or unmarried parents has also brought a rise in the family instability that a child is likely to experience. This goes on to coincide an increase in the number of family arrangements the child will live in. (Brown) Therefore, a child living with married parents will know and understand stability much better than one with a single parent. Families having married parents will raise children surer of themselves and more psychologically capable than children that single parents will raise. Studies have proven that children who grow up in a household with married parents tend to perform better on educational and professional fronts later in life. (Murry) These children also have better emotional strength and behavioral maturity. Social situations that tend to be stressful for children in single parent households might not faze children with married parent households as much. Other than the stability that married parents households provide, there is also a confidence in romantic commitments that families with married parents are likelier to lend to their children.

It is, however, pertinent that social biasness is understood when making this comparison. The social structure we live in is still skewed to only accept heterosexual married couples as the ‘ideal family’. A considerable proportion of social instability that a child or adolescent may face is also a result of the pressure the society will put on the child and their unmarried parent simply for not conforming. This primary difference between the two families should also be considered.

# References

Brown, Susan L., Wendy D. Manning, and J. Bart Stykes. "Family structure and child well‐being: Integrating family complexity." *Journal of Marriage and Family* (2015): 177-190. Print.

Murry, Velma McBride, and Melissa A. Lippold. "Parenting practices in diverse family structures: Examination of adolescents’ development and adjustment." *Journal of Research on Adolescence* (2018): 650-664. Print.