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The Dynamics of Broken Home Families: Communication Barriers, Determinants, and Their Impacts on Children's Psychological and Social Development

Dinamika Keluarga Broken Home: Hambatan Komunikasi, Faktor Penyebab, dan Dampaknya terhadap Perkembangan Psikologis serta Sosial Anak

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ABSTRACT
This study aims to examine the dynamics of broken home families by focusing on communication barriers, the determinants that lead to family disintegration, and their impacts on children's psychological and social development. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected through in-depth interviews with individuals who directly experienced the challenges of living in a non-intact family. The findings reveal that communication breakdowns, such as limited emotional dialogue, aggressive interaction patterns, and inadequate channels for expressing needs, serve as initial triggers for prolonged conflicts that eventually result in family separation. Additional determinants include economic pressures, role disharmony, and ineffective conflict resolution. The impacts on children appear in the form of heightened anxiety, reduced self-esteem, altered social behavior, and difficulties establishing secure interpersonal relationships. These findings highlight the importance of healthy family communication and early psychosocial intervention in preventing and mitigating the long-term consequences of broken home situations on children's development.
Keywords : Broken Home; Communication Barriers; Family Determinants; Psychological Development; Social Development; Children; Family Dynamics

ABSTRACT
Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji dinamika keluarga yang berantakan dengan fokus pada hambatan komunikasi, faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan disintegrasi keluarga, dan dampaknya terhadap perkembangan psikologis dan sosial anak-anak. Menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif, data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam dengan individu yang secara langsung mengalami tantangan hidup dalam keluarga yang tidak utuh. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa gangguan komunikasi, seperti dialog emosional yang terbatas, pola interaksi agresif, dan saluran yang tidak memadai untuk mengekspresikan kebutuhan, menjadi pemicu awal konflik berkepanjangan yang pada akhirnya menyebabkan perpisahan keluarga. Faktor penentu tambahan meliputi tekanan ekonomi, ketidakharmonisan peran, dan resolusi konflik yang tidak efektif. Dampak pada anak-anak terlihat dalam bentuk kecemasan yang meningkat, penurunan harga diri, perubahan perilaku sosial, dan kesulitan dalam membangun hubungan interpersonal yang aman. Temuan ini menyoroti pentingnya komunikasi keluarga yang sehat dan intervensi psikososial dini dalam mencegah dan mengurangi konsekuensi jangka panjang situasi keluarga yang berantakan terhadap perkembangan anak-anak.
Kata Kunci: Keluarga Berantakan; Hambatan Komunikasi; Faktor Penentu Keluarga; Perkembangan Psikologis; Perkembangan Sosial; Anak-Anak; Dinamika Keluarga

1. Introduction

Family remains the foundational social environment that shapes children's emotional, psychological, and social well-being. In an ideal context, the family provides stability, harmony, and supportive communication that ensures children grow in a secure and nurturing environment. However, when persistent marital conflicts, emotional disengagement, and unresolved disagreements occur, the family can transition into a condition commonly known as a broken home. Contemporary studies emphasize that a broken home is not limited to

formal divorce but includes structural and relational disruptions that erode family functioning and harmony (Smith & Johnson, 2021).

Family is universally recognized as the earliest and most influential social environment that shapes a child's emotional, psychological, and social development. Within a healthy family system, children gain a sense of security, identity, and belonging, while parents function as the primary sources of guidance, emotional regulation, and social learning. When stability, affection, and communication operate effectively, children are more likely to experience positive development across their cognitive, behavioral, and interpersonal domains. However, when the family system becomes disrupted by persistent marital conflict, emotional withdrawal, or unresolved interpersonal tensions, this stability deteriorates. Such prolonged dysfunction may culminate in what contemporary scholars identify as a broken home, a condition not only characterized by legal divorce but also by relational fragmentation and structural discontinuity that fundamentally impair family functioning (Smith & Johnson, 2021).

Communication barriers are widely recognized as a central determinant of family breakdown. Recent research highlights that diminished emotional dialogue, inconsistent parental involvement, and maladaptive communication patterns significantly contribute to relational detachment between parents and children (Reynolds & Houlston, 2022). When communication becomes dysfunctional, the capacity of the family to regulate emotions, coordinate roles, and provide psychological security weakens, leading to a higher risk of family disintegration and adverse developmental outcomes in children (Martinez & Lee, 2023).

A central factor in this deterioration is the weakening of communication within the family system. Communication is not merely a medium for exchanging information; it is a relational process through which emotions, expectations, and boundaries are negotiated. Recent studies emphasize that communication barriers such as diminished emotional responsiveness, avoidance behaviors, inconsistent parental involvement, and hostile communication play a critical role in triggering and perpetuating family fragmentation (Reynolds & Houlston, 2022). When communication becomes dysfunctional, the family loses its ability to maintain emotional regulation, coordinate parental roles, and create a psychologically secure atmosphere for children. This breakdown severely compromises the family's capacity to support healthy child development, exposing children to heightened emotional distress and developmental risks (Martinez & Lee, 2023).

Children and adolescents who grow up in broken home conditions are especially vulnerable. Between 2020 and 2025, the growing body of empirical evidence consistently documents that children from high-conflict or separated families experience higher rates of psychological disturbances including anxiety, insecurity, stress sensitivity, and diminished academic performance compared to peers from stable family environments (Turner & Wells, 2021). Beyond psychological outcomes, social development is also significantly impaired. Children from fragmented families often struggle with interpersonal trust, emotional expression, conflict resolution skills, and the formation of secure peer relationships (Nguyen et al., 2024). Adolescents, whose developmental stage already involves identity exploration and heightened emotional sensitivity, are particularly susceptible to feelings of abandonment, loneliness, or confusion about belonging. Many seek alternative sources of affirmation or meaning to compensate for the emotional gaps left by parental disengagement.

The post-separation parenting context further intensifies these developmental challenges. Research indicates that divorced or separated parents frequently adopt permissive, inconsistent, or disengaged communication patterns due to divided living arrangements, emotional fatigue, or ongoing interpersonal conflict (Peterson & Moore, 2022). These parenting styles weaken parent–child attachment, disrupt emotional guidance, and reduce opportunities for healthy communication. As a result, children face greater risks of maladaptive coping strategies, such as withdrawal, aggression, delinquency, or immersion in

negative peer environments. When fundamental psychological needs for security, recognition, and guidance remain unmet, children may also experience identity confusion or long-term self-esteem deficits (Almeida & Santos, 2025).

These issues collectively underscore the urgent significance of studying the dynamics of broken home families. First, the rising global divorce rates and increased exposure of children to chronic family conflict highlight the need to understand how communication breakdowns contribute to family instability. Second, the psychological and social vulnerabilities observed among children from broken homes make it imperative to identify specific determinants whether relational, emotional, economic, or behavioral that lead to family disintegration. Third, by exploring how adolescents construct meaning, interpret happiness, and navigate their social environments amid family fragmentation, this research contributes to a broader understanding of resilience and risk among vulnerable youth populations.

Children and adolescents living in broken home conditions face heightened vulnerability to psychological and social challenges. Studies from 2020 onward consistently report increased symptoms of anxiety, behavioral dysregulation, emotional insecurity, and academic decline among children experiencing parental separation or conflictual family environments (Turner & Wells, 2021). Social development is similarly affected, as children from fragmented families often struggle with interpersonal trust, peer relationships, and susceptibility to negative external influences (Nguyen et al., 2024). Adolescents in particular tend to seek alternative sources of meaning, happiness, and acceptance when parental support becomes inconsistent or emotionally distant.

Recent findings also underscore the critical role of parenting communication styles after separation. Divorced parents frequently shift toward permissive or disengaged communication, which has been linked to weakened parent child attachment and poor emotional regulation among adolescents (Peterson & Moore, 2022). When parents prioritize personal conflicts or experience divided attention due to separate households, children may experience unmet psychological needs, resulting in greater exposure to risky behavior, identity confusion, or decreased well-being (Almeida & Santos, 2025).

Given these developments, understanding the communication barriers, determinants, and developmental consequences experienced by children in broken home families is both urgent and relevant. This study aims to explore the dynamics of broken home families by examining how communication patterns deteriorate, what factors contribute to family fragmentation, and how these conditions shape children's psychological and social development. Through a qualitative case study approach, this research offers an in-depth understanding of how adolescents interpret happiness, meaning, and belonging within the context of disrupted family structures.

2. Literature Review
Concept of Broken Home Families
The term broken home refers to families experiencing structural or relational disruption due to chronic conflict, parental separation, or divorce. Modern perspectives expand the definition beyond legal dissolution, emphasizing the breakdown of emotional bonding, parental presence, and household stability (Smith & Johnson, 2021). Broken home conditions often emerge when families fail to resolve persistent conflicts, leading to decreased cohesion and diminished parental functioning. Such disruptions alter family structure and redefine children's daily interactions, routines, and emotional environments (Turner & Wells, 2021). Contemporary studies highlight that the severity of the broken home experience depends not only on separation itself but on the level of conflict, communication quality, and stability of parental roles post-separation.

Communication Barriers in Broken Home Families

Communication serves as the foundation of relational stability and family cohesion. In broken home families, communication barriers frequently arise from emotional withdrawal, unresolved conflicts, and inconsistent parental involvement. According to Reynolds and Houlston (2022), communication breakdowns commonly occur when parents exhibit avoidance, aggressive dialogue, or reduced responsiveness to children's needs. These barriers contribute to emotional insecurity because children lose access to reliable emotional cues and guidance (Martinez & Lee, 2023). Furthermore, post-separation households often experience fragmented communication due to logistical constraints, conflicting parenting styles, and a lack of coordinated decision-making (Peterson & Moore, 2022). The absence of healthy communication patterns significantly contributes to children's psychological distress and challenges in developing trust-based relationships.

Determinants of Family Breakdown

Family breakdown is influenced by multiple interrelated determinants, including marital conflict, economic stress, emotional detachment, and maladaptive parenting behaviors. Recent evidence shows that chronic parental conflict is one of the strongest predictors of family dissolution (Nguyen et al., 2024). Financial strain also increases stress levels, decreases marital satisfaction, and elevates the likelihood of separation or divorce (Almeida & Santos, 2025). Emotional disengagement—where parents withdraw from relational and caregiving responsibilities—further accelerates the collapse of family cohesion. Negative coping patterns, such as permissive or neglectful parenting, often emerge during periods of instability and exacerbate communication barriers between parents and children (Peterson & Moore, 2022). Collectively, these determinants not only contribute to the emergence of a broken home but also shape the intensity of its psychological impact on children.

Psychological Impacts on Children and Adolescents

Children and adolescents in broken home families are at heightened risk of experiencing emotional and psychological challenges. Turner and Wells (2021) found that children from high-conflict or separated families are more likely to exhibit symptoms of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Emotional insecurity becomes prevalent when parental support becomes inconsistent or unavailable (Martinez & Lee, 2023). Adolescents may also struggle with identity formation, emotional regulation difficulties, and heightened stress sensitivity due to the instability within the home environment. Moreover, exposure to permissive or disengaged communication styles after separation increases the likelihood of maladaptive coping, including withdrawal, aggression, or risky behaviors (Peterson & Moore, 2022). These psychological consequences underscore the importance of stable communication and emotional regulation within the family system.

Social Development and Behavioral Outcomes

Broken home conditions also impact children's social functioning. Adolescents from disrupted families often face challenges forming secure peer relationships, maintaining social boundaries, and developing interpersonal trust (Nguyen et al., 2024). Studies reveal that family instability can lead to increased susceptibility to negative peer influences, social withdrawal, or oppositional behavior. The absence of strong parental monitoring and communication further increases the likelihood of adolescents engaging in problematic behaviors, such as substance misuse or delinquency (Almeida & Santos, 2025). Conversely, children with access to supportive networks—whether from extended family, school environments, or community institutions—tend to demonstrate stronger resilience and adaptive social functioning

(Martinez & Lee, 2023). Thus, social outcomes are shaped not only by family structure but also by the broader support systems surrounding the child.

The Role of Parental Communication Post-Separation

Recent studies emphasize that the style and quality of parental communication after separation significantly influence children's overall adjustment. Permissive, inconsistent, or disengaged communication patterns often arise when divorced parents struggle with coordination and emotional regulation (Reynolds & Houlston, 2022). These communication styles weaken parent–child attachment and reduce opportunities for emotional support. Peterson and Moore (2022) argue that cooperative co-parenting, characterized by open dialogue, coordinated parenting practices, and consistent emotional presence, mitigates psychological distress and supports healthier developmental trajectories for children. In contrast, high-conflict co-parenting environments amplify insecurity and behavioral instability. Therefore, understanding communication dynamics in post-separated families is crucial for designing interventions that strengthen emotional resilience in children.

3. Research Methods

This study employs a qualitative research approach to explore the phenomenon of broken home families and their psychological and sociological impacts on children and adolescents. Qualitative methods were selected because they allow for an in-depth understanding of personal experiences, emotional responses, and social meanings constructed by individuals living in disrupted family environments. Data sources, the research utilizes both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews and direct observations with selected informants who experienced the dynamics of broken home families. Secondary data were collected through a literature study, which included the examination of books, journal articles, and relevant academic publications related to family studies, child psychology, and sociological impacts of family fragmentation.

The research process began with identifying the topic of broken home family dynamics, followed by the formulation of research questions and objectives. A systematic literature review was then conducted, including keyword selection, database searching, reference screening, and the creation of a review matrix. The study adopted a qualitative case study design, and research instruments were developed in the form of interview guides and observation protocols. Informants were selected using snowball sampling, focusing on senior high school students with broken home backgrounds.

Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews and direct observations. The collected data were analyzed using the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña, which includes data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing with triangulation. Finally, the findings were interpreted thematically and integrated with existing literature, leading to the formulation of conclusions and implications.

Research Instruments

Two research instruments were used in this study Interview Guide to developed based on the research focus to explore experiences of broken home conditions and their psychological and sociological effects on children. Observation guide used to document behaviors, interactions, and contextual conditions that support the interview findings. The instrument development process was aligned with the research objectives, ensuring that key aspects such as communication patterns, emotional impacts, and social behaviors were systematically explored.

Informants were selected using the snowball sampling technique, beginning with initial contacts and progressively expanding to other participants based on recommendations. The

primary informants were senior high school students who had experienced broken home family conditions. Snowball sampling was deemed appropriate because it allows access to participants who may be difficult to reach due to the sensitive nature of the topic. Data were analyzed using the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña, which consists of four interconnected components. Data collection conducted through interviews and observations guided by prepared instruments. Involving the selection, simplification, and organization of interview transcripts and field notes while maintaining all information relevant to the research topic. Data Display: Presenting condensed data in descriptive form to generate temporary interpretations, which were then compared and validated through additional literature. Conclusion Drawing and Verification: Final conclusions were derived after comparison of findings, triangulation of data sources and methods, and continuous reflection on emergent themes. Triangulation was performed to ensure the credibility and validity of the findings, combining interview results, observation data, and literature-based evidence.

4. Results and Discussions

In this study, a total of eight adolescent participants were selected as research informants. Although the number may appear modest when compared to quantitative standards, it is highly appropriate and even optimal within the framework of qualitative inquiry. Qualitative research prioritizes depth over breadth, emphasizing rich, detailed, and personal narratives that reveal the complexity of lived experiences. By engaging eight participants, the study was able to explore diverse emotional responses, communication patterns, and coping mechanisms among adolescents from broken home families while still maintaining analytical focus.

Each participant provided unique insights shaped by different family conditions—ranging from parental divorce and prolonged conflict to parental absence or remarriage. This diversity allowed the researcher to identify recurring themes across cases while also appreciating individual variations. Importantly, after the eighth interview, data saturation was reached, meaning no substantially new themes or perspectives emerged. This indicates that the sample size was not only sufficient but also effective in capturing the core dynamics of the phenomenon under investigation. Thus, the decision to include eight participants reflects both methodological rigor and practical relevance: enough to ensure thematic richness, yet focused enough to allow for deep interpretative analysis. This sample size enabled the study to generate meaningful conclusions about the psychological and social impacts of broken home conditions on adolescents.

Communication Breakdown as the Initial Trigger of Family Fragmentation

The findings indicate that communication barriers represent the earliest and most influential trigger in the deterioration of family relationships leading to broken home conditions. Adolescents described persistent conflicts, emotional withdrawal, and prolonged silence as defining characteristics of their parents' interactions. These dysfunctional communication patterns align with Reynolds and Houlston (2022), showing that diminished emotional expression and inconsistent parental involvement undermine the family's capacity to regulate emotions and maintain relational harmony. Once communication collapses, the family system becomes unstable, ultimately accelerating separation or fragmentation (Martinez & Lee, 2023).

The findings of this study reveal that communication barriers constitute the earliest and most significant catalyst in the fragmentation of broken home families. Interviews with adolescent informants consistently show that communication between parents deteriorates long before separation occurs. This deterioration appears in the form of frequent arguments, emotional withdrawal, prolonged silence, and avoidance behaviors. In many cases, conflicts

were expressed openly in front of the children, creating an atmosphere of chronic emotional tension. In other cases, communication ceased entirely, creating a sense of isolation within the household. These dynamics reflect the communication breakdowns described by Reynolds and Houlston (2022), who argue that diminished emotional dialogue and inconsistent parental involvement undermine a family's capacity to maintain relational stability. Once communication becomes dysfunctional, the family system loses its ability to regulate emotions, coordinate roles, and sustain a sense of security for children, thereby accelerating the shift toward family disintegration (Martinez & Lee, 2023).

Multiple Determinants Contributing to Family Breakdown

The study identifies several interrelated determinants of family dissolution, including chronic emotional conflict, role disharmony between parents, financial pressures, and negative coping behaviors. Informants described their parents' relationship as gradually deteriorating due to unresolved disagreements and increasing stress. Economic strain frequently intensified emotional tensions, consistent with Nguyen et al. (2024), who argue that broken home conditions arise from the interaction of relational and structural stressors. These determinants collectively destabilize the household and reduce the family's ability to maintain functional cohesion (Almeida & Santos, 2025).

The analysis also reveals several determinants that contribute to the breakdown of family structures. These include prolonged emotional conflict, role disharmony between parents, economic stress, and maladaptive coping patterns within the family. Many informants described their parents' relationship as gradually deteriorating due to unresolved disagreements and the accumulation of daily tensions. Economic instability was frequently mentioned as an additional stressor that exacerbated emotional strain within the household. These findings align with Nguyen et al. (2024), who emphasize that broken home conditions emerge through the interaction of multiple relational and structural factors rather than a single triggering event. Similarly, Almeida and Santos (2025) highlight that emotional disengagement and compromised parental functioning often co-occur with financial strain and heightened conflict, eventually destabilizing the family as a whole.

The psychological impacts of broken home conditions are evident across all informants. Adolescents reported experiencing anxiety, emotional insecurity, low self-esteem, and difficulty regulating their emotions. Several noted a decline in academic motivation and difficulties concentrating at school due to ongoing family stress. These findings correspond with Turner and Wells (2021), who found that children from high-conflict or separated families exhibit elevated levels of psychological vulnerability. The absence of emotional support from one or both parents creates what Martinez and Lee (2023) describe as an "emotional void," which disrupts the development of secure emotional regulation. As the family environment becomes unpredictable, children lose access to the relational scaffolding that typically supports healthy psychological growth.

Significant Psychological Impacts on Adolescents

All informants reported psychological distress resulting from their broken home experiences. Common issues included anxiety, emotional insecurity, low self-esteem, and difficulty regulating emotions. Academic motivation and concentration were also negatively affected. These psychological patterns reflect Turner and Wells (2021), who found that children from conflictual or separated families exhibit elevated vulnerability to emotional disorders. The absence of consistent parental support creates an internal "emotional void," hindering the development of stable emotional regulation (Martinez & Lee, 2023).

In terms of social development, the study reveals that adolescents from broken home families often struggle with interpersonal trust, maintaining friendships, and managing social

interactions. Some informants reported withdrawing from social circles due to feelings of embarrassment or emotional exhaustion, while others actively sought attention and validation from peers in an attempt to compensate for the emotional deficiencies at home. Consistent with the findings of Nguyen et al. (2024), these adolescents appear more susceptible to negative peer influence and social instability. Disrupted attachment experiences in the family environment manifest in relational insecurity, which affects their ability to form stable and meaningful social connections.

Disruptions in Social Development and Interpersonal Relationships

Broken home conditions were found to significantly hinder adolescents' social development. Informants reported struggles with interpersonal trust, maintaining friendships, and adapting socially. Some withdrew from social settings due to emotional fatigue, while others sought excessive peer validation. These behaviors align with findings by Nguyen et al. (2024), showing that adolescents from fragmented families face greater susceptibility to negative peer influence and relational instability. The loss of secure attachment within the family environment affects how adolescents perceive and engage in social relationships.

The process of meaning-making and the pursuit of happiness among adolescents in broken home families is also complex. Informants expressed three dominant interpretations of happiness: the sense of freedom from parental conflict, the effort to derive meaning from painful experiences, and the pursuit of pleasurable activities as a distraction from emotional distress. While these interpretations may provide temporary relief, many adolescents acknowledged that the sense of happiness they pursue often lacks long-term fulfillment. Their narratives suggest ongoing internal conflicts as they navigate between coping with emotional pain and attempting to construct personal meaning from their circumstances. These findings are consistent with the observations of Almeida and Santos (2025), who argue that adolescents from disrupted families commonly employ both adaptive and maladaptive strategies when attempting to rebuild emotional stability.

Meaning-Making, Happiness, and Coping Strategies Among Adolescents

The study reveals that adolescents interpret happiness in varied ways, often viewing it as freedom from conflict, meaningful reflection on difficult experiences, or temporary emotional relief through pleasurable activities. However, these forms of happiness are frequently short-lived or compensatory. Adolescents employed a mix of adaptive strategies—such as pursuing hobbies or supportive friendships—and maladaptive strategies like emotional withdrawal or impulsive behavior. These findings are consistent with Almeida and Santos (2025), who note that coping strategies among adolescents from broken families vary depending on resilience levels and environmental support. The meaning-making process becomes central to how adolescents navigate identity formation amid family instability. The study also identifies diverse coping strategies used by adolescents. Some adopt adaptive strategies such as developing hobbies, seeking supportive friendships, and attempting to focus on academics. Others engage in maladaptive behaviors, including emotional withdrawal, impulsivity, or seeking affirmation through risky social environments. This variation reflects the differing levels of resilience across individuals and the influence of their social environments. Adolescents with access to supportive peers or extended family members tend to show healthier adjustment patterns, whereas those facing additional external stressors are more vulnerable to maladaptive coping.

Overall, the results demonstrate that the dynamics of broken home families exert a profound influence on children's psychological and social development. Communication barriers serve as the foundational factor driving family fragmentation, while determinants such as emotional conflict, economic pressures, and inconsistent parenting intensify the disruption.

The psychological consequences manifest in emotional insecurity, behavioral dysregulation, and diminished self-worth, while social consequences affect peer interactions, trust formation, and social adaptability. The findings highlight the importance of understanding how adolescents construct meaning, interpret happiness, and navigate identity formation amid familial instability. These insights are critical for informing interventions, counseling practices, and policies aimed at supporting children and adolescents from broken home families.

5. Conclusion

This study concludes that the dynamics of broken home families are shaped primarily by communication breakdowns, interconnected relational determinants, and the significant psychological and social consequences experienced by children and adolescents. Communication failures such as persistent conflict, emotional withdrawal, and inconsistent parental involvement emerge as the earliest and most influential triggers of family fragmentation. When communication deteriorates, the family loses its capacity to regulate emotions, maintain parental role harmony, and provide a sense of security, ultimately accelerating relational collapse. Various determinants including chronic emotional conflict, financial pressures, and weakened parental functioning further contribute to the instability of the household. These factors intensify the vulnerability of children who must navigate an environment marked by tension and unpredictability. As a result, adolescents often experience heightened anxiety, emotional insecurity, reduced self-esteem, and declining academic engagement. Their social development is similarly affected, with many struggling to form trusting relationships, maintain stable friendships, and adapt to social environments, leaving them more susceptible to negative peer influences.

The study also shows that adolescents engage in complex processes of meaning-making as they interpret happiness, identity, and belonging in the context of disrupted family structures. Their coping strategies vary widely, ranging from adaptive efforts such as seeking supportive friendships and pursuing personal interests to maladaptive behaviors driven by emotional distress. These responses highlight the central role of emotional resilience and environmental support in shaping developmental outcomes. Overall, the findings underline that the impact of broken home conditions extends far beyond the legal dissolution of marriage. The emotional and relational deterioration within the family has deep and long-lasting effects on children's psychological and social well-being. The study emphasizes the importance of early intervention, strengthened parental communication, and supportive community and school environments to mitigate these adverse effects. These insights contribute meaningfully to the understanding of vulnerable youth and offer valuable direction for educators, counselors, policymakers, and families committed to supporting children growing up in fragmented family systems.

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