Full Length Research

Divorce and Its Negative Impacts on Children

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In spite of the fact the current rate of divorce in The Gambia is not well documented, divorce and its associated problems especially on the children is a great concern not only to the government and its development partners but to the communities as well. The purpose of this study was to investigate the causes of divorce and its negatives impacts on the children of the divorcees. In nature, it was a descriptive survey and purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The survey concentrated on six core areas: level of knowledge of divorce, Level of understanding of divorce, Level of knowledge of the causes of divorce, Level of knowledge of the negative impacts of divorce on the children, Level of knowledge of the support services needed by children of divorcees; and Level of knowledge of the preventive methods of divorce. Due to limited financial resources and time, the study took approximately one year three months. Well-structured questionnaires were used to collect the data from the participants in four markets. The data was presented and analyzed using tables and percentage. The findings revealed high level of awareness of divorce in the community though no consensus on its causes. It negatively affects all aspects of children developmental needs despite few positive impacts. Government should not only be the principle service provider but the core protector of this vulnerable.

Keywords: Divorce, children of divorcees, divorcees, negative impacts

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INTRODUCTION

In The Gambia, the current rate of marital conflict, separation, divorce and re-marriage is yet to be scientifically documented. However, many marriages are struggling to survive and others dissolved simply because of people inability to completely prevent, eliminate or minimize marital disputes between married parties, families or even communities. Therefore, many families are experiencing difficulties due to divorce or marital disputes. In light of this, the consequences of these unpleasant situations on the children, divorcees, married parties, families and communities can be harmful. This has motivated the conduct of this study.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to have an in-depth understanding of the different causes of divorce, its impacts on the couples, children, and community; and how the negative effects can be minimized if not completely eliminated.
Research questions

The study was guided by the following questions:

1. What are the main causes of divorce in The Gambia?
2. What are the negative impacts on the divorcees, children and community?
3. What are the professional services needed to support victims of divorce?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Area of Study

The study was conducted in four markets namely, Latrikunda Sabijj, Yundum, Brikama; and Talinding. These markets are not only one of the rapid growing markets in the semi-urban areas but are located in one of the most densely populated communities with all tribes and religious groups in the country including non-Gambians. Therefore, they were suitable to map the views of the most ethnic and religious groups.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The design used for the study was a simply descriptive survey. The sample population consisted of married and divorced couples in the studied community. A sample size of fifteen married men and fifteen married women, and ten divorced couples making up a total of thirty five participants were recruited using purposive random sampling technique.

Data collection method

The data was collected by conducting individual interviews using a structured questionnaire with fifteen married men, fifteen married women and ten divorced couples making up a total of thirty five participants. The questionnaire was divided into six sections namely, level of knowledge of divorce, Level of understanding of divorce, knowledge of the causes of divorce, knowledge of the negative impacts of divorce on the children, knowledge of the support services needed by children of divorced parents; and preventive methods of divorce.

Data Analysis method

The data analysis process entailed two stages: the initial analysis was coding and tables creation, preparation of variables by combining a number of codes, converting codes into variables or developing completely new ones. This was used to provide a summary of patterns that emerged from the responses of the participants.

Limitations of the study

The following were some of the challenges that posed great obstacles in the execution of the study:

- **Literature:** though there have been many similar studies in this area but few were conducted in The Gambia. Therefore, it was a strong challenge to get the desire materials, especially for the literature review.

- **Funding:** there was no financial support from any institution or individual despite all attempts. If there was some financial support the study would have been easier, less time consuming and above all the sample would have been bigger for generalization.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are to identify the causes of divorce and its negative impacts on the children of the divorcees.
Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to have an in-depth understanding of the causes of divorce and its negative consequences on the overall welfare of the children of divorced parents.

Significance of the study

The importance of the study stemmed from the followings:

1. It will contribute to the body of existing knowledge in academia and other fields;
2. It will act as an input for policy makers, thus providing new insights to improve their ability to design effective policies and programmes to cater for the welfare of this vulnerable group;
3. It will provide a base for the protection and promotion of the rights of children of divorcees.
4. It will be useful to child rights and child protection advocates.
5. It will increase people knowledge of the risks to which such children are exposed.

Definition of Concepts

Child: is any person under the age of 18.
Divorce: the legal dissolution of a marriage either by a court or other competent body or approved means.
Divorcee: A woman or a man who is divorced and has or has not been married again.

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSIONS

Level of Understanding of Divorce

In reacting to whether the participants have ever heard of divorce, they all responded in the affirmative but reacted differently as to its meaning: termination of marriage 37(40%), termination of romantic relationship 22(23%), separation of man and woman 16(17%), separation of husband and wife 12(13%), others specify 5(4%). In a follow up question as to whether it is occurring in their community, vast majority 30(86%) responded in the affirmative. However, they differ in the most common types of divorce in the community as illustrated in table 1: uncontested divorce 42(33%), contested divorce 27(21%), all of the above 20(16%), revocable divorce 13(10%), arbitrated divorce 11(9%), others specify 7(6%), irrevocable divorce 5(4%), permanently irrevocable divorce 1(1%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contested divorce</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncontested divorce</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbitrated divorce</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revocable divorce</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrevocable divorce</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently irrevocable divorce</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>126</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Level of Knowledge of the Causes of Divorce

Commenting on the main causes of divorce in the community, participants opined variedly as captured in table 2 below: misunderstanding 37(16%), inadequate basic needs 25(11%), consumerism 22(10%), lack of communication 20(9%),
husband getting a second wife19(8%), financial hardship18(8%), in-laws and friends interferences15(7%), physical abuse11(5%), illness and disability and lack of respect 10(4%) respectively, mismatch 9(4%), years travel of one’s spouse 8(4%), changes in physical appearances and sex outside marriage7(3%) respectively, wife getting a second husband4(2%); and others specify3(1%).

Table 2. main causes of divorce in the community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-laws and friends interferences</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband getting a second wife</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife getting a second husband</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate basic needs</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years travel of one’s spouse</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of communication</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of respect</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex outside marriage</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misunderstanding</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness and disability</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumerism</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial hardship</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mismatch</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in physical appearances</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commenting on a notice of increased in divorce, majority23(66%) responded in the affirmative but significantly differed on the rationales as mapped out in table 3 underneath: lack of patient and respect in marriage31(15%), material consciousness28(13%), increased in unemployment21(10%), decreased in marriage value21(10%), increased in financial hardship17(8%), increased in moral decay and increased in the cost of living15(7%) respectively, easy access to sexual partners 13(6%), interference by in-laws11(5%), too much concentration on the internet10(%), less concern for children after divorce10(5%), interference by friends9(4%), gradual increased in divorce normalization8(4%); and others specify3(1%).

Table 3. Reasons for increased in divorce in the community in the last five years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased in financial hardship</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased in unemployment</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too much concentration on the internet</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material consciousness</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased in moral decay</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interference by in-laws</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interference by friends</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased in the cost of living</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of patient and respect in marriage</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in marriage value</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy access to sexual partners</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradual increased in divorce normalization</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less concern for children after divorce</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a follow up question as to the types of marriages mostly at risk of divorce, respondents felt as indicated in table 4: forced and early marriages31(13%), internet marriages29(12%), polyandrous marriages28(12%), marriages in which wives earn more27(11%), marriage of business and rich spouses25(11%), marriage of highly educated spouses21(9%),
marriages in which husbands earn more14(%), marriages of unemployed spouses13(6%), marriage of one educated spouse10(4%), polygamous marriages9(3%), marriages of poor spouses and marriage of one employed spouse7(3%) respectively, monogamous marriages6(2%), marriage of low educated spouses5(2%); and others specify3(1%).

Table 4. Marriages mostly at risk of divorce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forced and early marriages</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages of unemployed spouses</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage of one employed spouse</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage of one educated spouse</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage of low educated spouses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage of highly educated spouses</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage of business and rich spouses</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages of poor spouses</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages in which wives earn more</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages in which husbands earn more</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet marriages</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polygamous marriages</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monogamous marriages</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyandrous marriages</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>235</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commenting on the relationship between divorcees in the community, participants felt differently: sometimes very poor49(31%), sometimes poor31(20%), always very good21(13%), sometimes good17(11%), sometimes excellent 13(8%), always bad11(7%), others specify7(4%), always poor5(3%), always excellent2(1%), and I don’t know1(1%).

Level of Knowledge of the Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Children

While majority 26(74%) acknowledged divorce having negative impacts, they differ as to who is mostly affected when it occurs as portrayed in table 5 below: children of the divorcees47(38%), divorcees themselves34(27%), relatives of the divorcees11(9%), members of the extended family9(7%), mothers in-laws7(6%), fathers in-laws and community5(4%) respectively, elders in the family4(3%), and others specify3(3%).

Table 5. Persons mostly to be negatively affected when divorce occurred

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorcees themselves</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of the divorcees</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers in-laws</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathers in-laws</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives of the divorcees</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of the extended family</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elders in the family</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a follow-up as to which areas of the children’s welfare are mostly affected, respondents opined: education42(24.4%), social life35(20.3%), emotions23(13.3%), health21(12.2%), self esteem19(11%), shelter12(6.9%), safety11(6.3%); and others specify9(5.2%). In a related question majority 18(51.2%) claimed children within the age bracket of (2 to 4) years are the most affected though disagreed on the types of negative impacts divorce has on the children as indicated in table 6 below: emotional37(16%), relationship with parents32(14%), social life and health25(11%) respectively, physical23(10%), educational20(8%), relationship with peers18(8%), behavioral15(6%), economical and relationship with grand parents13(5%) respectively, spiritual11(5%), safety9(4%); and others specify6(3%).
Table 6. Types of negative impacts divorce has on the children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economical</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social life</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship with parents</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship with grand parents</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship with peers</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>237</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In reacting on the types of negative emotional impacts divorce have on the children, participated responded as mapped out in table 7 underneath: feeling depress 32(15%), feeling distress 29(13%), feeling disappointed 23(11%), decreased in self esteem 21(10%), violence thoughts and feelings and getting annoyed easily 18(8%) respectively, feeling lonely and insecure 15(7%), mood swings and irritability 14(7%), frequent guilt feeling or embarrassment 13(6%), withdrawal from family members 11(5%), withdrawal from friends and acquaintances 9(4%), anger towards oneself and others 7(3%); and others specify 5(2%).

Table 7. Types of negative emotional impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mood swings and irritability</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent guilt feeling or embarrassment</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal from family members</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal from friends and acquaintances</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence thoughts and feeling</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger towards oneself and others</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in self esteem</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling distress</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling depress</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling lonely and insecure</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling disappointed</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting annoyed easily</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>215</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In a similar question as to the negative educational impacts of divorce on the children, participants opined as illustrated in table 8 below: decreased in performance 35(12%), absent from school and decreased motivation to work hard in class29(10%) respectively, difficulty in concentrating in class27(9%), decreased educational aspiration25(8%), decreased parent participation in home works23(8%), becoming dropouts and decreased engagement in school activities21(%) respectively, low educational attainment at adulthood19(6%), changing school prematurely17(6%), decreased chances of attending university15(%), repeating a class and increase chances of expulsion13(4%) respectively, increased chances of suspension12(4%); and others specify3(1%).

Table 8. Negative educational impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absent from school</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing school prematurely</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming dropouts</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in performance</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low educational attainment at adulthood</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased educational aspiration</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeating a class</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased chances of attending university</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased parent participation in home works</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased motivation to work hard in class</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased engagement in school activities</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of suspension</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in concentrating in class</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase chances of expulsion</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>302</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lamenting on the negative behavioral impacts of divorce on children the participants opined variably as shown in table 9 below: propensity for crime34(11%), disobeyance33(11%), conduct disorder31(11%), uncooperative behaviors31(11%), becoming easily violent25(9%), delinquency and decreased success in handling romantic relationship23(8%) respectively, drug abuse21(7%), no forethought behavior18(6%), identity crisis17(%), frequent involvement in risky behaviors13(4%), decreased success in managing future responsibilities10(3%); and others specify4(1%).

Table 9. Negative behavioral impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct disorder</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquency</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No forethought behavior</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent involvement in risky behaviors</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug abuse</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased success in managing future responsibilities</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased success in handling romantic relationship</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propensity for crime</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity crisis</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitual sleeplessness</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming easily violent</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncooperative behaviors</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disobeyance</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>292</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Similarly, respondents subscribed differently to the negative health impacts of divorce on children as illustrated in table 10 underneath: susceptibility to sickness39(23%), weaken immune system27(16%), high rates of sexually transmitted infections22(13%), increased chances of getting infections21(13%), bed wetting17(10%), headache 11(7%), digestive problems9(5%), stomachache7(4%), increased chances of getting stroke and increased rate of mortality 4(2%) respectively, others specify3(2%), increased chances of getting asthma and incidences of heart problems1(1%) respectively.
Table 10. Negative health impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomachache</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed wetting</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of getting infections</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susceptibility to sickness</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of getting stroke</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of getting asthma</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased rates of mortality</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaken immune system</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digestive problems</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidences of heart problems</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High rates of sexually transmitted infections</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>166</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elaborating on negative economic impacts of divorce on children, participants subscribed to differing opinions as shown in table 11 below. difficulty in paying school fees31(15%), increase unmet financial needs29(14%), decreased access to adequate nutrition food23(11%), increased financial pressure on single parent to provide21(10%), increased chances of living on child maintenance allowance19(9%), increased worries about money for basic needs17(8%), increased household financial instability and difficulty in attaining higher income at adulthood13(6%) respectively, increased chances of experiencing poverty in adulthood12(6%), difficulties in upward financial mobility in the future11(5%), decreased in future financial prospect9(4%), others specify7(3%); and increased chances of living on public support3(1%).

Table 11. Negative economic impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased household financial instability</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased financial pressure on single parent to provide</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased unmet financial needs</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in paying school fees</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of experiencing poverty in adulthood</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased worries about money for basic needs</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in future financial prospect</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of living on public support</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of living on child maintenance allowance</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties in upward financial mobility in the future</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased access to adequate nutrition food</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in attaining higher income at adulthood</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>208</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lamenting on the negative physical impacts of divorce on children, participants felt as captured in table 12 below: increased chances of stunted growth39(14%), decreased in rate of growth33(12%), increased exposure to physical abuse31(12%), weight gain due to relief from conflict27(10%), increased in caregiver abuse25(9%), decreased in weight23(9%), increased neighborhood abuse and decreased in extracurricular activities18(7%) respectively, increased chances of deformity due to neglect17(6%), increased chances of becoming obese14(5%), increased chances of stroke attacks11(4%), increased chances of motor impairments7(3%); and Others specify3(1%).
Table 12: Negative physical impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in weight</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of stroke attacks</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight gain due to relief from conflict</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in rate of growth</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased exposure to physical abuse</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased neighborhood abuse</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased in caregiver abuse</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in extracurricular activities</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of becoming obese</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of motor impairments</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of stunted growth</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>14.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of deformity due to neglect</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reacting to the negative mental or cognitive impacts of divorce on the children, respondents felt variedly as copulated in table 13 below: slowness in mental development and difficulty in handling difficult matters32(13%) respectively, difficulty in understanding simple instructions30(13%), difficulty in grasping complex matters and difficulty in concentrating long28(12%) respectively, exhibition of strange behaviors23(10%), attention deficiency 21(9%), difficulty in analyzing simple matters17(7%), mental retardation11(5%), mental illness9(4%); and others specify6(3%).

Table 13. Negative mental or cognitive impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental illness</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental retardation</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slowness in mental development</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in analyzing simple matters</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention deficiency</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in grasping complex matters</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in concentrating long</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in understanding simple instructions</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty in handling difficult matters</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition of strange behaviors</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reacting to the negative social impacts of divorce on children, respondents opined variedly as captured in table 14 underneath. Decrease in child-parent bondage33(10%), decreased in daily contacts with noncustodial parent and poor social skills and tough childhood31(9%) respectively, increased chances to be associated with antisocial children29(9%), decreased in discipline28(8%),disruption in parental love and care23(7%), fear of being rejected by neighbors21(6%), unplanned change in homes20(6%), being victim of single parenting stress and being victim of teenage pregnancy19(6%) respectively, increased negativity17(5%), viewing marriages as temporal engagements15(5%), damage in self-confidence13(4%), decreases in trust and satisfaction in romantic relationships12(4%), increased likeliness to live with drug abuser parent9(3%), decreased interest in fun activities7(2%); and others specify3(1%).
Table 14. Negative social impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in daily contacts with noncustodial parent</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreases in trust and satisfaction in romantic relationships</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing marriages as temporal engagements</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of being rejected by neighbors</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances to be associated with antisocial children</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor social skills and tough childhood</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disruption in parental love and care</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in child-parent bondage</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being victim of single parenting stress</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in discipline</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>8.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased negativity</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unplanned change in homes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased interest in fun activities</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased likeliness to live with drug abuser parent</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage in self-confidence</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being victim of teenage pregnancy</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>330</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commenting on negative impacts of divorce on living conditions of the children, respondents felt as tabulated in table 15 below: high incidence of experiencing evictions31(15%), living in crowded rooms27(13%), relocating to remote areas22(11%), low standard of living and high incidence of living in insecure compounds19(9%) respectively, living in poor neighborhood and increased worrying about adequate accommodation17(8%) respectively, feeling rejected and insecure in new settlements13(6%), living in poor housing conditions and sense of loss in new community11(5%) respectively, feeling different with unfamiliar families or children9(4%); and others specify7(3%).

Table 15. Negative impacts of divorce on living conditions of the children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living in poor housing conditions</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocating to remote areas</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in crowded rooms</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in poor neighborhood</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low standard of living</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of loss in new community</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling different with unfamiliar families or children</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling rejected and insecure in new settlements</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased worrying about adequate accommodation</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High incidence of living in insecure compounds</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High incidence of experiencing evictions</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>203</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In responding to a similar question whether divorce has any negative impacts on the spiritual wellbeing of the children, participants opined as demonstrated in table 16 underneath: increased chances of being not moral31(11%), increased chances of behaving antisocially29(11%), increased chances of not knowing their religion28(10%), increased chances of changing religion27(10%), increased chances of failure in religious obligations23(8%), increased chances of not going to mosques/churches regularly and increased chances of following custodial parent religion and increased chances of being in conflict with the law21(8%) respectively, increased chances of not attending religious functions19(7%), increased chances of not attending religious classes17(6%), increased chances of faith abandonment14(5%), increased chances of having two or more religions13(5%); and others specify9(3%).
Table 16. Negative impacts of divorce on the spiritual wellbeing of the children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of faith abandonment</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of failure in religious obligations</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of not knowing their religion</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of not attending religious classes</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of not attending religious functions</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of not going to mosques/churches regularly</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of being not moral</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of changing religion</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of having two or more religions</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of following custodial parent religion</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of behaving antisocially</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of being in conflict with the law</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>273</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commenting on the negative impacts of divorce on the relationship between children and divorced parents, respondents felt variedly as illustrated in table 17 below: decreased in respecting noncustodial parent32(12%), nonresident parents being viewed as irresponsible28(11%), feeling angry against noncustodial parent26(10%), limited communication with nonresident parent25(10%), increased chances of hating parents23(9%), nonresident parent being mistrusted and increased chances of labeling parents as evil21(8%) respectively, not wanting to associate with noncustodial parent and talking unkind things about parents19(7%) respectively, threatening the ties with the nonresidential parent17(7%), alleging parents of having moral lapses13(5%), increased chances of blame for divorcing9(3%); and others specify6(2%).

Table 17. Negative impacts of divorce on the relationship between children and divorced parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of blame for divorcing</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of hating parents</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident parent being viewed as irresponsible</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident parent being mistrusted</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening the ties with the nonresidential parent</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling angry against noncustodial parent</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in respecting noncustodial parent</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of labeling parents as evil</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not wanting to associate with noncustodial parent</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited communication with nonresident parent</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking unkind things about parents</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleging parents of having moral lapses</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>259</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a similar question regarding the negative impacts of divorce on the relationship between children and their grandparents, participants subscribed to varying opinions as mapped out in table 18 underneath: missing noncustodial grandparents jokes and humane treatment31(14%), weakening bondage between noncustodial grandparents29(13%), disinterest in noncustodial family traditions and celebrations23(11%), limited communication with noncustodial grandparents21(10%), lack of respect for noncustodial grandparents20(9%), lack of sympathy for noncustodial grandparents19(9%), disinterest in noncustodial grandparents’ family matters and lack of communication with noncustodial grandparents17(7%) respectively, mistrusting noncustodial grandparents15(7%), blaming grandparents for the divorce13(6%), increased hate towards noncustodial grandparents11(5%); and others specify4(2%).
Table 18. Negative impacts of divorce on the relationship between children and their grandparents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mistrusting noncustodial grandparents</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaming grandparents for the divorce</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disinterest in noncustodial grandparents’ family matters</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disinterest in noncustodial family traditions and celebrations</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of respect for noncustodial grandparents</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of sympathy for noncustodial grandparents</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing noncustodial grandparents jokes and humane treatments</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakening bondage between noncustodial grandparents</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased hate towards noncustodial grandparents</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of communication with noncustodial grandparents</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited communication with noncustodial grandparents</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>220</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In describing the state of affairs between children and their divorced parents in the community, participants felt differently: sometimes poor35(20%), sometimes bad31(18%), sometimes very bad25(14%), sometimes good23(13%), sometimes very good and sometimes very poor19(11%) respectively, I don’t know9(5%), sometimes excellent and others specify7(4%) respectively.

Lamenting on the negative impacts of divorce on the relationship between children and their peers, participants subscribed to differing opinions as manifested in table 19 below: frequent unnecessary augment and quarrels27(16%), frequent fight21(13%), unnecessary jealousy towards peers achievements19(11%), withdrawal from peers’ activities18(11%), decreased in social bondage with peers16(10%), unnecessary hatred towards peers15(9%), limited interaction with peers11(7%), limited peer visitations10(6%), limited trust in peers9, decreased sympathy for peers and decreased in social and educational support to peers9(5%) respectively; and others specify2(1%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal from peers’ activities</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited interaction with peers</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited trust in peers</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent fight</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent unnecessary augment and quarrels</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unnecessary hatred towards peers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unnecessary jealousy towards peers achievements</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited peer visitations</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in social and educational support to peers</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in social bondage with peers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased sympathy for peers</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>166</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reacting to whether divorce has any positive impact on children participants felt variedly as captivated in table 20 underneath: feeling relief for being out of marital conflict31(13%), improved health because of decreased stress, increased chances of good health; and increased chances to concentrate on their education21(9%) respectively, increased chances of expanding social networks19(8%), increased chances to advance their career and increased chances of not being involved in antisocial behaviors18(8%) respectively, increased chances of living in stable and nurturing environment17(7%), more quality time with parents especially the custodial one16(7%), increased chances of picking new relieving hobbies14(6%), increased chances of developing good social skills and increased chances of proper up bringing11(5%) respectively, decreased in proneness to drug abuse7(3%); and others specify5(2%).
Table 20. Positive impacts of divorce on children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in proneness to drug abuse</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More quality time with parents especially the custodial one</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved health because of decreased stress</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of developing good social skills</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling relief for being out of marital conflict</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances to advance their career</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances to concentrate on their education</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of picking new relieving hobbies</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of expanding social networks</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of good health</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of not being involved in antisocial behaviors</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of proper up bringing</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased chances of living in stable and nurturing environment</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>230</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In commenting on the negative impacts of divorce on the community, respondents subscribed to differing opinions as shown in table 21 below: increase in criminality 49(18%), threaten children’s general welfare 42 (16%), diminish in children’s educational attainments and increased in school dropouts 31 (12%) respectively, weaken family structures and ties 27 (10%), increase in unwanted pregnancies and children and increase in substance abuse 21(%) respectively, decreased in religious consciousness 18(7%), increase early sexual debut especially the girls 13(5%), increase in health problems 11(4%); and others specify 2(1%).

Table 21. Negative impacts of divorce on the community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weaken family structures and ties</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threaten children’s general welfare</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase early sexual debut especially the girls</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in unwanted pregnancies and children</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased in religious consciousness</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diminish in children’s educational attainments</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in health problems</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in substance abuse</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in criminality</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>18.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased in school dropouts</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>266</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Level of Knowledge of the Support Needed by Children of Divorced Parents

While the vast majority 28(80%) of the participants subscribed to children of divorced parents needing support, they significantly vary on the types as tabulated in table 22 underneath: education 34 (20%), financial 31(19%), counseling and guidance 27 (16%), emotional 25(15%), material 23(14%), shelter 13(8%), security 9(5%); and others specify 5(3%).
Table 22. Types of supports children of divorced parents need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling and guidance</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>167</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a follow up question as to who should be the main providers of these supports, participants felt differently as enlisted in table 23 below: fathers of the children 31(20%), central government 27(17%), non-governmental organizations 21(13%), community based organizations 17(11%), religious organizations 15(9%), mothers of the children 10(6%), local government authorities 9(6%), relatives of divorcees, the community and development partners 7(4%) respectively, others specify 4(3%); and parents of the divorcees 3(2%).

Table 23. Main providers of support for children of divorced parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mothers of the children</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives of divorcees</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents of the divorcees</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathers of the children</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The community</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Base Organizations</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious organizations</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government Authorities</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central government</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development partners</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>158</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Level of Knowledge of the Preventive Methods of Divorce

Commenting on divorce being preventable, majority 24(69%) responded in the affirmative, however, they vastly differ in the methods as manifested in table 24 underneath: prevention or minimization of marital disputes 33(12%), provision of pre and post marriage counseling 32(12%), quick amicable settlement of marital disputes 29(10%), financial support to
families in need (10%), conducting public sensitization on divorce impacts (9%), conducting public sensitization on importance of marriage and psychosocial support provision to difficult marriages (8%) respectively, banning early and forced marriages and incorporation of key social problems in schools curriculum (7%) respectively, enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce (7%), discouraging early and forced marriages (6%); and others specify (3%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banning early and forced marriages</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discouraging early and forced marriages</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of pre and post marriage counseling</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducting public sensitization on divorce impacts</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducting public sensitization on importance of marriage</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention or minimization of marital disputes</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick amicable settlement of marital disputes</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial support provision to difficult marriages</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support to families in need</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporation of key social problems in schools curriculum</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the event prevention is not achievable participants subscribed to varying negative impacts mitigation strategies as illustrated in table 25 below: divorcees maintaining healthy relationship (11%); ensuring both parents continue to support children and attending regular counseling sessions when needed (10%) respectively, avoiding custody disputes, divorcees supporting each other in taking care of the children; and custodial parents praising good qualities of nonresident one (9%) respectively, civilly handling of marital disputes and assuring children the parents still care (7%) respectively, parents continuous involvement in children issues (7%), quick and permanent resolution of marital conflicts (6%), assuring children that the divorce is not their fault (5%), sharing imminent divorce early and gradually (3%); and others specify (2%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharing imminent divorce early and gradually</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents continuous involvement in children issues</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding custody disputes</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick and permanent resolution of marital conflicts</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing regular visit to noncustodial parent and relatives</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilly handling of marital disputes</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring both parents continue to support children</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assuring children that the divorce is not their fault</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assuring children the parents still care</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending regular counseling sessions when needed</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodial parents praising good qualities of nonresident one</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorcees maintaining healthy relationship</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorcees supporting each other in taking care of the children</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lamenting on those to be involved in resolving marital conflicts participants opined as manifested in table 26 below: community elders (21%), fathers in-law (16%), mothers in-law (14%), immediate neighbors (12%), social workers (11%), elder sisters in-law (8%), elder brothers in-law (9%), psychologists (5%), others specify (3%), lawyers (2%), children (2%); and courts (1%).
Table 26. Persons to be involved in settling marital disputes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mothers in-law</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathers in-law</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder brothers in-law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder sisters in-law</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate neighbors</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community elders</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social workers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologists</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>136</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the majority 23 (66%) subscribed to very low participation of children in the resolution of marital conflict, participants significantly differ in persons with the overriding decision in marital conflict settlement as depicted in the table 27 underneath: husbands 24 (21%), fathers in-law 18 (16%), community elders 17 (15%), wives 14 (12%), mothers in-law 11 (10%), elder brothers in-law 9 (8%), children 6 (5%), elder sisters in-law 5 (4%), social workers 4 (4%), members of the compound 2 (2%), psychologists 0 (0%), lawyers 0 (0%); and courts 0 (0%) respectively.

Table 27. Persons with the overriding decision in marital conflict settlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
<th>% of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wives</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mothers in-law</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fathers in-law</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder brothers in-law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder sisters in-law</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of the compound</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community elders</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social workers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologists</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>114</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To prevent divorce and its negative effects participants subscribed to different roles social welfare institutions can play as illustrated in the table 28 below: prevention of forced and early marriage 31 (15%), conducting public sensitization on divorce negative impacts 27 (13%), provision of pre and post counseling 23 (11%), promote enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce and lobby incorporation of key social problems in schools curriculum 21 (10%) respectively, provision of psychosocial support to spouses in conflict and provision of financial support to families in need 19 (9%) respectively, conducting public sensitization on importance of marriage 18 (9%), promotion of quick marital conflict resolution services 12 (6%), promotion of stricter policies 11 (5%); and others specify 5 (2%).
Table 28. Social welfare institutions roles in preventing marital divorce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provision of pre and post counseling</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducting public sensitization on divorce negative impacts</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducting public sensitization on importance of marriage</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of quick marital conflict resolution services</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of stricter policies</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of psychosocial support to spouses in conflict</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of forced and early marriage</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of financial support to families in need</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobby incorporation of key social problems in schools curriculum</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others specify</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.41</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>207</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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DATA INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

Level of Knowledge of the Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Children and Persons mostly to be Negatively Affected When It Occurred

The results indicate a strong awareness of divorce negatively affecting people though differing on who is mostly affected: children of the divorcees, divorcees themselves, relatives of the divorcees, members of the extended family, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, community, elders in the family; and others specify. This concurs with men were more vulnerable to short-term consequence of divorce for subjective measures well-being, high risk of adopting bad health behavior, decline in satisfaction with family life, higher dissatisfaction with custodial arrangement, greater feelings of loneliness and social isolation, Leopold & Kalmijn (2016) as cited in Leopold, T. (2018).

In the case of the medium-term consequences both men and women are similar in terms of subjective economic well-being, mental health, physical health, psychological well-being, residential movement, home ownership, satisfaction with homework, chances of repartnering, social integration with friends; and feeling of loneliness, as cited in Leopold, T. (2018).

Women persistently and largely suffer disproportionate losses in household income and associated increases in their risk of poverty and single parenting, as cited in Leopold, T. (2018). Girls affected by divorce are significantly less likely to be attending school, Chae, S. (2016).

After divorce, women are more likely than men to face significant financial challenges, receive public assistance, lose health insurance, and have decreased earning potential, Cohen, G.J. et al., (2016).

Types of Negative Emotional Impacts of Divorce on Children

The study revealed that divorce negatively affect children development and relationships. For instance, emotionally, it results to: feeling depress, feeling grief, feeling disappointed, decreased in self-esteem, violence thoughts and feelings, getting annoyed easily, feeling lonely and insecure, mood swings and irritability, frequent guilt feeling/embarrassment, withdrawal from family members, withdrawal from friends and acquaintances, anger towards oneself; and others specify. This is supported by parental break up was associated with a subsequent increase in the level of symptoms of anxiety/depression in the children, but not with any significant change in opposition behavior, Desrosier, et al., (2013). Children from single-parent families and divorce homes face the challenges of stress and well-being as well as deprivation from love and basic needs, Majzub et al., (2012). Divorce increased anxiety, depression, anger, internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders, and decreased self-esteem and increased in suicide, Cartwright, 2006 as cited in Czapiewski, S.M. (2014). Children whose parents divorced at a young age when developing attachment, have a high chance of developing insecure attachments compared to children whose parents are still together Emery et al., (2013) as cited in Czapiewski, S.M. (2014). Children of divorced mothers have poorer and less stimulating home environment since their mothers despite their best intentions, are less able than married mothers to give emotional support to their children, Miller et al., (2002) as cited in Fagan, P.F. (n.d.). Child neglect, which is frequently more psychologically damaging than physical abuse, is much more commonly present in families of separated and divorced persons than of married persons, Egami, Y. (1996) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012).
Educational Impacts of Divorce on Children

Similarly, the study unearthed some negative impacts on the education of the children; decreased in performance, absence from school, decreased motivation to work hard in class, difficulty in concentrating in class, decreased educational aspiration, decreased parents participation in home works, becoming dropouts, decreased engagement in school activities, low educational attainment at adulthood, changing school prematurely, decreased chances of attending university, repeating a class, increased chances of expulsion, increased chances of suspension; and others specify. This is substantiated by parental break-up is associated with an immediate deterioration in school performance, Kim, (2011) as cited in Bernardi et al., (2014). Impacts of divorce on children include children interest ignored especially during court proceedings, absent of academic discussions and support, sparks a sharp increase in cortisol level and cardiac stress, lot of crying and feeding problems, poor sleeping patterns, a loss of bowel control, withdrawal from peers, poor academic performance, increased absenteeism and lack of educational support, etc., Chowdary, D. (2017). Majority felt that their parents' negative relationships affected their academics, Odenweller, B. (2014). Children with divorced parents, compared with continuously married parents, exhibit more conduct problems, have more emotional problems, obtain lower academic test scores, and school grades, and have more problems with social relationships, weaker emotional ties with parents especially fathers, Amato P. (2012). Parental divorce is associated with a lower probability of attaining university, and the divorce penalty is larger for children with highly educated parents as children of parents with low levels of education suffer less because their expected levels of educational attainment are already low to begin with, Bernardi et al. (2014).

Negative Behavioral Impacts of Divorce on Children

Furthermore, the findings indicate some negative behavioral impacts on the children due to divorce: propensity for crime, disobedience, conduct disorder, uncooperative behaviors, becoming easily violent, delinquency, decreased success in handling romantic relationship, drug abuse, no forethought behavior, identity crisis, frequent involvement in risky behaviors, decreased success in managing future responsibilities; and others specify. This concurs with children who experience divorce often have an increase in antisocial behaviors, anxiety and depression, along with increased delinquent and aggressive behavior, self-blame and abandonment, Williams-Owens, W.M. (2017). An increase in deviant behavior such as, alcohol, drug, and cigarette use seen in adolescents after experiencing a parental divorce or separation, Mandich, (2011) as cited in Czapiowski, S.M. (2014). Children who experienced divorce are more likely to smoke, drink heavily, abuse substance, etc. as adults compared to those whose parents remained married, Furstenberg et al., (2002) as cited in Fagan et al. (2012). Amato 2001 as cited in Connolly, M.E. (n.d.), children from divorced families scored significantly lower on a variety of outcome namely academic achievements, conduct, psychological adjustment, and well-being and some can persist into adulthood. Van Dollen (2013) as cited in Odenweller, B. (2014), found higher levels of misbehavior and aggression, higher risk of committing suicide, less competence, more under controlled behavior, poorer academic performance and reduced likelihood of participating in tertiary education among divorced children.

Negative Health Impacts of Divorce on Children

In the same vein the study unearthed some negative health impacts: susceptibility to sickness, weaken immune system, high rates of sexually transmitted infections, increased chances of getting infections, bed wetting, headache, digestive problems, stomachache, increased chances of getting stroke, increased rate of mortality, others specify, increased chances of getting asthma; and incidences of heart problems. This concurs with children of divorced families are more likely to have health problems e.g. injury, asthma, cancer, lungs problems, etc. and have a slightly heightened risk of fossilization and significantly increased risk of mortality, Romelsjo et al., (1992) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Children of divorce date more and thus have a higher turnover of dating partners and more failed romantic relationships, contributing to a larger number of sexual partners, risk factors for the acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases, and host of emotional repercussions, Biglan et al., (1992); Eng et al., (1997) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Daughters of divorced parents have more abortions than those of non-divorced parents, Aro et al., (1992) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Despite the fact that married people are usually healthier than single, conflict in marriage can lead to poorer health conditions and risk of certain diseases like heart diseases as well as cancer and chronic pains, Fincham, B.S.R.H. (1999), Holt-Lunstand, J. et al., (2008) & Gharehbaghy, F. et al., (2010) as cited in Asadi, Z. S. et al., (2016).
Negative Economic Impacts of Divorce on Children

Economically, the findings revealed some negative impacts on the children; difficulty in paying school fees, increased unmet financial needs, decreased access to adequate nutrition food, increased financial pressure on single parent to provide, increased chances of living on child maintenance allowance, increased worries about money for basic needs, increased household financial instability, difficulty in attaining higher income at adulthood, increased chances of experiencing poverty in adulthood, difficulties in upward financial mobility in the future, decreased in future financial prospect, others specify; and increased chances of living on public support. This is congruent with children who have experienced divorce, also experience financial instability, academic instability, employment instability, and have a tendency to use alcohol and cigarettes, Williams-Owens, W.M. (2017). Parents who divorced experience adverse effects on their physical, emotional, and financial well-being, which may also in turn affect their children, Anderson, J. (2014). Divorce has been shown to diminish a child's future competence in all areas of life, including family relationships, education, emotional well-being, and future earning power; these can persist into adulthood, Anderson, J. (2014).


Negative Physical Impacts of Divorce on Children

Equally, some negative physical impacts on the children were mapped out: increased chances of stunted growth, decreased in rate of growth, increased exposure to physical abuse, weight gain due to relief from conflict, increased in caregiver abuse, decreased in weight, increased neighborhood abuse, decreased in extracurricular activities, increased chances of deformity due to neglect, increased chances of becoming obese, increased chances of stroke attacks, increased chances of motor impairments; and others specify. This is substantiated by compared with continuously-married mothers, divorced mothers tend to be less affectionate and communicative with their children, and to discipline them more harshly and more inconsistently, especially during the first year following the divorce, Hetherington et al., (1996) as cited in Fagan, P.F. (n.d.).


Negative Mental or Cognitive Impacts of Divorce on Children

Similarly, the study unearthed some negative cognitive impacts: slowness in mental development, difficulty in handling difficult matters, difficulty in understanding simple instructions, difficulty in grasping complex matters, difficulty in concentrating long, exhibition of strange behaviors, attention deficiency, difficulty in analyzing simple matters, mental retardation, mental illness; and others specify. This is in agreement with more than a million children have experienced some level of social and cognitive harm from a parental divorce that has left them vulnerable, Fagan et al., (2012) as cited in Williams-Owens, W.M. (2017). Children growing up in a home with two stable and happy parents are one of the strongest protective factors against mental, physical, educational and peer-related problems Burman, et al., (1992) as cited in Lian T.C. (n.d.).


Negative Social Impacts of Divorce on Children

Similarly, the findings indicated some negative social impacts on the children: decrease in child-parent bondage, decreased in daily contacts with noncustodial parent, poor social skills and tough childhood, increased chances to be
associated with antisocial children, decreased in discipline, disruption in parental love and care, fear of being rejected by neighbors, unplanned change in homes, being victim of single parenting stress, being victim of teenage pregnancy, increased negativity, viewing marriages as temporal engagements, damage in self-confidence, decreases in trust and satisfaction in romantic relationships, increased likeliness to live with drug abuser parent, decreased interest in fun activities; and others specify. This is in agreement with children from divorced families are more likely to have a child out of wedlock, Fagan et al., (2012). Men whose parents divorced are inclined to be simultaneously hostile and ‘rescuer’ of the women to whom they are attracted, rather than the more open, affectionate, cooperative partner, more frequently found among men raised by parents of an intact marriage, Silvestri, S. (1985) cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Compared with continuously married mothers, divorced mothers tend to be less affectionate and communicative with their children, and discipline them more harshly and more inconsistently, especially during the first year following divorce, Hetherington et al., (1992) cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Divorced homes show a decrease in language stimulation, pride, affection, stimulation of academic behavior, encouragement of social maturity, and warmth directed towards the children, Fagan et al., (2012). The largest effects of divorce on children are indicated in externalizing behaviors like conduct disorders, antisocial behaviors, and problems with authority figures, Kelly et al., (2002) as cited in Connolly, M.E. (n.d.). Daughters of divorced parents are more likely to divorce, because of stronger commitment to work and plan to have few children. They cohabit more, attain less education, make less income, low paying jobs, learned destructive traits, poor interpersonal skills, less able to communicate comprehensively; all enhance the risk of divorce, McDemott et al., (n.d.).

Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Living Conditions of the Children

Additionally, some negative impacts on the living conditions of the children were revealed; high incidence of experiencing evictions, living in crowded rooms, relocating to remote areas, low standard of living, high incidence of living in insecured compounds, living in poor neighborhood, increased worrying about adequate accommodation, feeling rejected and insecured in new settlements, living in poor housing conditions, sense of loss in new community, feeling different with unfamiliar families; and others specify. This concurs with children who changed residence showed more signs of negative development and signs of positive development less often than those who continued to live in their predivorce home. Children were not only losing their home but they were also losing their friends and sense of community from the neighborhood, Moxnes, (2003); Hooymann, et al., (2006), as cited in Czapiewski, S.M. (2014). Some children who experience marital disruption in adolescence may leave home ‘at such young ages that resembles running away from home, Goldsheider et al., (1998) as cited in Fagan, P.F. (n.d.). After divorce children regress, display anxiety and depressive symptoms, appear more irritable, demanding noncompliant, experience problems in social relationships and school performance Hetherington, E.M. et al., (199) as quoted in Lee, C. M., et al., (2000).

Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Spiritual Wellbeing of the Children

Furthermore, the findings revealed some negative spiritual impacts on the children; increased chances of being immoral, increased chances of not knowing their religion, increased chances of being antisocially, increased chances of changing religion, increased chances of failure in religious obligations, increased chances of not going to mosques/churches regularly, increased chances of following custodial parent religion, increased chances of being in conflict with the law, increased chances of not attending religious functions, increased chances of not attending religious classes, increased chances of faith abandonment, increased chances of having two or more religions; and others specify. This is congruent with divorce detrimentally impacts individuals and society capacity in numerous other ways like diminishes frequency of worship, children learning capacity and educational attainments, household income and deeply cuts earning capacity, increase crimes and antisocial behaviors, weaken children’s health and longevity; and increases behavioral emotional, and psychiatric risks, including suicide, Fagan et al., (2012). Divorce has pervasive weakening effects on children and on all of the five major institutions of society- the family, the church, the school, the marketplace; and government itself, Fagan et al., (2012). Divorce diminishes children’s future competence in all five society’s major tasks or institutions: family, school, religion, marketplace and government, Fagan et al., (2012).

Growing up in a single parent family is positively associated with religious disaffiliation and religious switching and negatively associated with regular religious attendance, Uecker, J. E. et al., (2012).

Children of divorced parents are not only unable to reconcile religious teachings that emphasize the sanctity of marriage with their family experience but their religion as a mean of resolving such cognitive dissonance, a process referred to as sacred loss or desecration, Denton (2012; Ellison et al., (2011); Mahoney et al., (2003) as cited in Uecker, J. E. et al., (2012). Due to stigmatization and discrimination meted on divorcees, especially in communities that are highly populated by married-parents and where divorce is regarded sinful, this does not only lead to emotional distress,
anger towards God or sacred loss; diminishing participation in religious activities which filter down to their children, (Edgell 2006; Zhai et al. 2007) as cited in Uecker, J. E. et al., (2012).

Divorce disrupts intergenerational transmission of religious values and practice. Offspring who are raised by both biological parents are more likely to adopt their parents’ religious practices and conviction, Myers (1996) & Regnerus et al., (2004) as cited in Zhai, I. E. et al., (2008).

Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Relationship Between Children and Divorced Parents

Equally, the findings revealed some negative impacts on child-parent relationship: decreased in respecting noncustodial parent, nonresident parent being viewed as irresponsible, feeling angry against noncustodial parent, limited communication with nonresident parent, increased chances of hating parents, nonresident parent being mistrusted, increased chances of labeling parents as evil, not wanting to associate with noncustodial parent, talking unhkinds things about parents, threatening the ties with the nonresidential parent, alleging parents of having moral lapses, increased chances of blame for divorcing; and others specify. This is supported by divorce leads to a decline in children’s ability to trust their fathers, King, V. (2002) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Parental divorce makes it more difficult for children to trust their parents, Woodward et al., (2000) as cited in Fagan, P.F. (n.d.). The primary effects of divorce (and of the parental conflict that precedes the divorce) is a decline in the relationship between parents and children, Meneghan et al., (1995) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Divorce leads to disruptions in the parent-child relationship, continuing discord between former spouses, loss of emotional support, economic hardship, and increase in the number of other negative events, Fagan et al., (2012). The losses of divorce can have a significant effect on a child but the loss of the parent-child relationship seems to be the most detrimental to the child as it can affect the child emotionally, behaviorally, and socially, Czapiewski, S.M. (2014). The stress of divorce tends to weaken and even damage the parent-child relation for divorced mothers Fagan, P.F. (n.d.).

Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Relationship Between Children and Grandparents

In the same vein, the study revealed some negative impacts of divorce on the children-grandparents relationships: missing noncustodial grandparents jokes and humane treatment, weakening bondage between noncustodial grandparents, disinterest in noncustodial family traditions and celebrations, limited communication with noncustodial grandparents, lack of respect for noncustodial grandparents, lack of sympathy for noncustodial grandparents, disinterest in noncustodial grandparents’ family matters, lack of communication with noncustodial grandparents, mistrusting noncustodial grandparents, blaming grandparents for the divorce, increased hate towards noncustodial grandparents; and others specify. This concurs with as the children’s relationship with their fathers weakens after divorce, their relationship with their stepfamily and paternal grandparents become distant, negative or even non-existent, Agerbo et al., (2002) as cited in Haimi et al., (2016). Paternal grandparents frequently cease to see their grandchildren as their grandparents’ contact with their own father, the grandparents’ son, diminishes, Finch, J. et al., (1990). Grandparents and grandchildren, particularly those on the father’s side of the family, have less frequent contact after the parents stop living together when compared to intact family, Oppelaar & Dykstra (2004) as cited in Maaike J. (2018).

Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Relationship Between Children and Peers

Similarly, the findings unearthed some negative impacts on the relationship between the children and their peers: frequent unnecessary augmentations and quarrels, frequent fight, unnecessary jealousy towards peers achievements, withdrawal from peers’ activities, decreased in social bonding with peers, unnecessary hatred towards peers, limited interaction with peers, limited peer visitations, limited trust in peers, decreased sympathy for peers, decreased in social and educational support to peers; and others specify. This conform with children of divorced parents did worse when rated by both parents and teachers on peer relationships, hostility towards adults, anxiety, withdrawal, inattention, and aggression, Giudubaldi et al., (1987) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012). College students from divorced families use violence more frequently to resolve conflict and more likely to be aggressive and physically violent with their friends, male or female, Billingham et al., (1993) as cited in Fagan et al., (2012). Adolescents faced the normal reactions towards divorce by fearing peer ridicule, by being involved in the blaming self and others for divorce, Majzub et al., (2012). Children of divorced parents are more likely to have hostile relationships with their siblings than children from married (or intact) families, Sheehan, G. et al., (2004).
Positive Impacts of Marital Conflict and Divorce on Children

Interestingly, divorce is found to have some positive effects on the children as revealed: feeling relief for being out of marital conflict, improved health because of decreased stress, increased chances of good health, increased chances to concentrate on their education, increased chances of expanding social networks, increased chances to advance their career, increased chances of not being involved in antisocial behaviors, increased chances of living in stable and nurturing environment, more quality time with parents especially the custodial one, increased chances of picking new relieving hobbies, increased chances of developing good social skills, increased chances of proper upbringing, decreased in proneness to drug abuse; and others specify. This is substantiated by children tend to show improvements in well-being when divorced removes them from high-conflict household and increments in well-being when divorce removes them from low-conflict household, strohschein, et al., (2005) as cited in Amato, P. R. et al., (2011). While every marriage relationship is as unique as the individuals it contains, some degree of conflict is usually necessary to keep a marriage dynamic rather than static, Ashford et al., (2006) as cited in Lian T.C. (n.d.). Nadir (2003), successful marriages are not those in which there has never been conflict but those in which conflicts have served useful purposes. Some conflicts can also be positive if they are constructively dealt with as they can bring differences of view ‘out in the open’, lead people to deal with issues together rather than stayed isolated, stimulate change and progress, and ‘clear the uncleared’ between parties, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrator as cited in Arora S. (2015) & Tolorunleke, C.A. (2014).


Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Community

Equally, some negative impacts on the community were revealed including: increase in criminality, threaten children’s general welfare, diminish in children’s educational attainments, increased in school dropouts, weaken family structures and ties, increase in unwanted pregnancies and children, increase in substance abuse, decreased in religious consciousness, increase early sexual debut especially the girls, increase in health problems; and others specify. This dovetails with divorce adversely affects society by diminishing the child’s future competence, weakening family structure, contributing to early sexual experimentation leading to increased cost for society, diminishing frequency of religious worship, diminishing a child’s learning capacity and educational attainment, and reducing the household income, increasing crime rates and substance use, increasing risk of school suspensions, and increasing emotional and mental health risks, including suicide, Anderson, J. (2014). It permanently weakens the family and relationship between children and parents, leads to destructive conflict management methods, diminished social competence, loss of virginity, diminished sense of masculinity or femininity, more trouble in dating, more cohabitation, greater likelihood of divorce, higher expectations of divorce later in life; and decreased desire to have children, Fagan et al., (2012). Conflict if not constructively resolved can be stressful, physically and psychologically draining, can sour and even destroy relationships, are time-consuming, divert people’s attention and energy away from more useful activities, can be costly in terms of the interruption of normal relations or the expenses of dealing with the conflict, can make other problems or issues more difficult to resolve too, Arora, S. (2015).


Divorce detrimentally affect individuals and society in numerous ways: reduction in religious practices, diminishes children learning capacity and educational attainments; reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity, leads to increase in crimes and the cost of its associated programmes; and decreases health and life longevity, Fagan, P.F. et al., (2012).

Types of Supports Children of Divorced Parents Need

The findings revealed a high level consciousness of the support needed by children of divorced parents; education, financial, counseling and guidance, emotional, material, shelter, security; and others specify. This is supported by
counseling and parent education strategies need to be developed and implemented to help reduce the effects of divorce among adolescents, Majzub et al., (2012). Interferences that focus on increasing coping mechanisms and effective communication help to reduce negative effects on the children and aid in the successful reorganization of the family following divorce or remarriage, and family therapy is one of them, Zaharychuk, C. (2017). Family therapy was effective for social and psychological problem-solving as it promoted effective involvement of family members, and improved the family members’ social and psychological performance, healthy communication patterns, and satisfaction in relationship, Kumar et al., (2014) as cited in Asadi et al., (2016).

Educating divorcees on the negative impacts of divorce, strengthening own support systems, developing nonadversarial coparenting relationship and maintaining a quality parent-child relationship will help their child adapt, Lee, C. M. et al.,(2000).


Providers of Support for Children of Divorced Parents

The key providers of the support were identified as: fathers of the children, central government, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, religious organizations, mothers of the children, local government authorities, relatives of divorcees, the community, development partners, others specify; and parents of the divorcees. This concurs with when counselors and society support the diverse composition of families, this reorganization can happen with less distress for children involved, Zaharychuk, C. (2017).

Healthcare professionals are well placed to assist families in making the adjustment to a new set of demands and challenges, Lee, C. M., et al.,(2000).


School-based divorce support groups are one way children can receive support to cope with ongoing stressors associated with growing up in divorced or separated families, Johnson, K. (n.d.). Hawkes et al., (1997) observed that Hadza grandmothers in Tanzania appear to enhance the nutritional welfare of their grandchildren by helping their daughters to obtain food for children. Sear et al., (2000), in rural Gambia maternal grandmothers seem to double the survival chances of a Mandinka child by taking of their grandchildren.

Methods of Preventing Divorce in the Community

The results indicated high level of awareness of divorce preventive methods including prevention or minimization of marital disputes, provision of pre and post marriage counseling, quick amicable settlement of marital disputes, financial support to families in need, conducting public sensitization on divorce impacts, conducting public sensitization on importance of marriage, psychosocial support provision to difficult marriages, banning early and forced marriages, incorporation of key social problems in schools curriculum, enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce, discouraging early and forced marriages; and others specify. This is supplemented by there is general agreement that marital therapy can be effective in reducing marital conflict and promoting marital satisfaction, at least in the short term, Bray et al., (1995). Iranians women tried different methods to resolve marital conflicts including, interactive approaches like mutual conversation or counseling, indifference or accommodation, silence, embarrassment, looking for help from neighbors, acquaintances, police, leaving the house; and self-defensive behaviors like beating, avoidance style; and fighting back, Abeya et al., (2012) as cited in Asadi et al., (2016). A repetition of everyday positive interactions and routine involvement in joint activities produces an increase in marital satisfaction and adjustment, Philips et al., (2009) as cited in Kepler, A. (2015). Prayers promote open communication, facilitates couple empathy, increased self-change focus, soften relationship, encouraged couple responsibility for reconciliation and problem solving, Butler et al., (2002) and Greenberg et al., (1998) as cited in Lian T.C. (n.d.). Religious belief and practice helped couples prevent conflicts by assisting them in developing a shared sacred vision and purpose, which in turn reduced marital conflict by decreasing stress levels in marriage and unifying couples, Lian T.C. (n.d.). Children play important roles in stabilizing marriage and resolving marital conflict as the higher the number of children, the more stable the marriage despite the marginal effect decline with the increase of the number of children, younger children reduce the risk of divorce, and couples who have sons are less likely to divorce, Cline et al., (1971). Training couples in communication skills and conflict resolution styles has been successful in increasing satisfaction and decreasing conflict, Askari, M. et al., (2012) & Sharif, F. et al., (2013) as cited in Asadi, Z. S. et al., (2016).
Methods of Mitigating the Negative Impacts of Divorce on Children

Additionally, the findings unearthed methods of mitigating the negative impacts of divorce on the children; divorcees maintaining healthy relationship, ensuring both parents continue to support children, attending regular counseling sessions when needed, avoiding custody disputes, divorcees supporting each other in taking care of the children, custodial parents praising good qualities of nonresident one, civilly handling of marital disputes, assuring children the parents still care, parents continuous involvement in children issues, quick and permanent resolution of marital conflicts, assuring children that the divorce is not their fault, sharing imminent divorce early and gradually; and others specify. This concurs with things to remember when dealing with children of divorced parents, being honest, assuring them it will be fine, let them know it is not their fault, ensuring parents maintain strong relationship by avoiding further conflicts, Chowdary, D. (2017). Social support measures are extremely vital in buffering the effects of marital conflict, Lian T.C. (n.d.).

Children’s adjustment is facilitate when nonresident and resident parents are positively involved in their children’s lives within the context of cooperative coparental relationship (good divorce) that permits the bonds of kinship with and through their children to continue; pervading the thinking of therapists, family courts, family scholars, and general public, Ahron, (1994) as cited in Amato, P. R. et al., (2011).

Children benefit when there is regular communication between divorcees as it facilitates exchange of information about the children, Lee, C. M. et al., (2000).

Problem-solving intervention for parents are effective in helping them to cope with divorce so too it is with the children as when parents are functioning they too are more likely to do well, Lee, C.M. et al., (1994) as quoted in Lee, C. M., et al.(2000).

Effective parenting encompassing both warmth and discipline, developing positive parent-child relationship and managing conflict are very critical in protecting divorced children, Pedro-Carroll, J. (2011).

Persons to be Involved in Settling Marital Disputes

Furthermore, the results indicate the people to be involve in resolving marital dispute: community elders, fathers in-law, mothers in-law, immediate neighbors, social workers, elder sisters in-law, elder brothers in-law, psychologists, others specify, lawyers, children; and courts. This is supported by family heads resolve conflict among co-wives, brothers and sisters, truants, street fights and others by scolding the trouble makers and appeasing the offended and even visit them to thank them for accepting a peaceful resolution of the conflict, Ajayi, et al., (2014). While the western world placed emphasis on a judicial system presided over lawyers and judges, traditional Africa uses council of elders, king’s court, people assemblies open place, etc. for dispute settlement and justice dispensation, Nwolise, (2005) as cited in Ajayi, et al., (2014). The role of the chiefs, elders, family heads, and others is not only to resolve conflict but also to anticipate and stop or intercept conflict, Osei-Hwedie et al. (n.d.). Dispute resolution in Africa involves families as well as neighbors and the elders, and the basis of settling disputes is reconciliation instead of retribution or punishment, Boniface, A.E. (2012). In Africa, there were levels of conflict resolution- disputes resolutions at the interpersonal or family level, the extended family and village or town level. These tiers represent the political units making up the community, the smallest unit being nuclear family headed by a head, Ajayi, et al., (2014). All-women court’s approach is advantageous because peer mediators are able to suggest solutions based on the realities of the women’s lives, taking into account the social and cultural context in which they live, Vatuk, S. (2013).

Persons with the Overriding Decision in Marital Conflict Settlement

The results identified people with the overriding decision in marital conflict resolution to include: husbands, fathers in-law, community elders, wives, mothers in-law, elder brothers in-law, children, elder sisters in-law, social workers, members of the compound, psychologists, lawyers; and courts respectively. This is supported by religious practice aid in conflict resolution primarily through spiritual teachings, attendance at religious services, and couple prayer as when they turn to scripture in time of conflict, they often find helpful examples concerning interacting with others, forgiving attitudes, gratitude for divine forgiveness, Lian T.C. (n.d.). Several religious communities strongly discourage divorce, sponsor marriage enrichment programmes, and offer pastoral counseling, McManus, et al., (2003) as cited in Lian T.C. (n.d.).

In conflict prevention, couples often express that their religious involvement has help them to develop conflict deterring virtues like ‘think of the needs of others, be more loving and forgiving, treat each other with respect, and resolve conflict, Dudley et al., (1999) as cite in Lian T.C. (n.d.). Conflict resolution is an interdisciplinary field that attracts neutral from backgrounds like human resources, law and social work, Arora, S. (2015).
Social Welfare Institutions Roles in Preventing Marital Divorce

Furthermore, the findings highlight the roles welfare institutions can play in divorce prevention: prevention of forced and early marriage, conducting public sensitization on divorce impacts, provision of pre and post marriage counseling, promote enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce, lobby incorporation of key social problems in schools curriculum, provision of psychosocial support to spouse in conflict, provision of financial support to families in need, conducting public sensitization on importance of marriage, promotion of quick marital conflict resolution, promotion of stricter policies; and others specify. This dovetail well with traditional institutions play two important roles: a proactive role to promote social cohesion, peace, harmony, transparency, peaceful co-existence, tolerance, humility, respect; and a reactive role in resolving disputes which have already occurred, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2008) as cited in Osei-Hwedie et al., (n.d.). Religious organizations comprise the single largest array of institutions in our culture that have both a great interest in preventing marital breakdown and the capability to deliver premarital and marital intervention for first, most couples got married under their auspices, they know the importance’s of such programmes, they already have the necessary structures, and they are deeply embedded in the cultures and are less likely experience cultural resistances and barriers, Hughes R. (2013).

Supporting a friend in marital problems enhances one’s own relationship, and from policy perspective, divorce must be understood as a collective phenomenon that goes far beyond those directly affected, McDemott et al., (n.d.).

Counseling in our present day generation is useful to all persons and at every stage of life and therapists should develop intervention strategies that will help couples to understand themselves, the threat to their union and take decisions that will help them resolve their difference, Tolorunleke, C.A. (2014).

In the States, programs like CODIP that provide group support to reduce sense of isolation, clarifying misconceptions, teaching children how to communicate with parents, problem-solving and other critical skills are important in time of uncertainty and change, Pedro-Carroll, J. et al., (2005) as quoted in Pedro-Carroll, J. (2011).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In spite of the fact the current rate of divorce in The Gambia is not well documented, divorce and its associated problems especially on the children is a great concern not only to the government and its development partners but the communities as well. The purpose of this study was to investigate the causes of divorce and its negatives impacts on the children of the divorcees. It was a descriptive survey and purposive sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The survey concentrated on six core areas: level of knowledge of divorce, Level of understanding of divorce, Level of knowledge of the causes of divorce, Level of knowledge of the negative impacts of divorce on the children, Level of knowledge of the support services needed by children of divorcees; and Level of knowledge of the preventive methods of divorce.

Due to limited human, financial resources and time, the study took approximately one year three months. Well-structured questionnaires were used to collect the data from the respondents in four markets. The data was presented and analyzed using tables and percentage. The findings revealed high level of awareness of divorce in the community though no consensus on its causes. It negatively affects all aspects of children developmental needs despite few positive impacts. Government should not only be the principle service provider but the core protector of this vulnerable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To eliminate the negative impacts of divorced on the children of divorcees, it is recommended that:

Divorcees:

1. Continue to maintain a healthy relationship and avoid talking bad about each other.
2. Custodial parent ensures frequent interaction between the children, non-custodial parent and his/her family.
3. Non-custodial provides the necessary financial and emotional support to the custodial one for the growth and general welfare of the children, etc.
Community

1. Continues especially the elders, to support couples to amicably resolve any marital dispute before it results in divorce.
2. Continues to conduct public sensitizations on the causes of divorce and it associated negative effects on children, divorcees and the community.
3. Support divorcees to provide for their children for a better future, etc.

Government and development partners

1. Continue to conduct and fund public sensitization on divorce and its negative impacts on families and communities.
2. Support families especially those in difficult marital conditions to avoid divorce and its related problems.
3. Conduct and/or support studies related to family matters to better protect this critical social institution.
4. Supports the efforts of NGOs and CSOs that work with families more especially, those in difficult circumstances.
5. Formulate and enforce laws and policies that prevent divorce and adequately support divorcees and their offsprings, etc.

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