

Full Length Research

Divorce And Its Impact On Socio-Economic Life Of Women: The Case Of Ofa Woreda, Wolaita Zone, Southern Ethiopia

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This paper was conducted under the title of divorce and its impact on the socio economic life of women. It is particularly focuses on identifying and clarifying the main problem associated with divorce including its impacts on the psychology and educational performance of the children whose families gate divorced. In order to study divorce related problems, the researcher employed random sampling technique and used both secondary and primary data. The collected data is analyzed by using descriptive statistical analysis to describe the responses of informants. 5 male and 15 female totally 20 respondents were purposively selected as sample for this study. This study was delimited to divorce and its impact on the socio- economic life of women in the case of Ofa Wreda, Busha Kebele. The reason why the researcher selected this Kebele is the problem of divorce is so sever in the area than other kebeles, as the researcher got the information from woreda women, youth and children office head. Furthermore, it is described the economic status of both divorced families and non-divorced ones studied its impacts on the children's of divorced women's family and women's. The findings of the research are women what causes make the spouse to divorce , how could the settle the property, the problem the divorced persons get after divorce, the problem of bearing children after divorce and societies and family feeling on divorce situation. Therefore, to prevent the psychological and socio-economic problems of the divorced family, the society and concerned bodies should be responsible to support them in any directions. In addition to that, the government should pay special attention in the divorce law for the purpose of reducing divorces in the society by using the system of giving awareness about the risk of divorce in the societies.

Key Words:- Marriages, Feminization, Culture of divorce, Adjusting to divorce, Economic divorces, Psychological divorce, Community divorce, Legal divorce...etc

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

As divorce is becoming common in almost all countries of the world, many social scientists are attempting to investigate the factors that hold marriages together or contribute to divorce. In all systems and structures family exists as the core element of all societies past and present. Therefore, family is the basic institution that serves the main function on to meet the necessities of its members and society in general. In many societies family which is the first social unit of organizations will given emphasis starting from its formation. Depending on the value and norms of the society, there are different forms of arrangements to start family life.(Olsan ,1999;).

Marriages is union of couples commit to one another-with the expectation of stable and lasting intimate relationship and is socially recognized and approved institution. A marital relationship usually involves some kind of contract either written or specified by tradition, which defines the parent's right and obligation to each other (Olsan, 1999).There are many different practices in Ethiopia depending on the customs and religions to get married and start family life. In the revised family code of Ethiopia, marriage can be conducted before an officer of civil status; religious marriage, according to customs and marriage celebrate (revised family code 2000.)

All forms of marriage should fulfill the essential conditions stated on article 5-16 of revised family code (RFC) which include the free and full consent of couples, age about eighteen and prohibition consanguinity, affinity bigamy and representation. Family as a core of society structure under goes many changes to meet its function. Sometimes the pressure creates stresses that lead to family breakdown. Depending on the culture and tradition of society, family problems were solved with different means opportunity some families cannot escape from the dissolution (revised family code 2000).

Therefore, society develop various means of setting the dissolution through cultural and legal means. In modern societies many countries based on the nature of customs of the people encourage marriage and protect its dissolution by law. Recently by considering the socio economic and cultural change taking place in the society and in line with the constitution and international instruments the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) had been revised the old family law in 2000. The reviewed family code at national level serves for all citizens equally and gives equal weight about: The cause and effect of dissolution of marriage regardless of the form of celebration of marriage.

Even the form of celebration of marriage is processed what they find systems that what matters is the agreement and the same is true to the process of

divorce. After divorce the ex wife is avowed to take properties (Abraham, 2000). Similarly in Ofa Woreda, Busha Kebele dispute and divorce is common phenomenon and it has many negative effects. The process of divorce negatively affects not only the socio-economic life of women, but also societies as a whole as well as children (Giddinss,1996).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Divorce is serious problem which affects the socio-economic condition of different section of the society. It is a worldwide problem because it affects not only physically but also mental and social life of women and children. (Abraham, 2000). The other problem of divorce is that it causes psychological distress alcohol abuse, dependence, stress full life wants and vulnerability for the economics of the society. Some marriage fails is because of the disagreement between husband and wife. Divorces harm women more than men because women usually take custody of the couple's children (Ibid,2000).

Women bear greater financial burdens and face more stresses in their lives. The emotional impact of divorce is very similar to the impact caused by the death of ones family members (John, 2010). However, divorces Ofa Woreda Busha kebele caused a number of challenges due to their economic destruction. Therefore, physical, mental as well as social life of women affected due to divorce (Ibid ,2000). It increase number of orphans and homelessness children. So, the researcher intended to conduct research in the study area. This study aims at contributing to the understanding of socio-economic impacts of divorce risk by exploring the possibility its effect on the socio economic position of the spouses. The basic purpose of the study is to assess attitude and practice divorce their children (revised family code, 2000).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The general objective of this study is to investigate the socio-economic impact of divorce on women in Ofa Wreda, Busha Kebele.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- To explore how divorce affects the socio-economic life of women in the study area.
- To identify the basic factors that cause divorce in the study area.
- To assess the problems that women particularly face when divorce appears in their life.

RESEARCH QUESTION

In order to rise generate the necessary data that help to achieve the stated objectives, the following were the research questions.

- How does divorce affect the socio-economic life of women in in the study area?
- What are the basic factors causing for divorce in in the study area?
- What are the problems women faces when they get divorced in the study area?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to assess attitude and practice divorce on women in the case of in the study area. and also to provide some information to concerned bodies, to plan and reduce divorce and its impact on in that areas . It helps individuals who want use as resource of material as well as for those who search to know or make research on this issue in details. It also provided valuable information about the social and economic consequence of divorce on women in the community and tries to commend possible solution that from divorce.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study was delimited to divorce and its impact on the socio- economic life of women in the case of Ofa Wreda, Busha Kebele.

1.7. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The researches was faced different challenges while conducting this study. These are stated as follows:-

- ❖Lack of consistency of respondents.
- ❖Lack of sufficient finance for conducting the study
- ❖Reluctance of respondents to give infotrmation and not ready to return back the questionnaire.
- ❖Lack of communication because of barriers due to language problemfacing the finance problems in conducting of the research.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

To conduct this study effectively and to get reliable information, the researcher used both qualitative and

quantitative data. The requires data is gather by using interview and observation as well as questionnaires. The researcher used both primary and secondary data by employing those mentioned data gathering tools.

SOURCE AND TYPE OF DATA

Both primary and secondary data were used for this study. Hence, necessary data has been gathered from the primary secondary data sources.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

In this study, both primary and secondary data collection methods were used. Principally, self-administrated questionnaires were proposed tool for primary data collection method. Because the time given to conduct this study is short, the researcher used this technique to get more data with in a short period. As an additional source of primary data unstructured interview was held with the interviewee. And secondary data was collected through review of the documents and reports.

SAMPLING SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The researcher selected 20 respondents by using random sampling techniques from the total population of Ade ofa . The total population of Busha Kebele were 15,350. From among 5 men and 15 women totally 20 were purposively selected as sample respondent for this study. Among the male respondents 3 were selected to the questionnaires and 2 were selected to interview and from women respondents 10 were selected for questionnaires and 5 were selected for interviews. The reason why the researcher selected this Kebelle is the problem of divorce is so sever in the area than other kebeles, as the researcher got the information from woreda women, youth and children office head.

DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

Both quantitative and qualitative data is being collected, the quantitative data were processed on the activity which involves editing, coding, and classifying data to make it suitable for further analysis. And the qualitative data analayse by narration and the descriptive analysis was employed to examine the findings of the study. Since it refers to procedures for organizing, summarizing, and describing quantitative data about the samples of the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Quantitative data is collected and analyzed on demographic and social characteristics of survey respondents. Respondents are also asked about their sex age and as well as about different main issues.

PERSONAL INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

Table 1. Distribution of respondents by sex

Sex	Number of respondents	Percentage
Male	5	25%
Female	15	75%
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

The above Table shows that majority 75% of the respondents are female and about 25% of the respondents are male.

TABLE 2. DISTRIBUTIONS OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE GROUP

Age group	Number of respondents	Percentage
15-20	-	-
21-25	6	30 %
26-30	4	20%
31-35	6	30%
Above 35	4	20%
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

The above table shows that respondent 30% are age between 31.35 about 30% are the age between 21-25 and the age between 26-30 and above 35 about 20%

TABLE 3. THE RESPONDENT'S EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Educational level	Number of respondents	Percentage
1-4	-	-
5-8	-	-
9-12	-	-
College graduate	20	100%
Other	-	-
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

The above table shows that majority 100% are college respondents. The rest respondents do not exist in the case study

ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

THE MAIN CAUSE OF DIVORCE

Table 4. Table shows the main cause of divorce

The main cause of divorce	Number of respondents	Percentage
Economic problem	5	25%
Having sexual intercourse with others (cheating)	10	50%
Unbalanced sexual intercourse	3	15%
Using drugs	2	10%
Specify if others	-	-
Other	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

One cause from the above table that 10 (50%) of the respondents answer that cheating is the main cause for divorce. Others about 5 (25%) respondents answer economic problem, 3(15 %) respondent that un balanced sexual intercourse and about 2(10%) respondents responded that using drugs. Therefore, researcher can understood from the above data that majority of the responded indicate that having sexual intercourse with others and economic problem are the major causes for divorce in the study area.

THE BASIC FACTORS CAUSING FOR DIVORCE

According to the data obtained from interview display that causes of divorce are diverse. There is no one can give a definite cause of divorce. However, the following factors are mentioned as the case. These are adultery that is having sexual intercourse with others, bigamy that is marring more than one women at a time spouse abuse, economic backwardness (Poorness) as the data obtained from the interview indicate that being poor is the causing factor for spouses to conduct a divorce because they have no moral to live together and one of the spouse filed away from the sub-city and there go for another marriage using drugs is also another basic factors causing for divorces as the data obtained from the interview indicate that and this behavior is highly showing by men's rather than women and disturbing the families. As identified in interview, these basic factors were the major causes of negative perception towards life.

PROBLEMS WOMEN FACE AFTER DIVORCE

The data obtained from interview display after divorce some women who has divorced were challenged by different problems like adultery and economic backwardness. This also show that the level of income after divorce is much lower than the previous one that is

the time living with her husband, psychological distress, alcohol abuse and dependence, stressful life events and vulnerability of the society more or less divorce harm women more than men because women usually take custody of the couple's children, they bear greater financial burdens and face more strees in their lives. Based on the interview information the divorced women were considerable as tension, differences and have not confidence among the societies generally, it indicates that after divorce the divorced women were faced by different problems that are struggle for societies.

THE IMPACTS OF DIVORCE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The data obtained from the interview indicated that divorce is not only influence individuals who are divorced but it affect societies at a whole. It affects directly or indirectly governmental and non-governmental organization. The one who are divorced is fail down in economic crisis, emotional crisis. The one who are divorced is fail down in economic crisis, emotional crisis, health problem late children without educational and not properly like problems. As the data obtained from the interview indicate that, the main influences of divorce in the organization is reducing the employment moral from working effectively, decrease relationship employment in the organization and also decrease the collaboration relationship in the organization etc. Generally, as this data indicate that divorce is decreasing the cooperation of people and reducing the productivities of society a whole.

INCOME STATUS AFTER DIVORCE

The data obtained from interview also show that level of income after divorce is much lower than the time live with her husband. The level of income after divorce is the

directly or indirectly affects the socio-economic life of women. Generally, after divorce women affected by economic erases, low income, in ability to work by their own self-esteem and also faced different problems that are challenging the societies.

TENDENCY TOWARDS REMARRIAGE

Here qualitative analysis of data take in to consideration in order to analyze the response of interview indicate that the divorced women have high tendency to remarry, except for some factor should taken in to consideration like age and number of children the women have. According to them the older women become, the less likely she is to remarry. Women divorced after 35 ages have little like hood to remarry in addition the rate remarriage decrease as the number of children increase.

PROPERTY SETTLEMENT AFTER THE GET DIVORCED

Table 5. Shows about property settlement

Property settlement	Number of respondents	Percentage
Very stable	2	10%
Stable	3	15%
Conflict between couple	10	50%
High conflict between couple	5	25%
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

As it can be seen from the above table, 10(50%) of the respondents responded that conflict arises for property settlement after divorce, 5(25%) of them also indicate that faced high conflict during the property settlement, about 2(10%) respondents were responded that it was very stable and 3(15%) respondents were responded that it was stable. The researcher, thus, conclude that the majority of the respondents replay as conflict occurs on property settlement after get divorced this implies also negative feeling as well as solid ground for socio-economic problem of divorced women.

LEVEL OF INCOME WOMEN AFTER DIVORCE

Table 6. reflect post-divorce income level

Post divorce income	Number of respondents	Percentage
Lower	5	25%
Much lower	7	35%
Fair	5	25%
Higher	2	10%
Much higher	1	5%
Total	20%	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

As show on the above table 7(35%) of the respondents responded that income after divorce is much lower than the previous one waile, 5(25%) replied that somewhat lower, 2(10%) of them said that higher and 1(5%) of them said somewhat much higher after divorce. And 5(25%) of the respondents were responded that the income after divorce is fair. The data obtained from respondents also shows that the level of income of women get lower than the previous one. So that the divorced women can encountered with many social shortages. This makes the women powerless.

THE CHALLENGES OF DIVORCED WOMEN

Table 7. Show problem after divorce

Problem after divorce	Number of respondents	Percentage
Economic hardship	9	45%
Instability to decide on their own life (lose their confidence)	8	40%
Psychological damage	3	15%
Other		
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

The data obtained from the response of respondents on the challenges of divorce shows that divorce affects directly or indirectly the life of the divorced women. Out of total respondents on the above table, 45 % respondents were responded that about economic hardship, 40% responded that in ability to decide on their own life choice and finally 15 % respondents answered that it causes psychological damage that face divorced women. The problem the divorced women get after they have divorced is economic hardship, in ability to lead their life. This makes the womens live worst.

KINDS OF FEELING AFTER DIVORCE

Table 8. Show felling after divorce

Kinds of feeling divorce	Number of respondents	Percentage
Feeling bad	10	50%
Feeling relief/good	5	25%
Feeling normal	5	25%
Table	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

Based on the above table, 50 % of respondent indicate that the kinds of feeling after divorce is bad one and 25 % of respondents answered good feeling towards divorce of women and 25% of respondents responded that the feeling of divorced persons is normal. This implies that the feeling after divorce is bad. This simply implies that divorce has created a negative feeling on women in the study area.

LEVEL OF INTERACTION DIVORCED WOMEN WITH OTHER

Table 9. Show the level of contact with relative

Level of content with relatives	No.of respondents	Percentage Share
Very good	6	30%
Good	10	50%
No change	4	20%
Other Specify		
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

The above table show that 6 (30%) of respondent response very good contact with relative, 10 (50%) of respondent responded that good relationship with other and 4 (20%) respondents have simply after divorce the level of contact with relative is no change.

ATTITUDE ON DIVORCE

Table 10. shows societal attitude towards divorce

How do the society perceive about divorce	Number of respondent	Percentage share
Positive	2	10%
Negative	13	65%
Normal	5	25%
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

Based on the above table, 13 (65%) of respondent have replied that the attitude of society is negative towards divorce, 2 (10%) of them answer the society have positive attitude and 5 (25%) of the respondents that perceive of the society is normal. This shows that the perception of the society concerning divorce is negative. From this it is possible to claim that the society of the study area perceive divorce as something negative. Divorced women were labeled as having weak personality and unstable life and lacks moral value. The society does not accept divorce as a normal social occurrence and still as a failure. Divorce also signifies family disorganizations and disintegration according to the society perception of the study area.

In fact , some said it is positive in sense that there is no other alternative to avoid conflict and ambiguity between the partners divorce is used as a solution. On the negative side many women are forced in to economic crisis, their self esteem may be low as result of breaking a marriage and they have little confidence in their ability to find good job. As respondent response that more or less women has divorced was face by different problems, such as, adultery, smoking cigarette and economic backwardness (Divorce in adult hood,1997)

RESPONSIBLE BODY FOR CHILD REARING

Table 11. Show responsible body for child rearing

Responsible body child rearing	No.respondents	Percentage Share
Father	6	30%
Mother	10	50%
Both	4	20%
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

Data collected on qualitative survey on the basic responsibility of child rearing that is the study area reflected out of the total 20 respondents 10(50%) responded that mother have the responsibility of child rearing 6 (30. %) of them said that father have responsibility for child rearing and 4 (20%) of them implies that, both mother and father are joint responsibility for their children. Therefore, the researcher can understood from the above table most burdens of Children rearing are rest on the mother and this indicates that children are closely related and bearer from other rather than father.

CONSEQUENCE OF DIVORCE ON WOMEN FUTURE LIFE CHOICE

Table 12. Show the effect of divorce in the future life

Is their positive or negative effect of divorce on women	Number of Respondent	Percentage Share
Negative	15	75%
No Positive	5	25%
Total	20	100%

Source: (survey, 2019).

In the above table it is clear that, 15 (75%) of the respondents answer as divorce as negative effects and 5 (25%) responded as divorce as positive effect. Here in this table the researcher can understand that majorities of the respondents responded divorce affect women future life. The researcher can understand from those respondents the future life of divorced women affected by different challenges. From this the researcher can interpret that divorce affects the future life of women choice.

CONCLUSIONS

Generally, in this paper an attempt had been made to assess divorce and its impact on socio-economic life of women. Various finding had been identified on the subject under study. Divorce is the problem of all societies and it is one of major causes for family break down and disorganization. It has long term negative consequence all most aspects of women well being. Divorce and its economic impact on the socio-economic life of women is worst and it can considerably reduce women income after divorce. Most women face financial and economic hardship for taking care of their children, unable to decide on their future life because they have been forced to self esteemed after divorce. Most of them also have traumatic and stressful experience, and their post divorce economic status would be much lower. Divorce has also major and sever problem on families, Families are adversely affected by divorce. Socio economic disadvantages, psychological and behavioral distress are some of the long term impact on families divorce is also experiencing in the low income group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Family is the basic social institution, so the individual and society should protect it and prevent from being broken, so it indispensable to recommended the following point.

- As the researcher recommended that women's are affecting by serval problems after the martial by several problems after the marital breakup .since divorce

cannot be radical locally government and Nongovernmental organization have to support those women has divorced and train how to generate income and saving ability.

- In order to prevent the psychological and socio-economic problems of the divorced family, the society should by take the moralities of those women and support them in any directions.
- A marriage to be suitable, the government should pay special attention in the divorce law for the purpose of reducing divorces in the society by using the system of giving awareness about the risk of divorce in the societies.
- Couple should be creative and flexible in their marriage. They should not marry until they have established a meaningful relationship and resolved major conflict.
- Since divorce is damaging socio-economic life of individuals, they should be adopting the experience of the tolerance, diversity and free discussion between husband and wife.

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