

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND
HUMANITIES
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**PARENTAL DIVORCE AND ITS IMPACTS ON CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING IN MIZAN-AMAN TOWN SOUTH WEST
ETHIOPIA**

By; Hamelmal Zewdie

Jimma University
Jimma, Ethiopia
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PARENTAL DIVORCE AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING IN MIZAN-AMAN TOWN SOUTH WEAST ETHIOPIA

Prepared by

Hamelmal Zewdie

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ADVISORS

Mr. Bisrat Tesfa (Asst prof)

Mr. Amanti Baru (Ass prof)

Jimma, Ethiopia

October; 2019

Approval

Jimma University

Colleague of social science and humanities

Department of sociology

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Hamelmal Zewdie entitled: parental divorce and its impact on the well-being of children in Mizan-Aman town south west Ethiopia. Submitted in the Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in sociology

Signed by

By Hamelmal Zewdie

Signature Date

Name of Advisor..... Signature..... Date.....

As members of the board of examiner of the final MA thesis open defense, we certify that we have read and evaluated the thesis prepared by Hamelmal Zewdie and examined the candidate. We recommend that it be accepted as fulfilling the thesis requirement for the Degree of Master of Art in Sociology, in Jimma University, compiles with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Name of Internal Examiner..... Signature..... Date.....

Name of External Examiner..... Signature..... Date.....

Name of chairperson Signature..... Date.....

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Abstract

The study was aimed at assessing the impacts of parental divorce on the well-being of children in Mizan-Aman Town. To attain the aim, the study employed cross-sectional survey design. And in the process of sampling simple random and stratified sampling were employed. Both primary and secondary source of data were used and both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis were applied. To collect the data both open and close ended questioner, key informant interview, in-depth interview and FGD were employed. To this end the Qualitative data was analyzed through thematic analysis, and the quantitative one was analyzed by using spss (stastical package for social science). Based on the finding of the study children from such family are vulnerable for different inter-related and interconnected problems like social problem which include impact on their relation with their parents specially with their non-custodial parent, academic achievement and the economic impact are lack of financial support for the major expense including food, shelter, education and other basic needs of the children. In terms of the emotional or the psychological impact children level of satisfaction, losing of most important person in their life, and their feeling about themselves was measured. The finding show that most children wear not satisfied with what they have got after divorce and half of the respondents in the study feel that they lose the most important person in their life and parental divorce also negatively affects children's perception about themselves. The finding concludes that conclusion parental divorce has inter-related problem on the overall well-being of children including the social, economic and psychological problem and finally the study recommended that pre-marital education and counseling service should provide for the spouse before their marriage in order to reduce the reat of divorce and its impact on children, and also encourage joint custody of their children after the occurrence of the problem to reduce or minimize the problem.

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CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

1.1 Back Ground Of The Study

Family is a multidimensional unit performing various functions in a society. Sociologists define it on the bases of aspects like the size of the family, functions of the family, and the relationship between members (Wamboldt & Reiss, (1989) and Noller & Fitzpatrick, (1993).

According to the classification by Wamboldt & Reiss, (1989) and Noller & Fitzpatrick, (1993) the definitions of the word family generally fall into three categories: which is family structure, task orientation, and transactional process definitions.

Family structure definitions are based on number of family members, their blood relations and the hierarchy they followed. According to Wamboldt & Reiss, (1989) Family structure definitions surround the family of procreation (parents and children), relatives by blood, or individuals that have established biological or legal legitimacy.

Task orientation definitions focus on whether certain tasks for family life are performed (Wamboldt & Reiss, 1989). Families are described as a group working towards mutual need fulfillment. Lerner & Spanier, (1978) described family as working towards socialization and nurturance of children. Thus the task oriented definition gives the impression of role and motto of family and its members.

Transactional process definitions view the family as a group of intimates who generate a group identity (Wamboldt & Reiss, 1989). Families therefore have strong ties of loyalty and experience a history and future together. It concentrates towards various relations and their communication with each other. This type of definition is especially useful for communication scholars because of the strong emphasis on communication as the major vehicle in establishing intimacy (Caughlin, 2011). The interpersonal relationship between the family members, their communication with each other and the social challenges they face as an integrated unit is the basis of this definition.

Marital partnership is the most intimate of all human relationships, we have our friends and other relatives of course; but we need someone more than a friend, which is pleasant and companion partner and help mate as well. Therefore most, of us seek a husband or wife to share our life with in marriage (Bowman and Spinier, 2004).

Marriage is the way through which society enters in to basic institution of family formation (Makara 2009). It is a social institution that unites people in a special form of mutual dependence for the purpose of finding and maintaining a family.

Marriage is the emotional and legal commitment of two people to share emotional and physical intimacy, various tasks and economic resources (David and John 2000).

Marriage remains a deep-rooted culture among the societies (Claiborne 2012). This statement implies that the culture and values of the society keeps marriage for long time. However, norms and cultures are not static rather it changes with the change of global condition. Makara (2009) argued that global changes are affecting the world where we live in these are technological, communicative and political situations. Through these changes the values of marriage become decline with in an increasing rate of divorce.

Most people enter into the institution of marriage with the intention and perception of living together for the rest of their lives. However, divorce is a rapidly common social phenomenon that is spreading at an alarming rate. The rates of divorce have increased significantly not only in the developed but also in the developing nations as well (Sharma 2012).

The increase in divorce rates have been among the most visible features of the recent decades of family change. Some have seen this as a sign of social and moral disruption with a potential to shatter the family institution and the foundations of society itself, and others have celebrated these trends as signaling increased individual liberty and the loosening of suffocating social mores (Juho Harkonen).

Divorce has wide and long lasting effect on the lives of both men and women or on the two spouses. It is the causes of major life changes that can cause great amount of stress for individuals who are involved in the process (Sabaelli & Waldron 1995). Individuals who pass through the process of marital dissolution or divorce face challenging situations psychologically

during the process of divorce or after the dissolution of their marriage that disrupt their overall wellbeing.

According to Olson and Defrian (2000 cited in Sagni 2016) before the 1950s, divorce was rare and there was considerable social pressure to stay married together even if it was a bad and abusive marriage. The rapid increase in divorce rate starts in the 1970s, and the overall divorce rate has more recently become increasing rapidly in all over the world, because of low social pressure to stay married, and the global change in the status and position of women. In fact, the rapidly increasing divorce rate occurred in developed countries as well as in developing nations.

According to the revised family code of Ethiopia (RCF2008) marriage is the free and full consent of the intending spouse entered through one of those three ways of concluding marriage which is through public or civil, religious and traditional ceremony.

The practice of marriage in Ethiopia has different forms which include traditional, cultural, religious and civil. Still the traditional and religious marriages are widely practiced where civil marriage is becoming more common (Serkalem 2016).

The negative effect of divorce goes beyond those who are involved in the process. The immediate sufferers of the marital dissolution who share the potential consequences are children (Fagan 2012).

Divorce is a stressful experience for children at any age and most of the children who experience such like situation show short term developmental problem, emotional distress and behavioral problem (Dina 2012).

Parents' sensitivity to their child's needs is one of the most important factors in facilitating adjustment. Other factors such as the child's age, gender and temperament will also influence how well the child adjusts. (Jamison 2015).

Because of their limited cognitive abilities, children are often baffled by their parents' divorce. They lack the coping skills necessary to deal with all the changes associated with divorce, which place them at risk of having more adjustment problems than an older child. Children tend to be egocentric at this age, and will often blame themselves for the divorce. They may feel that it is their responsibility to bring their parents back together (Jamison 2015).

Consequences of a divorce for children are mostly that they have to move to a different home and sometimes to a different school and they will not see or be with both parents at the same time anymore. In most cases, they will live with their mothers and they will see their father much less. To adjust to new situation takes them two years or more (Karanja 2016)

The age of parents plays a role in how they react to divorce (Berlin 2004 cited in Karanja 2016). It puts it that children who grow up in an intact which mean grow up in two-parent family with both biological parents present do better on a wide range of outcomes than children who grow up in a single-parent family.

Marital dissolution has become a major issue in our society and the rates have risen during the past few decades. Like various developed nations, in the Ethiopian society, divorce is unavoidable reality for many families (Family Code Proclamation, 2000). There are various interconnecting factors that contribute for the rapid increase in divorce rate with in the country which include personal, social, economic and cultural factors in general.

In Mizan –Aman town where this study was conducted, divorce is one of the social problem which increasingly becoming more prevalent and negatively affecting divorced families in their overall life situation and its impact is more sever on children of those family. Mizan-Aman town is purposively selected from other surrounding area of the zone because of the number of divorced families are relatively high compared to other places in the surrounding area (Women and children affair report 2018).

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

As many studies the causes and reasons for divorce are enormous, and it has negative impact on divorcee families as well as on the society as a whole. According to Fagan & Churchill (2012) the effects of divorce is irreversible harm to all who are involved, but critical to the children.

Divorce has both short and long term effect. In the short term effect children who experience parental divorce become increasingly aggressive, violent, uncooperative, and emotionally become needy following the divorce of their parents (Markham 2013).

According to Markham (2013) the age of the children at the time of parental divorce paly a great role to understand and adjust to situation. If the parental divorced children are too young to understand fully they might feel guilty or responsible for the divorce (Markham 2013).

According to Amato and Jacob (2005), experiencing parental divorce as a child appears to increase the risk of a variety of problems in adulthood. Compared with adults with continuously married parents adults with divorced parents tend to obtain less education, earn less income, have more troubled marriage, have weaker ties with parents and report more symptoms of psychological distress.

Divorce diminishes children's future competence in all five of society's major tasks or institutions which includes family, school, religion, market or economy and government. Divorce also permanently weakens the family in general and the relationship between children and parents in particular.

Divorce frequently leads to destructive conflict management methods, and diminished social competence for children, and the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults. It also results in more trouble with dating, more cohabitation, higher expectations of divorce later in life, and a decreased desire to have children (Fagan and Churchill 2012).

In Ethiopia there was few study conducted on the impact of divorce on the well-being of children Aster (2015) studied the cause of divorce and its effect on children's wellbeing but the researcher deal with the situation in the capital city of Ethiopia Addis Ababa. Other studies

focused on the cause and impact of divorce by giving much emphasis for social, economic and psychological, impact of divorce on divorced women rather than their children.

For example webedel (2014) conducted a research on the cause and psychological impact of divorce in case of Ethiopian women association supported women and she find out that divorce can bring psychological impact on women because of that after the dissolution of their mirage women mostly become the custody of their child and being a lone parent itself can create emotional disturbance on them ,in the other way Sagni (2016) was conducted a study on the socio-economic impact of divorce on divorced women in the case of kachisi town and her flinging show that divorce affect women's life in the social, economic and psychological aspect. Serkalem (2006) also studied divorce and its impact on divorced women with children in case of Addis Ababa.

All the above studies was conducted in other areas where this study were conducted and due to difference in the life style, social connection and economic condition of people such studies may not be work in other area. And also their major concerns were the impact of divorce on divorced women. In spite of the seriousness of the problem, there is no sufficient available study on the subject area to create awareness on the minds of individuals, the community and to address problems to the concerned bodies and /or organizations to alleviate or minimize the problems in order to save the future generation from further damage.

Therefore, this study is focused on impact of parental divorce on children's wellbeing with specific emphases on economic, social and psychological or emotional impacts of divorce on children's life in Mizan-Aman town.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study was to identify the impact of parental divorce on the well-being of children in Mizan Aman town.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the impact of parental divorce on the social relation of children in the study area

2. To investigate the impact of parental divorce on the academic performance of children in the study area.
3. To examine psychological and emotional impact of divorce on children of divorced family in the study area.
4. To investigate the economic challenges that children of divorced families faced in the study area.

1.4 Significance of the study

The finding of this study would be important to create awareness about the issue of divorce and its social, economic and psychological impact on children to the concerned bodies, and the community as a whole. More over the study would be enlighten parents on the fundamental role played by parents living together in the socialization of their children and at different levels. They will therefore be more aware of the effects of the instability of their marriage on their children and help them to avoid such instances where it will possible. In addition to this the result of this study will also be used as back ground information for those researchers who are interested in conducting furtherer investigation on similar title.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study was limited to present only the negative impact of divorce on parental divorced children, with a specific focus on children's wellbeing including the social, psychological or emotional and economic well-being of those children who live in Mizan –Aman town.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

This study was limited only to assess the negative impact of parental divorce on the well-being of children specifically the social, economic, and psychological wellbeing of children. The study was also challenged by the absence of available current data about divorced family in the town. On the other hand, the study was also limited to only in one town due to time and financial constraints and limitation.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

The paper is organized in five chapters. The first chapter provides brief background information of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study which is the general and specific objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

The second chapter is offered as review of related literature both empirical and theoretical literature was reviewed. The third chapter is about research methodology that was employ for the accomplishment of this study including description of study area, study population, , sample size and sampling technique, methods and instrument of data collection, the source of data, methods of data analysis and ethical consideration.

The fourth chapter is the major finding of the study and the fifth chapter is about conclusion and providing possible suggestion or recommendation depending on the finding of the study.

Definition of terms

Divorce: refers to the dissolution of marriage or break-up of socially recognized marital relationship.

Children: according to the revised family code of Ethiopia a child is a person who is blow the age of 18 years old.

Custodial parent: one of the parents who take the responsibilities of caring children after divorce.

Children well- being: there is no a single definition for the term well-being. According to the definition of UNICEF (2012) definition of children well-being measured in terms of children's health, their material security and socialization and their sense of being loved, valued and include in the families and societies in to which they are born.

In this study the term used to measure children's social well-being in terms of their relationship with their parent and peers and their educational achievements, economic well-being of children and psychological well-being of children in terms of their satisfaction, feeling of themselves.

CHAPTER TWO

2. Literature Review

2.1 The Concept and History of Divorce

Divorce is the end result of exhaustion of all hope and emotions of the couple to live together for life or for an indefinite or unlimited period of time. It indicates a reverse of all statement, love, and attachments the spouse had at the beginning of their relationship. It comes as a result of the desire each has to avoid the other from their life, due to the other failure to fulfill the duties expected of him or her. It is usually sought as a solution or relief to end unhappy and unworthy union (Meron 2016).

According to price and Kenry, (1988 cited in Sharma 2011) divorce is the “legal dissolution of a socially and legally recognized marital relationship that alters the obligations and privileges of the two persons involved. It is also a major life transition that has far reaching social, pathological, legal, personal, and economic consequences” In general terms it is considered as the ending of a marriage. A breakup in relationship is certainly the most terrible situation for a person that results into an emotional setback.

Divorce also defined as the final termination or the break-dawn of marital relationship, canceling the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage and dissolving the bonds of matrimony between the parties (Nadia Hussain & yasmeen Ashai 2012).

Before the mid-1800s, people married for physical and economic survival. Divorce for most people was not an option (Joanning & Keoughan, 2006 cited in David, Olson & Linda 2011). Many marriages were arranged, or women married the farmer down the road with only two or three potential marriage partners available. Very few marriages ended in divorce during this time according to Coontz, 2005 (cited in David etal 2011). By the late 1800s and early 1900s, young people moved from viewing marriage as a way to stay alive to marrying for love to day, slightly more than 50% of marriages end in divorce (David etal 2011).

The increases in the rate of divorce have been among the most visible feature of the recent decades of family change. Some have seen this as a sign of social and moral disruption with potential to shatter the family institution and the foundation of the society itself. Others have

celebrated the trends as signaling increased individual liberty and the loosening of suffocating social mores (Juho 2013).

The divorce rates have increased considerably during the recent years not only in developed but in developing countries as well. It has been often overlooked but it has certainly changed the family structure due to its pervasive destructive effects on the society (Sharma 2011).

Social scientists did not give single explanation about why divorce rates have increased, or vary cross-nationally., there Suggested explanations range from economic trends to cultural shifts and legal changes. Many explanations point to the change in gender roles from gender asymmetry to increasing gender symmetry and equality and, in particular, to the dramatic increases in married women's labor market activity or participation (Juho Harkonen 2013)

Others link the changes in family behavior with the increases in individualism and other post material values. There has been a shift in family attitudes towards more gender equality, personal fulfillment, and acceptance of non-traditional family behaviors, such as divorce (Thornton & Young-De Marco, 2001).

Divorce rates can change as a result of societal events. Some researchers, although not all, believe that part of the increase in divorce in the 1970s was also related to a change in divorce laws, which made it easier to get divorced (David etal 2011).

Another factor that also seems to have had a significant effect on divorce rates was women entering the workforce and earning salaries that allowed for economic independence (Cole & Broussard, 2006 cited in David etal 2011). This earning ability was spurred on by the feminist movement in the 1960s and 1970s, which increased the awareness of equity in economic opportunities. Some suggest that contraception options, which became more available in the 1970s, also contributed to divorce rates, because women could chose not to have children, and without children they were able to get out of unhappy marriages (David etal 2011).

2.2 The Impact of Divorce on Children

United nation Convention on children defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18, unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood younger.

Every home should provide a safe, loving and nurturing environment where basic needs are met and where children are nurtured into the greatness of their potential. (Ron 2010) But, that's not the real-world experience of most children. Familial stresses and hardships are the norm. Being a child of divorced parents does not imply that you are in some way worse off than children whose parents remain married, yet facilitated a harsh and destructive home environment for their children (Ron 2010).

The increase in divorce and the resulting impact on the well-being of children have been a major focus of research for many years. It is estimated that 40% of all children will experience divorce before reaching adulthood (Amato, 2007). In the same study Amato conclude that most studies show that children with divorced parents have higher rates of emotional and social problems than children from intact families.

Divorce is becoming a common event in the lives of many people. It is now easier to dissolve marriage, and fewer stigmas are attached to divorced people. However, for many, divorce remains a negative and traumatic experience. Not only does the divorcing couple suffer, but the children are affected as well (Amato 2010).

Most studies conclude that divorcees and their children fare worse according to several indicators of psychological, physical and socioeconomic well-being compared to those who did not experience divorce (Amato, 2000; Amato, 2010)

Whether divorce leads to declines in well-being depends on the nature of the marriage from which the partners are leaving. Divorcees who end a high-conflict marriage often experience fewer declines in there and their children's well-being and even an increase in well-being, whereas those whose marriage was characterized by low conflict and relatively high satisfaction often experience more loss in well-being (Kalmijn & Monden, 2006; Amato & Hohmann-Marriott, 2007)

The effects of divorce on children as many researchers agrees is not uniform due to age of developmental stage, nature of temperament, the way their parents handled the process and post-divorce changes including the economic and social changes Furstenberg and Kiernan, (2001 cited by serkalem 2006).

Sometimes divorce will become a blessing or positive life change for children and their parents. In fact some children of divorce are very happily married in their own adult relationships because of their sensitive searching for a safe and compatible partner and because they don't want their children to suffer as they themselves did. At the same time, having a parent who divorced probably increases the odds of divorce for most children (Ron 2010).

Children's personalities will be affected by how they will react and respond to divorce (Ahrns, 2006 cited by David etal 2011). For example, the child's temperament and ways of coping have an impact on his or her ability to deal with this major family change. A child's emotional health before the divorce also affects his or her ability to deal with divorce. In addition, the relationship the child had with each parent before the divorce has an impact on the child's divorce experience (David, etal 2011).

Most Children from divorced families are disadvantaged in different domains of their well-being compared to children of intact families (Amato 2001). According to Amato in the same study stated that the negative association between parental divorce and children's well-being is due to the consequence of divorce itself, such as the decline in households' income, parents' psychological problems, ineffective parenting and poor cooperative co-parenting behavior (Amato 2010).

The lives of children of separation and divorce are changed psychologically and socially. They must adjust to new role and relationship in conjunction to the change in the family (Diana 2012).

Askalemariam and Minwagaw in their study to investigate the perceived causes of divorce and its consequences in East Gojjam Zone, Amhara region, indicated that children from divorced families have been affected by psychological and social problems. According to their study they found out that both children and adults in the divorced family develop anti-social behavior such as delinquent, crimes, theft, immoral acts of conduct, school dropout, addiction, premarital sex and psychological problems such as inferiority, stress, and depression.

Moreover, children from single-parent faced loss of confidence and hope. The study concluded that living without mother in the house or father figure in the family can cause serious problems in all ages of children but particularly in adolescent. Physical and psychological abuse, poor

performance in academic life, and dropout are few of the examples of negative effects of divorce (Askalemariam & Minwagaw, 2014).

2.2.1 Social Impact of Divorce on Children

2.2.1.1 Weakened Parent-Child Relationships

Studies suggest that divorce can have a positive effect on children's life through reducing conflict that occur in the home, however it have an impact on the parent-child relationship and their day to day interaction as a family. According to miller (2003 cited in Nadhia Hussain & Yasmeen Ashai 2012) most of the time when divorce occurs within the family the financial support that the family gains before their divorce will become lost so they may be obligated to obtain additional work to maintain the financial instability of that family. In turn this can lead to negative relationship between the parent and child. The relationship may suffer due to lack of attention towards the child as well as minimal parental supervision.

Parenting behavior and the quality of the parent-child relationship play a critical role in understanding children's well-being in relation to family change. The quality of parenting is one of the best predictors of children's well-being both in intact families as well as lone parent and stepfamilies (Amato, 2005; Dunn, 2005). Yet the evidence shows that the quality of parenting and of parent-child relationships often diminishes with separation and stepfamily formation, and that this disruption can precede separation (Emery 1982; 1994; Hetherington 1989, 1993; Simons et al., 1996 all cited in Pryor and Rodgers, 2001). This is reflected in a lack of warmth and support, less involvement, harsher discipline, and inconsistency. The quality of parenting and parent-child relationships reflects the impact of other stressors such as parental conflict, maternal mental health and socio-economic disadvantage (Pryor and Rodgers, 2001).

The quality of parenting and the relationship with the non-resident parent, usually the father, is also associated with children's well-being, and is more significant than contact in itself: 'The mere presence of fathers is not enough... To the extent that men remain involved in parenting after separation, or assume parenting practices they have not done before, they have a positive influence. As in intact families, the most effective way they can parent is by providing authoritative parenting... It is these aspects of parenting, encompassing monitoring,

encouragement, love and warmth that are consistently linked with children's well-being. however, that it is often not easy for separated fathers to establish family life and good parental relationships with their children after family breakdown, because of issues such as unsuitable housing, lack of funds, or contact restricted to meetings in public places (Bainham et al, 2003)

When parents' divorce each other, another sort of divorce occurs between the parents and their children. The primary effect of divorce (and of the parental conflict that precedes the divorce) is a decline in the relationship between parent and child. Immediately after a divorce, most parents have two sets of problems: their adjustment to their own intrapsychic conflicts and to their role as a divorced parent. The stress of divorce damages the parent-child relationship. The support they receive from home is rated much lower by children of divorced parents than by children from intact homes, and these negative ratings become more pronounced by the time children are in high school and college.

Paul Amato and Jacob Cheadle 2005 on their longitudinal study suggested that parental divorce reduce or eroded children's tie with their both parents.

Wallerstein 2005(cited in Nicole Landucci 2008) stated that the bond between parents and their children will transform during the breakup period and can bring about immediate emotional and behavioral changes. Parent-child relationships may continue to develop during these transitions resulting from changes in family dynamics. There is a relationship between changes in parental actions and mirrored changes in feelings and behaviors of children.

Changes in maternal depression for females may impact parenting response and practices, If a single mother is experiencing depression this emotion may be a significant influence on her discipline style, response to children's behavior or the time and the amount of attention given to a child. Depression in mothers and depression in children are intertwined (Nicole Landucci 2008).

Marital conflict appears to have indirect effects on children's adjustment when expressed through the parent-child relationship. In married families, high marital conflict is associated with less warm, less empathic relationships between parents and children, and more rejection of the child (Belsky, Youngblade, Rovine, & Volling,1991).

2.2.1.2 Children's Diminished Social Skills

Divorce of parents creates poor social skills, characterized by aggressive or coercive interaction styles, lead directly to rejection by normal peers.” Fear of such peer rejection is twice as likely among adolescents of divorced parents. Their social relations are likely to be damaged in several ways and characterized by more problems relating to peers, fewer childhood friends, and a greater tendency to complain about lack of peer support (Patrick and Churchill 2012).

2.2.1.3 Children's Weakened Ability to Handle Conflict

Divorce diminishes children's capacity to handle conflict. The difference between marriages that remain intact and those that end in divorce lies primarily in the couple's ability to handle marital conflict and move towards agreement. Parental modeling clearly diminishes many children's capacity for stable marriage later in life, though some children may react by doubling their efforts to ensure stability. For instance, compared to students from intact families, college students from divorced families use violence more frequently to resolve conflict and are more likely to be aggressive and physically violent with their friends, male or female (Robert and Nicole 1993 as cited by Patrick and Churchill 2012). In their own marriages, children of divorced parents are more likely to be unhappy, to escalate conflict, to communicate less, to argue frequently, and to shout or to physically assault their spouse when arguing (Pamela 1995). Thus, the likelihood of divorce is transmitted across generations.

2.2.1.4 Attitudes towards Divorce and Marriage.

According to Paul R Amato and Alan Booth (1991 cited in Patrick and Churchill 2012) Compared with children of always married parents, children of divorced parents have more positive attitudes towards divorce and less favorable attitudes towards marriage. Specifically; adolescents who have experienced their parents' divorces and remarriages may feel that marriage is unpredictable and unstable. According to Sharon (2004 as cited by Patrick and Churchill 2012) People raised in divorced families are less likely than those from intact families to believe that marriage is enduring and permanent, are less likely to insist upon a lifelong marital commitment, and are less likely to think positively of themselves as parents.

2.2.2 Economic Impact Of Divorce On Children

The economic problem of a country has a circular relationships with divorce and all the problems are interrelated and interwoven (Serkalem, 2006). Divorce has destructive impacts on individuals and society in economic situation. According to Patrick and Churchill (2012) divorce reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity. Wallerstein (2012) conformed that divorce is the main determinant factor in family income. There had been great depression on American economy between 1929 and 1933 when it contracted by 30.5 percent, and GNP went from \$203 million to \$141 million. Hence in USA because of a disruption of marriage, almost 50 percent of households with children moved into poverty following divorce. Consequently the proportion of disadvantaged children, unemployed youth and adults has been increasing.

Due to limited economic resource children in single parent family may have more difficulties. Single parent family headed which is women or the mother have less income than most two parent families and it is believed that many of the difficulties that is experienced by children is the result of economic difficulties experienced in this family.

Economic hardship also makes it difficult for custodial parents to provide educational materials, adequate food, home environment, and other resources to facilitate children's academic attainment (Serkalem, 2006).

Children from one-parent households tend to have less income and may also have fewer resources, because money and time are characteristically more limited in one parent households (Nicole Landucci 2008).

2.2.3 Psychological Impact of Divorce on Children

As studies suggested that education, economic security, strong relationship with parents, marital happiness and marital stability promotes mental health and sense of well-being (Paul Amato & Jacob Cheadle 2005).

With related to divorce so many problems come out; the emotional trauma of divorce has a Long-term impact on the psychological health of an individual. According to Patrick and Churchill (2012) immediately divorce increases psychological distress and has long-term negative consequences for the physical health of divorced people.

Amato (2005) concluded on his study children more than one-third of the sample in study were clinically depressed, were doing poorly in school, had difficulty maintaining friend-ships, experienced chronic problems such as sleep disturbances, and continued to hope that their parents would reconcile.

Children in divorced families receive less emotional support, financial assistance, and practical help from their parents. Divorced homes show a decrease in language stimulation, pride, affection, stimulation of academic behavior, encouragement of social maturity, and warmth directed towards the children (Patrick and Churchill 2012).

In the same study Patrick and Churchill (2012) show that the presence of fewer toys and games is common, as is an increase in physical Punishment. Though some studies show that parental divorce itself may not affect parenting it often leads to worry, exhaustion, and stress for parents. These factors affect both parenting and parental control. Thus, divorce and separation result in less caring and more overprotective parenting during the adolescent years.

Though the child's ability to trust their parents, close friends, and others "is strongly linked to positive parent-teen relationships regardless of parental divorce," parental divorce makes it more difficult for children to trust their parents, while a "decline in the closeness of the parent-child relationship mediates much of the association between parental divorce, marital discord, and offspring's psychological wellbeing in adulthood.

2.2.3.1 Self-blaming and Anxiety

When their parents 'divorce children assume blame for it and believe that they should try to get their parents back together. But in reality the children typically don't influence their parent's choices to divorce directly and children is certainly part of the equation, but rarely the sole cause of divorce. On top of that divorce brings change which is stressful by its very nature.

Children worry about being abandoned. They have had their core attachment to their parents violated. They become disillusioned with authority as they try to balance "the way things ought to be with the way things actually are." They become aware of espouse tensions and realize that they themselves are the subject of some of these tensions (Ron 210).

2.2.3.2 Trust in Relationships.

Parental divorce often leads to low trust among children, and those who casually date exhibit “the strongest effects of parental divorce, suggesting that the repercussions of parental divorce may be in place before the young adults form their own romantic relationships.”

The divorce of their parents makes dating and romance more difficult for children as they reach adulthood. Parental divorce horrifies young adults’ heterosexual relationship experiences though the connection is more evident for women than for men, according to one study. The effects carry into adulthood, when compared with women from intact families, women from divorced families also reported less trust and satisfaction in romantic relationships.¹³³ Children of divorced parents fear being rejected, and a lack of trust frequently hinders a deepening of their relationship. One study showed that individuals whose parents divorced were more likely than individuals whose parents remained married to believe that relationships were beset by infidelity and the absence of trust, and they were also more likely to believe that relationships should be approached with caution (Daniel).

2.3 Theoretical frame work

2.3.1 Attachment Theory

Attachment theory was developed by Ainsworth and Bowlby; they pointed out that the quality of children’s early attachment relationships with their primary care givers influences child’s feelings of security, sense of freedom to explore, and development of mental representations of themselves and others. On the basis of these internal working models, children come to predict the behavior of others and make attritional assumptions about these behaviors. According to the theory, children with secure attachment relationships come to expect interactions with their parents and others to be caring, reciprocal, and safe, whereas children with insecure attachments have less positive and more inconsistent Bowlby (1973). According to Bowlby (1973) children’s self - views are influenced by the quality of their attachment relationships. Specifically, children who experience sensitive and responsive care learn that they are loved and lovable, and thus are likely to hold positive views of self.

2.3.2 Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory was founded by Albert Bandura who integrated two theories; cognitive learning theory- learning is influenced by psychological factors and behavioral learning theory where learning is a factor of responses to the environmental stimuli. Social Learning Theories (including imitation/environmental modeling processes) are the primary focus of attention in this theory. Bandura emphasizes the importance of observing and modeling the behaviors, attitudes, and emotional reactions of others (Bandura, 1977). Most human behavior is learned through modeling and from observing others, gives one an idea of how new behaviors are performed.

Similarly, social learning theory emphasizes the importance of role models, focusing on parents as the initial and primary reinforcers of child behavior (Bandura and Walters, 1963). Much of the research adopting this perspective centers on parent-child similarities, analyzing the transmission of response patterns and the inhibitory or dis-inhibitory effect of parental models. The presence of the same-sex parent is assumed to be crucial in order for the child to learn appropriate sex-typed behavior and grow to what society deems appropriate (Edwards, 1987).

This study will be guided by the above two theories which are the attachment and social learning theories. The first theory which is attachment theory states the importance of parent child early attachment for the behavioral, personal and mental development of children. The theory put that securely attached children will develop caring and safe relation with other and develops sense of security and loving. In contrast to this insecurely attached children will develop negative feeling of self and others. This helps the researcher in studying how divorce affects the emotional or psychological well-being of children.

In the other hand the social learning theory explain that new born babies or children can learn behaviors through observing and modeling others. As parents are the initial teachers children learn their behavior through observing and modeling their parents behavior, so if children are live apart from their parent due to the existence of divorce they loss their initial teachers of behavior and this in return affect children's social wellbeing

CHAPTER THREE

3. Research Methodology

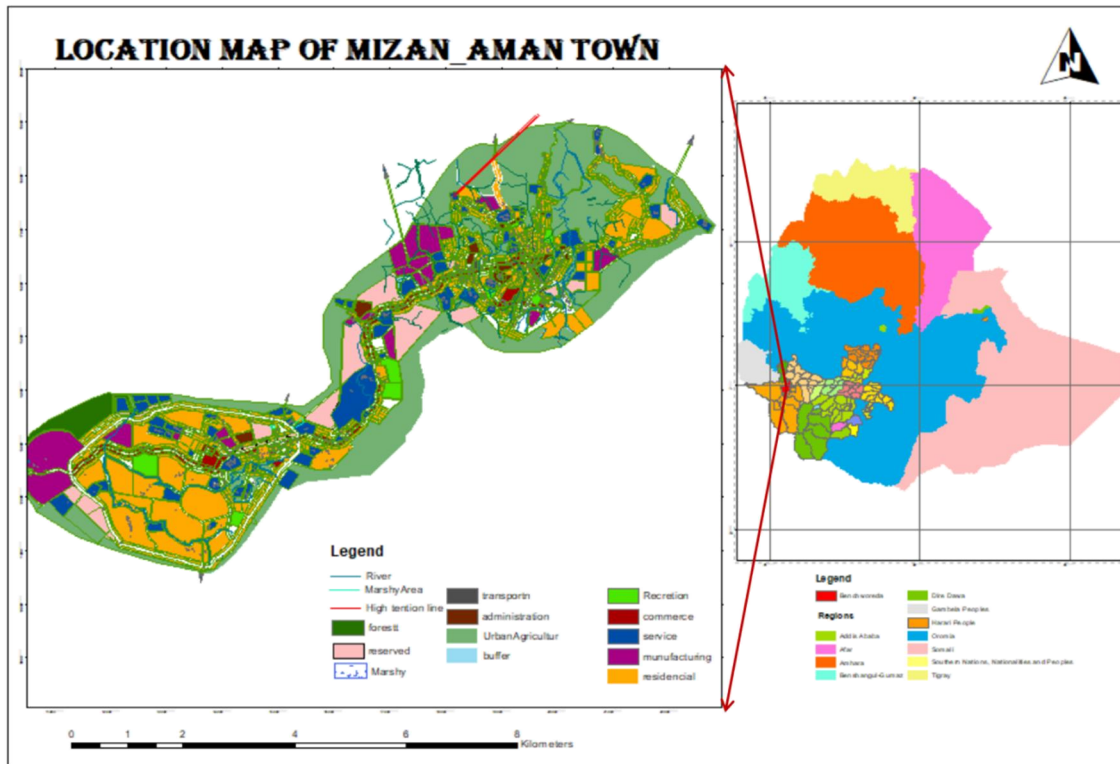
This chapter presents the description of the study area, research design, the target populations of the study, selection procedure and sampling techniques, methods of data collection, source of data, tools of data collection, method of data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.1 Description of Study Area

Location of the town

The study was conducted in Mizan-Aman town, which is the capital of Bench -Sheko zone. The Bench Sheko zone is one of the zones of the Southern Nation Nationalities and People representative state of Ethiopia. It is located in the south western part of the country. The zone is the home for different ethno-linguistic and cultural groups. The zone is divided into different woreda for administrative purpose namely Siemen Bench, Debub Bench Shi Bench, Sheko, Guraferda, (Muluneh and Derege 2013).

The capital city of the zone is Mizan-Aman town which is 840 kilometers far from the region capital Hawassa and 561 kilometer far away from Addis the capital of Ethiopia. Mizan-Teferi with the neighboring town of Aman forms a separate woreda called Mizan-Aman Aman sub-cities.



Administrative structure and population of the town

Mizan-Aman town is the largest town in the zone and administrative center for Bench –Sheko Zone. The town has latitude and longitude of 7°0'N 35°35'E/7.000°N 35.583°E and an elevation of 1451 m above sea level. Recently the town has divided in to two sub cities namely Mizan and Aman sub-cities and five Kebeles (smallest administrative unit) are Hibiret, Addis –ketema, Edeget, Kometa, and Shasheka. Based on the 2008 census conducted by central statistics Agency the total population of Mizan-Aman town is estimated to be 52, 210, of the total 18, 625 of them are male and the rest 33,585 are female. From total population 31,135 estimated to be adults of whom 17,233 are female and 13,902 are male. The majority of the inhabitants practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, with 45.97% of the population reporting that belief, 33.8% were Protestants, 17.71% were Muslim, and 1.05% practiced traditional beliefs (Muluneh Tefera and Derege Tadesse 2013).

Mizan Aman town is the location of three institutions of Higher education, namely Aman Health Science College, Mizan College of agriculture and Mizan-Tepi University.

3.2 Research Approach

In order to achieve objectives of the study the researcher was used mixed research approach. That use both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis. Mixed research approach is one in which the researcher tends to base knowledge claims on pragmatic grounds (Creswell 2012) It employs strategies of inquiry that involve collecting data either simultaneously or sequentially to best understand research problems. The data collection also involves gathering both numeric and word datas and information and the final data base presents both qualitative and quantitative information which gain through mixing both methods of data collection.

In line with this to achieve the above listed objective of the study the researcher was used mixed research approach, were the quantitative data was used to supplement the quantitative one.

3.3 Study Design

The study design employed for this research study was cross-sectional survey design. Field surveys capture snapshots of practices, beliefs, or situations from a random sample of subjects in field settings through a survey questionnaire or less frequently, through a structured interview. In cross-sectional field surveys, independent and dependent variables are measured at the same point in time (Anole 2012).

3.4 Target Population of the Study

The segment of the population which was covered in this study was children whose parent were divorced and who live in Mizan-Aman town of the selected three kebeles and their custodial parent weather their mother or father who take the responsibility of taking care of a child.

3.5 Selection Procedure and Sampling Techniques

Sample selection was done through the process of probability sample selection methods that are random sampling which used to select sampling kebele and stratified sampling used to make strata. In this process, elements of the sample were chosen from the general population divided for administrative purposes. Where each individual is appears in one stratum. In this case, the stratum are five kebeles of Mizan-Aman.

The first step was assuming the total number of survey sample distribute to each kebeles proportionally. This is based on the principles of proportional stratified sampling which was assigning the fraction or percentage of sample to each kebeles which is proportional to their population size. The second step was random selection of half of the Kebeles which found in the town without identifying individuals in it. Based on these three kebeles wear selected among five kebeles of the town, after the selection of the Kebeles the third step was selection of the household from the list of house number in the selected Kebele. The subjects of the study were selected after stratifying the total number of household.

The process of the sample selection was multistage; that is sub cities- Kebeles and households level. Depending on the criteria of the study the sample selection was done with replacement the rejected house hold with the next neighborhood. In this process 60 respondent from Addis-ketema, 60 respondents from Hibiret and 51 respondents wear selected from Edeget kebele and the total sample size for the study was 171 respondents.

3.6 Sources of Data

The data that was used for this study was obtained from both primary and secondary sources to make the study complete and compressive.

3.6.1 Primary Source of Data

In order to get the primary data, different tools was used to gather first-hand information for the study since this study was employed mixed approach under the qualitative method unstructured interview focuses group discussion; in-depth interview and key informant interview was used and quantitative data was obtained from field survey to get relevant information for this study.

3.6.2 Secondary Source Data

The main sources of secondary data for this study was document analysis including books, articles, journals, and other Divorce related documents from court, and women child and youth affairs' office the document analysis covers all related issues concerning the problems of divorce and its impact on children's well-being.

3.7 Methods of Data Collection

3.7.1 In-Depth Interview

In this study, the researcher was employed in-depth interview with the custodial parents to generate the required data or information. During the data collection, in-depth interview was employ to gather information from the informants of the research to generate deep knowledge on the issue which is the social, economic and psychological impacts of divorce on the well-being of children in the study site. Semi structured interview guide was used as an instrument of data collection in doing the in-depth interview with the parents those who take the responsibility of carrying the children after divorce.

3.7.2 Focus Group Discussion

Since FGD is one of the most important qualitative data collection tool, that was used to get information on such issues like social, psychological and economic impacts of divorce on parental divorced children. Hence, two groups that consist of 18 individuals were participated in the discussion.

The first group were consist eight children at the age range between 10-14 and the second group consist ten children at the age range of 15-18. By considering that having similar age group will help the children to be free to talk and avoid dominance and silence of some members of the group. This help to get different knowledge about the impact of divorce from participants' point of view and from their life experience. The instrument that was used for this method of data collection was FGD guide.

3.7.3 Survey

The survey questionnaires were used to collect data from the children of divorced family to assess the impact of the dissolution of their parents' marriage on their overall well-being. A

survey questionnaire is an important method to obtain large amounts of data, usually in a statistical form, from a large number of people in a relatively in a short period of time. It provides a quantitative or numeric description of trends, attitudes, or opinions of a population by studying a sample of that population. Usually, it takes the form of a self-completion questionnaire or an interviewer may read the questions to the respondent and fill in the questionnaire on behalf of the respondent (McNeill and Chapman 2005). In this study the researcher was used both self-completion and completed by the researcher the objective was to measure the social relation, including their relationship with their parents, their academic performance, economic condition and psychological situations of those children.

To this end questionnaire consisting of both open and close ended questions was administered to gather first-hand information from the selected sample 171 respondents.

3.7.4 Key informant interview

Key informant interview is one of the major tools in qualitative research study, which helps the researcher to clarify the finding of quantitative data in detail. In the process of such interview information that would not addressed through survey questioner will discovered. For this study 8 key informants were selected purposively from Mizan- Aman town women and children affair two informant from Mizan Aman women and children affair , one informant from justice office and the researcher was also interested to conduct key informant interview with teachers, directors and principals to see whether or not divorce has an effected on students or children in their academic achievement, in their relation and interaction with their peers and on their psychological or emotional domain accordingly five individuals were selected for this purpose.

3.8 Description of Variables

In this study the outcome variable or dependent variable is the children's wellbeing in terms of social economical and psychological well-being of children and the independent variable is parental divorce. And it is assumed that children's wellbeing is determined by parents' marital status; thus parental divorced children are exposed to social, economic and psychological problem

3.9 Data Analysis and Interpretation

3.9.1 Qualitative data analysis

The data gathered through qualitative method was subject to interpretations with the help of appropriate method. Primarily, information from both open ended and open response option key informant interview, focus group discussion and data that was obtained from secondary sources was analyzed and interpreted using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a method that is often used to analyze data in primary qualitative research. It is a method to analyze the data through identifying, organized and interpreted themes within data collected.

3.9.2 Quantitative data analysis

After data collection, data cleaning was made to reject substantially incomplete once. The process of coding instruments is done that is converting responses to numbers for the data entry. In addition, organizing open-ended and unstructured information was made to analyze the contents. Then data entry and analysis will be made using SPSS data processing program.

3.10 Ethical consideration

Since this study was conducted with children before interviewing or collecting information from those children the researcher asked permission from the custodial parent of the children. And the researcher was also considered the research values of voluntary participation, anonymity and protection of respondents from any possible harm that arise from participating in the study. Thus, the researcher introduced the purpose of the study which is as partial fulfillment of the requirements for MA degree in sociology (family study) and not for any other hidden agenda by the researcher and the informants was requested to participate in the study on a voluntary basis. The researcher was also assure the respondents on the issue of confidentiality of information given and protection from any possible harm that could arise from the study since the findings will use for academic purpose only.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Results and discussion

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data obtained from the children of divorced family through survey questioner and their custody through in-depth interview and data which obtain from key informants .The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of parental divorce on the well-being of children in Mizan-Aman town. This chapter begins with brief explanation of the demographic characteristics of the respondents such as age, educational level, religion, children from divorced family, and the second part focuses on social, economic, and psychological or emotional impact of divorce on children in the study area.

4.1 Demographic characteristics of the respondent.

Age of the respondents is the age of the respondents which is completed by the respondents during the survey.

Table;1 Age distribution of respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
7-11	75	43.9
12-18	96	56.1
Total	171	100.0

Source field survey; 2019

According to the above table out of 171 respondents of the research 75 (43.9%) of the respondents were under the age of 7-11 and the rest of the respondent that is 96 (56.1%) were under the age range of 12-18, in this paper there is no respondents below the age range of 7 due to that respondents under such age group may face difficulty in expressing their feeling and situation.

Table2 4.2 Sex characteristics of respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	85	49.7
Female	86	50.3
Total	171	100.0

Table 2 shows among the respondents 85 (49.7%) are male and the rest 86 (50.3) of the respondents are female.

Table3; Educational back ground of the respondent

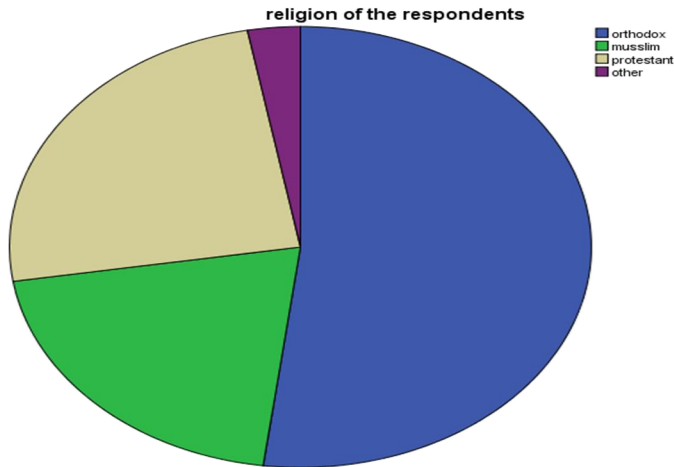
education	Frequency	Percent
1-4	40	23.4
5-8	59	34.5
9-10	40	23.4
11-12	32	18.7
Total	171	100.0

Sorce field servey ;2019

Tabel 3 shows the educational back ground of the respondent and out of 171 respondents 40(23.4) of the respodents were attending their education from grade 1-4, and 59 (34.5%) are from grade 5-8 and the rest of the research respondents 40(23.4) and 32(18.7) attende high school and preparatory respectively.

Religion of the respondent

Majority of the respondents were the follower of three dominat religion orthodox, protestant and muslim and there were few respondants who follw other religion like chatolic and jovah.



As shown in the above chart majority of the respondents were orthodox Christians followed by protestant and Muslim and the rest few respondents were other religion.

4.2 Social Impact of Divorce on Children

The variable that was used in assessing the social impact of divorce were parent child relation and academic performance of children after their parents divorce.

Table 4: Parent Child Relationship after Divorce

How do you explain your relation with your parent after divorce	Frequency	Percent
I have close relation with my mother than father	43	25.1
I have close relation with my father than mother	33	19.3
I have close relation with both parents.	16	9.4
I haven't as such relation with both parents.	79	46.2
Total	171	100

Source field survey; 2019

Among 171 total respondents of the survey respondents most of them 79 (46.2) of them were responded that they have no as such relation with their both parents after divorce and 43(25%) answered that they have close relation with their mother than their father, 33 (19.3) and only 16 (9.4%) of the total respondent of the research were answered that they have close relation with both parents after divorce.

In addition to this the respondents of the research through open ended question also reported that the relationship with their parents specially with their non-custodial parent will become decline through time due to lack of continuous contact and visitation with their non-care givers because of the conflict and lack of willingness from the care givers side to facilitate proper contact and visitation.

The FGD and in-depth interview participant of the research also indicate that divorce has an impact on the parent- child relationship. As the FGD informants reported that especially for the first two and three years after the separation of our parents was very difficult for us because our relation with our parents were declined dramatically and there was a deep silence in the house during and after the process of divorce, no one was willing to talk to each other as before.

More over based on his experience after the divorce of his parents, one of FGD participant expressed his situation as follows:

Before this un-expected situation was happened in our family I was having close relationship with both of my parents. I was free to talk with them and also I was having close and good relationship with my brother and sister. We were happy family. But after the dissolution of our family' marriage things are changed. My father left the home with my older sister because she loved him more and preferred to live with him. I and my younger brother continued to live with our mother. Hence, the interaction that I have with my father and older sister is broken. Moreover, my mother becomes depressed and she does not talk or play with us and she did not see our homework to help us in our study as before. I usually want to ask her what is going on in our home, I am afraid of her because she does not want to talk with us on such issues.

This finding of the study is similar with the finding of Patrick and Churchill 2012 when parents' divorce each other another sort of divorce occurs between their children. The primary effect of divorce is a decline in relationship between parent and children.

In addition to this during the in-depth interviews, with the custodial parent one female informant reported her situation as follow;

It's very difficult and challenging for me to have a close relationship with my children and support them in their education as before after divorce because of two different reasons the first one is due to post-divorce traumatic situation after my marriage is over it was very challenging for me to cope-up with the problem generally am not in a good mood at the time so that makes things so difficult for me to have good close relation with my children. And the other one is lack of enough time because of becoming single parent I was forced to engage in additional activities in order to secure income for the family. As a result, I faced shortage of time and difficulty to

share opinions and feelings with my children and vice versa as well as to follow on the daily activities of my children like helping them in doing their home works and make follow up in their daily lessons.

This finding of the research was similar with the finding of miller (2003) most of the time when divorce occurs within the family the financial support that the family gain before their divorce will become lost so they may be obligated to obtain additional work to maintain the financial instability of the family. This negatively affects the relationship that they have with their children. So this mean that post-divorce affect the relationship between parents and their children.

Table; 5 Age at parental divorce and child parent relationship

Chi-Square	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig
Liner by liner association	29.257	3	P<.05

The result of the test show that the relation between the two variables that is age at the time of parental divorce and child-parent relation has stastically significant association at .05 levels

Table;6 Sex and child parent relationship

Chi-Square	value	df	Asymp. Sig
Liner by liner association	.006	1	p>.05

Source field survey 2019

As shown in the above table result sex and child parent relationship has no stastically significant association at .05 levels.

Table; 7 living arrangement of children after the divorce of their parent

What seems your living arrangement after divorce	Frequency	Percent
I live with my mother	58	33.9
I live with my father	23	13.5
I live with my ground parents	46	26.9
Live with my mother and steep father	20	11.7
Live with my dad and steep mother	19	11.1
If any please specify _____	5	2.9
Total	171	100

Table 7 show the Living arrangement of children after the divorce of their parents based on this 58 (33.9) live with their mother only after divorce, 23(13.5%) live with their father, 46 (26.9%) live with their ground parents, 20 (11.7) live with their mother and steep father and 19 which is 11.1% of the total respondent lives with their father and steep mother and the other 2.9 respondents live with their other relatives. As the data shows most of the respondents are live with their mother.

More over one key informant at the time of interview informed that when two spouses end-up their marriage in divorce the issue of child custody or taking care of children become the most important issue because children's are the future of our society as well as our country so they need proper care and protection and most of the time mothers are believed to be better than fathers in child caring and protection due to this mostly the custody of children is given to mothers.

From the above data we can see that living arrangement and social relationship have direct relationships, as we observed earlier in table 4 most of the respondents were close relationship with their mother than their father.

Table; 8 Living arrangement and parent child relationship

Variable	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Parent-child relationship	10.904	1	10.904	6.987	P<.05

Source field survey 2019

As depicted in table 8 the comparison of mean of child parent relationship outcome measure with living arrangement of children after divorce using one way Anova result show that there is stastically significant mean difference at .05 level.

4.2.2 Impact of Divorce on Academic Achievement of Children

Table 9: Parental Divorce Children’s Academic Performance

Academic achievement after the divorce of your parent	Frequency	Percent
Better than before	42	24.6
Same as before	58	33.9
Lower than before	64	37.4
School dropout	7	4.1
Total	171	100.0

Source field survey; 2019

As presented in Table 9, 24% of the research respondents mentioned that their educational performance has improved despite their parental divorce. Nevertheless, a higher proportion of respondents (37 percent) of respondents reported that their school performance has decreased after the divorce of their parents. On the other hand, about 34 percent of the children responded as parental divorce has no impact on their education they stay similar as before on their academic performance. The school dropout rate is found to be insignificant (4 percent). Considering the

decline in educational performance by higher proportion of children (37 percent) than those who claimed for the betterment in their performance (25 percent), we can conclude that divorce can adversely affect children's educational performance.

Moreover, during the key informant interview one participant from Mizan Aman women and children affair explain the academic impact as follow;

Parent's divorce affects children schooling, most of the time children face difficulties to accept and understand the change which occurred in their family so most of the time, whether in their home or in the class room they are thinking and worried about what is happening in their life and within their family and they afraid of what will happen in the future which reduces their willingness and ability to learn and to go to school. In addition to this due to before divorce and post-divorce process parents may not help their children in their learning process. The sum of all such like situations affects children academic performance.

In addition to this Teachers also indicate that students' academic performance and their overall behavior in school were changed following the divorce of their family. They do not do their home take excesses, they may fall in exam, they lose their concentration in class room, and they become simply upset they become more aggressive when they play with their peers. This is especially true for younger children.

This finding of the study was similar with the finding of Nancy Alder (2013) Younger children have more limited cognitive abilities, making them less able to understand the divorce and its implications and thus they are more vulnerable to the effects of parental conflict and family disruption.

Table; 10 parent child relationship and academic achievement of children

Chi-Square	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig.
Liner by liner association	49.702	3	P<.05

As we can see in the above table 9 the result of the chi-square test show that the two variables which is parent- child relationship and the academic achievement of children has association which is stastically significant at .05 level.

Table; 11 Age at parental divorce and children education

Chi-Square	value	df	Asymp Sig
Liner by liner association	29.257	3	P<.05

As depicted in table 10 the result of the chi-square test show the two variables age at the time parental divorce and children’s academic achievement has stastically significant association at .05 levels.

4.2.3 Impact on peer relationship

The research use Peer relation as one of the social domain which is affected by the occurrence of parental divorce and to asses peer relation impact the research were used children’s ability and preference in working with others.

Table; 12 divorce and children relation with their peers

Do you prefer working alone rather than with others?	Frequency	Percent
Yes, absolutely I prefer	17	10
Yes, sometimes	26	15
No, I didn’t	79	46
Never	49	29
Total	171	100

Source field survey; 2019

Among the 171 research respondents 79 (46.2%) and 49 (28.7%) respectively responded that they do not and never prefer working with alone, they want or prefer to work in cooperate with other peers and 26 (15.2%) were respond sometimes they prefer to work with alone and only 17 (9.9%) of the total respondent are preferring working with alone.

4.3 Economic impacts of divorce children

According to studies the biggest problem facing almost all divorced family is dramatic decline in economic capacity of the family after their divorce. When family disintegration occur a family relationship between members of the family is also changed in all aspect of relationship including the economic one.

4.2.2 Economic impact of divorce in relation to lack of economic support

Table 13

Did you get financial support	Frequency	Percent
Yes	100	58.5
No	71	41.5
Total	171	100.0

Source felid survey 2019

question which was posed for children of divorced family in relation with the economic hardship or challenge was question related with support received from non-custodial parent for food, closing, education and for other basic expenditure to this end both the custodial parents and children are asked such question and 100 (58.5%) of children and most of the custodial parents were receive financial support from their non- custody and the rest 41.5% of children did not receive financial support or alimony from their non-custodial parent. However the alimony is not enough to cover their major expense.

As the table below depicted 61.4% of children reported that the support or alimony that they receive is very low to cover their major expense, 25% reported little bit low to cover major expenses and there is only 13.5 % of respondents respond that the support is enough to cover the major expense.

Table 14; divorce and Children’s expense

Did you get enough money to cover your expense?	Frequency	Percent
No it very low to cover	105	61.4
A little bit low to cover major expenses	43	25.1
Enough to cover the major expenses.	23	13.5
Total	171	100

Source field survey 2019

Custodial parent of child during the interview explain the situation as follow

The challenge that they encountered with their children was economic hardship, I get financial support from my ex-husband but that was not enough to cover all my children’s expenditure for food, closing, health and schooling, so me and my children suffer a lot to full fill such basic need of my children due this financial constrain my children are shift their school to the government school from private school because it so difficult for me to cover school monthly payment.

Similarly key informant from Mizan-Aman women and children affair office also indicate that children suffer a lot economically after divorce specially those who live their mother and if she do not have her own income face financial constraints because they may not get financial support or if they get that is not enough for their overall expenses due to this the older children in the family get the share of contributing for the families economy and they were engaged in income generating activities like fetch water for peoples, daily laborer in construction sites, and selling of good at the bus station early in the morning and other such like activities to supplement for the daily consumption of the family.

All focus group discussion participants have the same view on the economic impact of divorce. From FGD participants one of my informants was drop out of school to engage in income generating activities for the livelihood of household. This is explicitly stated in the following narration

I was 13 years old when my parents have got divorce and I have two sisters. After the dissolution of my parents' marriage they were share both their economy and their children as well, during the process me and both of my sisters are left with our mother due that I was prefer to live with my mother and my sisters are left with my mother because of the decision of the court because of that she was below the age of seven at the time of our parents' divorce. Before the divorce the families' economy was dependent on my father income and my mother was a house wife she does not have her own income and when divorce was occurred our economy was declined dramatically, and life become so hard in our home. My mom was engaged in income generating activity in government office as a cleaner but her income was not enough to cover our daily consumption. So at that time I decided to help my mother and I engaged in income generating activity when I was in grade 6, and started shining shoes the income is used as a Supplementary for the household consumption. I was thinking to attend my education at night but that was not possible because I become tired at night to go to school for that reason I dropped out of school for two years.

This finding show that the impact of parental divorce is interlinked and related to each other the economic hardship in the family which occurred due the separation of family will affect children social well-being especially in their academic performance and attending school.

4.3 Psychological impact of divorce on children

As the finding of the result indicated that another important impact of divorce on children life were the psychological or emotional impact. this problem of children was captured through child questionarr and FGD which supported by indepth-interview with their custody and key informant interview.

Through child questionarr different statements were used to massure children psychological or emotional well-being after divorce. Among this measuring child's attitude or perception towards

losing the most important person in their life is the one, the other one is measuring children's level of satisfaction with their life after the divorce their parent, the researcher also measure children view of self in terms of different domain.

4.3.1 Children's perception on losing important person in their life

Table 15

Do you feel losing of important person in your life	Frequency	Percent
Yes, I feel strongly	92	54
Yes, I feel	70	41
No, I don't feel	9	5
Total	171	100

Source failed survey

As the above table indicates most of children 53.8% are strongly felt that they lose the most important person in their life and 40% of children felt loss of important person in their life from the total respondents only 9 (5.3) children's respond that they do not feel losing of the most important person in their life.

In addition to this one FGD participant of the study his emotion as follow;

I was happy in my life I love my family and they love me too when I was 10 my families marriage end-up through divorce after the process me and my father start to live here and my mother was traveled to Addis Ababa and started to live their because she was married to another guy, my father a lot to me he pay his live for my happiness and satisfaction but I usually feel bad because am losing some part of my body organ.

Table 16; Age at parental divorce and children perception of losing an important person on their life

Chi-Square test	Value	df	Asymp. Sig
Linear by liner association	11.13	5	P<.05

Source field survey 2019

As the above table show the relation between the two variables that is age the time of parental divorce and children perception of losing an important person are stastically significant at .05 levels.

Table 17 children’s level of satisfaction after parental divorce

Are you satisfied with all that you have got?	Frequency	Percent
Yes, absolutely I am satisfied	27	15.8
Yes, partially I am satisfied	28	16.4
No, I am not	102	59.6
I couldn’t say any	14	8.2
Total	171	100.0

The other variable which was used to show the psychological impact of divorce on children was the measuring the level of satisfaction that children have got after their parent’s divorce. Accordingly most of the respondents which is 59.6% were not satisfied with what they have got after their parents’ divorce, the other sample respondents of the research which is 16% and 15% of the respondent of survey questioner were respond that they are partially and absolutely satisfied with what they have got after their parents’ divorce and the remaining 8.2% the total respondent could not say any about their level of satisfaction in relation with their parents’ divorce.

Table 18; children’s perception of their life if their parents are together

Do you think you have better life if your parents didn’t get divorce?	Frequency	Percent
Yes, absolutely I have	64	37
Yes, I think	54	32
I am sure not	33	19
Never think	20	12
Total	171	100

Source flied survey 2019

Table 18 show that 37% of servey respondents indicate that they think they will live a better life if their parents will live together or if they did not dissolve their marriage, the other 19% of them were responded that they are not sure about their life weather it is better or not if this divorce was not happen in their family. The remainig 12% of children from divorced family reported that they never think that they will live better live than to day if they families were together.

More over regarding the psychological impact of divorce all informants of in-depth interview informed that their children were suffered different emotional problem like upset, fear, Unger, and depression following their divorce.

Children who participate in unstructured interview also reported that the dissolution of their parents' marriage affect their emotion. One of my FGD participants reported her situation in the following narration.

I was eleven years old when my parents get divorce; I was the first and the only child for them. After the process divorce, my mother left me with my father and she lost nobody knows where she is even if her families cannot found her anywhere. I was continuing to live with my dad even if I lost my mom I was happy with my live because my father loves me more and I also love him, after two years when I was thirteen and I was in grade seven things began to change my father got married with another women after that everything was changed. my mother in law did not love me, she refuse to accept me as her child we usually arguing on things, she blames me for every bad thing that happen in the home she hits me without any reason but I never told this to my dad because I don't want to see them on argue or conflicting each other because of me, and I fear that may this marriage of my father may end up with divorce because of me, so due to the fear of this thing I did not say anything to him, simple I just try to make me happy in front of my father but the reality I not that sometimes I think that if she is my mother she did not do such thing on me and I will live better life.

As we can see from the reseponse of the participants in addition to the happning of the situation or the disolution of their parents children emotion or their psycholological well-being is dstrapted or affected by the post divorce family situation.

Children's felling of their life after divorce

The other variable which use to measure the psychological emotional condition of children after the divorce of their parents

Table 19 Children's feeling about their life after divorce

Do you feel failure in your life	Frequency	Percent
yes I feel	146	85
no I don't	25	15
Total	171	100

Source flied survey 2019

As the table depicts that most of the survey participant of the study which is 85% the participant feel failure in their life after the divorce of their parents and the rest 25% of the respondents were responded that the do not feel failure in their life because of the desolation of their parents' marriage.

More over key informants also explain this issue during the interview as follow

due to the post-divorce home situation of the family like change in their former relationship with both parents, the home economy and the emotional instability that they observe from their custody children my feel failure in their life because they start to blame themselves for the changing environment of their home and they began to believe that it is their responsibility to negotiate their families problem around the table and bring their mother and father together as before so if such thing is not achieved by them they developed sense of failing in their life.

Table ;20 children perception of themselves

Did you consider yourself as use less	Frequency	Percent
Yes,	106	62
No	65	38
Total	171	100

Source field survey 2019

As shown in the above table high proportion of the respondents that is 62% of respondents were reported that they consider them self as use less and the rest of the participant 38% of survey respondent responded that they did not consider themselves as use less after their parent's marriage become over and they start to live with in a separate house

Similarly key informants reported that the sum of all problems that children's encountered due to their parents' divorce including relationship problem, financial constraints and the psychological instability of the family make their life meaning less and hope less which degraded their future

aspiration of their own life and through time they began to think themselves as use less and the burden of the society.

The other informant who is an expert in Mizan-Aman women and children affair explain that *children's emotional well-being may be disturbed after their parents' divorce which affect their view of themselves and their future due to the post-divorce community outlook towards expression of those children* For example, children raised in a single mother family may face direct problems which make them acutely aware of the fact that they are a child of a divorcee. Especially this thing is happen to those children who grow up with their lone mother face challenging situation from the community mostly they are called by common Amharic expression as "Yeset lij". This usually used to express them as a rude. This expression has a negative and inferior connotations attributed to women, which in return affects children children's confidence and self-view.

This finding of the study was similar with attachment theory which deal that children's self-view are influence by the quality of their attachment relation with their primary care giver or with their parents. Those who experience sensitive and responsive care learn that they are loved and lovable.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 Conclusion and recommendation

5.1.1 Conclusion

The study tried to assess the major effects of divorce on children's well-being. And From the collected data children were affected with many and interrelated and inter connected effect of divorce. The findings of this study indicated that divorce has a multidimensional and interdependent effect on children's over all wellbeing. From the study it is visible that the majority of parental divorced children suffered with economic, social, psychological and emotional problems starting from parents' disagreement and the process of divorce.

In order to assess social, psychological and economic impacts of divorce on parental divorced children key informant interview, with officials and teachers, in-depth interview with the custodial parent, FGD and child questioner was used.

According to the collected data children from such families are vulnerable for social, economic and psychological problem after the divorce process of their parents occurred. This may be because of factors or situations that arose after the divorce. Even though we have said that children from divorced family encounter difficulties when their parents are divorced, it does not mean that all children face the same problems in their life and the extent is also not the same it varied depending on different factors

The economic problem of divorce was more serious and has negative impacts on children's wellbeing; since secured economy is essential to be well socially, psychologically and emotionally. The other factor that contribute for the variation of the problem include the age of the children at the time of the dissolution of his/her parents' marriage, the living arrangement of children after the separation of his/her family.

The primary social effect of divorce is declining parent - child relationship; then through time the social competences of those children have become diminished and also there academic achievement will be affected. Most (47.3%) of parental divorced children have only single parent 33.9% with mother only, 13.3% with father only and about 46.2% of children have no close relation with both parents and only 9.4% of children have close relation with two parents after divorce as the finding indicate the age of the children at the time divorce, and the living arrangement of children affects children relationship with their parent has an association with parent child relation. After divorce children fear to ask, and share their opinions when they

received less attention from their parents. Divorce also affected academic performance of the children. Following divorce 47.4 children achieve lower in their academic result.

The impact of divorce goes to the psychological or emotional consequence 59.6% of the children were not satisfied, what they have got after divorce and 53.8 children feel that they lose the most important person in their life due to divorce, 52.6 respondent express divorce as severely affect their life and 69% of children believe that they will have a better life if their parent will stay married.

5.1.2 Recommendations

Divorce is a serious experience that affects the whole family system through its effect especially children are the primary victim of it. Divorce damages the economy of the children, the social relationships that they have. And has irreversible negative impact on child psychology or emotion. However the issue of divorce has never been getting attention either to reduce its rate or to find a solution for children who suffered by its effect.

Based on the finding of this study the following recommendation has been suggested

Since family is the basic and most important institution of the society individuals, government organizations, religious institutions and other traditional institutions of the society should work on its stability and maintenance.

The preventive work should start before the formation of family to reduce divorce, through the promotion of family education about healthy behavior in relationship and per-marital counseling service that help for the healthy functioning of individuals, family and society as a whole.

Maximize the role of the mass Medias, and other institutions and organizations that should be teaching the need for strong family, and Making the approach to the problems preventive in nature by trying to understand the root causes of the conflict to look for lasting solution.

The society should prevent the prevalence of divorce and ensuring its proper adjustment through changing the social environment in connection to marriage stability.

To help the divorcees particularly children after divorce, an institutions (state, organizations, NGOs and individuals) have to be concerned with its problems and mitigate all divorce related problems.

Parents should encourage joint custody of their children after divorce in order to minimize or reduce the impact of divorce on their children specially to reduce the relationship impact of divorce.

Parents must be care full for their children after the dissolution of their marriage in terms of their relationship with their children and with their ex-spouse.

Parents especially custodial parents should be take care for their children after the occurrence of divorce they must have close relation with their children as before and they should have to be active on their children's mater.

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Appendix 1

Jimma University
College of social science and humanity
Department of sociology

In-depth interview for custodial parents of divorced children in Mizan-Aman town

Dear parents

The objective of this question/ interview is for partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Art in sociology and family studies and these questions are designed to collect data about parental divorce and its impact on children’s over all well-being.

The data collected from these questions will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be Open and honest while responding the entire question so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION!!!

PART I - Background information

- Age.....
- Sex.....
- Educational level.....
- Occupational status.....
- Date of interview.....

PART II. Interview guide for custodial parent

1. Do you have children who live with your ex-husband/wife?
2. How the divorce settled and what was happened during the process? Explain the situations of your children and yourself?

3. What problems that your children have encountered because of divorce?
4. Have you ever observed any particular pressure on your children that are emotionally or psychologically difficult? (Like: easily upset, angry feel sad, inferiority, stress, depression, loss of confidence, etc.)
5. What is the main source of income for the household do you have a job?
6. If you have your own income source, apart from your means of income, is there any economic support from outside for the family?
7. Did you get financial support (alimony) from your ex-husband/wife? If so, is it enough for your child expenses, including (Education, health, clothing, food, and other needs of your children)
8. Do you think your children are happy and satisfy with your support and care? If yes how? If no, why?
9. Is all of your school age children attend school, if no, why not?
10. Did any of your children dropouts from school, If yes, why?

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Questionnaire to be completed by parental divorced children of Mizan-Aman town

Dear children

The following questionnaire is design to measure the economic, social and psychological impacts of divorce on children wellbeing, for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of degree of master of art in sociology and family study. Some of the statements may refer to the experiences of your daily life (real experience) and some others asking your perception concerning your wellbeing. Therefore please choose the appropriate phrases by encircling the letter contains your answer that closely indicate your feelings.

The data collected from this questionnaire will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

Part I background information

1. Age

- A. 0-6
- B. 7-11
- C. 12-18

2. Sex

- A. Male
- B. Female

3. Educational level

- A. elementary, first cycle

- B. Elementary second cycle
- C. High school
- D. Preparatory

4. Religion

- A. Orthodox
- B. Muslim
- C. Protestant
- D. Other

Part II question related to the impact of parental divorce on their well-being

1. When your parents have got divorce?

- A. Recently
- B. Before a year
- C. Before two years
- D. Before three years
- E. Before four years
- F. Before five/above years

2. How old are you when your parents get divorced?

- A. 7-10
- B. 11-18

3. How was your life before your parents become divorced?

- A. Very good
- B. Good
- C. Satisfactory
- D. Bad

4. How was your parents' relation before they got divorced, do they argue or is there an-ongoing conflict among them?

- A. Yes
- B. No

5. What seems your living arrangement after your parents divorced?

- A. I live with my mother
- B. I live with my father

- C. I live with my ground parents
- D. Live with my mother and steep father
- E. Live with my father and steep mother
- F. If any please specify_____

6. How do you explain your relation with your family members after divorce?

- A. I have close relation with my mother
- B. I have close relation with my father
- C. I have close relation with both parents.
- D. I haven't as such relation with both parents.
- E. If any please specify_____

7. Do you have a continuous contact or visitation with your both parent?

- A. Yes
- B. No

8. If your answer for question number 7 was no explain why?

9. Are you preferred working alone rather than with others?

- A. Yes, absolutely I prefer
- B. Yes, sometimes
- C. No, I didn't
- D. Never

10 how was your academic performance after divorce your parent

- A. Better than before
- B. Same as before
- C. Lower than before
- D. School drop out

11 Did you get financial support (alimony) from your father/mother?

- A. Yes
- B. No

12 If you get, is that enough for your expenses? (Like: education, health, clothing, food, and others)

- A. No it is very low to cover .
- B. Little bit low to cover major expenses
- C. Enough to cover the major expenses.

13. Do you feel that you lost the most important person/s in your life?

- A. Yes, I feel strongly
- B. Yes, I feel
- C. No, I don't feel
- D. Never

14. Do you think you have better life if your parents didn't get divorce?

- A. Yes, absolutely I have
- B. Yes, I think.
- C. I am not sure
- D. Never think

15. Are you satisfied with all that you have got?

- A. Yes, absolutely I am satisfied
- B. Yes, partially I am satisfied
- C. No, I am not
- D. I couldn't say any

16. Did you feel failure in your life?

- A. Yes I feel
- B. No I don't

17 Did you consider yourself as useless?

- A. Yes
- B. No

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Department of sociology

Key informant interview

The following questions are design for the key informant in the selected kebeles of the study area. And its objective is to gather data on the impact of parental divorce on the well-being of children in Mizan Aman town. The key informant for this study will be informants from the office of women and children affair and teachers.

Dear participants

The objective of this question is for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Art in sociology and family study. These questions are designed to collect data about the major negative impacts of divorce on children’s life in the social, economic and psychological aspect.

The data collected from these questions will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION!!!

PART I. General Information

Woreda.....

Kebele

Educational level.....

Occupational status.....

Date of interview.....

Part two question related with the impact of divorce on children’s well-being

1. What are the major consequences of divorce on children's life?
2. How children's wellbeing is affected by parents' divorce?
3. What are the economic, social and psychological impacts of divorce on children wellbeing?
4. What kind of risks could be happened on children during and after parents got divorce?
5. Do you think those children have got all services (health, education, etc) adequately as children's of intact family?
6. Are they active in social interaction (playing with friends, working with others, etc.)?
7. Do you think parental divorced children involve more on work both inside and outside home than before parents have got divorce If yes, how and why?
8. What do you think about their academic performance? Are they better, same as or lower than after parents have got divorce? Why?
9. Have you ever seen children of divorced parents who in particular pressures of emotional and psychological difficulty? (Probe: depress, stress, anxiety, disappointment, low confidence, etc.)
10. Do you think those children have strong relation with their parents after divorce? Why?
11. Do you think those children are happy after the family's dissolution?

This question to be asked for the teachers of those children

PART I. General information

Address

Kebele

Responsibility.....

Educational level.....

Date of interview.....

1. How do you explain the impacts of divorce on children's wellbeing?
2. Do you observe any behavioral change on your student after the dissolution of his/ her Parents' marriage?
3. If you say yes for the above question what kind of change do you observe
4. Do you think living arrangement in post-divorce is used as changes on children's over all behavior please explain why?
5. Do you think family marital background has an effect on children's academic performance? How?

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FGD guide for FGD participants

The objective of this discussion is to collect information on the impact of parental divorce on the social, economic and psychological well-being of children.

The data collected from these questions will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

1. How do you think about impact of divorce on children?
2. What are the impacts of divorce on parental divorced children economically?
3. What do you think about the social impact of divorce on children?
4. How do you consider social mobility of children due to their parents' separation or divorce?
5. What is relationship of children of divorced family with their former friends and relatives?
6. Is there a role change of in children's life after the divorce of their family?
7. Is there a change on the level of income of the divorced family after their divorce?
8. Do you believe that parent's marital status influence child's academic performance?
9. How do you see the emotional stability of children after the dissolution of their families' marriage?