

**DIVORCE: THE CONTRBUTING FACTORS AND IMPACTS ON THE FAMILY MEMBER
IN ASENDABO TOWN, JIMMA ZONE, OROMIA REGIONAL STATE OF ETHIOPIA**

BY

TOLESA SHIFERAW KITILA

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO JIMMA UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
AND HUMANITIES, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF ARTS DEGRE IN SOCIOLOGY (FAMILY AND
GENDER STREAM)**

Jimma Ethiopia

JULY, 2021

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this Master's research thesis is my original work and all the source or materials used have been duly acknowledged.

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Signature_____

Date _____

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This is to certify that Tolesa Shiferaw Kitila has conducted the thesis entitled “The contributing factors of divorce and its impacts on family member in Asendabo town” is under my supervision. This work is original and suitable for the submission in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Master of Arts Degree in Sociology of Family and Gender. Hence, we examined and approved that it was conducted according to the regulations of the University and qualified the requirements and standard with respect to originality and quality.

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Acronym

CSA: Central Statistics Agency

FGD: Focus group discussion

SSA: Sub-Sahara Africa

STD: Sexually Transmitted Disease

USA: - United States of America

Abstract

Nowadays, divorce as a prominent social problem, has become a common phenomenon in every society. It represents a major life stressor for the persons involved. The main objective of the study was to explore and describe factor contributing to divorce and its impacts on family members in Asendabo town. For this purpose, the study was guided by qualitative approach. To attain the stated objectives of the study both primary and secondary data were employed. In this respect, to collect the necessary data from the field, the study participants were purposively selected and qualitative methods of data collection like FGD, in-depth interview and key informant interviews were employed. To analysis data collected from primary sources thematic analysis was used. The finding of study revealed that economic factor like poverty, differences in salary between the spouse, irresponsible financial expenditure, and social factors such as infidelity/extramarital relationship, ethnic, and religious difference, unnecessary interference from friends and families, husband's addiction to alcohol and chat as well as demographic factors such as wide age gap between spouses and infertility also contributed to divorce. Moreover, the study also found that poverty, losses/reduction of income and private property, losses of resources, weak social interaction, social rejection and exclusion, by families, friends, relatives and the community are the major impacts of divorce on the divorcees. Likewise, the study found that divorce also negatively impacts the social relationships and educational participation and performance of children's. Children of divorced parent's dropout school, scored lower grades, lacked social supports from their parents, social interaction and lacks good communication skill with others like peers. Since the case of divorce was worsening, the relevant government sectors should work cooperatively with civil societies on the root factors to minimize the occurrences and impacts of divorce.

Keywords: Divorce, divorcee, contributing factors, impact, Asendabo

Chapter One

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the study

Most people enter into marriage with the intention of living together for the rest of their lives. However, the increasing acceptance of divorce has dramatically altered the marriage situation. Now days, divorce is a common phenomenon in every society. But still represent hardest and a major life stressor for the individuals who involved, with actual strong negative consequence in socio-economic, psychological and emotional wellbeing of all members of the family (Mulugeta 2019). And also, among a large number of potential life events, divorce has been rated as one of the most stressful, with a large general impact on the life situation of those who experience it (Debela 2018).

In the recent decade, the rate of divorce increased significantly all over the world (Amato 2014). Much empirical evidence shows that the proportion is higher in industrialized countries (Amato 2014). In 2018, industrialized countries like Belgium, Portugal, Hungary, Spain and USA recorded the highest divorce rate of 71%, 68%, 67%, 63% and 53% respectively in the world compared to other countries (Elena, 2018). African countries also manifested greater divorce trends throughout the twentieth century; perhaps the most important factor is the greater social acceptance of divorce (Chali *et al* 2020). In Africa, according to Monama, (2011), about 52 % of urban parents were single due to divorce. In South Africa it's reality that one out of every two marriages ends in divorce (Ibid). A study conducted in 33 Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries indicated that on average one-fourth (25%) of the first union ended with divorce, which ranges from 6.9% in Mali to 47.1% in Congo Brazzaville (Clark S, *et al*, 2015). Besides, as a result of continued urbanization, and the influence of formal education in Sub-Saharan countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mali, Mozambique and Ethiopia, the rate of divorce is higher (Chali *et al* 2020). Some small-scale studies in Ethiopia also showed that more than one-third of women were divorced from their first union (Mokonen *et al* 2019).

The dramatic increasing of divorces in Ethiopia is attributed to both internal and external factor to the family. The reasons peculiar to the situation of the country are job displacement, economic crises, changing attitudes towards divorce, and to a lesser extent ethnic politics (Mokonen *et al*. 2019). At mean time, several studies, from different angles, indicate that there are a numbers of factors for a significant increasing of divorce, each of them are specific, complex and vary to particular marital

couple (Aster, 2015). Some of these are bonds between spouses, economic problems; legal, social and moral constraints; and the spouses' relationship. Furthermore, lack of commitment, immaturity, infidelity, abandonment, lack of communication, physical abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, cultural and religious differences, incompatibility, family interference, financial problems, absence of love, poverty, unemployment, and other individual behavior are the main factors of divorce (Mokonen *et al* 2019 & Mulugeta *et al.* 2020).

Divorce has an extensive and complex event that has resulted significant adverse effects on the lives of divorced spouses and those close to them. The negative effect of divorce goes beyond the spouses who make the choice of divorce. But the immediate victims of the marital dissolution who share the potential consequences are children and other close relatives of the couples (Mulugeta, et al 2020). Many studies argued that divorce can be a major source of stressful experience, which affects the economic, social and psychological wellbeing of both divorcees and their children and the family system as a whole (Tarekegn, 2015). Thus, as a result of divorce the entire family members experience a variety of abrupt changes which impact nearly every aspect of their lives. So, divorce is one of the most often an extremely painful series of events that can create pressures on the family's life lead in to crisis.

However, little attention has been given to the factor and impacts of divorce on family members in Jimma zone, Asendabo town. Divorce is very multifaceted complex issues as well as become a serious problem especially in lower socio- economic countries like Ethiopia. It challenges the establishment of the family in a routine manner and causing severe impacts on couples, their children and the overall society. In spite of the seriousness of the problem, the rate of divorce is ever increasing in day to day at an alarming rate but available studies on factors and impacts of divorce on both divorced partners and their children in Ethiopian context are rare and inadequate. Therefore, this study is motivated by scarcity of adequate evidence on the factors and impacts of divorce on divorcees and their children on the one hand and the severity and the ever increasing prevalence of the problem on the other. Due to this the study was intended to explore and describe the major contributing factor of divorce and its impacts on family members in the real context of Asendabo Town.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Divorce is one of the most serious social problems of the whole society. Many explanations have been offered for the dramatic increase in divorcees that began in 1960s. Some claim that changes in divorce laws in the 1970s influenced the divorce rate, but others contest this explanation. Some of the conservative orientation argues that "Women's Liberation" was the cause. Others look at a whole complex of social factors, including economic conditions, level of education of women, and increasingly tolerant attitudes towards divorce (Harkonen 2013).

As a study like Aster (2015), suggested, there are many different and complex factors of divorce, each of them specific to that particular couple of marital relationship; their individual experiences and personal problems. Spouses changing roles, infidelity, financial problems and immaturity are mentioned as important causes of divorce, in contrast high-income, well-educated spouse are more prone to divorce (Balestrino *et al.* 2008). The majority of divorces (59%) were caused by simple factors such as; incompatibilities, growing apart, lack of communication, loss of love (Amato, 2014). From the female perspective, alcohol abuse was reason, whereas men estimate sexual problems as a cause (Mehari 2013). Besides, studies by Mokenen *et al* (2019) and Mulugeta *et al.* (2020) also finds that factors such as difference in interest for sexual desire, problem of trust, addiction of chat and alcohol, infidelity, lack of communication, religious difference, lack of commitment, family intervention, and health problem are major reasons of divorce.

Stable and satisfying marriages contribute to men's and women's improved social, physical and psychological health and prolonged existence as well as their material wealth and to better outcomes for children's wellbeing, divorce can adversely affect family life on contrary. Divorce puts negative effects on economical, psychological and social well-being of the divorced partners and those close to them (Olson & Desfrain 2006; Semhal 2007; Mokenen *et al* 2019 and Mulugeta *et al.* 2020). It affects not only the adults who make the choice of divorce, but also the children as well (Mulugeta 2019). Much empirical evidences shows that its impacts range from heightened poverty levels and lower educational performance of the children of divorce to increased occurrence of psychological distress and many social problems (Mokenen *et al* and Mulugeta 2019).

Due to these facts, divorce is a serious problem affecting an exponentially increasing number of peoples. [It] is a considerable crisis that sets extreme difficulties and requires dramatic adaptation for

both spouses and children (Garner 2008). Furthermore, according to Garner (2008) and Amato (2010) divorce is a vastly interesting and imperative as a topic through the identification of factors and its impacts and how it brought about to offspring is the initial step to be able to minimize the negative effects of divorce. So, studying divorce is an important issue for social, psychological and economic life of individual. At the same time divorce has been practiced for centuries in Ethiopia.

In this respect, studies have been conducted by different scholars regarding to the conditions of parental separation resulted in divorce and the effects of parental separation. Among other, a study conducted by Serkalem (2006), on Divorce: its case and implication on the lives of divorced women and their children mainly focused on major cause of divorce along with economic and social impact of divorce on women and children in Addis Ababa city. The study mostly focuses on the social and economic impacts and overlooked the rest of divorce effect out of the picture. Further, a study by Selome (2000), conducted in Addis Ababa city assessed the need to alleviate problems of women after divorce. This study assessed the effect of divorce only from the perspective of women. The effects of traditional arbitration and legal divorce on divorcees and their children by Tarekegn (2015), conducted in Wolaita Zone mainly focus on the economic, psychological and social effects of traditional family arbitration and legal divorce on divorcees and their children. However, neither the possible factors nor the impacts of divorces on the spouses and children fully understood as little/no research has been conducted. On the other, the possible factors of divorces and its impact on the divorces and their children vary from context to context. Furthermore, in order to approach a complete understanding of divorce and its impacts on parent and children, more comprehensive studies will be needed in all of the various aspects associated with it.

Thus, this study was different from the earlier research mentioned so far because the study area of the previous research were mainly in large urban settings which are different from the demographic nature and context of Asendabo town. At the same time the possible factor of divorce and its impacts on divorces and their children vary from context to context and even from time to time. Besides, the study did not investigate the factors and impacts of divorce in family setting as well as did not take into account the experience of both men and women perspectives in comprehensive manner, while the current study has been focused on such areas. Even, there is no adequate and comprehensive study on the factor and impacts of divorce among family members in Asendabo town.

1.3. Objectives of the study

1.3.1. General objective

The overall objective of the study was to explore and describe the contributing factors to divorce and its impacts on the family member in Jimma Zone, Omo Nada Woreda, Asendabo Town.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

- To explore the factors contributing to divorce in the study area
- To identify the socio-economic impacts of divorce on the divorcees and;
- To investigate the impacts of divorce on the social relationship and education of children

Research Questions

1. What are the major factors of divorce in study area?
2. What are the impacts of divorces on the divorcees and their children?

1.4. Significance of the Study

The study was to explore and describe the factors and impacts of divorce on family member in Asendabo town. Due to this, the findings of this study has been contributed greatly to the family, children, government and relevant institutions in study area and also contributes greatly to the academic and policy as well.

To the family, the findings of this study was benefited them to identify and aware possible factors that contribute divorce and its different impacts on themselves and their children's.

To the children's, the study was helped them to know the parental divorce that impacts and hinders their proper development.

To the government and other institutions, the study was helped them to understand the problems and the proper ways to handle issues regarding affected family and children.

To the academics, the study also hopes to fill the theoretical gap and thereby add values to current knowledge production.

To the policy, the study findings and forwarded recommendations are believed to serve as an input or policy makers so that they can make use of it to act on the problem.

On the other side, the study was benefited the researcher in partial fulfillment of requirement of the award of Masters of Arts Degree in Sociology of family and gender at Jimma University.

1.5. Delimitation of the study

Conceptually, the study was limited to the major factors contributing to divorce and its impacts on family members. Geographically, the study was limited to all ganda at Asendabo town. All the samples and data were collected from this study area. Further, methodologically, the study was employed in qualitative data types with primary and secondary sources in line with cross sectional study type.

1.6. Limitation of the study

There are some challenge and limitation that the researcher faced during data collection and conducting the research. As a challenge, convincing divorced persons to conduct interview was challenging so the interview takes place after many trial and negotiation with each the interviewee. As limitations, the study does not sought to discover all factors and impacts of divorce. Methodologically, due to qualitative method, the number of participant was limited as a result; the research could not generalize to other divorced spouses and their children's who lived in other part of the countries and also in order to point out the real impacts of divorce over time it would have been better to make a longitudinal (time series) study and cases of many years.

1.7. Organization of the study

The research is organized in to five chapters, background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope of the study, limitation of the study, definitions of terms and organization of the study are dealt under chapter one. Related literature review; conceptual definition and global satiation of divorce, factors of divorce, impacts of divorce on divorcees, and children, as well as family system and conflict theory are the topics that are dealt under chapter two. Description of study area, research design, study participants, participant selection, data source, procedure and methods of data gathering, as well as methods of data analysis are dealt in chapter three. The findings, analysis and discussions of the research are dealt under chapter four. Finally conclusion and recommendation of the research are dealt under chapter five.

1.8. Definition of terms

Marriage: is a traditional or legal unity between a man and a woman for the purpose of living together as a husband and wife.

Divorce: is the legal termination of marital relationship or the failure of couple's commitment to marital and family roles. Thus, it is ending of a marriage before the death of either spouse.

Social factors refers to education, ethnicity, religious, sexual incompatibility and family/relatives interference in spousal relationship related issues contributed to divorce.

Demographic factors refer to age and fertility related issues contribute to divorce.

Economic factors refer to employment status, type of occupation, income and asset related factors contribute to divorce.

Socio-economic impacts: Social impacts refer to impacts on participation in formal and traditional social organizations, reputability and respects of spouses among the community. Economic impacts refer to impact on income, employment, standard of housing, in paying school fees for their children, food insecurity, and money to buy clothing and other resources needed for subsistence life.

Impacts on social relationship and education: educational impacts refer to impacts on the learning, participation, attendance, grade, test score and school performance that needed for overall development. Impact on social relationship refers to impacts on interaction with others such as relationship with fathers, mothers, teachers, parents relative, and peers at school and around the home.

Chapter two: Review of related literature

2. Review of related literature

2.1. Conceptual definition and Global situation of divorce

Divorce, or dissolution, as it is increasingly becoming known, a legislatively created, judicially administered process that legally terminates a marriage no longer considered viable by one or both of the spouses and that permits both to remarry (Levy 2009). Hence, Lack of recognition and respect erodes family structure (Krauth 2006). Divorce involves a number of life events concentrated within a short time; it also can create strains that persist over the haul (Amato 2010). For example, many single resident mothers deal with the continuing strain of solo parenting and a lower standard of living. Correspondingly, many single fathers deal with the continuing strain of trying to maintain positive parent-child relationships within the context of limited access arrangements.

In recent decade, the practice and prevalence of divorce was dramatically increasing all over the world. In 2018, USA recorded the highest divorce rate of 53% in the world compared to other countries (Elena 2018). Based on the report of census bureau, showed that recently an ever decreasing of marriage, which has led the country to be placed as tenth highest country based on the divorce rate. In addition, most divorces involve children, and more than 1 million children are affected by divorce each year (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2010). Moreover, approximately 40% of children will experience divorce before adulthood and women are more likely than men to file for divorce (Amato 2014). Most adults adjust well to divorce over time but 30% of them feel their lives were negatively impacted (Popenoe & Whitehead 2010).

In European, according to Elena (2018) report Belgium is a country which top maximum of 71% divorce rate, every year 32000 people committed to divorce. It is noteworthy that while France is considered the land of love, has a high divorce rate of 55%. In rural part of France are low compared to urban areas (Elena 2018). Apart from the countries with the highest divorce rates, there are those countries relatively lower divorce rates such as India, Chile, Colombia, and Turkey among others. According to Elena, (2018), India is the lowest divorce rates in world, standing 1%. This due to Indians abides by the rule of Hindus, which suggest a “one man, one women policy. In Chile 3%, Colombia 9%, Turkey and Iran 22% of divorce rates (Elena 2018). However, much empirical evidence shows that in many countries women have gained more rights, benefits, education and independence in recent decades, divorce takes place in an unprecedented number, and that becomes a

new value, being followed by younger generations. Countries like India and Iran in which a low number of divorces once took place, currently high numbers of divorces are registered every year (Mohammed 2020).

African countries also manifested greater divorce trends throughout the twentieth century. According to Monama (2011), about 52 percent of urban parents in Africa were single. In South Africa it's reality that one out of every two marriages ends in divorce (Monama 2011). A recent study conducted in 33 Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries indicated that on average one-fourth (25%) of the first union ended with divorce, which ranges from 6.9% in Mali to 47.1% in Congo Brazzaville (Clark S, *et al*, 2015). Some small-scale studies in Ethiopia also showed that more than one-third of women were divorced from their first union (Mekonne *et al*. 2019). Due to the reasons of continued rapid urbanization, and the influence of formal education in Sub-Saharan countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Ethiopia, the rate of divorce is higher (Chali *et al* 2020).

However, a number of studies have been carried out on significant day to day increasing of divorce all over the world but little emphasis had been given on the factors and impacts of divorce on the life of divorced partners and their children especially in Ethiopia society in general and in Jimma zone, Asendabo town context in particular, perhaps due to the cultural and social sensitivity of the issue (Chali *et al*. 2020). Moreover, divorces may increasingly be initiated by women. At same time the incidences of divorce are furthering among the new couples due to considerable socio-economic development and changing values relating to women's education, age at marriage, changes in health conditions, life-expectancy, employment opportunities, family structure, and women's independence (Rahman *et al*. 2013).

2.2. Factor contributing to divorce

Multiple, interlocking factors have contributed to the rapid rise of divorce. These contributing factors are enormous, each of them specific to particular couples of marital relationship; their individual experiences and personal problems and also may vary from context to context and even from time period to the next. Some of these factors are poverty, sexual incompatibility, lack of intimacy, lack of communication, religious difference, marital infidelity, financial stress and other socio-cultural and personal factors (Mokonen *et al*. 2019).

2.2.1. Poverty

Along with factor affecting the likelihood of marriage, poverty is also linked to increased separation and divorce rates. At the same time, Emily and Shelley (2015) also entail low incomes and poverty is risk factors because financial stressors often impact negatively on a marital relationship. Besides, recent study conducted by Adinew (2020) and Debala (2018) in Ethiopia also showed that less amount of money, loss of job and being unemployment reduces family income resulted inadequate finance for surviving relationship and lack of resources/properties to continue marriage. On the other side of the equation, a very rapid upward social mobility where the acquisition of money and status is a prime mover is also a risk factor. This may be because such a pursuit of materialism takes time away from relationships or reflects individualistic values that are incompatible with a good conjugal life (Chali et al. 2020). However, several studies show that marriages among the middle-class professionals, bureaucratic and upper-class groups are notably stable. In general groups with less education and lower social status have high rate of desertion. The individuals with financial solvency and social mobility are more apt to solve their marital problems (Rahman et al. 2013).

2.2.2. Age Difference

With regard to age, a gap of about two years between husband and wife is typical in the U.S., with the husband usually the older partner (Olson 2006). Larger differences in age, especially when the wife is older than the husband, have been found to have an adverse impact on marital stability (Olson 2006). Similarly a study by Afework, (2010) revealed similar result, reported that higher than expected instability when age differences between spouses are large and when wives are older than their husbands.

2.2.3. Sexual incompatibility

Sexual incompatibility is one of the contributing factors to divorce. Men and women naturally tend to differ in every sphere of life emotionally, mentally and sexually. Certain things require adjustment as the marriage progresses, i.e. children are born, health challenges arise and careers change. In most cases the transition affects a couple's sexual relationship (Preller 2014). Consequently, if either party is not physically satisfied, he or she may look for a companion to satisfy his or her sexual needs. As result, sexual dissatisfaction may lead to divorce. King (2009) indicates that one reason given by

couples for their divorce is loss of sexual attraction and subsequent weakening of their intimate relationship.

2.2.4. Lack of Communication

Lack of communication is another underlying cause of many divorces among partners; failure to communicate makes it difficult for couples to resolve the financial, sexual and emotional issues affecting their marriage (Mulugeta *et al* 2020). Any marriage is complete when a couple can handle three principles consistently, when they can effectively utilize the fundamentals involved in speaking and listening, when they can resolve conflicts through constructive methods and lastly, when they spend time on a daily basis in an intimate sharing of feelings, suggests (Mokonen *et al* 2019 and Mulugeta, et al. 2020).

2.2.5. Women's Independence

Over the years women have gained independence due to their often developing a career in the work setting. Women gain status in the workplace, they aspire for political power, and at the end of service they will be paid gratuity and pension after retirement and this enable them to be less dependent on the male head of household (Nicole 2008). Further, stated that women who are gainfully employed and self-sufficient may be more willing to dissolve a marriage because they are not perceived as a financially dependent spouse. Financial stability allows for the female head of household to have more flexibility to exit a broken marriage (Mahider 2019). On the other side, unemployed and less educated women have also seen their divorce risks increase at a faster rate in some countries. In the United States, compare to women with higher educated and paid, unemployed and less educated women exhibited higher rate in risk of divorce (Harkonen 2013).

However, much empirical evidences showed that in many countries women's access to higher education and higher salaries have higher in risk of divorce; this put them less willing in traditional roles and expectations (Buzzle 2013). Until the last century, women practiced a more traditional role; most women were married by their early twenties. They were then destined to a life of having children, taking care of their husbands, and involving on domestic chores (Price and McKenry 1988), but now it changed. As many studies like Balestrino et al (2008) stated that the main determinants of divorce is earning differentials among couple that high-earning women gain relatively little from marriage,

since the small differential implies that there is less possibility for an efficient sexual division of labor, and have a stronger contribution in case of divorce.

2.2.6. Infidelity/Adultery

Infidelity also referred to as ‘adultery’ and commonly known as ‘cheating’ on one’s partner is near the top of the list of reasons for divorce among couples (Preller 2014). It does not matter whether it is a wife or husband who is unfaithful, the repercussions can be devastating for the entire family. Various factors may lead to adultery such as lack of intimacy and communication as well as sexual dissatisfaction in marriage (Shirindi & Makofane 2015). Infidelity is a common phenomenon in marriages but is poorly understood that it is a major cause of divorce and spousal battering (Hawkins and Fackrell 2009). Regardless of difficulty in obtaining information on this sensitive matter, it is well known that infidelity can result in family strife, divorce, violence, depression and low self-esteem (Tsapelas 2010). Some studies showed that only a small percentage of couples who experience infidelity can save their marriage after an affair (Zare 2011). Infidelity may be the most destructive source of conflict inflicted on a marriage (Mulugeta *et al* 2020). Despite its destructive impact, infidelities are estimated conservatively to occur in about half of all marriages (Amato 2014).

2.2.7. Racial/ethnic and Religious difference

Marriage between different religion, culture and ethnicity is a common trend in these days. However, many studies confirmed couples of differ in religion and ethnicity the likelihood dissolution of marriage is thus expected to be higher (Chali *et al* 2020). Due to the reasons of difference in race/ethnicity and religion, which implies differences in family traditions, culture, and history, living with a different cultural background is not an easy thing at all due to the several taboos posed by a culture (Chali *et al.* 2020). Subsequently, it destabilizing families but less attention has been paid in relationship (Kalmijn *et al.* 2005).

Similarly, diversity in terms of religion, ethnicity, culture and social status between the families of the two spouses contributed to the dissolution of marriage especially among newly married couples often suffer from the inability to manage diversity. In fact, couples of a different religion, culture or ethnicity sometimes do not take up the expectations of their partner’s religion and often cause anger among them (Mulugeta *et al* and Chali *et al.* 2020). Despite its risk factors, growing body of research documents a wide range of benefits associated with some religious involvement. Religion and culture

is also considered to be an important transmission channel of marriage norms and play significant roles in structuring the process of family formation and governing the couple's behavior with in marriage (Afework 2010). It also expected to give stability to the society but sometimes, the contrary is the reality (Ubong 2018).

2.2.8. Infertility

Infertility may cause anxiety, distress and frustration in marriage and subsequently lead to divorce. Having children is the most common reason why people get married (Benokraitis 2007). Indeed, couples with children, especially small ones, have lower divorce risks than childless couples (Lyngstad & Jalovaara 2010). At the same time, Chali *et al.* (2020) says, “In Ethiopian culture, any marriage that is not blessed with children is not considered to have achieved its aim”. Childlessness is not acceptable in many societies that place a high value on children. It is assumed that when a couple cannot bear children, there will be nobody to remember them. Their ancestral line will disappear. On the other hand some studies suggested that having boys can have a stronger stabilizing effect, presumably due to fathers’ increased involvement in childcare (Harkonen 2013) whereas in some cultures a woman who gives birth to girls only may be divorced, because the girl child cannot continue with the surname of the fathers (Thabede 2017).

2.2.9. Legal recognition for divorce

Major liberalization of divorce laws began in the sixties and seventies, and in 1970, California was the first state to implement unilateral _no fault ‘divorce, in which either spouse could exit the marriage without having to provide specific reasons (Gonzalez & Viitanen 2009). Recent research has generally concluded that liberalization of divorce laws did cause short-term spikes in divorce rates, seemingly as spouses in ill-functioning marriages took advantage of the better opportunities for exiting their marriages (Wolfers 2006: González & Viitanen 2009). Loosening of official control over marriages and divorces did, however, change the divorce process and the dynamics of marriages. Unilateral divorce are the possibility of exiting a marriage without the consent of one’s spouse that shifted the power balance to the spouse more willing to exit, while the shortening of the legal process and the weakening need to show fault or irreconcilability have made divorce processes faster and possibly less conflict-ridden (Stevenson & Wolfers 2007).

2.2.10. Addiction on Alcoholism and Drug

Alcohol and drug addiction is also another cause of divorce. One of the difficult problems that can cause people to seriously consider divorce is addiction (Mulugeta *et al* 2020). When a husband or wife is addicted to alcohol and drug fail to be responsible for the family, disturb family members and forget their family responsibility, this situation causes the wife or husband to lose hope and become impatient. Because the alcoholic and drug users tend to pay more attention to addiction rather than supporting family, this makes the spouse to become tired of such life hence seek for separation. Addiction can kill love and withdrawal from roles can take place and eventually marriage breakdown (Mulugeta *et al* 2020). Moreover the spouses in families where there is chronic, excessive use of alcohol are frequently separated. Divorce may be due to one or both parents abusing alcohol or drugs (Krauth 2006). The relationship between an alcohol addicted and his/her family is complex. When someone experiences alcohol problems, the negative effects of drinking exert a toll, not only on the drinker, but also on their partner and other family members. Family problems that are likely to co-occur with alcohol problems include: Violence, Marital conflict, Infidelity, Jealousy, Economic insecurity, Divorce, Fetal alcohol effects (Mokonen *et al* 2019).

2.2.11. Age at Marriage

According to Claiborne (2012) one of the major factors that causes of divorce is inadequate preparation for marriage. Many young people are able to get married with no preparation, less knowledge of the responsibilities of the marital relationship, and no reasonable and moral values. Statistics show that, the younger people are at marriage, the more likely they are to divorce. Young people, especially adolescents, may lack the maturity and experience to cope with the demands of a marital relationship. Furthermore, their personalities have not yet stabilized so that their needs may change and upset the balance of their new marriage. Very young people also have low incomes this, along with low educational levels, is another risk factor for divorce (Claiborne 2012). There are also many reasons posed to explain why a young age at marriage would contribute to an increased risk of divorce; among them are immaturity, homesickness, and women's lack of choice to whom they marry (Tilson and Larsen 2000). Besides, early divorces are disproportionately due to the discovery of basic incompatibility, conflict in values, and personality clashes. Nevertheless, couples in marriages of long duration face challenges such as raising children, boredom with the relationship and gradually

diverging interests and attitudes that differ from those of individuals in marriages of short duration (Mehari, 2013).

2.2.12. Economic and Financial Reasons

Economic Reasons seems to be one of the major causes of divorces. “The American Journal of Sociology recently published a study which found out that a husband's unemployment can be a key factor behind divorce”. In fact, lack of money can often cause marital problems to flare into a divorce filing. A married couple facing financial difficulties is often under a lot of stress, which in turn can lead to constant arguing and lack of communications. Couples where one spouse has and controls the finances of the home can face marital strain that can conclude in divorce. Wasteful management of economic resources by a spouse mostly wives, though some husbands may be also involved may lead to the other factor spouse seek divorce (Ubong 2018).

2.2.13. Other factors of divorce

Family intervention, health problem, absence of real love but marriage for sex, status change and peer pressure are also factors that leads parental divorce. According to Hawkins and Fackrell (2009) some of risk factors of divorce are uncontrollable. If you experienced the divorce of your parents, unfortunately that doubles your risk for divorce. And if your spouse also experienced his/her parents' divorce, then your risk for divorce more than triples (Maheri 2013).

2.3. Impacts of divorce on divorces

Divorce is one of the most often mentioned major life events and can cause major stress and upheaval for many, and a sense of relief and opportunity for personal growth for others. It is not universally harmful to those subjected to it; sometimes it needed to protect a man or a woman from cruelty, danger, hardship, physical torture, mental pressure or from excruciating sufferings (Mulugeta 2019). However, many studies conclude that divorce has resulted strong negative impact on divorces and their children in economic, social and psychological wellbeing compared to those who did not experience divorce (Olson & Desfrain 2006 : Semhal, 2007: Mokenen *et al* 2019 and Mulugeta, et al. 2020).

2.3.1. Emotional and Psychological impacts of divorce on divorces

Divorce has been rated the number one life stressor. As a result, divorced parents in general are somewhat more likely than married ones to be afflicted with poor psychological and emotional wellbeing (Mulugeta 2019). Divorced individuals have a higher risk of physical and mental illnesses, suicide, motor vehicle accidents, alcoholism, homicide, and overall mortality (Asher & White 1978). Similarly, much recent empirical evidence also shows that divorced parents report higher levels of depression, anxiety, and unhappiness (Mulgeta *et al.* 2020).

Despite the sadness, upset and feelings of loss associated with divorce, it can be an opportunity for some individuals, and can ultimately lead to increases in psychological wellbeing. It also provides the opportunity to get out of a troubled or abusive relationship, which in turn reduces stress levels and also offers positive changes such as peace of mind, personal growth, and autonomy (Harkonen 2013; Mulugeta 2019). However, much empirical studies stated that in comparison to married people, the divorced exhibit higher rates of depression, suicide, alcohol abuse and mental health problem (Mokonen *et al.* 2019). Most of the time, divorced people tend to experience increased depressive feelings over time and pass the days with great psychological changes as a result of the decline in standard of living, current economic difficulties, and reduced availability of intimate, reliable support following divorce. Moreover, in most cases divorce creates fear of being alone, anxiety, loneliness, guilt feeling, loss of an intimate relationship, loss of hopes and dreams as well as feelings of failure on divorces (Adegoke 2010).

In addition, divorce is related to increased depression and anxiety for both men's and women's of all ages: recovery from divorce sometimes involves a grieving process, as it is a loss of an important relationship that was significant in their lives (Fagan and Churchill, 2012). Divorce can cause feelings of abandonment, betrayal, and loneliness leading to depression. As study like Mulugeta *et al.* (2020), argued that those three years after the failure of their marriages, divorced spouses experience greater adversity than their married peers. During the first year after divorce, the spouses were more anxious, depressed, angry, and self-doubting than were married ones. They also further showed comparatively less affection to their children, communicated less with them, punished them more, and were more inconsistent in their use of discipline. Despite many pervasive emotional and psychological consequences, divorce may help both of couples towards rising in competence, self-esteem, and better functioning in life than during their marriage (Rahman *et al.* 2013).

2.3.2. Economic Impact of Divorce on Divorces

Divorce detrimentally impacts divorced partner numerous ways. Financial challenges as a result of divorce are common. The process of divorce is expensive. The income that used to support one household is split and now must support two households. All possessions, money, financial assets, and debt acquired during and sometimes before marriage are divided between former spouses (Fagan and Churchill 2012). Divorce entails significant impacts beyond the property split among the spouses, divorce fees and court cost, wealth destruction through forced asset liquidation, debt assumption as part of divorce settlement, life style restructuring costs and ongoing child support (Piskor and Colman 2011). Researchers estimate divorcing individuals would need more than a 30% increase in income, on average, to maintain the same standard of living they had prior to their divorce (Amato 2014). So divorce is financially stressful, especially for poorer couples. On the other hand, researchers have indicated that a stable marriage is one of the best paths to building and maintaining wealth.

A lot of study has indicated that divorce reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity and also trapped in a vicious cycle of financial problems and other stressful life events on divorced spouses (Mulugeta 2019). At the same time, many empirical evidences also showed that both women and men experience a drop in income following divorce, but women may suffer more since men typically have more financial resource (Fagan and Churchill, 2012). In similar way, Mulugeta (2019) argued that divorce resulted different consequences on the economic wellbeing of men and women. Women experience an income decline of about 30% while male experienced about a 10% drop in income following divorce (Bogale 2008). So, divorce widens the gap of economic wellbeing between men and women (Mokonen *et al* 2019).

In Ethiopia, compared to men, divorced women are economically weak (Serkalem 2006). Argaw (2007), also pointed out that 40% of divorced women have no tangible property to retake during separation. Of those who have tangible property, many of them had only household goods. Most of them are usually engage in informal sectors like selling home made products (Tella, Arekie, Injera, etc), collecting wood and retailing activities after divorce (Serkalem 2006). Due to this economic engagement makes their lives miserable.

Despite the variation in the economic consequences of divorce, it is among the main life events that can lead to poverty (Mulugeta *et al.* 2020). It reduced standard of housing, difficulty in paying school

fees for their children, food insecurity, medical problems, and insufficient money to buy clothing and other resources needed for subsistence life. Furthermore, lack of fulfilling basic needs of children's, reduction of income and economic crisis are also the main economic impacts of divorce on divorces (Mokonen *et al.* 2019).

2.3.3. Social impacts of divorce on divorces

Divorce has received significant attention in many developed and least developed countries because of its striking effects on individuals, families and society as a whole (Parvez 2011). Its impacts are unequal for men and women but may vary according to gender, ethnicity, life cycle, social support, and social networks, continued attachment to ex-spouses and institutional arrangements of a country. In all areas and religions where there is more disapproval of divorce, both men and women experience greater decline in friends, relatives and neighborhood contacts after divorce (Rahman *et al.* 2013).

One of the distressing effects of divorce is the problem that divorces face with respect to their social lives and relationships. Divorced spouses reported that less perceived social support, lower levels of social involvement and less contact with friends than married counterparts (Cheeseman *et al.* 2011). In addition, Kavas (2010) and Yohannes (2015), also found that after divorce, losing the existing friends and relatives come as an inevitable process, since divorced partners no longer belong to the same marital status like their married friends do. Further, stated that they are isolating and rejecting from community members as well as being violent in interpersonal relationship. In contrary, some studies suggested that divorce allows individuals able to entertain themselves without restriction, to be involved in whatever they like and to forming new social networks (Mulugeta 2019).

Nevertheless, most of the time divorce has resulted social stigmatized, stereotyped and marginalized from participation in social institution (Yohannes 2015). In the past divorce was rare and there was considerable social pressure to stay married, even if it was a bad and abusive marriage. But now divorce is linked with the pursuits of individual's satisfaction and there is less social pressure to stay married. Even the presence of children doesn't affect for getting divorce as it was in the past (Afework 2010).

However, many studies argued that divorce is still now problematic because in most cases, people who divorce face alienation from friends and relatives who do not approve the divorce and experience

loss of social support especially among ex-spouse's relatives, and limited support from their own relatives (Chali et al. 2020). It also caused loss of social services, inferior residence, less recreation and leisure, as well as social dislocation due to reduce of reliable social support and economic hardships following divorce (Ruhaman et al 2013).

Sometimes, divorce may also lead to extreme social consequences for women. As a result of divorce, women encounter an array of social exclusion and stigma, lack of social support, total responsibility for rearing the children, feeling of being guardian less and support-less, public ridicule, and insecurity and difficulty in the remarriage (Ruhaman et al 2013). Despite its pervasive social impacts, divorce may also allow women to interact with the society freely and to raise their children in their own ways without being dictated by their husbands (Writer 2010).

2.4. Impacts of Divorce on Children

Looking the trends of divorce around the world each year millions of children face family disruption and conflicts (Amato & James 2010). This family conflict and disruption in turns leads to divorce that has directly and indirectly affect negatively the wellbeing of children. Furthermore numerous studies indicated that divorce has adverse impact on wellbeing of children's in several ways (Mulugeta 2019). At the same time findings from several research studies, all agree that divorce affects all the children in the family at some time and in some degree as well as the effects of divorce emerge rapidly following separation and some of them take long time to back to normal situation and some others still emerge later (Fagan and Churchil 2012).

Divorce affects children in a multitude of ways. Ongoing conflict, blocked communication and power imbalances between parents are problematic for child and family functioning (Vanassche 2013). Children who experience their parents going through a divorce are susceptible to becoming depressed, being withdrawn, acting out, and acting differently. It is well documented that psychosocial stressors constitute a significant, pervasive risk for children's mental health problems (Velez 2011). When children experience their parents going through a divorce, the actions of the parents affect the children all throughout their childhood, and eventually may overlap into their adulthood. [It] is well documented that parental divorce is associated with multiple problems for childhood that extend into adulthood, including internalizing and externalizing problems, interpersonal difficulties, poor physical health, and substance abuse (Sigal 2012).

Moreover, children with divorced parents, compared with continuously married parents, exhibit more conduct problems, have more emotional problems, obtain lower academic test scores, and school grades, and have more problems with social relationships, weaker emotional ties with parents especially fathers (Amato 2012). Several studies found that children who have experienced parental divorce experience financial instability, academic instability, employment instability, and have a tendency to use alcohol and cigarettes, (Williams, 2017).

Compared to those from intact families, children of separated parents show poorer outcomes in multiple domains (Lucas 2013). A parents' choice to divorce brings on a slew of issues for the children. While parental separation may bring about relief from exposure to very frequent and intense conflict between parents, it also tends to create a range of other disruptions (Baxter et al. 2011). In a study done by van Dolen (2013), revealed that higher levels of misbehavior and aggression, higher risk of committing suicide, less competence, more under-controlled behavior, poorer academic performance and reduced likelihood of participating in tertiary education.

In addition, Baxter et al., (2011) explain these parental disruptions stating that immediate upheavals may include substantial increases in financial difficulties and associated deprivations, changes in housing and school, enhanced parental distress and/or diminished quality of parenting, and substantially reduced time or even total loss of contact with one parent. Such disruptions can be very distressing for the children. Baxter et al., (2011) explains further that children of divorce suffer more emotional and social problems than those of intact families. Van Dolen (2013) also finds that, "Experiencing parental divorce during childhood is associated with increased likelihood of being subject to child abuse and/or witnessing violence".

Many studies argued that children are the primary victim of separation of their parents. Patoari (2020) also suggested that at the remarriage of the mother children become guardian less. If the children live with father they are deprived from mother' love, care and affection and at the remarriage of the father puts the children under the step-mother's treatment and who most of the cases do not care like her biological children rather make the children's life miserable by physical and mental torturing. As a result prospective life of many children are in threaten. Children of broken family are also at high risk of sexual and physical abuse and trafficking (Patoari 2020).

A study by Debela (2018) also found out that children's of divorced parents have lack of social support like interaction, communication skills, which in turn brings isolation, feelings of loneliness, neglect, low self-esteem and poor communication with others, lack financial support for food, clothing, schooling, shelter and routine needs, lack psychological support and in turn result psychological problems in their developmental life such problems are depression, suicidal ideation, and personality disorders like antisocial/deviant behavior.

In general, according to Were (2012), parental divorce affects socialization of the child in several ways. Chali et al. (2020) suggested that divorce diminishes children's learning capacity and educational attainment. As a result, they may lack the necessary knowledge, attitudes, and skills to socialize as well as to lead their life independently. The children can be introduced into drugs and substance abuse, they can engage in child prostitution leading to being infected with HIV/ AIDs and STIs because of lack of parental guidance. Stigmatization of children and mostly those without fathers, they feel unloved by the absent parent, they do not trust people because of the lies being to them by the custodial parent when they ask about the absent one. Children drop out of school due to lack of fees and other basic needs, they acquire low grades in school due to absence from school and low concentration span in class and others even engage in work to survive in turn easily exposure to abuse and labor exploitation (Were 2012).

2.5. Theoretical framework of the study

The theoretical framework of the study begins by representing by two theoretical models mainly, family system theory, and conflict theory. System theory focuses on the interconnectedness of family member with that of the environment or social system in he /she is living on. Conflict theory on the other hand focuses on the principal causes of marital disruption and its immediate consequence.

2.5.1. Family System Theory

The family systems theory is a theoretical framework that shows the family contexts are interrelated pattern. It focuses on the family context in which the couple is rooted. For this theory, marriage and divorce can best be understood in the context of family relationships and that is why family systems theorists view the family as a social system composed of dynamic and interdependent relationships such that every member of the family system is influenced by the actions of other members and by the quality of interactions between other members (Stent 2014). According this theory each

individual in system has their own roles or functions contribute to the maintenance of the family as a whole and failure to discharge role properly resulted dysfunction in the family. Divorce is as result of the spouse failure to discharge one's role properly in the family due to both internal and external factors. The internal factors such as personal problems interacts with the external environment influence such as the influence of culture, religion and others social system that leads to divorce and create dysfunction in the family.

2.5.2. Conflict Theory

Conflict theory is rooted in sociology where it is used to explain difference between classes within society and the competition for scarce resources, including economic wealth, political power and societal status. This theoretical framework views family as a state of perpetual conflict and competition for limited resource (Sprey 1979). The theory starts with the premise that explain family context as members undergo perpetual conflicts and disharmony. According to this theory the family can be a source of conflict for its own members. Therefore, divorce is the result of marital conflicts among the spouse, due to competition for scarce resources such as economic wealth, power and social status within the family, which cannot be solved by the couples. As result, financial scarcities, social inequality, emotional and physical violence become an impact of divorce for each separated family members.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. The Study area

The study was conducted in Asendabo town, which is located at Omo Nada district, Jimma zone Oromia regional state of Ethiopia that is 50km and 290km far from Jimma town and capital city, Addis Ababa respectively. Geographically the town is located between latitudes 07.4253 and 07.5558°N and longitudes 037.1153 and 037.2033°E coordinate points of global position with agro climatic zone of midland. The town are comprised three (3) kebeles, they are Haro Gibe, Wirtu Yadii and Abdi Gudina that encompasses total 1370 hek area of land coverage (Asendabo town municipal, 2020).

Based on the 2007 Census, Asendabo town has a total population of 47,125 of which 22902.7 (48.6%) were men and 24222.3 (51.4%) were women. The town represents a heterogeneous population in many ethnic groups and religions origin from different regions of Ethiopia. The major ethnic groups found in the town are: Oromo (72 %), SNNP (16.3%), Ahmara (5.5%) and Tigrie (3.2%), while others contribute 5% of the population (CSA, 2008). With regard to religious composition, about 75% of the population is Muslim, 17% are Orthodox Christian, 6% are Protestants Christian religion follower and the remaining 2% are categorized under other religions (CSA, 2008). Economically the town was depending up on agriculture and trade and the family structure of the town, most of family lived in the town are nuclear family type that consisting of father, mother and children and the rest of some families are lived in extended ways with their parents and grandparents (Asendabo town municipal, 2020).

3.2. Research Design

Based on the nature of the research problems, the study applied qualitative research methodology in line with case study design to explore and describe the contributing factors and impacts of divorce on family members. Qualitative research method was used because it allows the researcher to go deeper into the research problem generate insightful data, help to get detailed information about the issues, develop close relationship with participants to get a full and profound understanding of the issues with in short period of time. Moreover, it helps to explore the study participants' subjective experiences about the contributing factors and impacts of divorce.

3.3. Study Participants

This study was conducted in Asendabo Town, Jimma zone, Oromia regional state, on divorced partners and their children's. Thus, target populations of the study were divorced partners and their children's lived in Asendabo town. More specifically divorced partners were females and males who were divorced and their children's above the age of 12 years living in the town. The criterion of selection 12 years was purposely because children above this age have meaningful experience for interaction with peers in schools and are realistically be able to describe their experience about the impacts of divorce. In addition, experts from relevant government office such as from court office, children's, youth and women affairs office and labor and social affairs office were included due to the issues of family and related factors may directly concern these experts. Moreover, kebele leaders, religious leaders and the elder from the community that who have engagement in marriage facilitation and dissolution has been involved in the study to collect ample, detail and wider information on possible contributing factor and impacts of divorce among family members.

3.4. Participant selection

A purposive sampling technique has been used to get potential participant of the study subject. According to Bala (2017) in purposive sampling technique, the researcher judged as to who can provide the best information to achieve the objective of the study. The researcher intended to study divorced partners and their children's of Asendabo town in order to assess the factor and impacts of divorce among family members. However, to conduct the research on all divorced partners and their children's, it is difficult, expensive, time consuming and even very complex to get them. At the same time the actual number of participants in qualitative inquiry is flexible; depending on what is generally termed as data saturation. Thus, on the principles of data saturation point, I purposefully selected twelve (12) divorced persons, of which five (5) divorced men and seven (7) divorced women and six (6) children's of divorced parent for in-depth interviews. In addition, I selected purposefully five (5) experts from relevant government office as a key informant, two (2) experts from court office and one (1) expert from labor and social affair and two (2) experts from youth, women and children affairs. Because, issues of family and related factors may directly concern these experts. Moreover, in order to have ample information on the issues under study Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted in to two groups, with six (6) persons from Kebele leaders, and with six (6) persons, three (3) persons from religious leaders and three (3) persons from elders was selected for the purpose of

collecting wider and additional information on the issues. The criterion used to select FGD participants was based on the depth of their knowledge about the contributing factors of divorce and its impacts. In general 35 participants were involved in this study.

3.5. Source of data collection

The study was collected data from both primary and secondary source of data.

3.5.1. Primary source of data collection

Primary data are those data that are collected afresh and for the first time and original in character. It is indispensably important to know the understanding, feeling, and experience of the research participants by their own words. Therefore; primary data source is an original data source that was collected by the researcher directly from the selected participants through in- depth interview, key informant interviews and Focus Group Discussion (FDG).

3.5.2. Secondary source of data collection

The main secondary sources of data for this study was books, articles, and other divorce related documents from court, women, child and youth affairs was included to get further information as a supplementary for the primary data.

3.6. Method of data collection

Data collection is defined as the precise, systematic gathering of information relevant to the research purpose or the specific objectives and questions of a study (Susan 2012). Based on this, the study was employed in qualitative research method of data collection relevant to the study. Thus, the main instruments the study was used to collect relevant data will be through in-depth interview, key informant interviews and Focus Group Discussion. In-depth interviews was conducted with divorced partners and their children's to explore and describe their perspectives, opinions, and experiences regarding the main factors and impacts of divorce on family members. In-depth interview is very useful for gaining insight and context into a research topic. Seblewongel (2009) explained that this in-depth interview was necessary to explore and describe people's experience through deeper understanding of social phenomenon to be investigated. The divorced partners were interviewed on issues related to factors contributing to divorce and its socio- economic impacts on divorces as well as on social relationship and education of children's. Also in-depth interviews with children's of

divorces were conducted on issues related to factors of parental divorce and its impacts on social relationship and education of children's. Focus Group discussion was held with kebele leaders, religious leaders and the elders that were able to obtain unique insights and rich information from wider segments of communities on factor of divorce and its impacts on divorces and their children's. This FGD was provided an opportunity for the researcher to get unique insight and detail information on the problems and also enabled to collect more reach data which may not have been possible through any other means. In addition, FGD was allowed the researcher to obtain multiple perspectives and understandings of the issue under study. The other tool to obtain primary data was from key informant interviews with different experts from relevant government offices such as from courts, children's, youth and women affairs and labour and social affairs office to get additional information on possible factor that contribute divorce and its different impacts on family members. On the other hand, the researcher also was used secondary data that are already existed information in the form of documents related to factors and impacts of divorce.

3.7. Procedure of data collection

Comprehensive interview guides has been developed in order to have effective and well-organized interviews with participants, discussant and key informants. The main instrument used in this study was prepared in English and translated into Afan Oromo and Amharic with the help of language professionals that make options for the participants. In order to validate the data collection tools in ahead of the actual data collection tools was pre-tested or pilot study has been conducted in Haro Gibe kebele where the actual study was carried out. The individuals participated in the pre-test of the instruments were excluded from the study. Participants were informed about the objective of the study to give their informed consent to participate in the study verbally before signing the written informed consent and proceeding to the main discussion.

The researcher has used written interview guide for data collection. The proposed guideline was critically important to ensure the degree of standardization in the data collection process. A question has been carefully selected to gear towards stimulating discussion so that can be discussing thoroughly. Special attention has been given to participants to express their ideas and views about factors and impacts of divorce upon divorces and their children.

An in depth interview also has been began by briefing the objective of the study for participants and signing informed consent prepared. The researcher was used audio records upon the permission obtained from interviewees. Information collected from participants has been transcribed successfully to avert the risks of losing collected data.

The FGD has been started by introducing the researcher and briefing the discussants on the objective of the study. Following this, for participant chance to raise questions has been given, if they did not clear about the objectives of the study. The focus group discussion has been taken around 55 minutes on the average. The group discussions was conducted at *Kebele* public gathering place in two groups that are with 6 persons of kebele leaders and 6 persons of religious leaders and elders. All participants were encouraged to take part wholly in the discussion and express their views freely and openly.

Moreover, with the intention of collecting ample data on the research questions key informants interview has been also conducted by making use of standard interview guide. Key informants were purposefully selected based on their special day to day experience and knowledge on the issue under study. The key informants" interviews have been conducted at the offices of the key informants. The interview, FGD and key informant interviews data was collected in one month (March, 10, 2021 - April 10, 2021).

3.8. Data Quality Assurance

Data quality assurance maintained by pre-testing the tools in Haro Gibe kebele which is one of the actual research sites. The pilot test was made before the actual study to ensure the clarity of the tools for the study participants and to what extent the tool is able to generate the relevant data required for the study. Based on the pilot study result, the researcher amended some questions that need further clarifications. In addition, in order to assure the trust worseness the researcher applied credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability criteria; the researcher put the information of the participants as it is told and correct interpretation of data as the participant point of view. Moreover, the data was collected from multiple data sources using different methods and the data from different sources were triangulated with each other with the aim of enhance the quality of study.

3.9. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The relevant data after being collected it has been processed, analyzed and interpreted qualitatively. For the qualitative analysis, the thematic way of data analysis was used. The data analysis process has been begun with a researcher's interest in substantive general areas; the researcher will be given way to relevant themes to come out from the data. The analysis of the data has been progressed through a number of different stages. First, the researcher was tried to internalize the in-depth interview, FGD and key informants interview information repeatedly to make familiar with the issue. Secondly, the collected information was translated in to English. From this initial process, a set of key categories and sub-categories were identified. A coding framework was established and all transcribed interviews, were coded. Through the help of memo writing, the researcher has been identified crucial themes from data and coded them under variety of categories. Major themes from interviews were chosen as categories to be analyzed. In addition to common themes, unique ideas rose from single interviewees was also taken into consideration for their distinctive contribution. To ensure confidentiality, their names were changed in to letters. Broadly speaking, the researcher has been used the following five stages involved in the analysis of the data. In logical order these were: Preparation of the data, familiarity with the data, interpreting the data (developing codes, categories and concepts), verifying the data and representing the data.

3.10. Ethical consideration

Social research in sociology concerns people's lives and therefore it inevitably involves ethical issues. Before the beginning of the research, informed consent from participants has been taken by signing. Attention was given to treating participants with respect throughout the research process. participants has been fully informed the purpose and nature of research, the right to withdraw from the research at any time if they felt uncomfortable or if they felt that they would not able to continue with research for whatever reason, and the issue of confidentiality and anonymity has been kept in secret. The participants were informed of this ethical consideration so that they are aware of their rights as they commit to participate in the research. Participation in the study was voluntary.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Findings, analysis and discussion

The findings, analysis and discussion of this research are presented under this chapter. The findings of the research that are founded through in-depth interview, key informant, and FGD are presented into three major themes. The first one is the factors contributed to divorce, second, the impacts of divorce on divorcees and the third, the impacts of divorce on children's are dealt. And finally, the findings of the research are discussed in the discussion part.

4.1. Factors contributed to divorce

Marriage is a union of a man and women who agree to live together as husband and wife. However, divorce occurs for several reasons. It is very difficult to have a complete list of the factors contributed to divorce as the factors of divorce were interrelated to each other and vary from persons to persons. The responses from participants revealed that there were different factors for the initiation of ending their marriage in to divorce. In the study area, among the factors that contributing to divorce economic factors such as poverty, irresponsible financial expenditure and difference in salary and economic status and social factors such as infidelity/extramarital affairs, husband addiction to alcohol and chat, ethnic, and religious difference, unnecessary interference from friends and families contributed to the larger share. Besides, demographic factors such as age difference and infertility also contributed to divorce in the study area. Generally, for the sake of convenience, the factors of divorce were categorized under three broad categories or themes: economic, social and demographic factors based on the information from the study participants and the relevant literatures reviewed for this purpose. Then, the information (findings) were categorized into sub-themes and analyzed as follows.

4.1.1. Economic Factors of divorce

The study participants described that the economic factor is one of the main factors for the dissolution of a marriage or divorce. According to the response of the participant's economic factors such as poverty, irresponsible financial expenditure of husband and difference in salary between spouses and economic status between spouse's families contributed to the dissolution of marriage in the study area.

4.1.1.1. Poverty

Poverty contributed a lot to the dissolution of marriage in the study area. This has especially happened in the study area when couples get married without having permanent employment and source of income but married based on their temporal conditions such as seasonal job and income without having enough income sources that can sustain them together. On such occasions, female partners decided to often leave home letting the male partner alone rather than die in poverty with their children and get back to her parent's house then finally terminate the marriage. Most of the in-depth interviews informants were terminating their marital relationship with similar factors. One in-depth interviewee's divorced informant who is a housewife and aged 37 witnessed how poverty contribute to her divorce as follows:

"I spent my life with my ex-husband for 7 years in marriage and the source of income for the household expense was earned from my ex-husband's seasonal work. He used to earn and give to inadequate income for household expenses. His income was not enough to feed as well as sustain our family life and we were also living in a rented slum house that was not suitable for living. For most of our life in a marital relationship, I was suffering from hunger and thrust together with my children due to the absence of food in the home. Generally, I can say that I was leading a miserable and suffering life throughout my marriage life. Finally, I could not shoulder all those problems and decided to leave the home and letting my husband alone rather than die in poverty".

In similar ways, the other in-depth interviewee, who is a daily laborer and aged 35, also stated how poverty contributed to his marital termination as follows:

"I spent with my ex-wife for 6 years in marriage and have 3 sons. She is a housewife and totally dependent upon me. I am a daily laborer and do not have a permanent job and income source as well as earn insufficient income for the household expenses. Due to this unable to meet family needs and therefore, leads low standards of living. This case creates disagreement and intolerance in the house with my ex-wife. One day through the advice and financial supports of her families letting me alone with my children's in the home and went to the Arab country for a better job and standard of life rather than lead the impoverished standard of life with me".

The key informants also agreed with in-depth interviewed participant's views that poverty could lead to the fallout of marriage. They further suggested that poverty was associated with conflict and disagreement between spouses because it creates inadequate provisions of basic needs to sustain their life then leads to worsened couples lifestyle. One key informant from the court office stated that "poverty was the basic factor that can create quarreling and disintegrate the spouses by unable to

providing the family needs can lead to ending up of marriage”. Furthermore, most of the FGD participants agreed upon poverty as a possible factor for the disillusion of the marital relation by pointing out some instances which they actually experienced in their community. As one of the FGD participants explained that, “there are also occasions in which married individuals were got divorced to marry another person who has better income, job, and living standard than the previous one”.

4.1.1.2. Irresponsible financial expenditure

Irresponsible financial expenditure is also another economic factor that led to the dissolution of marriage in the study areas. This experience is common particularly among the male partner who can waste the earned income resulting in an addiction to different ill social behaviors such as khat/chat chewing and alcoholism. It is such behaviors that create the financial crisis and also often precipitate the development of mistrust between spouses and finally lead to marriage termination. In respect to this, one of the in-depth interview participants of the study described how financial irresponsibility the factor for her dissolution of marriage:

“I spent a housewife with my ex-husband for 6 years and the only sole source of income for the household expense was earned by my ex-husband. I was doing household responsibilities and taking care of the kids. Because of this, I am completely dependent on his income. But my ex-husband was wasting a large amount of income he earned irresponsibly for chewing chat and drinking alcohol. Whenever I asked him money for household expenses, he often used insult and beat me without any other reason. I told to his friends and parents to tell him to stop chewing chat and drink alcohol so that he can save an adequate amount of money for household expenses. But he is refused and continued to chew and drink. After some time, he even stopped giving money for household expenses and he started to spend all the income he earned on chat and alcohol. This irresponsibility of my ex-husband created a severe financial crisis in the home. Due to this, I decided to dissolve my marriage”.

In addition to this, other in-depth interviewed participants of the study also expressed his view like this, “when some men has wasted his earned income and not in a position of responsibility for their wife in financial provision of household expense, some women feel they should get another option elsewhere and therefore, choose for divorce”. Furthermore, the FGD participants and key informants of the study agreed upon that irresponsible financial expenditure of husband factor of divorce. As one FGD participant from kebele leaders stated that “most divorcees especially women’s complaints about their husband’s financial irresponsibility to the family due to the wasting of earned income for a different purpose that can create anger and conflict in their

marital lives. This is because they covered all the responsibilities of taking care of the kids and managing the household while their husbands were not willing to assist them financially. Therefore, such problems caused the breaking up of their marriage”. In a similar way, as one key informant from the court also revealed that “some women come for the search of legal service when after they face severe financial problems to support their family as a result of their husband’s irresponsibility to provide the necessary financial assistance for households expense”.

4.1.1.3. Difference in salary and economic status

The monthly salary difference between spouses also contributed to divorce in the study area. Most participants of the study comprised of divorcees, key informants, and FGD participants affirmed that salary differences between spouses are the possible contributing factor for divorce. As one FGD participant stated that “in most cases, this has happened when a male partner was unemployed or earned less salary as compared to female partners. This salary difference creates disrespect and lacks of tolerance between spouses then finally leads the spouse to terminate their marriage”. In similar ways, one key informant from court described the situation like this:

“The community members of society perceived the male partner as a breadwinner and income generator. However, when the female partners generate salary above her husband and then take the roles her husband’s played in the family that is the role of earning income and making major family decisions. This case will create inferior complexity in minds of the husband which in turn led to marital conflict and disagreement between the spouses. Finally, the financially independent wife chose to end the marriage into divorce”.

The study also found out that disparity among the two families in terms of economic status was also found to be another factor of divorce in the study area. Most key informants of the study affirmed the economic difference often exposed couples to different styles of life in their respective homes. In some cases, newly married couples wanted to maintain the previous ways of life in the new one, thereby creating disagreement and conflict finally leading to the dissolution of the marriage. Thus, as “money makes right” and the economy determines the basic aspects of human life, economic factors seem to be taking a lion’s share in the dissolution of marriage in the study area.

4.1.2. Social factors of divorce

The majority of the participants of the study revealed that social factors such as marital infidelity /extramarital relationships and husband’s addiction to alcohol and chat are the main contributed

factors of divorce in the study area. Besides that, the study also found that social factors such as unnecessary families, relatives, and friend's interferences as well as diversity in terms of ethnic and religion between spouses and families of the spouses lead to divorce in the study area.

4.1.2.1. Marital infidelity /Extramarital Affairs

The majority of the study participants informed that infidelity/extramarital affair which is having another marriage and practicing sex with other person have been one of the major factors of divorce in the study area. In respect to this, in in-depth interview, a divorced woman, who is 10th complete and have 3 children witnessed how infidelity became a factor for her divorce as follows:

“I and my ex-husband lived for 9 years in marriage and have 3 children, two daughters and one son. My ex-husband is a government employer and I was a housewife. Until the third child was born we are happiest in marriage. Since the third child was born his previous behavior started to change and when he is at home passed much of his time on his hand phone and busy on chat without rest and also has no time for me as well as for taking care of his children’s. When he received a message and a call came he run outside. He looked like a person engaged by work with his friends/person. He tried to mislead me. He deleted the message. One day the guest came to my house. After a lunch invitation, he went outside with him without his phone. As usual, a call came it was several calls with a nickname. I used to seize the opportunity. I didn't respond to it. I immediately recorded the number and told to my lovely friend. We discussed in detail the issue. My friend attempted to call. She made several attempts to search the secret. In the end, with the help of religious leaders and elders probed my ex-husband engaged in an extramarital practice that is cheating”.

In similar ways, the other in-depth interview, a divorced women, who is a house wife and aged 29, also witnessed how infidelity breakdown her marriage as follows:

“I and my ex-husband lived for 5 years in marriage and have one daughter. He was a surveyor and I was a house wife. By the nature of his work, he did his work by moving from place to place. Therefore, both of us lived in different places. He came back home during holidays and leisure time. When he came back home different people were told to him that when you are in the work your wife was cheated with other people. Due to this, he has suspected me and from time to time the gap between me and my ex-husband was wide. He rather than believing me, he believed others peoples false accuse and even from his family side they witnessed up on me. One day, I also heard that he was engaged in cheating with other women in revenge of me. Due to this case, disagreement between me and my ex-husband was amplified. Different elders as well as religious leaders strive to reconcile the issues include my grandmother but it was not possible. Finally, the marriage between us was concluded in divorce”

Likewise, the data obtained from FGD participants and the key informants confirmed the view of the in-depth interview respondents and underscored that infidelity has become the main factor for the dissolution of marriage. Key informant experts further strengthened the above reasons indicating that besides factors such as addiction and gambling, husband's engagements in adultery are also among the principal causes of divorce in the study area. It was reported that by most of the in-depth interviews women stated that husbands' infidelity forced them for divorce. In line to this, one FGD participant of religious leader elucidates that "couple during the conflict they came in 'Orthodox Tewahido church with the known mediator or alone because of their husband adultery. Arbitration was done by a neutral party who was empowered to decide on the issue. But the issue of faithlessness did not easily reconcile. This state of affairs affects a spouse's relationship and breaking up of their marriage". In addition, the key informant from Youth, women and child affair also explain that "marital infidelity will continue to be challenging to marriage intuition and couple relationship. It is a complex issue and every day couple has to prepare themselves to this threat to their relationship".

4.1.2.2. Chat and drug addiction

Chewing chat and drinking alcohol were popular and widely practiced in the study area especially by male partners. Most of the participants of in-depth interviews stated that marital violence as a result of alcohol addiction and chewing khat was the major reason for marital breakdown. Among the interviewed, some of them reported that they were terminated their marital relationships as a result of their husband's alcohol addiction and chewing khat. They further expressed that they were shocked by their husband's violent behavior and action taken especially when they were drunk/chewing khat. In line to this, one of the in-depth interviewees, who has a college diploma and teacher in elementary school and aged 38, summed up the views of many informants as follows:

"I and my ex-husband had met and known each other in the work place and then form a marriage. I lived with him for 9 years and have two sons. However, after the second child was born his previous behavior was started to change from time to time and he has many friends and he passed his full of time with his friends in chewing chat after lunch and drinking alcohol at night without my knowledge. He found his partner to drink and enjoy with him. They said the name "chebsi" in the Amharic language the drink they used after chewing khat. When he came home late in the mid of the night insult me, beat me and fought me without any reason. Also, my neighbors were insulted by him. He did not show them respect because he drank too much. Then after some months, he starts to refused and stopped to contributing income for the expense of the household. He started to invest and use all monthly earned income for chat and alcohol purposes. The monthly income that I

earned is not enough in fulfilling the whole household needs and I told the situation for his friends as well as for elders to solve the problem but instead things become worse and he was not wanted to improve his behaviors and continued in chewing chat and drinking alcohol. Finally, I decided to conclude my marriage in divorce”.

In addition to this, the other in-depth interview divorced participant of the study also stated that “my ex-husband was not caring for anything concerning the household expenses. He chewed chat and drank too much every day. When things unfortunately, went wrong, I decide to divorce because I did not want to take care of his ill behavior anymore”.

In similar ways, both key informant and FGD participants of the study agreed upon alcohol addiction and chewing khat as the major reason for the dissolution of marital relations. As a key informant from the children, youth and women affairs office stated that, “when spouse mostly husband is addicted to alcohol and chat fail to be responsible for the family, disturb family members and forget their family responsibility on one hand and also use of chat and alcohol creates a sexual incompatibility between spouses on the other hand, this situation causes the wife to lose hope and become impatient”. In addition to this, one of the FGD participants of the study also elucidated that, “alcoholic and chat users tend to pay more attention to addiction rather than supporting family both in economic and emotional needs, this makes the spouse to become tied of such life hence seek for separation”.

4.1.2.3. Unnecessary intervention from family, friends and relative

In the study area, just like other parts of Ethiopia, marriage is not a mere union of two individuals. The two spouses enter into marriage with all their previous interactions and relationships with their families and relatives. Some families continue to deeply engage in the life of their children even after marriage. This is well explained by most of the interviewees comprised of divorcees as their family started managing them even after the wedding. The study pointed out that marriage which is highly interconnected with relatives is prone to divorce. If the spouse fails to manage the interference of their families, relatives, neighbors, and friends on private marital issues, the marriage might end up in divorce. Regarding this, one of the in-depth interviewed divorced participants, who has two sons stated the situation as follows:

“I lived with my ex-wife for 5 years and have 2 sons but the sole source of income for family contributed only by my daily labor and my ex-wife did not have any job. The income that I earned through daily labor is not enough to sustain my family life. Due to these both of us mutually decided and agreed in my ex-wife go to the Arab country for the

job to earn additional income for sake of improving families' life. Then sold all properties that we have and additionally I borrowed some money from other people and send her to the Arab country. After three years of stay, she came back from Arab country. However, my friends and her family told her false news and accused me and they said that when you are in an Arab country your husband was cheating with another girl by using the money you sent from Arab country. Due to such cases, disagreement and conflict has arisen between us. She started to disrespect me, upsetting and even she didn't want share to the bed with me by the influence, advice and supports of her family. In the end, she divorced me”.

Similarly, FGD participants agreed upon the above idea and they further stated that “rumor to spouses by neighbors, friends and families also caused divorce by producing mistrust and betrayal among couples. This disruption of normal family life has finally led to divorce and personal demoralization”. In addition, most key informants also pointed out that the interference of respective families and friends in the life of married couples is the major problem that hindered the continuation of marital relations between couples. In respect to this, one key informant from the labor and social affairs office described the situation like this:

“After marriage, many couples used to live in the husband's family compound. In such cases, the day to day life of the newly married couples is highly influenced by the interest of the husband's family members. Therefore, the wife compels to perform a lot of tasks, and she becomes responsible to fulfill the needs of many individuals in addition to her husband. Moreover, if she fails to comply with what each family member expected from her, the repeated conflict will arise between her and her husband's family members. And then, husbands' pushed by their family members take actions over their wives, this may reach up to divorce”.

4.1.2.4. Ethnic and religious differences

In the study area, diversity in terms of religion and ethnicity between spouses and the families of the spouses also contributed to the dissolution of marriage. According to one in-depth interviewee's divorced participant, who has a nurse in the government health center and is aged 33, stated that:

“I and my ex-wife were lived in my parent house for 6 years and have one son. My parent as well as I were Muslim and have a Muslim religious family background but my ex-wife was growing in another religious and ethnic family background. Therefore, my family was not happy on my marriage because she is not competing, abides and fit with me and my parent religious and cultural expectations. Due to this, always disagreement and conflicts between us and sometimes insults, fight and beat each other. From time to time this disagreement between me and my ex-wife expands to a whole thing even concerning on marital issues. Finally, a big conflict arose between us, then after some painful process the marriage is ended up in divorce”.

The FGD participants of the study also indicated that diversity in terms of religion and ethnicity between spouses and the families of the spouses also contributed to the dissolution of marriage. As one Elder FGD participant expressed that “newly married couples often suffer from the inability to carry and manage diversity in terms of religions and ethnic”. Most key informants of the study also affirmed that marriages between two distinct ethnic and religious groups have a higher probability of dissolution than marriages within the same ethnic and religion. One key informant from social and labor affairs stated that “in this area, religion played an important role both in unloosing or losing the marriage ties. So that, a marriage concluded within the members of the same religion has a higher probability to remain intact than marriage among members of a different religion”. Therefore, diversities in terms of religion and racial among couples and/or their families contributed to the dissolution of marriage.

4.1.3. Demographic factors of divorce

According to the response of the participants of the study demographic factors such as wide age difference between spouses and infertility of wife also the other possible contributing factors of divorce in the study area.

4.1.3.1. Age difference

The study also found that wide age differences between spouses are the possible contributing factors for divorce in the study area. During in-depth interviewee most of the participants revealed that a wide range of age differences between husband and wife lead to the dissolution of marriage. Concerning this, one in-depth interview divorced participant, who is a government employer and aged 34, stated the reality as follows:

“I and my ex-wife meet in the work place and she is 9 years older than me. Due to this, she always suspects me of extramarital affairs and also she over controlled me. Because of this, mistrust and disagreement were always created between us. When I talk as well as walk with another girl in the work place as well as around the house she came and insulted me with unnecessary words many times. Due to this, I decided to divorce her to relieve and free from abuse and torture”.

In similarly, the FGD participants of the study point out that a wide age difference between spouses as a possible factor for the ending of marriage in divorce. One FGD participant explained the situation like this: “wide age disparities between husband and wife are cause for all difficulty and

disagreement as well as it creates incompatible interesting in sexual and emotional needs between couples which in turns lead to the dissolution of marriage”. In addition to this, one key informant from the courts also adding that “marriage is ended especially when female partners are older than male partners because most of the time female partners suspects, mistrusts and over-controlled male partners which in turn creates tension, conflict, marital adjustment problems and incompatible interest in their marital life then finally leads to divorce”.

4.1.3.2. Infertility

Infertility was also the possible factor of divorce in the study. The response of participants in the study indicated that this has happened especially when female partners fail to give birth in the marriage due to this the male partner terminates his marital relation to get a child. Regarding this, one in-depth interview divorced participant, who is 10th completed and participate in trade work and aged 33, explained how his ex-wife inability to give birth becomes as the factor for divorce as follows:

“I spent 4 years with my ex-wife in marriage. I am engaged in trade and she is a teacher. There was no economic problem in the house, everything was full in the home but we could not have a child. So many times I try to have a child and also from time to time my family is so eager to see my child but it was impossible. Then both of us decided to went to hospital for a check-up to know from who the problem was. The problem was not up on me, I was able to. But my ex-wife was not able to bear a child. Finally, due to the influence of my family as well as my interest to have a child divorce my ex-wife”.

In similar ways, the other in-depth interviewed divorced participant also stated the situation like this, “infertility in the side of wife can bring about divorce because in the culture of this area children are valued and if you cannot have children then your husbands can divorce you and marry another women who can give children”. The key informants as well as FGD participants also confirmed the in-depth interview participant’s views of infertility as a possible factor of martial termination. As one key informant from children’s, youth and women affairs further elucidated that “according to the culture of the area, once a female gets married, she has to give birth to a baby within a reasonable period of time. But, if she fails to give birth, she has to be replaced by another woman”. Furthermore, the FGD participants of the study point out that, having a child to inherit the family land and to carry on the family name is a very important part of the culture in this area. As a result, females fail to give birth is unacceptable in the community which in turn it leads to the dissolution of marriage.

4.2. Impacts of divorce on divorcees

Without any doubt, divorce had impacted the overall life of divorced families. And the findings of this research also confirm that divorce had different socio-economic impacts on the life spouses who experienced a divorce. The impacts of divorce on divorcees in the study areas ranges from mild to severe, from seemingly small to observably significant, and from short-term to long-term. The impacts also vary from person to person among others mainly depend upon the socio-economic conditions and the inability to deal with the difficulties of the spouses. In other words, the effects of divorce on divorcees are both numerous and serious particularly when they are accompanied by a poorly functioning economy both at an individual and family levels.

4.2.1. Economic impacts of Divorce on divorcees

The research findings demonstrate that economic impact is severe and tremendous among other impacts that the divorcees encountered. The study further identified that losses of income and private property/ losses of resources as well as poverty are the main economic impacts of divorce on the divorced partners in the study area.

4.2.1.1. Losses of income and private property/ losses of resources

Most of the divorced informants have indicated that they faced economic hardships immediately after their divorce. The economic impacts mentioned by the majority of the in-depth interviewees were the cost of the divorce itself that is problems related to the division of the marriage assets and child custody issues. The legal cost of dissolving the marriage could be relatively small costing only for the court and document filing fees. However, most of the interviewee's participants stated that disagreement was occurred over the division of property or children due to one party most of the time husband may hide his total capital; this, in turn, leads to another huge cost for the attorneys and other professionals. Because of this most of the divorced women interviewee's do not possess any private property and those women who possess common properties were also in the form of household utensils, furniture and appliance which could not generate a permanent income. Unlike their ex-husbands, the majorities of women interviewees were not educated and could not employ in the formal sector. Due to this, they encountered severe financial/income decline after divorce. Regarding this, one in-depth interview divorced participant described such impact as follows:

“My ex-husband hides all the common property that we have during marriage and even he hides the house both of us built and he changed the house name by his brother name. Several times I apply to courts but the only property that I share was household tools and furniture. At the same time, he paid insufficient child alimony by hiding his income and assets. Because of this, I lost my property as well as income that accumulated over time with him during the marriage”.

In similar ways, the FGD participants revealed that, when people divorce and break up the marriage, there is a great loss of income and private property which resulted in an adverse economic impact on the couples. In addition, the key informants of the study also added that the first economic impact those divorcees faced were the problem of asset and income division. As one key informant from the court also further explained that,

“Most of the divorcees, especially women's, encounter difficulty in notifying the amount of capital or income in which their ex-spouse had, in order to secure child alimony. It is only the government employed workers salary that is exactly identified and settled in alimony payment. But, if the divorcees were working in the non-governmental sector, it is very difficult for the court to strictly settle the child alimony. On the other hand, on the division of assets of the divorcees, all assets cannot be easily and equally divided which means that, for certain assets such as house, shop and the like, one partner will get the assets more by hides it and/or then have to come up with cash to buy out the other's interest in cheap price. Therefore, divorce forced them to sell their property for a cheap cost that is in a good market which results in a good price. Due to this the divorcee's was losses both of their resource and income”.

Furthermore, during the in-depth interview one divorced participants of the study described his losses of private property as a result of divorce as follows:

“Before the divorce, I was able to succeed in my move economically and I have become the owner of cafeteria and shop. But, right after divorce, things got worse for me, all property that accumulated during the marriage was split up into two. Now, I didn't have any property and morals to engage in income-generating activities. Due to this, it became so hard for me to lead my life like before divorce”.

In sum up, one FGD participants from kebele leaders explain that “the divorced spouses suffer a lot from economic problems due to loss of their resources and income which in turn make life very difficult for them and their children that led them to do not have food to eat, cloth to wear, shelter to live, and also even contribute for migration and school drop outing of their children's”.

4.2.1.2. Poverty

Under the economic impacts, poverty is also identified as an impact that divorced partners especially women faced directly and indirectly impacted by divorced status in the study area. The study found that poverty increases the risk of divorce which in turn, divorce also increases the risk of poverty for divorced spouses especially among women than men. Divorce reduces household income and cuts individual earning capacity. Particularly for those participants who engage in informal business sectors, the problem was overwhelmed. Most of the interviewed divorced participant revealed that due to their divorce status encountered huge financial decline. Regarding this, one in-depth interview divorced participant who is 10th complete state her financial status after divorce as follows:

“I always worried about my life because of no finance and good job to run living. When I compare myself with my friends who are living appropriately by using their all resources, I do not feel good and I get stressed”.

In similar ways, the Key informants of the study also further point out that “most of the divorced spouses especially women was live from hand to mouth and right now after divorce their stress is from financial difficulties. It is also hard to find a good job and take care of their children at the same time”. The FGD participants of the study also stated that most divorced women’s unlike their ex-husbands were not educated and could not employ in the formal sector. Therefore, to sustain their life participate in informal work like cleaning the house, washing clothes, working in private household as a servant as well as engaged in informal business like selling arke, farso or tela and round from market to market selling fruit and vegetable for fulfilling their basic needs. By engaging in these kinds of economic activities they earned insufficient income. Due to these unable to fulfilled adequate food to eat, cloth to wear, and suitable shelter to live in. Therefore, they lead miserable life after divorce. They don’t know what should do in the future. Life has become bitter. In respect to this, one in-depth interview divorced participant described the impacts of a divorce in her economic status witnessed as follows:

”After divorce, my life is very difficult and the responsibility of my children was on my shoulders. As I became the sole source of income contributor for my family, it is difficult to me to meet the basic needs of me and my children. To earn income and sustain my life I started to work washing clothes and cleaning the house for some households. The income that I earned is not enough to fulfill my basic needs and household expenses. And as you can see I lived in this slum house without basics infrastructure; electricity and the like.

Because I cannot afford to rent a house that have better infrastructures. This condition perpetuated by my poverty due to divorce”.

In similar ways, the other in-depth interviewed divorced participant well explain the situations like this,

“After divorce, I lead a very difficult life. My ex-husband was not sporting me and I did not even know where he was. I having nothing and being poor with a child. I tried to search for a job and found one; the job was cleaning of house in some individual house but the earned income could not cover even half of the expenses for me and for my child. My family also refused to help and support me. From time to time, related to inflation things got much worse because now the cost of living is higher and higher and I even did not afford to pay for the house rent properly. So, I lead a more suffering life than before divorce”.

4.2.2. Social impacts of divorce on the divorcees

Most of the asked participants about the social impacts of divorce indicated that the community by whatever means attempts to invalidate the divorce decision arrived by the spouses. No matter what the decision is made by a formal court or any customary institution, divorce by itself is regarded as violating the norms of the community. Due to this fact, the study found that divorce in the study area followed some degree of social exclusion and rejection from the communities as well as diminished the social interaction of divorcees with their families, friends, and relatives.

4.2.2.1. Social exclusion and rejection

According to the responses of participants including the divorcees, FGD, and key informants revealed that in most cases, isolation is used as a social sanction by the community to punish the divorcees. They also further stated that isolation begins with the divorcees themselves. The in-depth interviewed participants revealed the same fact. As one divorced participant of in-depth interviewees stated that:

”Divorce to me is not a mere separation of husband and wife. I have got divorced not only from my ex-husband but also from my children, family, neighbor, and the community at large. Due to my economic status, I was forced to give up my children, relations with my neighbors were also interrupted, and some members of the community considered me as the only cause for the breakup of the marriage and even my families regarded me as incapable of shouldering the responsibilities of marriage.”

Key informants or experts further explain that following the dissolution of the marriage, most divorcees especially women due to loss of social status and respect in the community begin to retreat from their previous social responsibilities. As a result, divorced partners face the fate of social

exclusion from their married friends intending to prevent the further dissolution of marriage. This is because the community believes that divorcees spread their inappropriate behavior to others who are living by respecting their marriage and family.

In similar ways, the FDG participant also strength the above idea and added that the divorces face discomfort from the family members or relatives when they back to their biological family after divorce. This is mainly because the divorcees especially women would bring extra burden to their biological families and they are thinking that the presence of divorces especially women in the house would prevent possible marriage for other daughters within the household. As one FGD participants of the study also explain that, “the neighbors discriminate and isolate the divorcees from the day to day social affairs and also they insult their children by saying ‘ilmo dubarti orYesetlege’ and protect their children not to play with the divorcees children's”.

In addition to this, all participants of the study comprised of divorcees, key informants and FGD participants agreed up that, as a result of their divorce, the divorces losses their income and status due to this they encountered social problems like stigma and discrimination from relatives, neighbors, friends and the like they started to far from and ignore them rather than treating, advising and supporting them. The participants further explained that community based association like 'afosha', 'ekub' and 'mahaber' are also complicating the membership procedure for the divorcees. This had great impact on women than men. The community also perceives women as trouble creators and also looks them as poor and unable to contribute the expected monthly membership payments for the associations. Most of divorced participants revealed the similar facts. During in-depth interviews with divorcees one participant of the study, who has a daily laborer recounts how the community, relatives and friends treats her after divorce as follows:

“After I become divorce with my ex-husband, my social relationship with my friends and relatives deteriorated. Before divorce took place, I was member of community based social association like AFOSHA or IDIR and IKUB. But after I become divorced my ex-husband I could not. This is because of that they isolate and reject me from such community based social association as they feel that divorced will not able to contribute as well as fit all pre- conditions to the association”.

4.2.2.2. Damaged the social interaction with family, relatives and friends

Divorce diminished the social interaction of the divorces with their family, relatives and friends in the study area. Several interviewed divorces reported that they lost many of their friends and relatives because of divorcees. Many of them were also unwilling to stay in contact with their friends and families.

In line to this, one of the in-depth interviewee's participants remembered the time of her separation as follows:

“The next day after the divorce took place, I noticed something unpleasant on the faces of my friends and neighbors. I used to observe them frequently discussing something and they often quit it or minimize their voice or keep silent altogether every time I visit them. Then, I realized that I was the point of discussion. Some women also talk to me by exaggerating the situation. Some others also try to give me unusual care which I have never seen before. Activities like this became a source of anxiety that fueled the impacts of divorce. Due to this, I started to isolate myself from my previous friends including some of my family and relatives”

Likewise, the information gathered from the key informants and FGD participants emphasize most of the in-depth interview informant's views and they were indicated that the social relation of divorces with their families and friends is negatively affected as a result of the divorce. As one elder from FGD stated, “most divorcees cut off their social interactions once and for all with their friends and families because of not getting the necessary support and encouragement from them during their challenging life moments”. This shows that some people give high value to moral support and encouragement from their loved ones in the time of difficult situations because the support is meaningful for them. However, when families and friends fail to fulfill such expectations, it results in the damaged relations with them permanently.

In sum up, from the social and labor affairs office one key informant stated that “the cumulative effect of this socio-economic impacts of divorce which in turn lead the divorcees to migrate illegally to the nearby countries and also lead them to practice one of societies evils like prostitution, streetism, delinquency, drug addiction, alcoholism and the like”.

4.3. Impacts of divorce on divorced children

Divorce reduces household income and cuts individual earning capacity. Due to this, the custody parents are unable to fulfill the basic needs of their children and also the inability to pay further fees. Due to these children are dropping out of school and then started to engaged in income earning activities to sustain their life, which in turns increase the social, behavioral and emotional risks of the children. Therefore, without any doubt, divorce severely affects the overall life of children. The study also confirmed that divorce has adversely impact the social relationships and education of children.

4.3.1. Social impacts of divorce on children

Social impact is one of the major effects that children have encountered following their parent divorce. The social impacts of divorce on children have mostly resulted when children are not able to adopt the social setting in which they live after divorce and the whole traumatic event led them to behavioral change. The social impact could be manifested through behavioral change, the relationship they have with their parents both the custodial, and non-residential parent and the relationship they have with their peers. The study found that the relationships of children with their parents were poor after divorce. The majority of divorced parent's informed that they have no smooth relationship with their children after divorce. One of the in-depth interview divorced participants well explained the realities as follows:

“My divorce with my ex-husband was a very ugly experience for me and my children. Especially the whole process was very difficult for my children. I observed from one of my child behavioral changes after divorce. He does not listen to me at all, and does not obey and I hear a lot of complaining from his friends whenever he plays football he got into a fight. At first, I did not mind because I thought it was a temporary thing and that he misses his father but now he is getting out of control”.

Divorce also impacts the social relationships of children with their peers. Most of the interviews participant indicated that after divorce the relationship of their children with their peers were not good both in school as well as around the home. They further stated that most of the time when their children was played with other friend parent still live together act aggressively due to this the relationship with their peers is hostile. During in-depth interviews one divorced participant of the study described the impacts as follows:

“Before the divorce, my child used to be very friendly and affectionate toward people as well as his peers but now he does not even get along with his siblings. I think the divorce was harsher for him than for me. The relationship between their peers has become hostile. I think they are replicating the relationship I had with their father”.

In addition to this, one key informant from the social and labor affairs office stated that “When parents got separated and the family breakdown the relationship with their friend parent still live together may create jealousy, which in turns developed into inferiority complex. Due to this, children themselves may discriminate against themselves from school gatherings, getting close to their classmates”.

Furthermore, the in-depth interviews and FGD participants of the study indicate that children from divorced parents are prospective to face social problems. They further explained that, since the children’s parents divorced, their option/chance was to live with one side of their family. More specifically, children who live with a single parent family come across through many social challenges because through time the single parent family has become intolerant to help them. As a result, those children face problems with suitable clothing, food, and other basic needs. And finally, they are marginalized by their friends and society. Regarding this, one of the in-depth interviewee’s participant children who was drop out his school in grade 7th well explained such situation in a next way:

“After my parent was divorced I have never got the chance to lead a better life. In school, I feel inferior to my classmates. Once a time, I have never forgotten the time when my teacher took me out of the classroom and other students laughed at me due to the bad smell of my plastic shoes. I am not happy in life after divorce, anyhow let it be as my 40 days destine”.

The other social impact of divorce on children was the relationship that children have with one parent especially with the father. From the interview conducted with different participants, it was conveyed that most children come to blame one parent, as one of the parent’s talks about the wrongdoing of the other. As result, the children were hate towards that parent and their relationship with them would decline. Such effect was well explained by one of in-depth interview divorced participants as follows:

“After the separation, my children’s and my ex-wife started living in her parent house, because of that I don’t get a lot of time to spend with my children. One day her parent talk about bad things about me for my children and I am witnessing changes, due to this my children are not happy to see me like before whenever we meet”.

On the other hand, female children who prefer to live with their mother are usually disregarded by society as impolite. This is probably because of the value given to the patriarchal position in society. These outlooks possess a negative impact in the society to disregard female children as inferior particularly when mother becomes head of the family. Concerning this, the in-depth interviewee's participant child expressed her view in the following way,

“A girl has honored with her father. Society considers me as a “daughter of women” and therefore, I have a negative attitude towards society. Due to this impact I fear forming a close relationship with other people and isolate ourselves from social relationships”.

In the above case, girls whose parents divorced were ignored by society, and they have less value in their surroundings. In similar ways, the FGD participants of the study stated that, girls whose parents divorced face problems with marriage. They may have less chance to get arranged marriage compared to their counter parts. Furthermore, the key informants of the study also added that “even if the children get arranged marriage, their dignity was disregarded by society or they lost their confidence on their self-esteem”.

In sum up, the findings of the study indicated that parental separation impacts the social life and relationships of the children. It was also conveyed from in-depth interviews, key informants, and FGD participants that most children do not get close to more people as they fear that in the long run, they could leave them as their parents did. The abandonment fear could lead them to have hostile behavior with their peers, lack stable relationships with their parents and anyone who wants to get close to them. Due to this, the children's lacks social supports from their parents, lacks social interaction and good communication skill with others like peers, which in turns exposed their feelings of isolation, neglecting, low self-esteem and different social evils such as drug addiction, alcoholism, and smoking.

4.3.2. Educational impacts of divorce on children

Children from divorced parents are facing challenges with academic problems after the divorce. As their parent's divorce, they start life with their custodies or alone. This may be creating a negative impact on their academic life. For this reason, they start to confront new life to support their education and themselves. Regarding this, one of the in-depth interviewed participant children explained the educational impact he is facing post-divorce in the following way:

“At this time, I am (17) years old. One of my younger brothers and I live together. Both of us live with our grandmother. Our grandmother is getting older because of this unable to fulfill the basic needs of both of us. Therefore, she lost her tolerance and she said that “you have father & mother leave my house”. Due to this I drop out of my education and started to work daily labor for fulfilling my basic needs. This situation has an impact on my education status. In addition, during I was in learning scored less marks than other peers in the class.”

Moreover, from the above case understand that children whose parents divorced suffer from a lack of sufficient income for their daily life. Due to this, dropping their school then engaged in daily labor activities to sustain their life. Even if they were interested to continue their education, they might face the problem of adequate income due to this unable to actively participate and performs their education in the desirable ways which in turns scores poor educational achievement.

In similar ways, the other in-depth interview participant 15 years old child described it as follows:

“Due to the divorce of my parent, I dropped out of schooling from grade 5 because of a lack of financial support to fulfill necessary educational needs and materials. My mother engages in selling local beverages like farso and areke. So far her income couldn't support the family needs. So I decided to drop my learning to involve in wage labor. The earned income is used as a complementary for household consumption. I was thinking to attend my education but the income is not adequate enough for educational expenses. Due to this, I give priority to meet basic needs such as food consumption and cloth rather than my education to support my mother and younger sister”.

In addition, key informants, and FGD participants also associate the academic problems of children with financial scarcity. As one key informant from youth, women and children affairs indicated that “the loss of family financial resources may translate into both decreased educational opportunities and the stresses associated with not having enough money to continue school”. Likewise, one FGD participants also point out that “immediately after the separation the children's school performance decrease mainly due to the problem with the financial difficulty”.

Furthermore, according to the data gathered from children's of divorces, some children were enrolled in school after parent's divorce and many of them are not enrolled, for those enrolled children are recorded lower academic performance as compared to their peers. During in-depth interviews divorced parents were asked about the educational conditions of their children after divorce. The majority of them reported that their children recorded the lower result in their academic performance. Key informants as well as FGD participants also agreed upon divorce adversely affected the

educational conditions of children. In sum up, one key informant of the study from the child, youth and women affair office well explain that “divorce diminishes children’s learning capacity and educational attainment. As a result, most of divorced parent children’s may lack the necessary knowledge, attitudes, and skills to socialize as well as to lead their life independently”.

4. 4. Discussion

This section discusses the findings of the research based on the theoretical frameworks and the literature review of the study.

This study has been guided by conflict theory and family systems theory. Family systems theorists view family as a social system composed of dynamic and interdependent relationships such that every member of the family system is influenced by the actions of other members and by the quality of interactions between other members (Stent, 2014). This theory further stated that each individual in system has their own roles or functions contribute to the maintenance of the family as a whole but the spouse’s failure to discharge their role properly result dysfunction in the family. Therefore, divorce for the family system theory is the result of the spouse failure to discharge one’s role properly in the family due to the influence of several factors such as social, economic and demographic factors. In study area, due to the influence of factors such as poverty, infidelity, husband addiction to chat and alcohol, infertility, family, friends and relative interference, age difference, difference in salary and economic status, financial irresponsibility, as well as religious and ethnic difference forced the spouse unable to discharge their role properly in the family which in turns led the couples to dissolve their marriage. As a result, the absence of one member due to divorce from the system will disrupt the whole family life. Moreover, the disruption in the family affects the social and economic life of the members because of the interconnectedness of family. The present findings of the study has been clearly identified that divorce adversely affected social and economic life of spouses. Therefore, the findings of this study and the theoretical explanations of family system theory are directly similar.

Conflict theory views family as members undergo perpetual conflicts and disharmony. This theory further stated that family can be a source of conflict for its own members due to competitions for scarce resource such as socio-demographic status and economic wealth and power. Therefore, divorce is the result of marital conflicts among the spouse due to demographic, economic and social factors. So, in study area as results of poverty, infidelity, husband addiction to chat and alcohol, infertility,

unnecessary family, friends and relative interference, age difference, difference in salary and economic status, financial irresponsibility, as well as religious and ethnic difference created potential causes of conflict among the spouse which in turns leads the couples to dissolution of marriage. As a result, financial and social crisis become an impact of divorce for each members of the family. The present study clearly found that divorce has social and economic impacts on the life of the divorcees. Therefore, the findings of this study and the theoretical explanations of conflict theory are also similar as discussed below.

Factors of divorce

The study identified that poverty is the main factor for the dissolution of a marriage between spouses in the study area. The participants of the study also indicated that poverty could lead to the fallout of marriage by being unable to provide adequate basic needs to sustain their life. In line with this, a study by Emily and Shelley (2015) entails that low incomes and poverty are risk factors because financial stressors often impact negatively on a marital relationship. Besides, recent studies conducted by Adinew (2020) and Debala, (2018) also found a similar results that less amount money, loss of job and being unemployment reduces family income resulted in inadequate finance for surviving relationship and lack of resources/properties to continue the marriage. In addition to this, the study point out that irresponsible financial expenditure is the other factor of divorce in the study area. Most participants of the study also confessed that the financial irresponsibility of husbands affected their marriage highly. According to their responses, financial irresponsibility is experienced more when the husband wastes his earnings for non-essential or harmful items like alcohol and chat. Most research findings indicated that wasteful management of the financial resource by a spouse mostly by husbands may lead to the spouse seek to divorce (Ubong 2018). In similar ways, the finding of Serkalem (2006) indicated that women dissolve their marital relationship without having a second thought when they face economic problems in their marriage and when they become deprived economically and suffer from the financial crisis. Furthermore, the study also found out that salary differences among spouses and disparities of economic status between families of the two spouses contributed to divorce. According to the responses of participants of the study indicates monthly salary differences between spouses cause conflict and disagreement between spouses. On top of this, disparities among the two families in terms of economic status were also found to be another cause of

divorce. In line with this, Chali *et al.* (2020) stated similar results that disparities in terms of income and economic status between spouses and partners of spouses leading to divorce among couples.

Husband infidelity and extramarital affairs are other major identified factors of divorce in the study. The participants of the study underscored that infidelity and extramarital affairs involvement lead to their dissolution of marriage. In line with this, a study conducted by Mulugeta *et al.* (2020) also identified that infidelity and extramarital affairs became the most destructive source of conflict inflicted on a marriage. The study also points out that marital violence as a result of alcohol addiction and chewing “khat” was the major reason for marital breakdown. In similar way, a study by Mulugeta *et al.* (2020) revealed that alcohol and chat addiction were one of the major factors that the spouses to seriously consider divorce. Most research findings also show that addiction can kill love and withdrawal from roles can take place and eventually lead to marriage breakdown (Chali *et al.* 2020). In addition, unnecessary family, friends, and relative intervention on marital issues were also the common factors of divorce in the study area. The study further pointed out that marriage which is highly interconnected with relatives is prone to divorce. In line to this, the finding of the study by Mulugeta *et al.* (2020) stated that family intervention on marital issues of couples is one of the leading causes of divorce. Likewise, the study by Debela (2018) also found that family interference on the private matters of the spouses contributed to the breakdown of a marriage. Furthermore, the study found that diversity in terms of religion, and ethnicity between spouses and the families of spouses also lead to the termination of the marriage. In line with this, studies by Mulugeta *et al* and Chali *et al.* (2020) founded that couples of a different religion or ethnicity sometimes do not take up the expectations of their partner’s religion and often cause anger among them. Likewise, the study conducted by Anitha (2015) also confirmed that the religious difference between the spouses is one of the driving forces that lead a marriage to divorce. Thus, the study showed that before marriage thinking on religious issues is an important factor in the stability of marriage and marital satisfaction.

This study also found that wide age differences between spouses are the possible contributing factors of divorce in the study area. The participants of the study revealed that a wide range of age differences between husband and wife leads to the dissolution of marriage. Similarly, Olson (2006) found that larger age differences, especially when the wife is older than the husband, have been found to have an adverse impact on marital stability. Furthermore, a study by Afework (2010) also revealed a similar result, reported that higher than expected instability when age differences between spouses

are large and when wives are older than their husbands. In addition, the study identified that infertility is also a possible factor of divorce. The participants of the study also indicated that according to the culture of the area, once a female gets married, she has to give birth to a baby within a reasonable period of time. But, if she fails to give birth, she has to be replaced by another woman. In line to this, Chali *et al* (2020) stated that childlessness is not acceptable in many societies due to this peoples place a high value on children.

Impacts of divorce on divorcees

The study found that losses of income and private properties/losses of resources and poverty are the main economic impacts of divorce on the divorcees. The informants of the study demonstrate that due to over division of assets and income, court cost, child custody issue, and child alimony payments the divorcees encountered income/ financial decline, losses of private property which led to a very difficult life after divorce especially for women than men. In line to this, a study by Mokonen *et al.* (2019) found that lack of fulfilling basic needs, reduction of income, and financial crisis are the main economic impacts of divorce on divorcees. In addition to this, the study further revealed that divorce also differently impacts the economic wellbeing of both men and women. Most of the interviewee's divorced women's unlike their ex-husbands were not educated, and could not employ in the formal sector. Due to this encountered severe financial/income decline after divorce. As a result, it widens the economic gap between men and women. In line to this, a study by Bogale (2008) revealed that women experience an income decline of about 30% while male experienced about a 10% drop in income. Likewise, most studies estimate divorcing individuals would need more than a 30% increase in income, on average, to maintain the same standard of living they had before their divorce (Amato 2014). Therefore, economic impacts are severe and tremendous among other impacts that the divorcees encountered in the study area.

The study identified that social exclusion and rejection and diminishing of the social interaction with relatives, neighbors, friends, and the community were the main social impacts of divorce on divorcees. The majority of the interviewees mentioned that they had encountered social problems like isolation, losses of social status and respect from the community, losses of contacts with relatives, neighbors, friends, and community as well as exclusion from participation in a community-based association like 'Afosha', 'equb' and 'mahaber'. In addition, the study points out that following the

dissolution of the marriage, most divorces especially women due to loss of social status and respect in the community begin to retreat from their previous social responsibilities and also neighbors discriminate, and isolate the divorcees from the day to day social affairs and also they insult their children by saying 'ilmo dubarti or Yesetlege' and protect their children not to play with the divorcees children. Furthermore, the study found that the divorces faced with poor social interaction from the side of their family and the common friends they share. In line to this, a study by Cheeseman et al. (2011) reported that divorced spouses perceived less social support, lower levels of social involvement, and less contact with friends than their married counterparts. In similar ways, a study by Kavas (2010) and Yohannes (2015) also found that after divorce, losing the existing friends and relatives comes as an inevitable process since divorced partners no longer belong to the same marital status as their married friends do. Moreover, a study by Yohannes (2015) stated that after divorce, the divorcees are isolating and rejecting from community members and also being violent in interpersonal relationship.

Impacts of divorce on children

The findings of the study also indicated that divorce has a multidimensional and interdependent effect on children life. From the study, it is visible that parental divorced children suffered social and educational problems aftermath of divorce. In line with this, Wallerstein (2013) research work that generally divorce puts children at greater risk for many things of problems. Moreover, as the theoretical framework of family system theory, it offers a conceptually compelling idea of viewing family as a system and interdependent. And whenever these systems disrupt the family involved in the system will be disrupted. Divorce is believed to disturb a natural system of family and becomes the cause of multifaceted social evils on children. As it has been presented in the findings of this study, children are one member of the family due to this divorce impacted the social and educational aspects of their life. Therefore, the findings of this study and the theoretical explanations of family system theory are directly similar.

The study found that parental separation impacts the social life and relationships of the children. The participants of the study affirmed that most children do not get close to more people as they fear that in the long run, they could leave them as their parents did. The abandonment fear could lead them to have hostile behavior with their peers, lacks stable relationships with their parents and anyone who

wants to get close to them. As a result, lacks social supports from their parents, lacks social interaction and good communication skill with others like peers, which in turns face problems of suitable clothing, food, and other basic needs, feelings of isolation, neglecting, low self-esteem and exposed to different social evils such as drug addiction, alcoholism, and smoking and then finally, marginalized by their community and society. In line to this, the study conducted by Amato (2012) revealed that children with divorced parents, compared with continuously married parents, exhibit more social problems with social relationships, weaker ties with parents especially fathers. In similar ways, a study by Baxter et al. (2011) also stated that parental disruptions diminished the quality of parenting, and substantially reduced time or even total loss of contact with one parent. Furthermore, a study by Debela (2018) also found out that children of divorced parents have lack of social support such as interaction and communication skills with others like peers.

The study found that divorce has a negative impact on child education. According to the data gathered some children were enrolled in school after their parent's divorce and most of them are not enrolled and drop out of their education, those enrolled children recorded lower academic performance. The participants of the study reported that immediately after separation children recorded the lower result in their academic performance due to financial scarcity. The finding of the study similar to the findings of Mahalet (2019) stated that family disruption affected a child's school performance due to the loss of certain resources. In line with this, a study by Chali et al. (2020) suggested that divorce diminishes children's learning skills and capacity as well as educational realization. Furthermore, a study by Were (2012) also found that after divorce of parent's children's of divorces drop out of school due to lack of fees and other basic needs and they acquire low grades in school because of absence from school and low concentration span in class and others even engage in work to survive in turn easily exposure to abuse and labor exploitation. Therefore, divorce reduces children's learning capacity and educational attainment. As a result, most divorced parent children may lack the necessary knowledge, attitudes, and skills to socialize as well as to lead their life independently.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Conclusion

The main objective of the study was to describe and explore the factors that contributed to divorce and its impact on family members in Asendabo town. The emphasis was given onto the factors contributing to divorce and its socio-economic impacts on the divorces as well as on the social relationships and educations of children's. As the findings of the study shown, various factors contributed to divorce. Among them, economic factors such as poverty, irresponsible financial expenditure and difference in monthly salary and economic status and social factors such as infidelity/extramarital affairs, husband addiction to alcohol and chat, ethnic and religious differences and unnecessary interference from friends and families are takes a lion share for the dissolution of marriage in the study area. In addition to this, demographic factors such as a wide age differences and infertility also contributed to divorce. All participants of the study informed that divorce adversely impacts the social and economic life of the divorces as well as the social relationships and education of children. Up on the socio-economic impacts the study identified that economic impacts such as poverty and losses of income and private properties/losses of resources and social impacts such as social rejection and exclusion and diminishing of interaction with family, relatives and friends are the main impacts of divorce on divorces. This study, furthermore, point out that children's of the divorces lacks stable relationship and communication with peer and parent's especially with father, scored lower grades, poor performance in education and dropout their school. As a result, lacks social supports from their parents, lacks social interaction and good communication skills, and face problems of suitable clothing, food and other basic needs which in turns exposed them into feelings of isolation, neglecting, low self-esteem as well as different social evils such as drug addiction, alcoholism and smoking and then finally, marginalized by their community and society.

5.2. Recommendation

Based on the findings, the researchers forwarded the following recommendations. Firstly, the religious institutions collaborating with the social sectors should work towards minimizing the triggering factors or root causes which may lead to divorce. Second, when any disagreements and conflicts happened between couples, it is better to settled the disputes in mediation by traditional/cultural systems like "Jaarsummaa" in Oromo community cases and by other religious

leaders are very important than preferring divorce. Third, initiated and organized center of marriage and family counseling in Asendabo town with the help of both government and NGOs are very important for the sake of reducing divorce and its adverse impacts on partners and their children's. Fourth, religious institutions and elder's in the community need to teach and aware the community about the impacts of divorce. Fifth, the family and marriage counselors presents workshops on life skills which will includes relationships, marriages and divorce with the help of concerning bodies like labor and social affairs, legal justice court, and women and children affair offices because this may limit the rate of divorce and its impacts amongst this community.

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Appendix: I

Table 1 socio demographic profile of in-depth interview participants of the study

Demographic descriptions	In-depth interview participants		Remarks
	Divorces	Children's	
Sex			
Male	5	4	
Female	7	2	
Total	12	6	
Age in year			
12-18	-	6	
25-30	2		
31-35	5		
36-40	5		
Total	12	6	
Have regular income source			
Yes	2	-	
No	10	6	
Total	12	6	
Educational background			
cannot write and read	2	2	
Elementary school	4	3	
High school	3	1	
College diploma	2	-	
Frist Degree	1	-	
Total	12	6	
Time duration in marriage			
1-4	2	-	
5-8	7	-	
9-12	3	-	
Total	12	6	

Table 2 Socio-demographic profile of FGD participants of the study

Description of participants	Participants of FGD			Remarks
	Kebele leaders	Elders	Religious leaders	
Sex				
M	6	3	3	
F	-	-	-	
Total	6	3	3	
Age				
35-40	2	-		
41-45	1	-		
46-50	2	1	2	
51-55	-	2	1	
Total	6	3	3	

Table 3 Socio-demographic profile of key informants of the study

Description of participants	Participants of key informants			Remarks
	Experts from court	Experts from child, youth and women affairs	Experts from labor and social affairs	
Sex				
M	2	-	1	
F	-	2	-	
Total	2	2	1	
Age				
30-35	-	1	-	
36-40	1	1	1	
41-45	1	-	-	
Total	2	2	1	
Educational level				
High school	-	-	-	
College diploma	-	-	-	
Frist degree	2	2	1	
Total	2	2	1	

Appendix: II

Jimma University
College of social science and humanity
Department of sociology
Informed consent

Researcher: Tolesa Shiferaw Kitila

Title of the research is the factors that contributing of divorce and its impacts on family members in Jimma Zone, Omo Nada Woreda, Asendabo Town.

Objective of this study is to explore and describe the factor that contributing to divorce and its impacts on the family members.

Procedure: The procedure of obtaining the information required for this research will be done with qualitative approach. The researcher is going to do an in-depth study on the factors that contributing of divorce and its impacts on family members. The data will be collected through in-depth interview, FGD, and key informant interviews. The interview will be recorded and the responses analyzed in the terms, themes and sub-themes.

Risks and discomforts: The only discomfort that the researcher can foresee is the discomfort or stress that may arise from talking about the traumatic experience of divorce on some divorcees and their children. Furthermore, the researcher will not continue with the interview if any major concern arises and will ensure that you will not be forced to continue the interview in any distress. If it is necessary for any therapy, the researcher will arrange by coordinating with concerning and available governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Benefit of this study:-the findings of this study will be contributed greatly to the family, children, government and relevant institutions to understand and aware the problems and the proper ways to handle issues regarding affected family and children.

Participants' rights:

- Participation is totally voluntarily based
- You may withdraw at any stage of the process without negative consequences or with any information being published or disclosed.
- Total confidentiality and anonymity will be highly secured
- Access to the results of the research, if you so desired.

Confidentiality and anonymity: The researcher will allocate pseudonyms for you and your children to ensure that after the data has been collected no one will be able to identify who you are. The researcher will also destroy all evidences that link you to the research after the research process completed. With regard to privacy, the researcher will respect your privacy and only collect information that is relevant to the research study. If at any stage you feel that yours or your child's privacy is being violated the researcher will reorganize the study to ensure that you are in no way compromised. The interview that the children are going to asked will be anonymous. The researcher is working under the supervision of advisor (Dr. Gudina Abshula and Mr. Nega Abera M.A) from the department of sociology, Jimma University, to ensure that he does not do anything unethical. The researcher can be contacted by telephone, e-mail if desired.

Cell phone: +251917055499

E-mail:- shimelisshiferaw44@gmail.com

Participant's

Name and signature -----

Researcher's

Signature ----- Date -----

In-depth interview guide for divorced partners

The objective of this interview is to explore and describe the factors that contribute to divorces and its impacts on family members in Asendabo town. The study is conducted for partial fulfillment of the requirement for masters of art degree in sociology of family and gender. The data collected by this interview will all be used only for the purpose of this research. In addition, note that all the collected data will be kept merely in the hands of the researcher. Moreover, you are not expected to tell me your name. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

Please give your answer in detail for each question below.

1. Name _____ (Optional and using pseudonym is possible)
2. Sex _____ Age _____ Place of birth _____
3. Educational level _____ Religion _____ your ex-spouses religion? _____
4. Your ethnic background _____ your spouse's _____
5. Your occupation _____ your ex-spouse's _____
6. Your income per month _____ your ex-spouse's _____
7. When have you married your spouse? _____
8. How your marriage was established? Customary _____ Religious _____ Civil _____
9. Who initiate the divorce? _____
10. What are the contributing factors for divorce? Probing: How could factors such as (Poverty, age difference between you and your spouse, sexual incompatibility between you and your spouse, difference in level of education and income between you and your spouse, alcohol and drug abuse, ethnic and religious difference between you and your spouse, infertility, extramarital sexual relationship/adultery, legal recognition for divorce, unnecessary interference of your parents', relatives and friends/ your spouse' parents, relatives and friends in your marital affairs..etc) contributed to your divorce? _____
11. What are the impacts of divorce on you? Probing: impacts on your basic needs, work (employment), income, social interaction (relationship with friends, relatives, neighbors, participation in community based organizations, reputation and social respect...etc)?

12. What are the impacts of your divorce on your children? Probing: impacts on the fulfillment of their basic needs, their education performance/achievement, their health, social interaction e.g., relationship with their peers, close relatives? _____

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation and willingness in the name of Jimma University department of Sociology. Thank you!

In depth interview guide for divorces children's

The objective of this interview is to explore and describe the factors that contribute to divorces and its impacts on family members in Asendabo town. The study is conducted for partial fulfillment of the requirement for masters of art degree in sociology of family and gender. The data collected by this interview will all be used only for the purpose of this research. In addition, note that all the collected data will be kept merely in the hands of the researcher. Moreover, you are not expected to tell me your name. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

Please give your answer in detail for each question below.

1. Name _____ (Optional and using pseudonym is possible)
2. Sex _____ Age _____ Place of birth _____
3. Educational level _____ Religion _____ Marital status _____
4. Ethnic background _____
5. What was the main reason of your parent are divorced? _____
6. Who is your custodial parent? _____
7. What are the impacts of your family divorce on you? Probing: impacts on the fulfillment of basic needs, education attendance, performance/achievement, health, social interaction e.g., relationship with peers, close relatives etc? _____
8. What was your relationship with your father and mother after your parent divorce? _____
9. What about love, support and care you get from your father after divorce? _____
10. What about love, support and care you get from your mother after divorce? _____
11. What was your relationship with your teacher in school? _____
12. How is your life before and after your parents' divorce? _____

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation and willingness in the name of Jimma University department of Sociology. Thank you!

Key informant interviews guide for professional experts

The objective of this interview is to explore and describe the factors that contribute to divorces and its impacts on family members in Asendabo town. The study is conducted for partial fulfillment of the requirement for masters of art degree in sociology of family and gender. The data collected by this interview will all be used only for the purpose of this research. In addition, note that all the collected data will be kept merely in the hands of the researcher. Moreover, you are not expected to tell me your name. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

Please give your answer in detail for each question below.

1. Name _____ (Optional and using pseudonym is possible)
2. Sex _____ Age _____ Occupation/Position _____
3. How is the prevalence of divorce in this area? Is it increasing or decreasing? _____
4. Who provide petition for divorce most of the time, a husband or a wife? _____
5. Which social groups are mostly prone to divorce in this area? _____
6. Which age groups are largely prone to divorce in this area? _____
7. What is the average marriage duration of most couples contemplating to divorce? _____
8. What are the contributing factors of divorce in this area? Probing: How could factors such as (Poverty, age difference between spouse, sexual incompatibility between spouse, difference in level of education and income between spouse, alcohol and drug abuse, ethnic and religious difference between spouse, infertility, extramarital sexual relationship/adultery, legal recognition of divorce, unnecessary interference of parents', relatives and friends in marital affairs..etc) contributed to divorce in this area? _____
9. What are the impacts of divorce on divorces? Probing: impacts on their basic needs, work (employment), income, social interaction (relationship with friends, relatives, neighbors, participation in community based organizations, reputation and social respect...etc)? _____
10. What are the impacts of family divorce on their children? Probing: impacts on the fulfillment of their basic needs, their education performance/achievement, their health, social interaction e.g., relationship with their peers, parents, close relatives? _____

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation and willingness in the name of Jimma University department of Sociology. Thank you!

Focus Group Discussion Points

The objective of this FGD is to explore and describe the factors that contribute to divorces and its impacts on family members in Asendabo town. The study is conducted for partial fulfillment of the requirement for masters of art degree in sociology of family and gender. The data collected by FGD will all be used only for the purpose of this research. In addition, note that all the collected data will be kept merely in the hands of the researcher. Moreover, you are not expected to tell me your name. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

Please, give detailed information on the issues I am going to rise for discussion.

1. How is the prevalence of divorce in your *Kebele*? Is it increasing or decreasing?
2. What are the contributing factors of divorce in this area? Probing: How could factors such as (Poverty, age difference between spouse, sexual incompatibility between spouse, difference in level of education and income between spouse, alcohol and drug abuse, ethnic and religious difference between spouse, infertility, extramarital sexual relationship/adultery, legal recognition of divorce, unnecessary interference of parents', relatives and friends in marital affairs..etc) contributed to divorce in this area? _____
3. What are the impacts of divorce on the divorces? Probing: impacts on the fulfillment of their basic needs, work (employment), income, social interaction (relationship with friends, relatives, neighbors, participation in community based organizations, reputation and social respect...etc)? _____
4. What are the impacts of family divorce on their children? Probing: impacts on the fulfillment of their basic needs, their education performance/achievement, their health, social interaction e.g., relationship with their peers, parents, close relatives? _____

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation and willingness in the name of Jimma University department of Sociology. Thank you!