

The rate and causes of divorce in Bale Robe Town, Oromia, Ethiopia

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Abstract: Divorce is the legal dissolution of a socially and legally recognized marital relationship that alters the obligations and privileges of the two persons involved. Hence, the main objective of this study was to assess the magnitude of divorce associated factors in Bale Robe town. Purposive sampling was used to select sampling kebeles since all kebeles are assuming to be having a similar attribute in the case of divorce experience. The target participants were selected purposive and snowballing sampling techniques. To get the relevant data for this study the data has employed a qualitative, in-depth interview method with the combination of (FGD), and held archival analysis. The researchers used 12 divorced women for an in-depth interview, and six divorced women for focused group discussion. Thematic qualitative analysis technique has been employed by applying a rigorous data analysis procedure. The study finds that the prevalence of divorce in Robe town was 828 divorce cases were recorded during 2009/17-2011/19. Apart from this, in Odaa Robe, Baha Biftu and Caffee Donsaa divorce cases were 279, 233 and 312 respectively. The study has also identified the causes of divorce were complex and multidimensional such as infidelity, lack of communication, alcohol addiction and chewing khat, religious difference, lack of commitment, family intervention, and Health Problem (HIV/ HIDS). The husbands were refusing to divided property, not sharing money that invests together.

Keywords: Causes, Divorce, Rate.

Introduction

Marriage is a huge institution of family and associated with numerous benefits. According to Vandenberghe (2000), marriage offers couples a spiritual connection to their deepest values; satisfies the need of all humans for physical and emotional closeness with another; gives constant companionship and encourages healthy behaviors; offers couples extended social networks and legal rights and privileges. Vandenberghe (2000) explained that married people live longer, suffer less from illness, and recover more quickly. Married people also exhibit fewer risk taking behaviors and suffer less from depression and other psychiatric disorders because they are happier, enjoy higher well-being, and are better off economically (Vandenberghe, 2000).

The rate of divorce differs according to the years different studies were conducted. Walsh (1993) and Landucci (2008) in their study have found that, in the early 1970s and 1980s, the highest divorce rates were recorded in the history of the U.S.A. Even though we cannot generalize to other parts of the world, the above finding show how the practice of divorce goes back in time and has been a concern starting from the earliest times and has continued in the contemporary world as well (Afomia, 2015).

Hawkins and Fackrell (2009) added, in the United States 40-60 percent of all marriages end in divorce. Besides, according to (Amato and Previt, 2003) USA couples marrying for the first time continue to face a 50% chance of divorce during their lifetime. In India, even though the rate of divorce is rapidly increasing presently in 5% -7% (Rao et al., 2005). Data from the US National Center for Health Statistics state that compared children from single-parent and remarried families have more than twice the chances to experience an emotional and behavioral problem (Doolittle & Deutsch, 1999).

When we come to Africa, according to (Monama, 2011), in 2007 about 52 percent of African urban parents are single. Data released by Statistics South Africa revealed a steady increase in the divorce rate from 1997 to 1999. However, this has begun to decrease, with the last reported rates being 582 divorces per 100, 000 married couples in 2001 (Locoh, 2001) cited in Mulugeta (2019). In South Africa, it's a reality that one out of every two marriages ends in divorce (Collins, 2003). These are frightening statistics not only because it points to the breakdown of the family nucleus, but also because it means that 50 percent of young people come from broken homes.

In Ethiopia, approximately 45% of all first marriages end in divorce within 30 years (Tilson and Larsen, 2000). Furthermore, in Ethiopia, it is believed that divorce brings many difficulties for women and children. Studies have shown that many women who are living in third world countries like Ethiopia have fewer choices in life other than getting married and having children. Most Ethiopian women are dependent on their husbands financially and they are less prepared for careers Daniel, (as cited in Selome, 2007). The causes and their psychosocial impacts of divorce on women are complicated.

According to the analytical report of CSA in (2000) vital events registration, during the years of 1998 and 1999 about 161,393 marriages were dissolved due to divorce in Ethiopia. Of these divorces, 157,623 took place in rural areas, while the remaining 3,770 occurred in the urban areas (CSA, 2000, cited in Mehari, 2013).

Similarly, according to the 1994 population and housing census in Addis Ababa (as cited by Serkalem, 2006), there were 1, 722, 391 individuals. Among these married were 506, 852 while divorced were 97, 147. As a result, this figure shows there is a vast number of a population in divorce. There is no statistical report that can show the trend about the actual divorce rate at a regional or national level (Mehari, 2013). According to, (Tilson and Larsen, as cited by Aster, 2015) also agreed with this idea that "45% of first marriages in Ethiopia end with divorce within 30 years, and two-thirds of women who divorce within the first 5 years of marriage".

Besides studying about the prevalence of divorce, studying the root causes resulting coupled for divorce plays significant role in decreasing the rate and impact of divorce. As many research works indicated that there are many different and complex causes and reasons for divorce, each of them specific to that particular marital couple Aster (2015). Gersem (as cited in Aster, 2015) concluded as all the divorce experience in the world today is as a result of one of the following: Lack of commitment, psychological immaturity, Infidelity/adultery, abandonment, lack of communication, physical abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, ego problem, sexual abuse, joblessness, cultural and religious differences, crime, incompatibility, family background, failed expectations and the like.

The majority of divorces (59%) were caused by no- serious issues such as; incompatibilities, growing apart, lack of communication, loss of love, etc (Amato and perviti 2003). Zartler (2002)

also reported that reasons for the breakdown of the partnership are unfulfilled emotional needs, communication problems, absence of dyadic coping and conflict solving strategies, different priorities regarding spare time and family time, strong professional engagement and long workdays of men. From the female perspective, alcohol abuse was problematic, whereas men estimate sexual problems as a source of conflict (Mehari, 3013).

The study in Ethiopia by Serkalem (2006) also identified the reasons why women initiate divorce. Her study identified experience of infidelity, extravagance, authority over their activities, physical abuse, and age gap, etc. in their marriage. Amato's extensive research into marriage and divorce includes studying the reasons people divorce and found infidelity, drinking or drug use, physical or mental abuse and not meeting family obligations, incompatibilities, growing apart, lack of communication, loss of love, etc (Amato and perviti 2003). Besides, according to Tilson and Larsen (2000) in Ethiopia, both early ages at marriage and childlessness have a significant impact on the risk of divorce.

Therefore, this study focuses on the rate and causes of divorce in Bale Robe Town, Oromia, Ethiopia

Research Questions

To investigate the rate and causes of divorce in Bale Robe Town, the following questions have been used as leading questions.

1. How often the divorce prevalence in Robe Town?
2. What are the major factors leading married couples to divorce in Robe Town?

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are the following:

1. To investigate the prevalence of divorce in Robe Town.
2. To explore the major factors leading married couples to divorce in Robe Town.

Materials and Methods

Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Robe Town which is in Bale Zone, located in South-Eastern Ethiopia. It is also located about 430 km to the southeast of the national capital, Addis Ababa. The total area

of the town is 8024 km². The town is divided into three kebeles, namely, Oda Robe, Beha Biftu, and Chefe Donsa, consisting of about 5351, 2172, and 5948 households, respectively.

Research Design

To achieve the objective of the study, the researchers have used a qualitative research method. Qualitative research, therefore, seeks to find subjective understandings of data as opposed to seeking an "objective truth", which it abandons. The life story as a narrative form has evolved from oral history, life history and other ethnographic and field approaches. It is a qualitative research method for gathering information on the subjective essence of one person's entire life. It begins as a recorded interview, is transcribed for descriptive and ends up as flowing narrative, completely in the words of the person telling the story. It uses a methodology that is transferable across disciplines and from one researcher to another.

Participants

The researchers had selected a total of 18 participants and conducted the study by using purposive and snowballing sampling techniques. Out of the total figure, twelve (12) of them were assigned for the in-depth interview and six (6) out of them selected for the Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

The instrument of Data Collection

Data collection instruments must match the aims and purpose of the study. This study utilized semi-structured interviews; focus group discussion (FGD) and document analysis were the main tools.

The procedure of Data Collection

Before the interview process began, interview guides were prepared in English which were appropriate to gather the required data for the issue under study. The questions were translated to Amharic and Afan Oromo to make it understandable for interview participants. Having prepared the interview guides, the researchers contacted the judge to discuss on how to get in touch with divorced women to start data collection. The researchers then selected 18 divorce-related files from the archive by the support of the archival employee. In the divorce files, there are profile sheets that included the place they come from, the years of divorce, the number and age of their children and their contact number which facilitated the selection process. Next, the researchers contacted each of the 18 respondents through their address and asked for their consent by presenting the objective and purpose of the research.

Before starting the interview, the researchers scheduled the time for conducting the interview taking into consideration the time that would be convenient for the subjects to do the interview. After this, the informants were asked to sign on the consent form. After obtaining their agreement, the purpose and procedure of the study were explained and given information on the way to respond to the interview. The interview was conducted in Amharic and Afan Oromo languages.

Methods of Data Analysis

The data was analyzed qualitatively. For the qualitative analysis, the thematic approach as an inductive way of data analysis was used. Thematic analysis is a method used for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns, (themes) within that data.

Thematic analysis was formed through the process of several phases. The initial phase was internalized interview voice recorded several times and transcribed the recording verbal and non-verbal cues like pauses, crying, laughing, etc... to capture the meaning associated and made a rough note to make familiar with the data. The researcher used a fictitious name for the analysis of the in-depth interview. All interviews were translated into English, verbatim, by the researcher. The transcripts were coded on it. In the final stage, theme development was made and followed by data reduction, simplification, defining and redefining theme were presented in the final stages.

Ethical Considerations

Social research in psychology concerns people's lives and therefore it inevitably involves ethical issues. Before the beginning of the research, informed consent from participants was taken verbally. Attention was given to treating participants with respect throughout the research process.

Participants have fully informed the purpose and nature of research, the right to withdraw from the research at any time if they felt uncomfortable with the process or if they felt that they would not be able to continue with research for whatever reason, and the issue of confidentiality and anonymity. 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.

The interviews with divorced women and FGD were held in a safe and comfortable environment such as at the participant's house, at their workplace and courthouse. Because of anonymity and confidentiality of participants were central to ethical research.

Result and Discussion

The Prevalence of Divorce

The data gathered from the documents were analyzed qualitatively. The results of this study revealed that there is a high prevalence rate of divorce in Robe town across three years in the sample court. This study revealed that a total number of 828 divorced cases were approved in the selected court from 2017 - 2019. Out of this, in Odaa Robe, Baha Biftu and Caffé Donsaa divorce cases were recorded 279, 233 and 312 respectively. The total number of divorce in 2017, 2018 and 2019 from September to April were 232, 276 and 320 respectively.

Also, the total numbers of divorce recorded in the three years were high in Caffé Donsaa and Odaa Robe. This showed that the rate of divorce is increasing from time to time. As it was also proved from the employee of archive an in-depth interview and discussions, they repeatedly stated that the prevalence rate of divorce increase from year to year. The data obtained from key stakeholders show that there were not well-organized documents in their office to reveal the actual prevalence of the divorce in their office. These stakeholders explained that they met women who were divorced within these three years (2017- 2019). They added that there were daily interactions with divorced women in their workplace. However, there were not well-compiled data recorded in their office. From their observation and explanation, it was concluded that there was a high divorce experience practiced in Robe town.

Factors Leading to Marital Breakdown/Divorce

Marriage is a union of a man and women who agree to live together as husband and wife. However, divorce does not occur for a single reason and that frequently there are several factors involved as to why divorce and separation occur. According to the participants, there were different reasons for the initiation of divorce in their marriage.

1. Marital infidelity /Extramarital/

About (9 out of 12) participants reported that their husband's extramarital affair which is having another marriage and practicing sex, life and share the family's financial expenses with other women have been identified as one of the major problems in the study.

In an in-depth interview one informant reported: "*Ka asraa sidist amat (16) yatidaar qoyitaa bahuwaalaa baalabetee leelaa seet wadada kaziyaam agabaa*" mean "after 16 years of marriage

with me , he fall in to love with another woman and married her”. Besides, she reported that the way to prove her husband's adulterous activity.

I had four children. When I was with him, we argued sometimes. I tried to share and raise the issue that I observed from our daily interactions. He never showed me a sense to talk with me. He insulted me and rejected all my ideas. He fought with his children without tangible reason. He drunk and he did not show interest in taking care of the family; he didn't have much time for us. When I served dinner at night he refused to eat and told me that he invited by his friends. He ate from outside and never wants to eat the food which I prepared it. The little income for the family would have to be shared to feed the family member one(s) outside. During this time, I have begun to follow him what he did daily, in the end, I proved that he was involving in adultery.

In line with the above finding, Piercy (2005) also reported that cheated partners may display several of the following behaviors during the time they involved in marital infidelity: changing in appearance, experiencing financial problem, changing work habit, decreasing intimacy, becoming secretive, buying a new phone secretly, having a lot of doubtful messages, taking phone calls late at night or the midnight, avoiding answering any strange phone call if his/her partner is close by, removing message frequently, lying about significant things or gifts, and having a lot of reasons to skip family meals.

A divorcee woman, 30 years old, completed grade 12 and she is a secretary at a governmental organization, reported that as follows:

My husband was a driver. We had two children. His children love him very much. He came home at the time of the holiday. I planned to pass enjoyably. But he didn't spend ample time with us. He never wants to visit us. He sent me money from his friends. When he came home, he engaged himself on mobile without rest. He received messages and sent them. His attention was taken and engaged himself on that mobile. When he received a message and call came he run outside. He looked like a person engaged by business friends/person. He tried to mislead me. He deleted the message. One day the guest came to my house. After a coffee 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 on the issue. My friend attempted to call. She made several attempts to search the secret. In the end, we probed my husband engaged in an extramarital practice that is cheating.

Likewise, the data obtained from FGD participants and the key interview respondents verify the view of the in-depth interview respondents. It was reported that by most of the in-depth interview key informants husbands' infidelity forced them for divorce. The key religious person from the town added that couple during the conflict they came in 'Orthodox twahido 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. The issue of faithlessness did not easily reconcile. This circumstance affects a spouse's relationship and destroys a family network. Youth, women and child affair from police office added that marital infidelity will continue to be challenging to marriage intuition and couple relationship. It is a complex issue and everyday couple has to prepare themselves to this threat to their relationship. When the key religious person explained with emphasis marriage is the joining of two people inbound that putatively lasts until death, but in practice is often short by divorce as a result of extramarital affairs.

Three participants in-depth interview revealed that they were divorced as a result of extramarital affairs for these women it was the prime reason for filing for divorce. In some case extramarital was not the alone reason, the participants were also referred to the husband's lack of interest in family duties, financial constraint, daily conflict were also added to the pain above. The finding here confirms the prior findings of Amato & Previti; (2003); Betzig (1989); Kitson, Babri & Roach (1985) who identified infidelity as the leading cause of divorce. Therefore, marital Infidelity has negative effects on couples' and parents' relationships decreasing intimacy and maybe the most feared and destroying experience of couple relationships, which may cause divorce which effects couple, parents and their children. Most of the time conflict arises among couples due to adulterous activity. If anyone of the couple involves in adulterous activities, others not ready to accept, such behavior is unacceptable at the moral and religious ground. Particularly in the case of women after

marriage husband is familiar with her previous adulterous behavior most of the cases the husband refused to accept. In the case of men, women silent their voices for a moment but could not bear it for a long time. Divorces due to adulterous behavior are commonly seen among upper economic and educated classes.

Moreover, a married couple should be faithful and loyal towards each other and it a lifetime commitment, people embrace it and support it. Marital infidelity will continue to be a challenge to marriage institution and couple relationships. It is a complex issue and every couple has to prepare themselves to this threat to their relationship. It is the joining of two people in a bond that putatively lasts until death, but in practice is often cut short by divorce.

Social media, religious institutions, family, societies, in general, play their role to change the mind of individuals who involved in adultery especially in marriage life. Create a new perception of gender roles, family functions and educate marriage partners about the negative effects of divorce may require fresh attention and provide a new perspective to marital infidelity. Husbands should sexually be faithful to each other. They must keep intimate physical relationships within the bond of marriage and virtually all married individuals should support this value.

2. Lack of Communication

Lack of communication among couples is one of the major causes of divorce. Ineffective communication can lead to numerous family problems including excessive family conflict, effective problem-solving skills, lack of intimacy, weak emotional bonding and so on. Poor communication style is also associated with an increased risk of divorce and marital separation(Esere, 2008).

Hence, in this study 4 out of 12 interview women reported that ineffective communication practice exposed them disharmony. During an in-depth interview informant, reported:

I gave birth to my second child, my husband's behavior changed and began to umbrage, refused to eat food which I prepared for him, he didn't give expenditure, we spar daily. When he did this daily, I snivel, sympathize and dismay, when I feel this, I decided to discuss with him. I tried but both of us didn't listen to each other. We argued and didn't convince each other he left me home. He came at night and drunk. In general, in our home, there was no habit of discussion or sharing problems.

During the in-depth interview, three other women narrated similar issues related to ineffective communication skills cause the couples not to share similar interests and value in life and increase the tendency of being self-centeredness. They added that the spouses may not have the habit of discussion which turns many inside through into conflicting ideas over time, such differences may go apart deep interest turn them, to be unstable leading to family disruption.

Marriage depends on many different things to be successful: trust, love, and time, friendship, understanding, honest, loyalty, sincerity and above all effective communication ((Esere & Idowu, 2000). When all the afro mention points lack in once life resulted in dissolution. Lack of communication is the deciding factor in the changing or continuation of commitment in one's partner (Willemse, 2011). In addition to the above findings by (Wilemse, 2011) when couples fail to have smooth communication, their marital life is on the verge of dissolution (Willemse, 2011).

Therefore, effective interpersonal communication skills are essential to social interaction, the building, and maintenance of all relationships. Parental communication plays an important role in the experience of divorce. By both parties actively participating in an amicable divorce, or dissolution, as opposed to a litigation process, the overall level of conflict is minimized and the communication maximized throughout the division of assets, living arrangements, and scheduling of joint custody (Angel, 2008). This can limit conflict, promote conversation, and minimize the overall psychosocial impact that the divorce may have on the women (Ogechi, et al., 2010).

According to Willemse (2011), clear communication is important to keep one's marriage from falling apart. It avoids misunderstanding and conflict among married couples. It also strengthens the marital bond by developing affection and respect. The participants also indicated that lack of communication was the major reason for their misinterpretation resulting in the dissolution of their marital union. Hence, communication is very essential in establishing a marriage. Communicating effectively takes practice and a great deal of effort without communication, it is nearly impossible to resolve conflicts or grow a partnership.

3. Alcohol Addiction and Chewing Khat

During the in-depth interview and FGD, some of the informants stated that marital violence as a result of alcohol addiction and chewing "khat". khat (popularly known in Ethiopia as chat) chewing in Ethiopia, especially among the participants, was the major reason for marital breakdown. Among

the women interviewed, three of the in-depth interview informants reported that they experienced marital violence as a result of their husbands' alcohol addiction and chewing "khat". The informants expressed that they were shocked by their husbands' aggression and action taken especially when they were drunk/chewing khat.

During in-depth interview one informant summed up the views of many,

My husband employed in the private business sector to manufacture different house furniture like bed, cupboard and so on. He left home early and I sometimes visited him. When I went there his mouth was full of 'khat'. During this khat session, he used to drink such as soft drink, tea, milk, and cold water which were bought. After lunch, he never returned to work. At night he never came home to take rest and spent time with us. He found his partner to drink and enjoy with him. They said the name " chebsi or mirqana" in the Amharic language the drink they used after chewing khat. They passed time by wasting money which used for different purposes. When he came home he insulted me, beat me and fought me. Also, my neighbors were insulted by him. He did not show them respect because he drank too much. Our quarrel continued until he broke down house utensils such as glass, cups, etc and hurt me. Another time scares away from home with two of my little Childs. He never wants to give me house expenditure on time. Even I missed a single coin to buy milk for my child. When I left home he searched the money hide for a different purpose, he took and used to for 'khat' purposes. From the female perspective, alcohol abuse and khat were problematic for those of the women who involved in this kind of marriage life.

The finding of the in-depth interview confirm with the report presented by Al- Zubaaidi (1997) also found that daily khat consumers' use a large fraction of the family budget. The finding of this study revealed that alcohol and chewing khat are purchased at the expense of other important items for family, such as meat and fruit.

Moreover, a home with alcohol and other substance-addicted women or men come up with a verity of predicaments including e.g., Roberts and Mccarda,(cited in Mahari, 2013, p.61) violence, marital conflict, infidelity, jealousy and economic insecurity and others that higher risk of divorce. Thus, the finding of this study verifies that alcohol addiction and chewing khat dislocate family life, physically, psychologically and enable them to lose, family and their assets. Thus, in this study alcohol addiction and chewing khat are taken the other causes of divorce.

4. Religious Difference

Religion also has an indirect effect on marriage: religious beliefs and practice tend to promote psychological well-being, prosaically norms, and social support among partners, all of which are linked to better marriages (Ellison 1994; Gottman 1998; Amato and Booth1997). Hence, in this study, the in-depth interview result showed that (3 out of 12) dissolved their marriage due to religious influence/ difference. One of the divorcee informant who has a diploma and aged 29 illicit how religious difference issue contributes to divorce as follows:

I spent my life with my ex-husband for eight years. We were not attending the same religion. I was ashamed when I went to my family home and met with my relatives. They always asked me to tell him about the issue. But he refused and confirmed on his own. when I raised the problem He left home and preferred to stay outside. In the end, he escaped to discuss the religious topic, he asked to transfer to another place. He stopped to contact me and send me money. After years, I heard he married other women who have the same religion.

The above findings reaffirm the study of, (Christiano 2000) found that couples had a higher risk of divorce when only one partner was religiously affiliated or when only one partner belonged to an exclusivist (i.e., evangelical, Protestant or sectarian) denomination. Subsequently, Amato and Booth (1997) reported that dissimilarity in partner's religious attendance patterns—but not other types of religious dissimilarity—is linked with increased risk of marital dissolution. Religion is one of the main pillars of a happy life.

Therefore, one who does not perform his religious duties might as well as ignore to perform his marital duties toward his wife and children miss his or her future life. To the extent that attendance

at religious services is an indicator of the degree of religious engagement, this line of argument suggests that (dissimilarities among partners in the frequency of attendance will be linked with marital quality. Thus, the study showed that before marriage thinking on religion issues is an important factor in the stability of marriage and marital satisfaction.

5. Lack of Commitment

Commitment is a key element to the success of a marriage relationship. But this study also finds that lack of commitment in marriage is the main common cause of divorce for many women in this study. Among the three women in the in-depth interview, one of the women revealed that her view in the following way;

My husband was a trader. After the birth of the third child, we frequently quarreled. I feel like we are equals, in that we do things, you know, we make decisions together. I support him in his trading, and we make all of our decision together. I tried to support him. But he never supports me. The entire house activity inclines on my shoulder. He rejected my ideas, he never respects love and showed tolerance in all directions. He thought that I have the obligation and responsibility of looking after his children and only managing home. He was not honest. I observe this from our daily interactions. For a long time, the commitment was a very difficult issue for him. I would have the goals But I think yea, he pushed me even farther. So I think I can't achieve that goal. I don't have someone to motivate myself.

Most marriages that we observed from our daily interaction and experience have a lack of sacrifice, forgiveness, leading unhappy marriage, lack of quality of life change and commitment. Other couples have a lack of solving challenges that arise with his / her marriage partner. Therefore, commitment is possibly one quality of marriage, as well as a moral virtue (Lapsley & Lasky, 2001), that uniquely characterizes marriage.

Those with negative attitudes may initiate and continue conflict within a relationship because their negative attitude toward commitment influences their view of relationship events (Riggio & Weiser, 2008). Also, since those with more negative attitudes are less concerned with commitment and the ending of a relationship, they may be more likely to react negatively to conflict cues. Hence, the finding of the FGD interview revealed that couples lack the obligation to stay married for a lifetime

and when they start to lose interest and commitment in the union, the relationship will be affected that leads to the dissolution of the marriage without any sensible reason.

The finding of Van Den Berghe (2000) have also revealed that Perhaps most insidious, too many couples no longer sacrifice for each other, instead of displaying individualistic, narcissistic attitudes that some social scientists say are a leading cause of divorce.

In Gottman's (1994) studies, he found that couples headed toward a break-up showed slightly more negative than positive acts. Negative acts include criticism or contempt. A couple in an unstable relationship may work very hard to find and change what is wrong with their relationship, but they often get distracted by the negative messages from each other. For e.g, one of the women from women and child affairs added that attempts are often made to repair the relationship, but negativity blocks their way and can overwhelm a marriage. Therefore, commitment throughout in marriage partner is a core issue. Marriage needs great sacrifice especially for the well- being of children. Furthermore, family problems have to be found in every home, whether is any kind of family. Due to some conflicts and some mistakes couples made, the other members got discontentment. Whenever problems come in the family, mutual forgiveness is the needed step to be taken. Forgiveness will prevent the splitting up and it will also restructure the relationship.

6. Family Intervention

The other cause identified from the study was the family intervention. One interviewed women reported that their marriage could have worked out well it had been for his mother continuous interference, he decided not to live with me. In an in-depth interview informant said,

Our marriage arrangement was established in the university. We were in the same region. We promised to marry after graduation. We employed in a government office in the same woreda in the countryside. We worked there for seven years. We had two children. We spent our salary on things which we benefited from our future life. We had an equal contribution to our marriage in the past. We asked to transfer from there. We have got the chance to transfer to this town. During this time his mother, sisters, brothers and other related family came home. Latter things began to change. They always ordered him to do them whatever they want. His mother asked him to support his elders' brothers and a sister. They called him at their home to tell him

that he did not continue to live with me. When he returned home, he ignored and never gave me attention. I discussed with my colleague the event came to my life. My colleague and family members couldn't change his idea toward everything. His ideas and thought-filled by his mother's decision and order. I doubt she may dislike my family background. In the end, he asked me for a divorce. I beg him to change his ideas. But in the end, he brought the charge from the court.

7. Health problem

HIV is a virus that can develop into the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) was another cause identified in the study. The in-depth interview result showed that one of the women missed her husband because of HIV/AIDS. In her interview revealed that;

Before me, he had a wife and lived with her and he had two children. At that time his wife passed away and he was single. I involved in my business. I did my job alone and we met because of his friend .we started life as a boyfriend and our relationship continued for years. He asked me to marry him. I started life. He was seriously sick and started to check up and medication. I heard that he was a carrier of the virus. After this, his behavior is completely changed. He was rude to me and I spent time with him to help and provided him the necessary things. But he didn't understand me. Our income was declined because of his medication. We didn't agree on issues that rose between us. In the end, I convince myself to divorce him. In regret, the women said that I never made blood tests before sex this also darkens my life.

Conclusion and the way forward

This study has been an attempt to identify available and accurate data/information from document analysis about the divorce rate. There are different divorce cases, which are not found in the court record in visible form due to lack of knowledge, experiences and poor documentation system especially in Robe town at courthouse thus inaccurate data is found. It was seen that documents were not handled in their proper topics.

The single causal factor is not responsible for the dissolution of marriage. There are different natures of factors that contribute to divorce. Divorced women were most likely to attribute their

divorce infidelity, lack of communication, lack of commitment, the difference in religion, family intervention, men's addiction to alcohol and chewing khat. Starting from its formulation, some factors are contributing to the dissolution of marriage. One of them is men's addiction to alcohol and other substance use contributed to the large share of risks of divorce. Social media should be educated about the ill effects of substance use.

Recommendations

During the time of the study, it was difficult to get the target population and found the actual date of divorce. So, Social workers could take part in creating awareness on the way to organize divorce-related files in the modernized system with archivist and other organization which involved in a divorce situation. Marriage should be taken place at proper age when the male and female are enough mature.

The availability of Marriage counseling is very important in decreasing post-divorce effect and in saving the couples' marriage from divorce.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Ethical Approval

The study was initially approved by the college of Education and Behavioral studies of Madda Walabu University. A proper letter of permission was obtained and submitted to kebeles. Information concerning the study was given to the participants.

Consent

Written consent was submitted for every participant who volunteered

Disclosure

The corresponding author had full access to all or any of the information within the study and had final responsibility for the choice to organize the manuscript and submission for publication.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Funding

This research is self-sponsored paper.

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