

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



**THE IMPACTS OF DIVORCE ON THE LIVES OF DIVORCED WOMEN AND THEIR
CHILDREN IN GUBRE SUB –CITY: THE CASE OF BUCHACH KEBELE**

**A SENIOR ESSAY SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY FOR THE
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Declaration

The senior essay entitled “the impact of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children: in Gubre sub city, the case of Buchach Kebele, Wolkite, Ethiopia” is my original work and has not been presented for a degree, diploma or fellowship to any other university and that all the sources of materials used for the senior essay have been dully acknowledged.

Declared by: _____

Signature: _____

Date: December 2020

Place: Wolkite University, Wolkite, Ethiopia

Certification

This is to certify that, this senior essay entitled “the impact of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children; in Gubre sub city, the case of Buchach Kebele, Wolkite , Ethiopia” in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor Degree in sociology done by Mohammed Lebiso, is submitted with my approval as a senior essay.

Advisor

Signature

Mr. ABINET SHIFERAW (MA)

DECEMBER, 2020

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AARP - American Associations of Retired person

COVID - Corona Virus Disease

CRC - Convention on Rights of Children

CSA - Central Statistics Authority

FDRE - Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

FGD - Focus Group Discussion

GC - Gregorian Calender

NCTPE - National Committee on Eradication Harmful Traditional Practices of Ethiopia

NGO - Nongovernmental Organization

RFC - Revised Family Code

RFL - Revised Family Law

SNNPR - Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Region

Abstract

This study is entitled with the impact of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children's in Gubre sub city particularly in Buchach kebele. The study used a cross sectional investigation through qualitative method; using interview, case study and focus group discussion with 20 sampled respondents and semi structured interview with key informants. The researcher also used both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data was collected by using interview, case study and focus group discussion and the secondary data was collected through using documented sources such as books, magazines, journals and other internet sources. The data were organized and analyzed using descriptive methods and narrative methods. The finding of this study shows that divorce has a profound impact on women and children. Those impacts are social, economical and psychological depression, anxiety, liveness, regression etc. Above all, children are exposed to street life, homelessness, prostitution etc., and this can in-turn affect society by disturbing social order, stability and harmonious functioning through delinquency and crime like theft, robbery and others. To reduce such impacts divorced families, governmental organization and religious leaders should work in a cooperative manner.

Key Words: Marriage, Divorce, Divorced women, Children of divorced families and Impact of divorce

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Divorce is a common phenomenon in today's community. But still represent a major life stress for the individuals involved, with potentially strong negative consequences for the mental and physical health of all members of the family. As a result the impact of divorce on child well-being has been the subject of research for several decades, and has long been viewed as the cause of a range of serious and enduring behavioral and emotional problems in children and adolescents. Divorce affects the couple who is ending their marriage, and affects their children as well. Parents used to stay longer in marriage for the interest of their children's welfare even if they faced marital problems. But now so many couples end their marriage even for a simple reason and become single parents (Mulugeta Deribe,2019).

Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage. A male divorcee is called divorce, while a female divorcee is called divorcee. Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage by judgment of a court or by accepted custom. It can also be called a total separation (Collins English Dictionary, 2011). It is also a legal way of ending marriage (Macmillan School Dictionary, 2011).Also marriage is the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife (Concise Oxford English Dictionary, 11th Edition, 2009).In Hindu society marriage is taken as a holy union between a man and a woman for the performance of religious duties. According to religious philosophy therefore, it is indissoluble and it is for all the birth to come. Marriage is one of the universal social institutions established to control and regulate the life of mankind. It is closely associated with the institution of family. In fact both the institutions are complementary to each other. It is an institution with different implications in different cultures. Its purposes, functions and forms may differ from society to society but it is present everywhere as an institution(Malinowski,2015).Divorce or dissolution is 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. However, Divorce has pervasive weakening effects on the family. Thus, it is one of the major troubles that affect the family system. Depending on the culture and tradition of society family problems have been solved with

different means. Unfortunately some of families could not escape the fate of dissolution (Serkalem, 2006).

Divorce is an international crisis and its prevalence varies from country to country. According to most recent figures available, Maldives has the highest divorce rate, with 10.97 annual divorces per 1000 residents, Russia has 4.5, Aruba has 4.4, United States has 3.6, Belgium, Gibraltar and Moldova has 3, Ukraine 2.8, Sweden, Portugal and Costa Rica has 2.5 and Iran has 2 annual divorces per 1000 residents (Masoud Amiri, 2018).

Divorce in Africa is a persistent event which effects into immediate and a continuous results. Since Africa has a developing nation, it simply imbibed the externalities without critical examinations and as a result of this, the rate of divorce in many African homes increases rapidly. In Africa, education is positively associated with the occurrence of divorce among the women. It was also stated that the educated women are more likely to embrace new ideas about marriage which also resulted into divorce (Adetayo Olaniyi Adeniran, 2015). According to Kenya Saturday nation magazine (2010), the rate of divorce in Kenya is on the increase and could be higher still if not of the prohibitive legal costs. Even though there has been a marked increase in the number of divorce cases filed in court, many couples often resort to seeking legal advice and settling their divorce in private, away from the court due to the high legal costs. In Ghana, divorce is frowned upon and seen as an element of culture diffusion, no ethnic group has been found to be in favour of divorce. Despite this, divorce cases in Ghana are very high. According to the 15th January, 2008 edition of "Public Agenda" six hundred and eighteen (618) customary marriages were dissolved as against a thousand five hundred and eleven (1511) marriages registered. Moreover, effect of divorce is the difficulty faced by women to re-marry. In the Ghanaian, Nigerian and other countries across the Africa continent, women are expected to marry men who are older than them. This makes it difficult for divorced woman to find new partners since these women are normally above the age of thirty-five (35). Also, Christians believe that a divorced woman cannot get married until her divorced husband dies. Hence, as long as the divorced husband lives, she is bounded by the law to remain single, if she re-marry while her divorced husband is still living, she will be called an adulterous (Adetayo Olaniyi Adeniran, 2015).

According to Tilson and Larsen (2000) in Ethiopia both early age at marriage and childlessness have a significant impact on the risk of divorce. A study by the NCTPE also estimated the

proportion married before the age of 15 at 57% besides the study shows that the practice occurs in its more extreme forms in northern Ethiopia, where girls are married as young as eight or nine years of age. Although early marriage is widely practiced in many parts of the country, rates in Amhara and Tigray region are much higher than the national average (82% in Amhara and 79% in Tigray) (NCTPE, 2003) in (Pathfinder International, 2006). According to Erulkar and Muthengi (2009) Ethiopia has one of the highest rates of early marriage in sub-Saharan Africa in which early marriage frequently leads to early divorce.

According to Tilson and Lersen (2000, p. 52), stated that 45% of all first marriages end in divorce within 30 years. 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 and so forth. Ethiopia has one of the highest rates of early marriage in sub-Saharan African countries in which early marriage was frequently resulting major problems of divorce (AARP, 2004). Furthermore the problem of divorce is common in Buchach kebele. Thus this study would be investigated to create awareness and to minimize its incidence in the area of the study.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Divorce is a serious problem affecting an exponentially increasing number of people. It is a considerable crisis that sets extreme demands and requires adaptation for both adults and children (Garner, 2008).

Divorce might have various consequences on divorced families like the situation of children after the divorce of their parents would face troubles, disturbances and challenges. They would be mentally tortured, problem of rearing and caring of the children may arise due to the absence of their parents, even as the divorcee may be mentally disturbed. Remarriage of the divorced female is very difficult due to social and cultural practices.

However, there are different cases of divorce seen in each and every society either in developed or in underdeveloped, secular or non-secular and in different caste and ethnic groups. But this is true that the ratio of divorce found in modern society is higher than previous one. Secular societies are more tolerant and more open for a divorce woman. "The younger generation is increasingly ignorant of the ritualistic basis of their religion. Due to the social and cultural

complexities, mobility for job, impact of secularism, global impact of capitalism, emerging legal grounds, of industrialization and urbanization, changing attitudes on traditional norms and value system is causing disintegration of marital relations. Therefore developed and modern societies have more fertile grounds for divorce (Ancharya, Bala Ram,2016).

Various studies conducted by different researchers on the causes and consequences of divorce at different areas and times. The research conducted by (Bereket Tesema and Kidus Meskele,2016),in Wolaita Sodo University focused on assessment and identification of the factors that contribute to divorce of women in Ethiopia. Their finding located that the odds of place of residence, number of living children, age at first marriage and education level of woman are significant predictor variables seems to determine marital status of woman for divorce case as compared to their counterparts in Ethiopian situation.This researchers did not studied the impacts of divorce on divorced women and their children.

Another research done by (Mehari Haile,2013),in Mekelle City embodied about the common causes and socio-economic costs of divorce. Finding of this study indicated that early marriage, drug use, lack of communication, lack of romantic love, difference in socio-economic status, financial problems, lack of commitment and others are common causes of divorce. This study also found that social costs of divorce like, stress, feeling of loneness, loss of social value, suicide, violence, moral loss and isolation. Economic costs of divorce, such as declining living standard, financial crisis, reworking finances, capital fragmentation, and losing working hours. However he did not include about psychological impacts of divorce on divorced families.

Furthermore,a research conducted by (Etsegenet,2013), in Gonder town used on the major causes of divorce and its impact on divorced women and her finding indicated that, early marriage; economic problem and fertility problems are directly related to divorce rates. And also divorces have effect on the social relation of women in regards to actively participating in eddir, equip or any other social interaction they usually engaged themselves in before marriage. Finally she conclude that in order to limit the number of divorces, religious leader and the government should set up more marriage/family oriented class in high school and collages in order for them to understand what the bond of marriage is supposed to mean. But, she did not studied about the impact of divorce on children.

This paper was attempted to fill the gaps which were mentioned above. Divorce affect both divorced women and their children. Therefore the major focus of this study would be to examine how divorce affect the social, economic and psychological well-being of both divorced women and their children in the study area. Also the study was to create awareness by attempting to identify and analyze the impacts of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children in Gubre sub-city Buchach kebele.

1.3 Research questions

- ✓ What is the social impacts of divorce on divorced women?
- ✓ What is the economic impact of divorce on divorced women?
- ✓ What is the psycho-social impacts of divorce on children?

1.4. Objectives of the Study

1.4.1. General Objective

The general objective of the study is to identify the impacts of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children in Gubre sub-city particularly Buchach kebele .

1.4.2. Specific Objectives

- ✓ To identify the social impacts of divorce on divorced women in Buchach kebele.
- ✓ To examine the economic impacts of divorce on divorced women in Buchach kebele.
- ✓ To explore the psycho-social impacts of divorce on children from divorced family in Buchach kebele.

1.5. Scope of the study

This study was limited at Gubre sub-city particularly Buchach kebele, which found is in Gurage zone, SNNPR of Ethiopia. The study was considered those divorced women and their children in the study area. Furthermore the study was to cover the impact of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children in Buchach kebele

1.6 Significance of the study

The researcher believed that the study was to provide necessary information about the impact of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children to law administration. Moreover, the study would play a great role by providing valid information for the policy planner's and social Practitioners for welfare services. Above all, the study would be used as a source for another researcher as well as students. In addition, the study would raise and create awareness among families so as to think for the future and to look into themselves and their surroundings.

1.7. Research Methodology

1.7.1. Description the study area

Buchach kebele is one of kebeles, that found in Gubre sub city. Gubre sub-city is found in SNNPR of Ethiopia in Gurage Zone which is located at 10 km away from Wolkite town in southern direction. And it far from Addis Abeba 165 km. Previously Gubre sub-city included in Chaha Woreda which is one of Woreda's among Gurage Zone. But currently it categorized to Zonal town of Wolkite. Astronomically, Gubre sub-city expressed $6^{\circ}57'N$ to $7^{\circ}02'N$ latitude and $35^{\circ}40'E$ to and $37^{\circ}61'E$ longitude. The economic activities engaged in the area are trade, agriculture, governmental work and nongovernmental works. The majority of people are speakers of Guragigna language. Gubre sub-city comprises people with diversified ethnic and religions such as Guraghe, Amhara, Hadiya, Kembata and other diversified people. Gubre sub-city has inhabitants of plurality practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, Muslim, Protestants and Catholic religion followers.

1.7.2. Primary source of data

To conduct this study the researcher was used both primary and secondary source of data. The primary source of data was the first hand information that directly collected from the respondents. This was achieved through using interview, case study, and focus group discussion with divorced families and key informants to collect primary data on the issue of the study in Gubre sub-city specifically Buchach kebele.

Interview

The researcher was used interview method to get more information in depth from divorced families and key informants such as judges, religious leaders and other knowledgeable persons about the impacts of divorce on the lives of women and their children in the study area. In order to get more information, the researcher had been conducted semi-structured interviews with 10 respondents out of selected 20 samples. This enables to extract generous information and reduce interviewer effects and biases because the questions were prepared in advance. On the other hand, it would gave freedom to respondent by allowing broadening the discussion where the interviewer had a framework of themes to be explored.

Case study

Case study had been done with two of selected divorced families about the impacts of divorce. In this method data was collected and recorded by asking short questions to the respondents, they as to explain the impact of divorce and experiences in their life.

Focus group discussion

The researcher was conducted focus group discussion (FGD) with eight respondents out of 20 sample of targeted group. This would enabled the researcher to explore a topic, providing a broader understanding of the impacts of divorce on divorced families. Furthermore, FGD used to stimulate discussion and gain greater insights.

1.7.3. Secondary source of data

In this study, the researcher also was used secondary source to support the finding of the study which includes: books, magazines, documents, internet sources and journals previous research on related to the issue and other related materials or source that are already documented and related to the topic.

1.7.4. Research design

To conduct this study, the researcher used cross sectional survey design because, the researcher would enabled to collect data at a time. The reason is also to considering the time and budget constraints. The researcher was used qualitative approach only. The reason why researcher used the this approach is the number of targeted population was small in the study area. In addition to this using the qualitative approach would helped to obtain in depth information about the

problem and to narrate the data collected from participants. It was collected in semi-structured interviews with key informants.

1.7.5 Sampling technique and size

For this study, the researcher had used non-probability sampling techniques. Purposive or judgmental sampling techniques had been used for the key informants, such as judges, religious leaders and other knowledgeable persons about the issue under study. Also, snowball technique was used for divorced families. The reason why the researcher selected non-probability sampling technique is in order to taking a typical group of individual who might reflect or represent large population who can explain the nature of divorce in a given area. The population had not known characteristics. So it is better to use these non-probability sampling technique to conduct this study. The researcher intended to choose at least 20 samples of respondents. The reason for selecting of small sample size was lack of sample frames and the present of limited time and budget constraints.

1.7.6 Method of data Analysis and Presentation

The data, which was collected by interviews, case study, and focus group discussions would be analyzed by methods of narration and would be presented by descriptive explanation. This is because of the data was collected by using qualitative approach only.

1.7.7. Ethical consideration

For the purpose of the study, firstly, Permission was asked from the department of sociology to collect data, explanation of the objective and significance of the study would be given to the respondents, confidentiality and privacy of the respondents had been taken into account by avoiding names and other personal identification information.

1.7.8. Limitation of the study

In order to conduct the study the researcher was challenged by various problems including lack sufficient time, unwillingness of some respondents to give information, non availability of respondents on time and Conditional related problems such as, the case of COVID-19 that may prevent the researcher from collecting information.

1.7.9. Operational definition of terms

Marriage:- Marriage is a social union or legal contract between people called spouses that creates kinship.

Divorce:- Divorce is the final termination of a marital union, canceling the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage between the parties.

Divorced women:- Are women who are legally dissolved the marriage contract.

Children of divorced families:- Are young persons, either sons or daughters of those parents, who legally ended their marriage contracts.

Impact of divorce:- A bad effect or consequence of marriage dissolution on divorced families.

1.7.10. Organization of the paper

The paper encompassed four chapters. The first chapter is placed as shown in the above, it included introduction, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives, scope, significance, limitation of the study, definition of the terms, the research methodologies, the sources of data, research design, methods of data analysis and presentation, ethical consideration and organization of the paper itself. The second chapter deals with the review of related literature's. It contains the concepts related to divorce, causes and consequences of divorce, and theoretical frame works. Chapter three deal with the data analysis and interpretation and chapter four deals about conclusion and recommendation. Lastly the paper included list of references and appendices. These sources are listed in an alphabetical order using the Harvard referencing principle.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW LITERATURE

2.1 The Concept of Divorce

Divorce has been defined over times by many scholars, divorce as dissolution of marriage relationship or dissolving marriage by legal agreement. This means that divorce is the legal action that ends marriage. Divorce (or the dissolution of marriage) is the termination of a marital union, the canceling and/or reorganizing of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country and/or state. Similarly, divorce is the dissolution of marriage contract between a man and a woman, by a judge order or by an act of a state legislature (Judith Worrall, 2001).

Thus, divorce can be defined as a complete failure of marital bond, the couple's separated and returning to their original place and later are being free to marry again. Divorce can be viewed as a process involving six station or processes; emotional, legal, economic co-parental, community and psychic. Divorce can be stress full experience; affecting finances, living arrangements, house hold jobs, parenting and the outcomes of children of the marriage as they face each stage of development from child hood to adult hood As people divorce simultaneously, but the intensity level of the stage they undergo these stations varies at different times (Bryan strong, 2008).

2.2. Grounds of Divorce Under the revised family code (RFC)

The grounds for dissolution of marriage stated under the Revised Family Code of Federal Government. Article 75 of the Code states the grounds of divorce. The causes and effects of dissolution of marriage are the same regardless of the marriage celebration. These are death of one of the spouses, declaration of absence by the court, invalidation of marriage due to the violation of essential conditions of marriage and divorce. One of the grounds for dissolution of marriage is death of the spouses. Marriage, while intended to forever for the life time of the spouses and legally speaking the existence of marriage assume before- hand the existence of two parties, i.e. the husband and the wife. If one of the spouses dies so does the martial relationship and the law did recognize the status of widow and widower. This ground differs form other grounds because death is natural phenomenon not the fault or act exercised by one of the spouses.

Whether one of the spouses or both of them die together it does not make difference to the marriage. In both cases the marriage shall dissolve.

The other ground of dissolution of marriage is declaration of absence by the court. The spouses are bound to live together but exceptionally the spouses may agree to live separately for a definite or indefinite period of time. If one of the spouses disappears with out notifying the other spouse, it is a ground to dissolve. But here, the spouse has to apply to the court for the declaration of absence.

Invalidation of marriage is also the other ground of dissolution of marriage. The marriage can be valid when it fulfills the legal requirements of the law. If a man or woman marries before he or she attains the full age of 18 years the marriage shall be invalidated by the court upon application by any interested person or the public prosecutor. Similarly, the court can order the dissolution of marriages that violate any of the essential conditions of marriage up on the application of the appropriate person at the right time.

2.2.1 Conditions of Decision for Divorce

The final ground for dissolution of marriage under R.F.C is divorce. According to article 76, marriage shall dissolve by divorce in one of the following two ways. These are:-

By mutual consent

By petition of both or one of the spouses to the court for divorce.

2.2.2. Divorce by Mutual Consent of Spouses

According to article 77/1/ the spouses can not end their marriage with out the knowledge and approval of a court of law. Dissolution also is required to follow some procedures. Hence, the spouses, if they are determined to dissolve their marriage by their mutual consent, they should submit their agreement in writing to the court and get its approval, the spouses are not allowed to simply dissolve their marriage on their own with our getting the approval of the court. Divorce by mutual consent shall be submitted to the court either by both spouses conjointly by one of them.

2.2.3. Divorce by Petition

Divorce by petition is somewhat different from divorce by mutual consent. Divorce by petition to the court for divorce, even though they have not made such decision prior to the partition. Thus, in respect to making a petition to the court and mutual consent, the procedures are the same footings.

When spouses or one of them presents his petition for divorce they are not mandatory required to state why they petition for divorce. If they want to state their reason, they can do so. Divorce by petition shall be submitted to the court either by both spouses conjointly by one of them.

2.3 Causes Divorce

According to Boundless (2013), adultery, infidelity, domestic violence, midlife crisis, marring too young and gambling are the major causes of divorce.

2.3.1 Adultery

Adultery is voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than the lawful spouse. Historically, adultery has been considered a serious offense in many cultures. Even in jurisdictions where adultery is not a criminal offense itself, it may still have legal consequences, particularly in divorce cases.

2.3.2 Infidelity

More narrowly, infidelity most commonly refers to a breach of the expectation of sexual exclusivity that is expressed or implied in intimate relationships in many cultures.

2.3.3 Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage or domestic partnership.

2.3.4 Midlife Crisis

A midlife crisis is a term that was coined by Elliott Jaques in 1965 that suggests it is a time when adults come to realize their own mortality and how much time is left in their lives. A midlife crisis is experienced by many people during the midlife transition when they realize that life may be more than halfway over, prompting a sudden change in behavior.

2.3.5 Marrying Too Young

The age at which a person gets married is also believed to influence the likelihood of divorce. Delaying marriage until one is older or more experienced may provide more opportunity to choose a more compatible partner.

2.3.6 Addictions

Alcoholism is a broad term for problems with alcohol, and is generally used to mean compulsive and uncontrolled consumption of alcoholic beverages, usually to the detriment of the drinker's health, personal relationships, and social standing.

2.3.7 Gambling

Problem gambling is an urge to continuously gamble despite harmful negative consequences or a desire to stop. Problem gambling often is defined by whether harm is experienced by the gambler or others, rather than by the gambler's behavior.

In case of Ethiopia, the arguments about the increasing number of divorces are both internal to the family and external. The reasons peculiar to the situation of the country are ethnic politics, job displacement, economic crises and changing attitude towards divorce (Daniel, 1994). The agreement of spouses and /or a petition for divorce is the out come of a malfunction of family for many personal, social and economical reasons. According to Pankhurst (cited in Tilson &Larsen, 2000), on study divorce in Ethiopia, the most common reasons women indicated among the Amhara people in North Shewa province as causes of divorce were childlessness, physical abuse, maltreatment, wasting money, adultery, exerting too much control over personal activities, forcing intercourse, homesickness, and a large difference in age. The same study by Pankhurst about the causes for divorces from men's point of view were childlessness, adultery, not keeping house correctly and wives not obeying them or challenging their authority.

Beside the above causes of divorce discussed in similar study, some social and economical factors considered as contributor for the increasing number of divorces. The empowered position of women, very little social stigma towards divorced women and high remarriage rate of divorced women presented to explain the increasing number of divorce by (Tilson & Larsen, 2000:p.357). In addition, the increasing rate of divorce analyzed in relation to ethnic and religious background. In reference to the result of CSA, 2000 the increasing divorce rate have

significant difference between Amhara and Oromo, between Orthodox Christian and Muslim. Divorce is more common among Amhara group than Oromo group and more common among Orthodox Christian than Muslim groups (Tilson & Larsen, 2000:p.356). Even though both group of religion discourage divorce the variation of divorce rate between the groups is explained in relation to the extent of roles both religion plays in the lives of the believers (Tilson & Larsen, 2000:p.357).

Among causes of divorce, early marriage and childlessness are included in CSA (Central Statistics Authority, 2000) report. Among ever-married and divorced women 34 % were younger than 15, 41 % were 15 to 17 years, and 12 % were 18-19 years at first marriage, in general eighty-seven per cent of ever-married and divorced women were younger than 20 years at first marriage (Tilson & Larsen, 2000:p.358). The national research by Tilson & Larsen (2000) indicated 75 % of women who marry earlier than 11 years of age divorce within 20 years, 60 % of women who marry between age 11 and 13 divorces within 20 years. Similarly, childlessness was a main cause for divorce as 95 % of women who did not have a child divorced within 20 years. Among women 85 % divorced within the first 5 years where women who did have a child divorced about 23 % within 20 years.

The negative consequences of early marriage are divorce; the physical and psychological damage associated with problems during childbirth and increased death at birth. Currently early marriage has given attention from the state and the public and civil organizations. The Ethiopian government in the legal instruments civil code of 1960 made the minimal age 15 and now it rose to 18 Article (RFL, 2000). The legal right of children primarily girls in relation to early marriage and forced marriage is protected in the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), 1995 and in the international Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for those below age of 18, 1992.

2.4 Effects of divorce on family life

2.4.1 Effects of divorce on children

According to Adamu and temesgen (2014), Children dropout schools, engage in addiction, commit sex before marriage and develop delinquent behavior in the community they live in. Crimes, theft and immoral acts of conduct stem from divorced families. Adamu and Temesgen (2014) cited in Mulgeta Deribe (2019) identified the following points as possible consequences

of divorce on children's psychological and social phenomena. These are:

- a) Anti-social behavior and delinquency in children and adolescents,
- b) Prostitution, especially in the poverty and ignorance
- c) Abuse of women, men and children and using children in drug distribution and other illegal activities,
- d) Aggression and maladjustment in children, and stray away from their home,
- e) Academic failure, suicidal husband or wife or children,
- f) Reduction in the desire to marry other people, especially children of divorced families, and
- g) Children lose their confidence and do not imagine good future.

The consequences of divorce for children have been extensively studied in Western nations. Outcomes examined include, but are not limited to, academic achievement, health, behavioral problems, and emotional well-being. Researchers have generally found that divorce has a deleterious effect on children's outcomes (Amato 2010, Muller and Frank 2007). Furthermore, the consequences of divorce are long-lasting, extending into adulthood. Adults whose parents are divorced have lower educational attainment, greater levels of depression, lower income levels, worse physical health, and a higher likelihood of ever being divorced (Amato and DeBoer 2001). It is unclear to what extent the results of these studies are applicable for children living in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is quite possible that divorce can affect children similarly, regardless of their country of residence.

A distinction may be made between the short, medium and long term effects of divorce which are described below (Mulgeta Deribe, 2019).

Short term effects: For the 2 year period immediately following divorce, most children show some adjustment problems. Boys tend to display conduct problems and girls tend to experience emotional problems.

Medium term effects: The impact of divorce on children between the 3rd and 10th year following divorce may be statistically expressed in two ways: (1) as differences between the average or mean level of well-being or maladjustment of children of divorce compared with the mean level of well-being or maladjustment in intact families; (2) as the percentage of children of divorce who show adjustment difficulties. The mean level of maladjustment has consistently been found to be worse for children of divorce in comparison with those from intact families on

a variety of measures of adjustment including conduct difficulties, emotional problems, academic performance, self-esteem and relationships with parents. This has led to the erroneous conclusion by some interpreters of the literature that divorce always has a negative effect on children.

Long term effects: In adult life a small proportion of individuals from families where divorce has occurred have difficulty making and maintaining stable marital relationships, have psychological adjustment difficulties and attain a lower socio-economic level in comparison with adults who have grown up in intact families

2.4.2 Effects of divorce on parents

Divorce results different consequences on the economic well-being of men and women. A study by Bogale (2008) revealed that women experience an income decline of about 30% while male experienced about a 10% drop in income. Three years after the failure of their marriages, divorced women experience greater adversity than their married peers. During the first year after divorce, custodial mothers were more anxious, depressed, angry, and self-doubting than were married mothers. They also showed comparatively less affection to their children, communicated less with them, punished them more, and were more inconsistent in their use of discipline. In a similar way, Mulgeta Deribe (2019) found that divorced mothers experienced greater number of stressful events such as demotions, layoffs, accidents, critical illnesses and problems with their own parents than did married women.

Divorced mothers are also trapped in a vicious cycle of financial problems and other stressful life events. The results revealed that women tend to suffer from a feeling of rootlessness and lack of identity after divorce. This is especially true of women whose identity was formerly associated with that of their husbands. Most divorced women in Ethiopia are house wives and these divorced women gain custody of children without child support. Serkalem (2006) also studied the causes and the socioeconomic impacts of divorce on women and their children and concluded that divorced women in Ethiopia are economically weak and usually engage in informal sectors like selling home made products (Tella, Arekie, Injera, etc), collecting wood and retailing activities after divorce. This makes their lives miserable. These single mothers are usually stressed. Serkalem's finding also revealed that the social relationship of divorced women does not enable them to get the moral and economical support they need.

Life changes: Divorce leads custodial parents to experience major changes in their lives including a change in residential arrangements, economic disadvantage, loneliness associated with social network changes, and role strain associated with the task overload that results from having to care for children and work outside the home.

Health Changes: In divorced couples residential arrangements, economic status, social networks and role demands lead to deterioration in physical and mental health for the majority of individuals immediately following separation. However, for most people these health problems abate within two years of the divorce.

Mood Swings: Both men and women suffer extreme emotional liability in the period leading up to separation and for the two year post-separation period. An awareness of the opportunities for a new way of life and escape from the emotional pain of chronic marital discord both lead to periods of elation. The loss of a familiar way of life, the loss of a longstanding partner and a fear that alone one may not meet the extraordinary challenges that go with being a single person or a single parent commonly are associated with episodes of depressed mood.

Identity Problems-:For women in particular, separation is associated with a crisis of identity. Prior to separation many women define themselves in terms of their husbands or their children. Also women may rely on their husbands to develop a social network of friends. After separation, women who have relied on their husbands for self-definition find that they experience confusion about their identity. They have to redefine their self-concept in terms of their own role and develop their own social network. Women who have jobs outside the home experience fewer identity problems in the aftermath of divorce.

2.5. Socioeconomic costs of divorce

Divorce has strong negative consequences for the mental, physical, health and socioeconomic lives of both spouses and their children. Thus, according to Mehari Haile (2013) these negative effects include an increased risk for psychopathology, an increased number of automobile accidents and some resulting in fatalities and an increased incidence of physical illness, suicide, violence, homicide, and mortality from diseases.

2.5.1. Social costs of divorce

Social life and relationship of individuals and couples in their environment is an innate natural behavior of human being. The relationship is not one way; it is two ways where the individual influences the environment and the environment vis-a-vis- in the process of interaction. The disruption of any family has negative impact on the system in general by weakening the bondage between individuals and disrupting the stability and order of the society. Olson and DeFrain (2006) suggested that social readjustment rating scale of divorce among other life events, which require life adjustment, rated second in its severity of impact on individuals, couples and families next to death of spouse. Besides, Along with emotional turmoil, many suffer from loneliness or depression, as well as feelings of desertion or betrayal, a sense of failure, feeling unloved (AARP, 2004). Moreover, according to Mehari Haile (2013) divorce creates a series of stress for parents, particularly for custodial parents. Many divorced parents are so preoccupied and emotionally burdened that they become depressed.

Divorce not only rips apart a family but adults lose most long-term relationships. It affects more than the immediate family as grandparents, aunts, uncles and other extended family may be either drawn into the emotions of the split or left outside, wondering how their relationships with one or both of the divorcing couple will work out. Garner (2008) stated that usually, relationship with the ex-spouse's family is severed abruptly, even though they may have been close, long term relationships. Once children of divorce marry, family relationships can become even more strained as the children divide time between three or possibly four sets of parents. Relationships become even more complicated when one or both parents marry bringing more family members into their lives (Garner, 2008). Over and above when parents stop loving each other and dissolve a marriage, the negative ripple effects and social costs of divorce interact with a host of other risk factors that unravel threads in the tapestry of assets that are being woven into the lives of children (Schramm, 2009).

Families particularly in state of problems need the social support to cope up and to survive. According to Olson and Defrain (2006) the social networks include close relatives, neighbors, schools, workplace, support group and service giving institution. Farther more according to them the pronouncement of divorce directly or indirectly affects the environment in general and the extent of its effect can cover a wider area. The response and reaction to any situation from

individuals and the society is usually in relation to the definition and meaning given to the particular situation. Therefore society has means and instruments to encourage what is accepted and to discourage what is not. The fate of divorce is also in different society determined by the culture, tradition and legal response of the societal response to it. The relationship of the individual to their environment determines the individual psychological and economic situation in other ways decline of income affects negatively the divorce women social relationships (Olson and Drfrain 2006).

2.5.2. Economic costs of divorce

Financial challenges as a result of divorce are common. According to Waite and Gallagher (2009) 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. The financial burden is greatest during the first year after divorce (Waite and Gallagher, 2009). Divorce damages society. It consumes social and human capital. Divorce detrimentally impacts individuals and society in numerous ways: Divorce reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity (Fagan and Churchill, 2012). To see the economic consequence after divorce Peterson (1996) has re evaluated Weitzman's book on Divorce Revolution which reports a 73 percent decline in women's standard of living after divorce and a 42 percent increase in men's standard of living and analyzed this finding and produce new estimates of a 27 percent decline in women's standard of living and a 10 percent increase in men's standard of living after divorce. This shows that even if there is difference in the no. all in all women's standard of living decreases.

Many women experience a substantial decline in their financial circumstances after divorce, which in turn affects their children (Fagan and Churchill, 2012). It is a myth that men are financially better off after a divorce. Because most families now have two incomes, two factors contribute to this financial loss. First, if his ex-wife contributed a substantial income to the family, he will struggle to make up for this lost second income. Second, he is likely to be required to make child-support and other payments (Waite and Gallagher, 2009). Even though financial problems come as a result of divorce in contrast in Serkalem's (2006) study economic problem is reported as one cause of divorce among others and besides Finances can be stressful and apparently having at least a modest income can help couples avoid stresses that can lead to divorce.

When family dissolution occur a family relationship between members of the family changed in all aspect of relationship including the economic one. Family in the term of economic scale builds capital, skill and investment and its basic economic set, which is the subset of the larger economic set. Divorce often initiates a finical crisis for one or both adults as they split assets and attempt to support two households (Garner, 2008). Besides according to Garner (2008) reworking finances adds considerably more stress and tension between adults of divorce and can become a leading source of anger. Besides, according to Piskor and Colman (2011) the impact of divorce entails significant costs beyond the property split which would include; divorce fees and court cost, wealth destruction through forced asset liquidation, debt assumption as part of divorce settlement, life style restructuring costs (i.e. moving costs, furniture, bankruptcy etc.) and ongoing child support.

Post-divorce financial concerns usually are found to be the higher stress indicators for both males and females. According to researchers, “ Both women and men experience a drop in income following divorce, but women may suffer more since men typically have more financial resource (Garner, 2008). Schramm (2009) has also elaborated while mentioning divorce in the economic term, as coupled with the emotional stress of divorce, the economic and financial challenges for a split household can be devastating, even for middle- class couples. Most families experience a decline in living standards following divorce. Not only does the divorce process itself consume valuable family assets but also income that was used to support one household is now divided to support two households (Schramm, 2009). Research also finds that, “Divorced men and women are more likely to default on their debt obligations than married households. Couples divorcing experience financial setbacks as assets are split, attorneys paid and income drops. So, this shows that the economic drop for women can be dramatic, especially if she has not worked outside the home for a long period of time (Garner, 2008).

Potentially, one of the most stressful events in a person’s life, divorce also affects job performance in a variety of ways. According to Garner (2008) the first effects are the mental and emotional problems experienced during the divorce process which can make it difficult to perform at normal levels. the obvious cost divorce is human capital when workers are absent for court and the less obvious costs are using working hours to discuss their divorce detail with coworkers; living work due to anxiety attacks; lack of focus (Mehari Haile 2013). Besides employees suffering the stress of divorce make poor decisions and can physically be present

while mentally and emotionally absent. Time off for stress related illness, court appearances or personal counseling also put stress on job performance. Thus, the inability to perform at required level because of life stress may lead to dismissal or demotion on the job (Garner, 2008).

2.6. Sociological Theories on divorce

2.6.1 Feminism Perspective on divorce

Feminist perspectives on divorce proceed from the ways in which women's positions at divorce systematically differ from men's position. Although there has been a large scale increase in mothers labor force participation, there has been no corresponding increase in father domestic contributions and women continue to bear the overwhelming responsibility for child rearing. In substantial part because of this division of labor within the family, divorcing women, on average, face bleaker financial prospects and enjoy closer emotional ties to their children than do their former husbands. Existing divorce law, with its emphasis on each party's self-sufficiency, limited provision for child support, and gender neutral custody principles, does not fully recognize or address these differences (Werner Wilson, 2005).

Liberal feminists believe those women's domestic responsibilities were inevitable place them at a disadvantage and favor policies that encourage men to assume a proportionate share of family responsibilities. Cultural feminists or feminists of differences believe that it is not the fact that women care for children but that child rearing is sounder valued which is the source of the problem. **Radical feminists** believe that it is impossible to know whether women's involvement in child rearing would differ from men's in a different society and focus on the ways in which marriage and work force policies perpetuate male dominance. All agree, however, that existing law contributes the relative improvement of many women and children and that, even when the rules purport to be gender neutral, they are administered in systematically biased ways. (Werner Wilson, 2005).

2.6.2 Symbolic interaction theory

In symbolic interactions, divorce is an act that is immoral at it is involved in dis-regarding and a bonding adult responsibility. When couples are not satisfying each other emotionally, they tend to blame each other and believe there is not love. Families have been having greater expectations of emotional satisfaction and have changed parental and marital roles leading to new perception

of the alternatives to unhappy marriage. Divorce is perceived as everything negative, irresponsibility, failure or immorality but emotionally now a day it means finance for a new beginning or personal (Blumer, 1969).

Integrationist focus on the micro level of family and other intimate relationship. They are interested in how individuals interact with one another, whether they are cohabiting partners or long time married couples. Another integrationists study might examine the role of step parent. The increased number of single parents who remarry has sparked an interest in those who are helping to raise other people children. While no young girls or boy may dream about one day becoming step mom or step dad, this is hardly an unusual occurrence today (Blumer, 1969).

2.6.3 Conflict theory on divorce

At the heart of social conflict is the view that conflict among members of society is inherent. It is the driving force for social change. Conflict is determined by social structure both economic and political. There have been very few attempts at applying the social conflict theory to the family because of a general view that family relation are in fact conciliatory and not conflicting. The only theory based on social conflict theory that encompasses the family is feminist theory. Divorce as reality in most family today is the dissolution of marriage. Conflict theory can be seen in some of the causes of why marriage fail and lead to divorce. The family is a microcosm of society where them un represents the exploiter and women the exploited. Because women came to realize that her conditions can be changed, but men refuse to fore go their privilege. The results, irreconcilable conflict leads to divorce (Werner Wilson, 2005).

Conflict theory encompasses the idea that people struggle to reconcile conflicting ideas such a theory is readily apparent in the process of divorce. Core themes of conflict theory reflect divorce proceedings. Couples negotiate and bargain how to split possessions, but can also show divorce aggression and appeasement to coerce each other. Divorce can also follow the stages of conflict in conflict theory. Understanding this theory can lead to increased awareness of the divorce process and how to go about it with less chaos (Werner Wilson, 2005).

2.6.4 Functionalist theory on Divorce

Functionalists regard society as a system made up of different parts which depend on each other. Different institutions each performs specific functions within a society to keep that society going, in the same way as the different organs of a human body perform different functions in order to

maintain the whole. In function a list thought, the family is a particularly important institution as this it is the basic building block of society which performs the crucial functions of socializing the young and meeting the emotional needs of its members. The four essential functions of the family are: - first, stable satisfaction of the sex drives with in monogamous relationship, second, the biological reproduction of the next generation without which society cannot continue. Third, socialization of the young teaching basic norms and values. Fourth, meeting its members economic needs producing food and shelter, over the last 200 years, society has moved from pre-industrial to industrial and the main family type has changed from the extended family to the nuclear family the nuclear family fits the more complex industrial society better, but it performs a reduced number of function (Bryan Strong, 2008).

Among above theories, functionalism theory is more related with my title, the impacts of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children. For functionalists different institutions each performs specific functions within a society to keep that society going. Family is one of social institutions. When the familial relationship broken down or divorce happened among them, as a result, the whole functions and the common life of the family would be stopped. So divorced women and their children would faced social, economic and psychological impacts. Because of this, they view that divorce is a rapid change in society functionalism are not too happy with change. They see this issue from the macro perspective and judge that divorce is bad. They would include that the institutions are not doing their part in instructing; therefore society is falling apart.

CHAPTER THREE: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data collected to examine the impact of divorce on the lives of divorced women and children in case of Gubre sub city particularly Buchach kebele.

3.1 Definition of divorce

According to respondents in interview explained that, divorce is is dissolution of marriage, or it is the process of terminating a marriage or marital union. To some extent there are losses to each individual-plans, hopes, and dreams that will never be realized. The divorce phenomenon is, thus, a traumatic occurrence, which evokes a lot of emotions; especially on those who must endure it.

3.2 The values and views about marriage and family in Gurage

According to the interview with respondents, marriage serves as a form of mediation and conflict resolution comprises one of the popular cultural practices among the Gurage, executed by elders who are the traditional custodians of cultural integrity. The Gurages' marital relationship is governed by the rules of Yanqit Sera. This body of customary laws consist of norms, which establish the requirements and procedures that need to be complied with, during the formation of marriage, stipulate the role of the wife in cases of marital disputes, and the remedies for divorce.

Looking at the process of formation of marriage among the Sebat Bet Gurage, it is traditionally the family who chooses and decides on a husband for a woman. In most cases, it is the father of the boy who looks for a suitable girl for his son during social arrangements, i.e. what one refers to as an arranged marriage. Social, economic, religious, and ethnic factors are taken into account when a father selects wives for his child. Often, even the boy is not aware of his father's plan for the marriage. If he is, he pretends not to be. The girl's position is the same.

Of course, looking narrowly at the case, one may consider the above procedure as an old fashioned way of forming marriage, which does not have any place in the current social set up among the communities of Gurage. However, one cannot leap from this observation to the conclusion that woman enter into marriage with full, free and informed consent. In this session, based on the stories I heard from my informants, I choose to conclude that the Gurages continue

to practice arranged marriages with some improvements. Here the phrase “arranged marriages” means new form of marriage based on choice, in equally reductive ways.

Still, there is the involvement of families in the joint agreement. However, according to my informants this involvement of the family continues to remain mandatory among the Gurage, regardless of the type of marriage arrangement. As one of my informants pointed out, the marriage agreement involves only the men from both families. Meanwhile, women are excluded from the negotiation and treated as objects of exchange with no choice but to submit to their families’ decision. The man, although he is not allowed to attend meetings with the woman’s family and is culturally forbidden from making contact with the bride- to-be before receiving the blessing of her family, has the right to choose the girl he wants to marry. He informs his family that he is ready for marriage and suggests to them his preferred girl. Then his family (i.e. the men in his family) go to the girl’s family and makes a request for their daughter’s hand in marriage. Her family (i.e. her father, brother (s) and elderly male relatives) then decide whether to accept or reject the marriage proposal.

Until recently, according to established practices in Gurage culture, women were married to the husbands they were given to. In other words, marriage was arranged. It has been said that this tradition has changed recently, and a woman is given some measure of freedom to choose whom to marry. However, acceptance and blessing by the girl’s family is still mandatory. Since the extended family takes part in the formation of the marriage, they are also seen to have the power in decision making when it comes to dealing with marital conflicts, a point which I elaborate on below.

3.3 Divorce understanding in Gurage culture

In Gurage, as it is common to all societies, conflicts occur in different forms and among different parties. Disputes could crop up among and between different clan groups, individuals, with neighbouring ethnic groups and within family setups. The most common form of family disputes, according to my informants and research, happen between a husband and a wife. In cases of such disputes, the Yanqit Sera sets the rules of customary dispute resolution mechanisms including the procedures and remedies to be rendered. According to Yanqit Sera, marital disputes must be handled through the elderly and trusted family members, and it is against the rules and

considered shameful for the parties to take their case before formal courts or the police. This serves to demonstrate how the customary laws consider marriage and marital conflicts strictly as a 'private' matter. It is up to the couple or their close relatives to settle the disagreements.

One of my informants, stated that if the woman takes her case before formal courts, it amounts to a serious violation of the Yanqit Sera. Not even the sympathy of her own family is afforded her. If the woman is disappointed by the verdict of the elders in the community or the clan, she has the right to appeal and take the case to the Kitcha Supreme Court called Yejoka, which comprises leaders from each of the Sebat Bet Gurage tribes. Every clan has the power and authority to deal with its own social and economic issues. It is only when the case is too difficult to solve, that it comes to the attention of the Yejoka. For this reason, women who skip the chain of the customary system and choose to take their case legally through the formal court system, face severe social repercussions.

From the respondents, researcher found that, one of the main reasons for dealing with such a conflict among trusted family members is that marital conflict has its own stigma in the society. It is considered 'shameful' to go public with marital problems. Most women are haunted by the guilt of failing to be the 'shock absorber' in the case of all tensions within marriages, and mothers teach their daughters to be submissive and handle 'marriage problems' secretly or silently. As far as is possible, women in different societies try to keep their abuse or mistreatment secret, and to hang on to their marriage. When marital conflict, in one way or another, is brought to public attention, to elders or rarely to court, it is generally a serious concern. The women themselves, and other individuals directly involved in the private matter such as mothers or sisters of the woman in question, would already have tried to resolve the issue by other means.

The informants also explained that, the peoples of Gurage have gender role construction, includes preparing women for marriage responsibilities and obligations. Women are brought up to internalize the norms that prohibit or discourage divorce and the public airing of marital problems, whilst submitting to the will of their husbands, the extended family, and the elders. The question is, what happens if the woman leaves her marriage, and what other alternatives are there for the women?

As interviewees indicated that, in the Gurage community, the marriage arrangement involves the extended families' and elder's decision. Similarly at the time of divorce, alongside the husband,

the elders and the families have the power to accept or reject the initiation of divorce. The blame always shifts to the woman, when the marriage fails to succeed. The elders blame her for entering into the marriage, although she has initially been pressured into marrying her husband. Moreover, in Gurage society, divorce is never regarded as a solution. The elders place more emphasis on creating harmony between couples. But if ever considered, according to Yanqit Sera, the husband, the elders and the extended family must agree upon it. Even if she is brave enough to leave him, according to the rule, she cannot remarry for at least two years. Due to fear of such social pressure, the women usually tend to tolerate the violations and mistreatment, and ‘choose’ to live with their husbands.

3.4 The socio-cultural interventions and processes before and during divorce among Gurage

According to respondents in FGD revealed that Gurage people strongly believe in the materialization or fulfillment of blessing and curse, and its impact on one’s life. It is believed that there is a curse attached to any ‘supposed’ wrongdoing, by God and/or a divine spiritual power. The social significance of taboos in the society is evident in the way that ‘wrong-doing’ is subject to social censure in the form of curses. The main popularly known curses that are used in day-to-day life are Berche and Anqit. Berche does not have gender boundaries. Every Gurage person, who lives in this system, has knowledge of its power, and the majority fear, and is governed by it. Ironically, the elders, even if they are the ones who are considered to have the power to put a curse on the people, also fear the curse, especially when handling marital conflicts.

Berche applies to everyone, it is used to create order and enforce morality in the society. Anqit seems to have unique features compared to Berche. First, the curse only works on people who are married. Secondly, it only works on women. Thirdly, it works on women who left their husbands, defying the Kitcha customary legal practices by divorcing their husbands. From the moment a woman walks out on her marriage against the will of elders, it is believed that she has been caught by Anqit. It seems that this sanction has effectively deterred women from seeking divorce, no matter how badly their husbands treat them. This limited right is strongly perpetuated by traditional belief.

In addition to the curses, the elders advise and force the women to be patient and tolerate their husband's behaviour and stay in their marriage 'for the sake of their children'. In most African countries the basic interest of the extended family in marriage is reproduction. Hence, if a woman fails to reproduce, it is 'rational' for her to be mistreated not only by her husband but also by the extended family, especially the husband's side (in-laws). However, if she has children, then it is reason enough for the extended family to influence the elder's decision, to make the woman stay in the marriage with or against her will. In addition, the social construction of motherhood in Gurage society teaches women to sacrifice their rights and needs in general for their children sake. Hence, the women themselves connect motherhood with the same responsibility.

3.5 The socio-cultural justification of divorce among Gurage society

The interview, with respondents revealed that different factors which lead to divorce in the study area are:

- Marriage between the same ethnic group or marriage among relatives
- If couples who married by the pressure of their family
- Under age marriage
- A person who does not farm/work and help her
- Sexual incompatibility
- Non bearing of child
- Financial problems
- Interference from outside
- Domestic violence/ Abuse
- Lack of communication

During my field study I had case study with two of divorced women. Their name was "X" and "Y". I started my question with whose name called " X", by asking what is divorce for you? She answered:

" divorce for me is break down of marital relationship I have one son, he is with me and two years ago for my divorce. Eventhough, we married by our mutual agreement, our family were not accepted marriage between us. Specially my parents were not side with my marriage, because of me and my husband were from the same ethnic group and the marriage was early marriage. So they always said me, you get married

very early and your husband is your relative, so you might stop marriage with him. Finally, I obligated to become divorcée ".

From this case, the researcher able to concluded that the culture of Gurage society prohibit early marriage and marriage between the same ethnic group. In addition to this, the researcher able to understood that early marriage and marriage among relatives are the main factors of divorce.

Next to the case of " X", I proceeded to the case study with whose name was called "Y" by asking some questions, she answered:

" I stayed With my husband for five years. I have two children, both are with me. We were married by the will of ourselves. The first two years of our staying in marriage was good. But latter, the behavior of my husband became changed. He started everyday taking drugs excessively and physically abusing me or he slam me after he took drug. But I tried to advice him by saying please do not extravagant your money and don't disturb me. I said this again and again, but he could not listen my idea. After staying a while I decided to separate with him. It is a year ago for me discontinued a relation with him. Divorce for me is cancellation of relationship between husband and wife. I faced different problems after divorce. Among problems financial problems, cloth for my children and segregation".

From the case of "Y" the researcher found that the factors that lead to divorce. So these factors were drug abuse, domestic violence and lack of communication between couples. In addition to this, the case study with "Y" indicated that the divorcée faced economic and social impacts such as, financial problems, lack of cloth for her children and segregation.

3.6 The impacts of divorce on divorced women

According to interview with respondents and the case study revealed that divorce has social and economic impacts on the lives of divorced women.

3.6.1 The social impacts of divorce on divorced women

According to the respondents the social impact of divorce on women's are:-

Exclusion, stigmatization, and discrimination form the social relationship, and form societal activities

- Labeling them through attaching names
- Gossip
- Cursing

- Lower social status and un respectable.
- Lower probability of next marriage.
- Excluding from social relationship.
- Weakened social interaction.

According to the respondents indicated that the support they had been getting from relatives and friends has stopped after divorce. In addition, the problem of loneliness is higher in divorced than in married women. Therefore, divorced women indicated that their immediate and most available support in sharing ideas and problems are from their children.

According to key informant respondents, given cultural emphasis on the sanctimony of marriage and cultural disapproval of divorce, many women's suffer as they act against societal norm, mores, values and cultural beliefs and strongly devalue divorced families. Such families (in their many forms) are judged to be inferior to others. Children who experience parental divorce face the challenge of adjusting to new family arrangements and life situations in a society that has negative perceptions and marginalized with divorced families. The study shows that divorced families are the most vulnerable part of the society.

3.6.2 The economic impacts of divorce on divorced women

As per to the respondents information indicates, divorce has negative economic consequences on women's. The breakup of families leaves one parent trying to do the work of two people and one person cannot support a family as well as two can. Because of this, divorce has been shown to lead to decreased women's income and a higher risk of poverty.

Particularly for women whose pre-divorce family income was below the median family income level, the research shows that divorce is a primary factor in determining the length of a poverty spell. According to the respondents, understandably, mothers who are employed at the time of a divorce are much less likely to become welfare recipients than mother's who do not work at the time of divorce. Mothers in this latter group go on welfare as frequently as single moths that lose their jobs.

From the respondents information's, the researcher understands that divorced women's faces saving stress related issues. In other words, they extravagant their money. Divorce not only reduces productivity and profits, but also reduces morale, motivation for work and higher rates of

absenteeism. According to the respondents long term effects of poverty from divorce are most obvious in girls.

According to key informant interviews, that the economy of one family divided in two different parts that are to father, mother and children it loses its power to make more of economy as before, all in all, sharing of property in to various parts leads to down ward movement of their economy and radical or gradual change of the their socio-economic status.

3.7 The impacts of divorce on the children of divorced women

From the respondents researcher found that divorce has impacts not only divorced women, but also it has the social, economic and psychological impacts on the lives of children of divorced women.

3.7.1 The social impacts of divorce on children

As interviewee stated that children from divorced families afraid to deal with the fact openly with their parents. In addition to this children of divorced families have poor relationship with their friends, because they think themselves as inferior. The researcher also gathered from respondents that children who are with custodial parents fear to express and show their love to non custodial parents so that they hid inside their feelings. This is because the children who are with custodial parents are not allowed to remember about life before divorce. Mostly they encouraged and told to remember only the mistakes or bad things of non custodial parents.

3.7.2 The economic impacts of divorce on children

Divorce has economic impact on children's. According to the participants in interview, children's are face for many economic problems. It is a factor in children's diminished level of academic achievement, which translates into lower earnings as an adult. Divorce breeds economic problems, particularly for children's.

Divorce also affect children's life, according to the key informant interviews, children's are more affected than women; they dropout from school, leads to child laboring, street children's, sex workers specially the adults and exposed to different diseases. This leads to different crimes and juvenile delinquent. With fewer economic resources, most children of divorce experience disruptions- Changes in child care, living arrangement and schools- That create turmoil in their

lives. Girls raised by a divorced parent tend to live on welfare and require public housing as adults. Public dependency continues for their children as well.

Above all divorce affects the general society by disturbing the social order, stability and harmonious functioning through delinquency, crime, stigmatism, homelessness, public dependency etc.

3.7.3 Psychological impacts of divorce on children

The respondents in focus group discussion, heart fully recognizes that, the impact of divorce on the behaviors and cognitive aspect of children's. Usually, divorce brings to a lot of different changes in daily life of the children and the most of such changes are sad, loneliness, Stresses, nervousness. That is why a child wants to protest against the situation by strange and unusual behaviors, failure in school withdrawal or other problematic behaviors. As a rule, the first reaction of children on the news about the divorce is confusion, denial, fear which can be followed by aggression, anger, depression, suicidal thoughts, panic attacks.

According to key informant respondents, emotional stresses decrease and the child starts learning to cope with the divorce. Long term effect of divorce in children includes various fears, constant misunderstandings and tension. This very thing affects psychology of the child very much. According to respondents, frequent relocation of children's appears to play a large role in their poorer performance, regardless of family background.

3.7.3.1 Emotional pain and suffering

Participants in FGD, argued that very young children do not understand what is happening, but they feel the loss of one of the parents not being around. Pain however, is something that goes away. The memories stay, but memories are not always on their mind. They only pop up when you think about it. These feelings prevent them from focusing on positive things and on a new future. Usually, if they become aware of the vicious circular they are in or when somebody else makes clear to them, the suffering stops.

3.7.3.2 Feeling insecure

According to the respondents, divorce is a life changing event for children; it turns their world upside down. They do not understand the divorce very well. They raise many questions; where I will live? Did I contribute to the divorce? Will I live with my brothers and sisters in the future or will they live with the other parent? My dad has a new girlfriend, but I don't like her. Such feeling leads to fear or, being isolated and lonely .They also fall in tension of dilemma as expressed above.

3.7.3.3 Anxious

If the insecurities stay there, a child might become anxious which can become an anxiety disorder. From the respondent's point of view, this is an extreme consequence of course.

3.7.3.4 Lower self-esteem

According to key informant respondents', parents the parental home, the unconditional love between the parents is something children belief in. Family break-up does damage the self confidence of children. Especially children between five and ten years old are vulnerable. They often think they caused the divorce by behaving not as expected. In the beginning, many children think the world's ends when their parents announce the divorce. Children also wonder what their friends think of it will my class mates seems as a looser because of the divorce.

3.7.3.5 Emotional

The study indicates that, most people have periods of depression, sadness, anger and fatigue around the loss of their relationship.

3.7.3.6 Behavioral

Based on the respondent's point of view, divorce can change the behaviors of children, adolescents and adults. Those behavioral changes are; crying, with drawl from mothers, aggression, substance misuse (drugs, alcohol, to tobacco), agitation, exhaustion, restlessness, disrupted sleep, sadness, guilt, tension, irritability, fear and fatigue.

3.7.3.7 Thoughts and feelings

According to the key informant interviews, divorce can change the way of children's, adolescents and adults' think and feels. But, those thoughts and feelings adversely affect them. Those thought and feelings are: - thinking they cannot cope, feeling frightened for an unknown reason, feeling helpless, worrying about everything, feeling afraid that something bad will happen, having night mares, feeling that they are about to fall apart, having a negative view of the world, feeling bored with everything, being unable to concentrate and feeling unable to make decisions.

3.8 Perception of the community towards divorce

The respondents in semi structured interview explained that community have negative attitude and societies reacted negatively to them. This is because divorce weakens social relationship, interaction, cooperation and mutual understanding between peoples and also, it is highly related to deviant behaviors like drug and alcohol use, prostitution, crime and it hampers social solidarity (cohesion, bond). From the interview the researcher also understand that the society devalued divorced families through forwarding them to commit crime, anxiety, anger, loneliness and suicide.

3.9 The rate of divorce in Gubre sub city

Divorce rate is increasing because of different factors. According to key informants explanation the rate of divorce in Gubre sub city is increasing due to different factors such as early marriage, emigration and easier divorce law.

Early marriage: persons who get married early have higher chances to become divorce, because these persons have not awareness about marriage and they do not consider about the consequence of divorce.

Emigration: from key informants, the researcher found that emigration is a factor for the increasing of divorce rate in the study area. In present day, either of the spouses emigrate to win their life. But if he or she fall to spend the money that sent from abroad in a proper manner it may lead them to be divorced. In generally the financial issues between the spouses might be the case for divorce.

Easier Divorce Laws: As the interview conducted in the study shows, being a positive outcome of the revised family law that made divorce easier than before, through speeding up the process of divorce which used to be so delaying for the divorcing couples. However, as this case simplified the process, it is also hastening the divorce rate in which conflicting couples cannot get enough time to think over and work more on their marriage and settle their conflicting situation in apt way.

3.10 The respondents suggestions to minimize divorce

The researcher gathered the following suggestions from respondents.

- **Tolerance:** is the primary and decisive tool to minimize divorce. The couples should tolerate each other by whatever means.
- **Discussion:** before getting to divorce the spouses should try to solve facing problems by themselves through discussions.
- **Communication:** Couples should be open to each other, should listen to each other and they should have communication.
- **Hard work:** to solve financial problems both husband and wife should developed the habit of hard working.
- Couples should visit **religious organizations** and
- The spouses should take **better experiences** from neighboring, friends and other relatives.

CHAPTER FOUR: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1. Conclusion

As the same way that human beings loose his life through death, marriage ends its process following divorce. For all human societies life is not filled with peace and harmony at all times. Thus, life of marriage is challenged by the dissolution of it through what we call divorce. Even though, various scholars defined the word divorce indifferent meaning, most of the scholars agreed that divorce is a process of ending marital ties between spouses.

Following divorce there are several effects that challenges women's, and children's. Those challenges faced women's and children's are social impact like exclusion, gossip, labeling, respect less etc. Economic impact includes division of property into different parts, poverty, absenteeism from job, drop out from school, lack of basic need est. Psychological impact like depression, anxiety, regression, feeling of quality, loneness. Generally, divorce is undesired resulted from various problems related to women's and affect children's which are expected to be "tomorrow's generation" that needs greater protection.

4.2. Recommendation

Actually most of the divorced people had no awareness about the negative consequence of divorce in detail. Therefore, to reduce its impact in all aspects should be done at all levels such as at micro level individuals, mezzo level (family) and macro level (society) as well as in other institutions.

- At individual level all person's should have positive attitude towards marriage, think more about it and accepting marriage as durable or long life process (journey). In addition, before engage to marriage they have to reach the level of maturity and free from emotional decision because marriage is not one night satisfaction. Above all, when couples come together they should not have to expect more because always we can't get things as we expect it.
- At middle level (family), divorced parents ought to have communication; they have to make consensus (agreement) by prioritizing the concern of their children. Again, divorced couples should have healthy post- divorce adjustment such as visitation as well as support of fathers or mothers post-divorce which really has positive impact on child well-being. Furthermore,

couples should not have think and feel what is unattainable in a conditions they are living in such as resources they have (time, finance etc.,). Above all, couples should have to avoid misguided ways of coping with stress such as recreational drugs and over using alcohol.

- At macro levels, society or larger community should have not exclude, discriminate and marginalization has divorced couples. Additionally, society out to have warm emotional acceptance because positive societal acceptance prevents divorced couples from misguided ways of coping strategies.
- Lastly, the role of other institution such as religious, educational, governmental, and NGO's In educational institution there should be establishment of family or marriage as independent discipline or course to shape the opinion of students in a positive way. Religious intuition ought to have guide, shape and regulate the behavior of their member, not only marry them, but also follow up them after marriage. Above all, both in governmental and NGO's there should be support group /Therapeutic program. This can be formal there public program which are run by professional counselors. Especially in governmental organization social sector like social affairs, family and child related sector's should be supported, strengthen and well equipped with proper guidance and counseling service like family therapy and with skilled man power like social workers and sociologists.

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Appendix 1

Information related to the impacts of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children.

Interview questions to divorced families

For objective one

1. What is divorce for you?
2. What was the major cause of your divorce?

For objective two

1. Do you think divorce has impact on your life?
2. How divorce affected your social relationship?
3. What is the perception of your community towards your divorce?
4. How divorce affect/ed you economically?

For objective three

1. Do you think your divorce has impact on the lives of your children?
2. How divorce affect/ed you and your children's psychology?
3. How divorce affect/ed the social relationship of your children?
4. Does divorce has economical impact on your children? how?
5. What do you suggest to minimize divorce?

Appendix 2

Information related to the impact of divorce on the lives of divorced women and their children.

Interview questions to key informants

For objective one

1. what is divorce for you?
2. What values and views exist about marriage and family in Gurage?
3. How does divorce understanding in Gurage culture?
4. What do you think the main factors of divorce in Gubre sub-city?
5. What are the socio cultural justifications for divorce among Gurage?
6. Is divorce rate increasing or decreasing in Gubre sub-city? Why?

For objective two

1. Do you think divorce has impact on the lives of divorced women?
2. How does divorce affect the social relationship of divorced women?
3. What type of socio cultural interventions and processes exist before and during divorce among Gurage?
4. What is the perception of community towards divorced women?
5. How do Gurage people view and perceive divorce and divorced persons?
6. How does divorce affect divorced women economically?

For objective three

1. Do you think that divorce has impact on the lives of children of divorced families?
2. How does divorce affect the psychology of children?
3. How does divorce affect the social relationship of children of divorced families?
4. Does divorce have an economical impact on the children's life of divorced families?
5. Finally, what do you suggest to minimize divorce rate?

Thank you very much!!