

**Issues of Divorce among Women and Implication on Girl-Child
Educational Attainment and Economic Empowerment in Katsina State**

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Abstract

The study examines the issues of divorce among women and implications on girl-child educational attainment and economic empowerment in Katsina State, Nigeria. The study used descriptive survey design for the research. The population is made up of the women of Mariable ages (15-60 years) in the study area. The number of women estimated at this age is 60.5% of the total estimated population of 3,065,175, out of the population of 12, 756,185. This is according to the recent figures form National Population Commission (NPC). With the aid of some research assistants, 235 women were purposively selected from the six sampled areas. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection in six (6) urban areas of Katsina State, which were selected using random sampling techniques. This choice was because the customary court and some literate women were found here. The questionnaire was divided into sections according the objectives of the study. The items of the questionnaire were designed to generate unambiguous information on women who have experienced divorce cases before. The questionnaire was administered to the women to assess their knowledge on divorce cases by the researchers. The research assistants were picked on the basis of those who can speak English Language and Hausa fluently for easy interpretation. They were tutored on how to distribute and collect the questionnaire and also to be sure that the instruments were properly filled or appropriately completed. The data collected finally was analyzed using descriptive statistics of Mean and Standard Deviation as it is in research questions. The findings show that there is a divorce rate in the area of this study. Based on these findings, the study recommended among others that parents should be properly educated on the implications of divorce on the child and the society in general.

Key words: Divorce, girl-child educational attainment, economic empowerment

Introduction

The global best practice regarding the issues of women in the contemporary society as contained in the sustainable goal five makes it clear that a deliberate effort should be made towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. One of the major strategies that could be employed to achieve this goal is to ensure the stability of women in their homes, an effort that would go with its attendant benefits on the children educational attainment and economic empowerment particularly the girl-child. However, it is quite disheartening that the issue of divorce among women in the area of study is prevalent. The consequence is that most of the affected children are brought up by single parents with it accompany socio-cultural implications. Prominent among these ills is disruption in the children educational attainment and consequently their economic attainment. The most commonly seen effects of divorce on the girl-child include the following:

Poor Performance in Academics

Divorce is difficult for all members of the family. For girl-child, trying to understand the changing dynamics of the family may leave them distracted and confused. This interruption in their daily focus can mean one of the effects of divorce on children would be seen in their academic performance. The more distracted the girl-child is, the more likely they may be unable to focus on their school work (<https://www.grossarchive.com/upload/1416644906.htm>).

Emotionally Sensitive

Divorce can bring several types of emotional effects to the forefront of a family, and the girl-child involved is more at the receiving end. Feelings of loss, anger, confusion, anxiety, and many others, all may come from this transition. Divorce can leave children feeling overwhelmed and emotionally sensitive. Girl-child need an outlet for their emotions – someone to talk to, someone who will listen, etc. – girl-child may feel effects of divorce through how they process their emotions (Nachinaab, 2014).

Introduction of Destructive Behaviour

While the families go through divorce cases, unresolved conflict may lead to future unexpected risks for the girl-child. Research has shown the girl-child who has experienced divorce in the previous 20 years were more likely to participate in crimes, rebelling through destructive behaviour which harms a child's health, with more of them reporting they have acquired smoking habits, or prescription drug use Giles C. (2018).

Increase in Health Problems

Divorce cases and its effect on the girl-child can be stressful. Dealing with these issues can take its toll, including physical problems. The girl-child who have experienced divorce have a higher perceptibility to sickness, which can stem from many factors, including their difficulty going to sleep. Also, signs of depression can appear, exacerbating these feelings of loss of wellbeing, and deteriorating health signs (George, & Durham 2016).

Loss of Faith in Marriage and Family Unit

Finally, despite hoping to have stable relationship in the families, divorce has created in the girl-child who experienced it as a norm, and could extend to her relationship. Some research indicates this propensity to divorce may be two to three times as high as children who come from non-divorced families. Yet, while these are some of the possible effects of divorce on the girl-child, they are by no means absolutes, or written in stone. More and more, families understand just how stressful divorce is for their girl-child, as well as their selves. Families have begun to turn to supportive services such as at Family Means, seeking help to find a peaceful way to divorce. Through our Collaborative Divorce program, we are helping families more successfully navigate this transition, both for the sake of the parents, and for the girl-child involved.

While divorce is never easy for a family to cope with, recognizing the effects on your girl-child is an important step to recovery. Boys and girls typically have very different reactions and coping methods after divorce. Daughters, in

particular, may experience anxiety, stress and even emotional turmoil as a result of her parents' split. From academic challenges to emotional adjustments, divorce is likely to affect the girl-child in a variety of ways (Regmi, Smart, & Kottler 2010).

Social Withdrawal

When your girl-child is anxious, worried or stressed about the family changes that occur with divorce, it's likely she may struggle with social interactions at home and school. She may resist interactions with friends, classmates or even family members while mulling over the changes within your family at this time. To help her cope, Duffy suggests parents stay connected and in touch with their girl-child through open communication. "Both parents need to make themselves 'available,' emotionally and otherwise to their girl-child," he says.

An unexpected divorce can send your girl-child's world into a tailspin. She may feel betrayed by one or both parents and struggle with trust in her relationships, according to Duffy. "I have worked with girls who are reluctant to trust, and frankly, this tends to relate to boys and men in particular," he says. When she feels that the family bond is broken, it may be difficult for your girl-child to trust in relationships as a whole. "Sometimes, children of divorce focus too much on that 'failed' relationship, and assume the same fate will befall them," says Duffy. Be clear with your daughter about your divorce and your views on love and relationships. Encourage her to see the benefits of a healthy, loving partnership. (ChildStats.gov. 2013).

Promiscuity

Studies have indicated that daughters of divorced parents tend to show higher levels of promiscuity and become sexually active at a younger age, according to Christina Steinorth, a Santa Barbara, Calif.-based psychotherapist and author of "Cue Cards for Life." The behavior is particularly related to daughters who are seeking male companions to help cope with the absence of a

father figure. "To help reduce the chance of promiscuity, it really helps if the divorcing parents minimize the hostility they have toward each other when the children are present," says Steinorth. "Equally as important, is for fathers to continue to have regular and consistent contact with their daughters." It can create a ripple effect of negative consequences, affecting both the immediate family and extended family. It can also lead to changes in the way parents relate to their children and the way siblings relate to each other (George, & Durham 2016).

Lack of Trust among Husband and Wife

Divorce can create a lack of trust within the family. This is especially true if the divorce was the result of infidelity or other issues of mistrust. Without trust, family members may be hesitant to share their true feelings or thoughts with one another, leading to further feelings of isolation and disconnection (George, & Durham 2016).

Decrease in Social Maturity and Affection

Divorce can lead to a decrease in social maturity and affection within the family. Without a strong bond of marriage, family members may feel less connected to one another, leading to fewer meaningful conversations and shared experiences. This can result in a decrease in affection and a decrease in social maturity, as family members may struggle to maintain a healthy level of communication and understanding.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on two theories of divorce namely: fault theory and no fault theory. The fault theory is of the view that marriage can only be dissolved when either part to the marriage had committed a matrimonial offence. Under this theory it is necessary to have a guilt and an innocent party and only innocent party can seek remedy for divorce (Kampadoo, 2021). However, in a situation where both parties are guilty of committing matrimonial offence or offences divorce cannot serve as a remedy. The fault theory of divorce emphasized that divorce

should only take place on the ground that there is irretrievable breakdown in the relationship.

The 'no fault theory' is of the view that divorce among couples can take place by mutual consent of the parties involved. The argument is that since the parties involved willingly enter into the marriage they can as well come out willingly. In such a situation the parties involved can jointly sign a petition to that effect provided they have been separated or living apart for the period of one year or more and Theorists also agreed that the marriage should be dissolved. Ross, Mirowsky and Goldsteen, (2023), the basic conditions underling divorce under fault theory include: adultery, abandonment for certain length of time, prison confinement, and physical inability to have sexual intercourse (if condition exists before the marriage but the spouse hid the condition) and the other spouse has inflicted emotional or physical pain (cruelty).

If you're in a troubled marriage, divorce might seem like a reasonable option. But in most cases, it's a calamity. Shows like Bravo's *Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce* and HBO's *Divorce* normalize the dissolution of marriage, making couples feel that divorce can be a happy new beginning. Celebrities suggest a norm that divorce is not only acceptable but advisable. Gwyneth Paltrow's "conscious uncoupling" makes divorce seem trendy and enlightened. Today, couples are even throwing "divorce parties"—complete with invitations and caterers! Enough, says psychologist Diane Medved. If you're hurtling down the road to divorce, the first thing to do is to put on the brakes by looking behind the implications it will have on the people around you. Don't let your spouse, your friends, or the "divorce industry" rush you into ending.

Enough, says psychologist Diane Medved. If you're hurtling down the road to divorce, the first thing to do is to put on the brakes by looking behind the implications it will have on the people around you. Don't let your spouse, your friends, or the "divorce industry" rush you into ending your marriage. Take a deep breath before your actions. Drawing on three decades of clinical and personal

experience, Dr. Medved will show why you should save—and revitalize—your marriage. She expertly unmask the threats to marriage, including hookup apps that promise non-committal sex, and legions of professionals who are financially invested in your divorce

Don't Divorce is the antidote to a pro-divorce culture, the tool that will empower you to revive a dying marriage and recover the happiness that seems out of reach. As good as divorce to the divorcees, its' devastating effect is more on the girl-child, other children, relations and the society at large. Divorce can be a difficult time for a family. Not only are the parents realizing new ways of relating to each other, but they are learning new ways to parent their children. When parents' divorce, the effects of divorce on girl-child can vary. Some children react to divorce in a natural and understanding way, while other children may struggle with the transition. Children are resilient and with assistance the divorce transition can be experienced as an adjustment rather than a crisis. Since the children in a divorce vary (different temperaments, different ages), the effects of divorce on children vary, too. Family Means understands this and approaches a divorce by understanding what the effects are on children of all dispositions.

Methodology

This study was conducted in Katsina State. It is a state located in the Northwestern region of Nigeria Katsina as the capital of the state. It has boundaries with the Republic of Niger to the North, Kano State to the East, Jigawa State to the Southeast, Kaduna State to the South and Zankara State to west. The ethnic of Katsina State is made up of the Hausas and Fulani, who speak Hausa and Fulfulde as their major language, although English is also spoken widely, especially in educational organizations population of 12, 756,185 according to recent figures from National Population Commission. Katsina State is made up of three urban towns which includes Katsina, Daura, Funtua and with one semi-urban town called Dutsinma. The population is made up of the Mariable women at the ages (15-60 years) in the study area. The number of women are at the

estimated age of 60.5% of the total estimated population of 3,065,175 out of the total population out of the population of 12, 756,185 (NPC).

Descriptive survey design was used for the study. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection in six (6) urban areas of Katsina State were selected using random sampling techniques. These urban areas includes Katsina and Daura towns, Kankara and Dutsinma, Malunfashi and Funtua. The Local Government Headquarters and some semi-urban areas were used. This choice was because the customary court and some literate women were found here. With the aid some research assistants, 235 women were purposively selected from the six sampled areas. The questionnaire was divided into sections according the objectives of the study. The items of the questionnaire were designed to generate unambiguous information on women who have experienced divorce cases before.

The questionnaire was administered to the women to assess their knowledge on divorce cases by the researchers. The research assistants were picked on the basis of those who can speak English Language and Hausa fluently for easy interpretation. They were tutored on how to distribute and collect the questionnaire and also to be sure that the instruments were properly filled or appropriately completed. The data collected finally was analyzed using descriptive statistics of Mean and Standard Deviation as it is in research questions.

Objective of the study

The main objective of this study was examine the Issues of Divorce among Women and Implication on Girl-Child Educational Attainment and Economic Empowerment in Katsina State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. identify the issues that enhance the increase of divorce among the women in Katsina State.
2. examine the implications of divorce on the Girl-Child Educational Attainment in Katsina State.

3. examine the effects of divorce on Economic Empowerment of women and the Girl-Child in Katsina State.

Research Questions

Based on the objective, the following research questions were formulated for the study:

1. What are the issues that enhance divorce among the women in Katsina State?
2. What are the implications of divorce on the Girl-Child educational attainment in Katsina State?
3. What are the effects of divorce on economic empowerment of women and the Girl-child in Katsina State?

Results

Research Question One: What are the issues that enhance divorce among the women in Katsina State?

Table 1: Indicates the responses of the respondents on the issues that enhance divorce among the women in Katsina State?

S/N	Items	VGE	GE	LE	VLE	Mean	STD	Decision
1.	Promiscuity brings about divorce in the family	115	65	40	10	4.90	0.98	Agreed
2.	Loss of faith among husband and wife can cause divorce	109	75	25	6	4.55	0.91	Agreed
3.	Lack of trust in the family can create serious division, hence divorce	101	62	15	8	3.95	0.79	Agreed
4.	When destructive behaviour is introduced to the family	110	63	41	6	4.68	0.93	Agreed
5.	Most divorce cases could be caused by increased health/family problems	105	66	33	10	4.55	0.91	Agreed
Grand Mean						4.53	N=235	

Researchers' field survey, 2024.

Table 1 analysed the responses of the respondents on the factors enhancing the processes of divorce in Katsina State. All the items raised in research question one were accepted as factors leading to divorce in Katsina State in particular and Nigeria in general. This is also expressed on the cumulative mean of 4.53. This mean also shows that divorce is so high in the state of this study.

Research Question Two: What are the implications of divorce on the Girl-Child educational attainment in Katsina State?

Table 2: Indicating the responses of the respondents on the implication of divorce on the Girl-child educational attainment in Katsina State.

S/N	Items	VGE	GE	LE	VLE	Mean	STD	Decision
1.	Divorce in a family leads to poor academic performance of the girl-child in school	112	55	21	3	4.06	0.81	Agreed
2.	Divorce in a family could lead to physical and emotional torture	110	42	15	8	3.72	0.74	Agreed
3.	A girl-child from a divorced family is always angry or irritated to every slightest provocation	98	51	12	5	3.53	0.71	Agreed
4.	Most divorced family can introduce the girl-child into some destructive behaviours	98	55	19	3	3.72	0.75	Agreed
5.	Most of the girl-child in a divorced family feel withdrawn in many facets of life	89	61	45	7	4.29	0.86	Agreed
Grand Mean						3.86		

Researchers' field survey, 2024.

The mean responses in table 2 indicated that divorce has many implications and effects on the girl-child and the women in general. This is affirmed by the cumulative mean score of 3.86 which higher than the cut-off mean of 2.50. From the responses, it could be deduced that the girl-child or the children generally suffer more in divorced families.

Research Question Three: What are the effects of divorce on economic empowerment of women and the Girl-child in Katsina State?

Table 3: Shows responses from the respondents on the effects of divorce on economic empowerment of women and the Girl-child in Katsina State?

S/N	Items	VGE	GE	LE	VLE	Mean	STD	Decision
1.	Divorce leads to school dropout of the child	122	25	12	9	3.57	0.72	Agreed
2.	Divorce leads to hawking by girl-child	99	79	41	4	4.38	0.88	Agreed
3.	It exposes the girl-child to sexual harassment	105	67	23	5	4.26	0.85	Agreed
4.	Divorce hinders the girl-child from gainful employment	87	48	37	10	3.87	0.77	Agreed
5.	Due to divorce many of the girl-child do not have the opportunity for skill acquisition	112	56	21	8	4.19	0.84	Agreed
Grand Mean						4.01		Agreed

Researchers' field survey, 2024

Table 3 shows the responses of the respondents on the effect of divorce on the girl-child and economic empowerment of the women. All the respondents alluded to the five items on the table that divorces has so much negative effect on the women and the girl-child in Katsina in particular and Nigeria in general. This is affirmed by the cumulative mean of 4.01 which is higher than the cut-off score of 2.50.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study in table one reveals that so many issues were discovered to be the root cause of divorce in the state of the study. These ranges from promiscuity to loss of faith and among others in the marriage. This was also affirmed by the cumulative mean of 4.53 which is far above the cut-off mean of 2.50. In line with the above, Okon (2011) affirms that people can divorce following their involvement in promiscuity, loss of faith in the relationship, lack of trust and so on leading to legal actions mainly filed in court or traditional approach following families' agreements which are followed by certain rites such as refund of bride price. He continued by positing that most people seek for divorce due to various reasons such as irreconcilable difference, breakdown in communication, infidelity, and economic reasons.

The mean responses in table 2 indicated that divorce has so many implications and effects on the girl-child and the women in general. This is affirmed by the cumulative mean score of 3.86 which higher than the cut-off mean of 2.50. From the responses, it could be deduced that the girl-child or the children generally suffer more in divorced families. Anderson (2021) in his view also affirmed that the common delinquent behaviours observed among children from divorced home are: long term psychological trauma such as lingering memories of anger, fights and abuse that may eventually lead to depression, development of tendency not to have trust in their relationship and of most disturbing is the fact that such children may hardly have the required materials for study as their parent attention is usually shifted to the social challenge. The issue of divorce and its consequences on girl-child education and economic attainment is in aberrance with the desire of committee of nations as expressed in sustainable development goal five which emphasis on promotion of gender equality and women empowerment (United Nations, 2023).

Table 3 shows the responses of the respondents on the effect of divorce on the girl-child and economic empowerment of the women. All the respondents

alluded to the five items on the table that divorces has so much negative effect on the women and the girl-child in Katsina in particular and Nigeria in general. This is affirmed by the cumulative mean of 4.01 which is higher than the cut-off score of 2.50. In line with this affirmation, ChildStats.gov. (2013) posits that when the girl-child is anxious, worried or stressed about the family changes that occur with divorce, it's likely she may struggle with social interactions at home and school. She may resist interactions with friends, classmates or even family members while mulling over the changes within your family at this time. He continued by suggesting that parents stay connected and in touch with their girl-child through open communication. "Both parents need to make themselves 'available,' emotionally and otherwise to their girl-child," he says. An unexpected divorce can send your girl-child's world into a tailspin. She may feel betrayed by one or both parents and struggle with trust in her relationships. Encourage her to see the benefits of a healthy, loving partnership.

Conclusion

Divorce, though may seem to have some positive effects especially on the divorcees in particular and other members of human society (especially members of the family) in general, its negative effects on children out numbers the positive effects. The society can be better if divorce can be eradicated or reduced to barest minimum.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The issues that enhance or create the incessant divorce in the society should be identified and solutions proffered to mitigate against it, as it has brought untold hardship to children in general and the girl-child and women in particular;
2. Parents should be properly educated on the implications of divorce on the girl-child in particular and children generally;

3. The child should be adequately provided with some welfare packages to withstand the unfortunate situation, if eventually it occurs. This should include the financial needs of the child.
4. Parents should be faithful to themselves and in love with their children. This is to avoid counting of unnecessary laws against each other and the children.
5. Some of the negative effects of divorce should be identified and avoided; and

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