

**SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF DIVORCE ON THE
UPBRINGING OF OFFSPRINGS OF MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIPS
IN BENIN METROPOLIS, SOUTH-SOUTH NIGERIA**

BY

**EDOSA TESSY OSATO
MAT.NO: SSC1910342**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY**

SEPTEMBER, 2023

**SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF DIVORCE ON THE
UPBRINGING OF OFFSPRINGS OF MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIPS
IN BENIN METROPOLIS, SOUTH-SOUTH NIGERIA**

BY

**EDOSA TESSY OSATO
MAT.NO: SSC1910342**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, FACULTY OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.) DEGREE IN
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

SEPTEMBER, 2023

CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned, certify that this research work was carried out by **EDOSA TESSY OSATO** in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of social science, University of Benin for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) Degree in Sociology and Anthropology.

PROF. A.O. DOKPESI
Project Supervisor

PROF. A.O. DOKPESI
Head of Department

Date: _____

Date: _____

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty who is the reason for my living, who giveth life, wisdom and understanding. Through His grace I was able to attain this standard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First I want to give thanks to God almighty for helping me come this far. Just when I was about giving up on education as a result of countless failed attempts in getting education, God came through for me on my last trial, I owe this to Him.

It is said that it takes the whole community to raise a child, in this regard I want to say a very big thank you to my Project Supervisor who also happens to be the HOD (Head of Department) of this Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Benin, Professor A.O Dokpesi. This wouldn't have been a success without you Sir, I am entirely grateful. And to all my Lecturers from 100 level to 400 Level, I want to thank you all for impacting me with knowledge all these years and I promise to make a good use of all the knowledge inculcated in me.

Not left out is my lovely family for the love and support throughout this journey, see how I made you all proud. To my Mom, Mrs. Florence Edosa, my Siblings, Mrs Amenze Ebuehi, Edosa Osarumwense, Edosa Osahon, Edosa Hope, I thank you for all the sacrifices you put in for me to be here today. I Love you all so much.

And to my dear friends who joined me in putting in effort into this project I say thank You. Mr. Sylvester Ojimah, my dear Osayande Marvis Osahon. My Coursemates with whom I shared pleasant memories, Valerie Emike Williams, Ohenhen Johnson Osaivbie, Okoh Auguster, Okoh Cheta, Isaac Aiyegbeni, Ogida Abel and others. I pray the next time we all meet, it will be in higher and better positions in life and in the society.

Lastly I want to thank the University of Benin, The University Demonstrative Senior Secondary school for allowing me the privilege to carry out my research in their school.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Title	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	vi
Abstract	viii
Chapter One: Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	3
1.3 Significance of the Study	5
1.4 Research Questions	5
1.5 Objective of the Study	6
1.6 Scope of the Study	6
Chapter Two: Review of Related Literature	7
2.1 Empirical Literature Review	7
2.2 How Marital Instability influences Children Development	9
2.3 Parental Divorce and Offspring Psychological Well Being	12
2.4 Educational Outcomes	13
2.5 Causes of Divorce in Nigeria	13
2.6 Conceptual Framework	16
2.7 Negative Impacts of Divorce on Children	19
2.8 Methods of Mitigating the Negative Impacts of Divorce on Children	27

Chapter Three: Methodology	31
3.1 Research Design	31
3.2 Population of the Study	31
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques	32
3.4 Research Instrument	32
3.5 Method of Data Collection	32
3.6 Method of Data Analysis	32
Chapter Four: Presentation and Analysis of Data	33
4.1 Introduction	33
4.2 Data Analysis	33
Chapter Five: Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations	43
5.1 Introduction	43
5.2 Summary of Findings	43
5.3 Conclusion	43
5.4 Recommendations	44
References	47
Appendix	51

ABSTRACT

The research work was carried out to examine the socio-psychological effects of divorce on the upbringing of offspring of marriage relationships in Benin metropolis, South-South, Nigeria. The researcher looked at the effect of divorce and how it affects offsprings of marriages, morally, socially, academically, mentally, etc. This study also identifies and focus on the socio-psychological differentiation of children who come from families of divorced parents and children who do not. It will also provide a base for the protection and promotion of the rights of children of divorcees, It will be useful to child rights and child protection advocates, It will increase people's knowledge of the risks to which such children are exposed. The Study also took a critical look at the roles of the Social welfare institution in preventing cases of marital divorces. In this study, the simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample size. A total of 100 students of the University Demonstration Senior Secondary School was selected as the sample size, classes ranging from SS1-SS3. And the sample of findings were sought from 96 respondents. The table and simple percentage method were used to analyze the questions. The research findings shows that, divorce can negatively affect the child's development academically and socially. And children whose family is going through divorce may have a harder time relating to others, and tend to have less social contacts, that is, certain children might have negative mind set towards intimacy, relationship, attachment or marriage, because of their experience growing up in a broken home.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Parents play a vital role in their Children lives, serving as their earliest and most important role models. They tend to look up to and observe their parents behavior from a very young age (Herzog & Cooney, 2002). Throughout childhood, family experiences play a vital role in building up the child's attitude, beliefs and expectation. (Rogers and Rose (2002) report that children from a divorce home homes tends to develop behavior such as depression, anger, aggression, parent-child conflict. The common question among social scientists regarding children and divorce is how these children are affected by their experiences and how they are different from those who are not experiencing ongoing parental conflict and discord. Experiencing parental discord may lead a child to trivialize the importance of commitment and view the institution of marriage with negativity (Doland 2003).

It is observed by the researchers that marriage between a man and a woman is expected to be a permanent affair and lasting association until death takes away one of the partners (Doland 2003). However, in modern Nigeria, marriage is now being seen to be a temporary affair which can be dissolved either by cruelty, desertion or adultery which goes against the wishes of their union. For a marriage to be successful there is need for a couple to be in harmony mentally, physically and spiritual. In other words, the husband and the wife must have a common goal and each have to

contribute his or her own towards the fulfillment in the family; and the keyword should be love (Cohen, 2002).

According to Doland (2003) as cited earlier on, divorce is defined as the dissolution of a relationship, which is recognized as marital relationship. It is marked by formal court proceedings and its decree is divorce. Divorce is usually accompanied by formal arrangements for owing of property, custody and support of children if any. The property adjustment may also include a provision requiring alimony to be paid by one partner to the other although alimony is less frequently granted today.

The qualities of parental relationship spills over into relationship with their children .Couples with satisfying marital relationships are more warm and supportive towards their children. Amato and Ketin (2001) asserted that the gap in well —being between children with divorced and non-divorced parents might have narrowed, either because divorce has become more easily accepted, or parents are making greater efforts to reduce the potentially disruptive impact of divorce on their children. Children with divorced parents score lower than children with continuously married parents on measure of academic success (Astone Mclanahan, 2002). The quality of functioning is one of the best predictors of pupil's behavior and well-being. Several group studies show that either a conflicted relationship with the custodial parent inept parenting on the part of the custodial parent are linked with a variety of negative outcomes on children including lower academic performance, internalizing problems,

externalizing problems, reduced self-esteem, and poorer social competence (Buchnan, Smacco by Dombush, 2006).

Parental relationship plays a very important role in determining the academic performance of their children in school. Family harmony can easily be affected due to parental conflicts. The degree of parental conflicts varies from mild to serious. These conflicts affect the academic performance of the affected children hence leading to drop out from school. In their recent longitudinal study, (Harold and Shelton, 2007) revealed the roles of marital relations and pupil's academic performance. In accounting for the relationship between spouses affects pupil's adjustment directly through the emotional stress level, role modeling and academic performance (Cumming, 2000).

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There are many problems with the divorce homes which at the long run reflect on the performance of the children while at home, in school and their overall development. The increase in mental pressure, lack of parental love, and support will adversely affect the overall well-being of the child. Due to the increase in domestic work and redistribution of household chores, the children will have little or no time for a good upbringing. If a parent gets remarried, security wise, a step parent does not show much love and affection to their step children. Thus, these children suffer from mental retardation, personality problem and are always miserable. They show behavioral responses like lying, stealing, building and playing truant in school.

Children from divorced families are nearly five times more likely to suffer damaging mental troubles than those who live with both parents. This shows that two parents are much better in bringing up healthy children than one. Children who come from broken families will most likely have difficult time in life. Children of divorce parent are roughly two times more likely to dropout from school than their peers who benefit from living with parents who are not divorced (Mclannahan 2006). Some children from broken marriages are likely to turn to drug abuse or negative behaviors. The truth is that every child needs and deserves the love and provision of a mother and a father. Happy family is the best environment for children. A strong family home is a place where children gain the identity, discipline, and moral education that are essential for their full individual development. Nigeria, as a nation with a strong marriage, had created the best route to achieving the Nigeria dream. It has now become a nation in which divorce is commonly seen as the path to personal liberation. In this case many experts argue that, because nothing can be done about it, all Nigeria should simply accept the culture of divorce without considering the future of the children.

The effects of divorce on children are traumatic. It can cause children to question their self- worth, to experience unnecessary grief, guilt or confusion. Young children especially, have difficulty understanding the rationalities of their parents decision to divorce. In a marriage it is difficult for children to find a sense of security because experience shows them that what seemed stable and good fell to pieces to

and left them empty. Growing up in a broken home may also cause children to have difficult in future relations.

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The importance of the study stemmed from the followings:

1. It will contribute to the body of existing knowledge in academia and other fields;
2. It will act as an input for policy makers, thus providing new insights to improve their ability to design effective policies and programs to cater for the welfare of this vulnerable group;
3. It will provide a base for the protection and promotion of the rights of children of divorcees.
4. It will be useful to child rights and child protection advocates.
5. It will increase people knowledge of the risks to which such children are exposed

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do children from stable homes perform academically than Children from broken homes?
2. To what extent could divorce have effects on the growth and performance of the child?
3. Do Children from broken homes have moral disorder than stable homes?
4. To what limit could divorce affect moral behavior of children from broken homes.
5. What are the impacts of divorce on children welfare especially in Nigeria?

1.5 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To determine whether children from stable home do better than children from broken home.
2. To examine the effect of divorce on academic performance of Children.
3. To determine moral disorder of Children from broken home and stable home.
4. To identify effects of divorce on moral behavior of children from broken homes.
5. To examine how divorce, affect the physical and mental growth of the child.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focused on the Socio-psychological Effects of Divorce on the upbringing of Offspring's of Marriage of Marriage Relationship in Benin Metropolis, South-South Nigeria, the study will be retrieved to the effects of divorce and morality, academic performance as well as well as the physical and the mental well-being of children. The study would be limited to various gender, age and educational level. Questionnaire would be use as an instrument for data collection. Analysis of data would be limited to the use of simple percentage.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter deals with the review of related literature on this study. It shall be discussed under the following subheadings:

1. Empirical literature review
2. How marital instability influences children development
3. Parental divorce and offspring psychological well-being
4. Educational outcomes
5. Causes of divorce in Nigeria

2.1 EMPIRICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

Patrick (2012) wrote on the Effects of Divorce on Children where they said that Divorce damages society. It consumes social and human capital. It substantially increases cost to the taxpayer, while diminishing the taxpaying portion of society. It diminishes children's future competence in all five of society's major tasks or institutions: family, school, religion, marketplace and government. The reversal of the cultural and social status of divorce would be nothing less than a cultural revolution. Only a few generations ago, American culture rejected divorce as scandalous. Today, law, behavior, and culture embrace and even celebrate it.

Divorce also permanently weakens the family and the relationship between children and parents. It frequently leads to destructive conflict management methods, diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults. They continued that

the primary effect of divorce (and of the parental conflict that precedes the divorce) is a decline in the relationship between parent and child. Immediately after a divorce, most parents have two sets of problems: their adjustment to their own intrapsychic conflicts and to their role as a divorced parent. The stress of divorce damages the parent-child relationship for as many as 40 percent of divorced mothers. The support they receive from home is rated much lower by children of divorced parents than by children from intact homes, and these negative ratings become more pronounced by the time children are in high school and college.

Video (2002) in his book (the Effects of Parent-Adolescent Relationships and Parental Separation on Adolescent Well-being) said that one study found that parental divorce and maternal non-residence led to delinquent behavior in girls if the mother daughter relationship was satisfying: A stronger relationship correlated to more frequent exhibition of delinquency. Breivik (2006) said in “Adolescent's Adjustment in Four Post-Divorce Family Structures” that adolescents from divorced families (particularly those in divorced single-father families) display more antisocial and violent behavior than adolescents in biologically intact families.

Chapman (2008) wrote in their book “Relationship breakdown and the economic welfare of Australian Mothers and their children” that the detrimental effects of divorce on women’s income vary based on the relative earnings capacity of the husband and wife. Women who experience the largest income losses (38.5 percent for a mother with one child) are “the ‘low education’ mother[s] who were married to a ‘high education’ man. Furstenberg (2001), stated in their book “Delayed

Parental Divorce: How Much Do Children Benefit?” that Among women whose parents divorced, “statistically significant differences exist in educational attainment, level of household income, and receiving welfare compared with women raised in intact marriages. Kester (2004) argued in her book “race, family structure, and wealth: the effect of childhood family on adult asset ownership” that much of the economic impact of divorce on children is mediated through the parents, as research below demonstrates.

Barry (2003), found in his book “The Effects of Divorce on the Academic Achievement of High School Seniors,” that children whose parents divorced skipped nearly 60 percent more class periods than children from intact families. Girls appeared to be more affected than boys. Yongmin and Yuan hang (2009), stated in their book “Post-divorce Family Stability and Changes in Adolescents' Academic Performance: A Growth-Curve Model,” that lack of family transitions after divorce does not eliminate the effect of the divorce on student academic performance, but it does provide their performance in math and social studies a certain degree of protection, compared to students who live in unstable families with multiple family transitions.

2.2 HOW MARITAL INSTABILITY INFLUENCES CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT

A large body of research has supported the idea that children’s behavioral development, school performance may be influenced as much by multiple changes in family composition during childhood as by the quality and character of the families

in which children reside at any given point. To assess the influence of family structure, transitions and conflicts, we compare children who have experienced either or both of these factors to children who have remained in stable cohabiting unions or marriages since birth. According to research in developmental psychology, children are highly reactive to change in their immediate environments in the period from infancy to preschool (e.g., Duncan, Brooks-Gunn, and Adebowale 2011); and children who are exposed to frequent instability and environmental stress in their early years may continue to accumulate destabilizing events throughout childhood. Children's problem behaviors are further increase with multiple changes in family structure. Family transitions that occur early in children's development prior to age 6, and in adolescence appear to have the strongest effects. Children demonstrate more negative behaviors when they lack the emotional and material support at home that they need to smoothly handle a family transition. Other popular literature on the influence of family instability on child outcome include Sigle-Rushton and McLanahan (2004) – they have well established that children from intact families have better outcomes and a higher well-being than children from divorced families.

However, we cannot be sure that the outcomes associated with divorce actually result from separation per se as opposed to another factor that is more common among people who divorce. The selection perspective considers that the negative outcomes observed among children who grow up without one of the biological parents are due to differences between the kinds of people who divorce and the kinds of people who remain married. In fact, it has been well demonstrated

that, before family break-up, divorced families are different from intact families in several characteristics influencing both parental divorce and children's outcomes. For instance, children become vulnerable and susceptible to involve in behaviours that are detrimental to their well-being – this is as a result of lack of care and support from a stable home. Thus the external environment (which may be injurious) awaits the child. Early on, especially in an hostile environment, children become victims to habits like smoking, street fighting, pilfering, stealing etc. Since a long time ago, research has demonstrated that the socio-economic characteristics of family's influence children's outcomes (Coleman and Benson, 2006; Uche, 2009), and the effect of one's family background continues to play a prominent role in determining life chance. The conflict selection explanation stresses that it is parental conflict prior to divorce and not marital break-up per se is what explains why children of divorced families fare worse on several domains when compared to children of intact families.

This argument is supported by the literature that shows that children tend to be drawn into conflict between parents – resulting in a deterioration of parent-child relationship and general family cohesiveness. Moreover, it has been shown that early experiences of parental conflict, i.e. during childhood, have lasting consequences on the quality of the relationship between children and their parents (Amato and Afifi, 2006; Sobolewski and Amato, 2007).

2.3 PARENTAL DIVORCE AND OFFSPRING PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

Parental divorce has the potential to cause a lot of stress to children and adults alike, even though there is major individual heterogeneity in the effects, with some benefiting, others experiencing short-term drops in well-being, and others entering a longer term negative consequences. This difference is linked to the quality of the marriage prior to divorce, the rate of conflict in the divorce process, personal adjustment skills, and social support. Some children whose parents put an end to a particularly conflicting or abusive marriage may benefit from parental divorce, but the average outcome seems to be negative, with more children suffering from it, although according to many reviews the effects are not very strong (Amato, 2001). Children have a need for a secure relationship with adult caregivers, in absence of which psychological development will not take place.

Waters et al. (Uche, 2009) showed that parental divorce can provoke an insecure attachment between a child and his or her parents. Therefore, children from divorced families have a higher probability to experience a lower psychological well-being. Since child development begins from the home, the absence of a conducive environment provided by the peaceful relationship between parent results in negative impact on the child. Children who grow up in the midst of continuous marital conflicts and violence tend to be hostile believing it is ideal.

2.4 EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

A substantial part of the research on parental divorce focuses on children's educational outcomes such as performance and achievement tests, grades, teachers' ratings, or intelligence. During the last three decades research from different countries has demonstrated that parental separation has generally negative effects on these outcomes (Amato, 2001). Among the childhood explanations, as for educational outcomes, one of the main arguments stresses the decline of children's standard of living after divorce, since it is well-demonstrated that economic difficulties affect negatively children's psychological well-being during childhood.

2.5 CAUSES OF DIVORCE IN NIGERIA

There are several factors that can cause a divorce.

1. Religious reasons:

Religion is expected to give stability to the society however sometimes, they do the opposite. Religion can cause divorce when one partner decides to change religion contrary to the agreed religion of the partners. According to Okon (2011), religion which ought to be pillars of the society becomes caterpillar wherewith the society is destroyed. False prophets are also part of the problem through the various false prophesy they give couples and families which end up destroying home.

2. Economic reasons:

This is one of the major causes of divorce in Nigeria. According to Harkonen (2013), a couple's unemployment status, poverty and low income are key factors to divorce. This is because lack of financial ability to solve family problems often

causes a flare or frustration which partners with environmental stress and restiveness to cause aggression and anger between couples. This might end up in also in constant arguing, lack of communication and bickering.

3. **Spousal age:**

According to Annang (2003), those who marry for the first time in their teens have 80% tendency to divorce. This is because maturity is an important ingredient in marriage hence these teens divorce because they are not matured intellectually and emotionally thus less likely to make sound marital choices.

4. **Domestic violence:**

This accounts for 80% cases of divorce with most of the violence meted on women by either their spouse or in-laws (Eyo, 2018). This violence can be physical, sexual, verbal, economic and emotional.

5. **Denial of conjugal rights:**

Where a partner denies the other sexual satisfaction or unwilling to perform sexual act for a long period of time.

6. **Infidelity especially by women:**

This is because in this part of Nigeria, polygamy is part of the custom and generally accepted unlike women who are mandated to stick to one man. In fact in Nigeria, the mantra is that “men are polygamous in nature”, therefore a woman is expected to tolerate infidelity from his partner. However, when reverse is the case, the woman is victimized and stigmatized for cheating on the husband leading to divorce.

7. Professionalism:

Nigeria women are considered inferior to men hence are culturally bound to become house wives and under the headship of the man. In cases where they work, they are restricted to certain profession that will compel them into total care of the household including children like teaching and petty trading while the man as the head of the house goes about freely to cater for the family by engaging in every kind of profession and job. Therefore, when women move out of the status quo to engage in so-called men's profession or job, they are tagged promiscuous and prostitutes. This leads to their partners feeling intimidated by their achievement, therefore some men resort to various ways of suppressing the woman whom they believed should be under them hence resulting to degrees of crisis and violence resulting to divorce

8. Educational attainment:

In Nigeria the popular belief is that the more educated a woman is, the more stubborn and less submissive she becomes. This is because when a woman is educated, she becomes well enlightened on what her rights are under the boundaries of marriage. Since the men of the city believes a woman's place is under the man, they become threatened also in the marriage. This is because the woman understands her rights and obligations in the marriage therefore she is being looked at as less submissive, promiscuous and stubborn hence leads to role confusion and identity crisis in the marriage.

9. **Unrealistic Expectations:**

Prior to marriage spouses may have certain expectations especially women who see marriage as a giant achievement and even escape from poverty. Also beliefs and mindset drawn from romantic movies and books clouds some of their judgment on what the reality is all about in marriage. When such social, religious, economic and academic expectations among others are not met, the marriage bond may suffer and even lead to divorce.

10. **Westernization:**

Three decades ago, divorce was frowned upon in Enugu urban. This is because Igbo culture advocated perseverance, tolerance, unity and togetherness. However with the advent of technology the world became a global village hence what was once frowned at was accepted as a way of life through globalization, internet and cultural exchange leading to divorce being accepted as the only way out of marital crisis and problems. Individuality and selfishness was advocated while communal life, extended family ties and tolerance was relegated and sacrificed on the altar of “I cannot come and kill myself”.

2.6 **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

Divorce is among the most significant of all life events because it involves the disruption of one of the strongest affection bonds formed by adults. The significance of this disrupted bond is often compounded by its far-reaching implications, not only for the divorcing spouses, but also for their children, the extended family, and future

relationships formed by the couple members and their children (Feeney & Monin, 2015).

Amato and Keith (1991), in their meta-analysis on studies quantifying how much disruption affect children, and subsequent researchers have offered several mechanisms for how marital disruptions could affect children. These primary mechanisms include effects coming from the impact of parental conflict (both pre-disruption conflict and post disruption co-parenting conflict), less parental contact, economic changes, and parental remarriages and further marital transitions. Of course, there could be other mechanisms, such as the anticipation of a disruption affecting children's outcomes. Although disentangling these mechanisms is beyond the scope of this study, they do help us in understanding how the disruption process could affect outcomes over time.

These mechanisms will have different effects at different points of the disruption process. Before the disruption, parental conflict and anticipation of a disruption would likely have the greatest negative effects on children (Arkes, 2016). In addition, there could be less parental contact, as some evidence indicates that women increase their labor supply in response to an increased risk of divorce (W. R. Johnson & Skinner, 2000).

Although the mechanisms clearly point to negative effects as a disruption approaches, it is obvious how children would be affected at the time of the disruption and in the years following the disruption. Pierret (2001) argued that, in some cases, parents will make decisions on whether to stay married based on how it would affect

their children. Parents might not know how the children would fare under different scenarios. Ideally, the worst marriages would be the ones that end. Based on this theory, Pierret argued that a disruption could actually benefit the children. Children might benefit from reduced parental conflict and perhaps less contact with an abusive parent. Other effects after a disruption include lower standard of living and co-parenting conflict, however, could contribute negatively to children's outcomes. Subsequent romantic relationships for the parents, including remarriages and further marital disruptions, could also hurt children. As many of these post disruption mechanisms are dynamic, the effect of the disruption process on children could be dynamic as well. Any negative effects could subside over time or be offset by the potential benefits of the marital change. However, it is conceivable that the pre-disruption experiences of children have lasting impacts that affect the children for many years.

Of course, every child will have a different experience. The models in this analysis are intended to capture the average total effect for children. That is, some children will benefit from family disruptions, whereas others will struggle, perhaps having to live through a series of remarriages and subsequent divorces, constantly changing their living situation. The models will indicate how children, on average, fare over time from the combined effects of all of these mechanisms (Arkes, 2016). Several themes emerge from this literature, although it should be noted that children differ significantly in their perceptions and reactions to parental separation and divorce (Hogan, 2003; Rodgers, 2001). For example, although distress, anger, and

sadness are feelings often reported by children when their parents separate, these feelings are by no means universal (Deckard, 2001, cited in Hawthorne, Richards, 2003). It is clear that divorce causes a crisis in family life.

2.7 NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DIVORCE ON CHILDREN

The study revealed that divorce negatively affect children development and relationships. For instance, emotionally, it results to feeling depress, feeling grief, feeling disappointed, decreased in self-esteem, violence thoughts and feelings, getting annoyed easily, feeling lonely and insecure, mood swings and irritability, frequent guilt feeling/embarrassment, withdrawal from family members, withdrawal from friends and acquaintances, anger towards oneself; and others specify. This is supported by parental break up was associated with a subsequent increase in the level of symptoms of anxiety/depression in the children, but not with any significant change in opposition behavior, Desrosier, (2013). Children from single-parent families and divorce homes face the challenges of stress and well-being as well as deprivation from love and basic needs, Majzub, (2012). Divorce increased anxiety, depression, anger, internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders, and decreased self-esteem and increased in suicide, Czapiewski, (2014). Children whose parents divorced at a young age when developing attachment, have a high chance of developing insecure attachments compared to children whose parents are still together, Czapiewski, (2014).

Children of divorced mothers have poorer and less stimulating home environment since their mothers despite their best intentions, are less able than

married mothers to give emotional support to their children, Fagan, (2012). Child neglect, which is frequently more psychologically damaging than physical abuse, is much more commonly present in families of separated and divorced persons than of married persons, as cited in Fagan, (2012).

1. Educational Impacts:

Similarly, the study unearthed some negative impacts on the education of the children; decreased in performance, absence from school, decreased motivation to work hard in class, difficulty in concentrating in class, decreased educational aspiration, decreased parents participation in home works, becoming dropouts, decreased engagement in school activities, low educational attainment at adulthood, changing school prematurely, decreased chances of attending university, repeating a class, increase chances of expulsion, increased chances of suspension; and others specify. This is substantiated by parental break-up is associated with an immediate deterioration in school performance (Bernardi, 2014). Impacts of divorce on children include children interest ignored especially during court proceedings, absent of academic discussions and support, sparks a sharp increase in cortisol level and cardiac stress, lot of crying and feeding problems, poor sleeping patterns, a loss of bowel control, withdrawal from peers, poor academic performance, increase absenteeism and lack of educational support, etc., Chowdary. (2017).

Majority felt that their parents' negative relationships affected their academics (Odenweller, 2014). Children with divorced parents, compared with continuously married parents, exhibit more conduct problems, have more emotional problems,

obtain lower academic test scores, and school grades, and have more problems with social relationships, weaker emotional ties with parents especially fathers, Amato, (2012). Parental divorce is associated with a lower probability of attaining university, and the divorce penalty is larger for children with highly educated parents as children of parents with low levels of education suffer less because their expected levels of educational attainment are already low to begin with, Bernardi, (2014).

2. Economic Impacts:

Economically, the findings revealed some negative impacts on the children; difficulty in paying school fees, increase unmet financial needs, decreased access to adequate nutrition food, increased financial pressure on single parent to provide, increased chances of living on child maintenance allowance, increased worries about money for basic needs, increased household financial instability, difficulty in attaining higher income at adulthood, increased chances of experiencing poverty in adulthood, difficulties in upward financial mobility in the future, decreased in future financial prospect, others specify; and increased chances of living on public support. This is congruent with children who have experienced divorce, also experience financial instability, academic instability, employment instability, and have a tendency to use alcohol and cigarettes (Williams-Owens, 2017).

Parents who divorced experience adverse effects on their physical, emotional, and financial well-being, which may also in turn affect their children, Anderson, (2014). Divorce has been shown to diminish a child's future competence in all areas

of life, including family relationships, education, emotional well-being, and future earning power; these can persist into adulthood (Anderson, 2014).

3. Mental or Cognitive Impact:

Similarly, the study unearthed some negative cognitive impacts: slowness in mental development, difficulty in handling difficult matters, difficulty in understanding simple instructions, difficulty in grasping complex matters, difficulty in concentrating long, exhibition of strange behaviors, attention deficiency, difficulty in analyzing simple matters, mental retardation, mental illness; and others specify. This is in agreement with more than a million children have experienced some level of social and cognitive harm from a parental divorce that has left them vulnerable, Fagan, (2012) as cited in Williams-Owens, W.M. (2017). Poor quality life and financial hardship due to divorce leads to long-term decline in cognitive and social development, Nunes-Costa, (2009). Children of intact families presented better performance in social and cognitive abilities, quality of attachment, and less behavioral problems, when compared to children of divorced parents, Nunes-Costa, (2009).

4. Social Impacts

Similarly, the findings indicated some negative social impacts on the children: decrease in child-parent bond, decreased in daily contacts with noncustodial parent, poor social skills and tough childhood, increased chances to be associated with antisocial children, decreased in discipline, disruption in parental love and care, fear of being rejected by neighbors, unplanned change in homes, being victim of

single parenting stress, being victim of teenage pregnancy, increased negativity, viewing marriages as temporal engagements, damage in self- confidence, decreases in trust and satisfaction in romantic relationships, increased likeliness to live with drug abuser parent, decreased interest in fun activities; and others specify. This is in agreement with children from divorced families are more likely to believe that marriage is not important prior to having children and are more likely to have a child out of wedlock (Fagan, 2012).

Men whose parents divorced are inclined to be simultaneously hostile and ‘rescuer’ of the women to whom they are attracted, rather than the more open, affectionate, cooperative partner, more frequently found among men raised by parents of an intact marriage (Fagan, 2012). Compared with continuously married mothers, divorced mothers tend to be less affectionate and communicative with their children, and discipline them more harshly and more inconsistently, especially during the first year following divorce (Fagan, 2012). Divorced homes show a decrease in language stimulation, pride, affection, stimulation of academic behavior, encouragement of social maturity, and warmth directed towards the children (Fagan, 2012).

The largest effects of divorce on children are indicated in externalizing behaviors like conduct disorders, antisocial behaviors, and problems with authority figures, Connolly, M.E. (n.d.). Daughters of divorced parents are more likely to divorce, because of stronger commitment to work and plan to have few children.

5. Impacts of Divorce on the Living Conditions of the Children

Additionally, some negative impacts on the living conditions of the children were revealed; high incidence of experiencing evictions, living in crowded rooms, relocating to remote areas, low standard of living, high incidence of living in insecure compounds, living in poor neighborhood, increased worrying about adequate accommodation, feeling rejected and insecure in new settlements, living in poor housing conditions, sense of loss in new community, feeling different with unfamiliar families; and others specify. This concurs with children who changed residence showed more signs of negative development and signs of positive development less often than those who continued to live in their predivorce home.

6. Impacts of Divorce on the Relationship between Children and Divorced Parents

Equally, the findings revealed some negative impacts on child-parent relationship: decreased in respecting noncustodial parent, nonresident parent being viewed as irresponsible, feeling angry against noncustodial parent, limited communication with nonresident parent, increased chances of hating parents, nonresident parent being mistrusted, increased chances of labeling parents as evil, not wanting to associate with noncustodial parent, talking unkind things about parents, threatening the ties with the nonresidential parent, alleging parents of having moral lapses, increased chances of blame for divorcing; and others specify. This is supported by divorce leads to a decline in children's ability to trust their fathers (Fagan, 2012).

Parental divorce makes it more difficult for children to trust their parents, Fagan. The primary effects of divorce (and of the parental conflict that precedes the divorce) is a decline in the relationship between parents and children. Divorce leads to disruptions in the parent-child relationship, continuing discord between former spouses, loss of emotional support, economic hardship, and increase in the number of other negative events, Fagan, (2012). The losses of divorce can have a significant effect on a child but the loss of the parent-child relationship seems to be the most detrimental to the child as it can affect the child emotionally, behaviorally, and socially (Czapiewski, 2014).

7. Negative Impacts of Divorce on the Relationship Between Children and Peers

Similarly, the findings unearthed some negative impacts on the relationship between the children and their peers: frequent unnecessary arguments and quarrels, frequent fight, unnecessary jealousy towards peers achievements, withdrawal from peers' activities, decreased in social bonding with peers, unnecessary hatred towards peers, limited interaction with peers, limited peer visitations, limited trust in peers, decreased sympathy for peers, decreased in social and educational support to peers; and others specify. This conform with children of divorced parents did worse when rated by both parents and teachers on peer relationships, hostility towards adults, anxiety, withdrawal, inattention, and aggression (Fagan, 2012). College students from divorced families use violence more frequently to resolve conflict and more likely to be aggressive and physically violent with their friends, male or female

(Fagan, 2012). Adolescents faced the normal reactions towards divorce by fearing peer ridicule, by being involved in the blaming self and others for divorce (Majzub, 2012). Children of divorced parents are more likely to have hostile relationships with their siblings than children from married (or intact) families (Sheehan, 2004).

8. Impacts of Divorce on the Community

Equally, some negative impacts on the community were revealed including: increase in criminality, threaten children's general welfare, diminish in children's educational attainments, increased in school dropouts, weaken family structures and ties, increase in unwanted pregnancies and children, increase in substance abuse, decreased in religious consciousness, increase early sexual debut especially the girls, increase in health problems; and others specify. This dovetails with divorce adversely affects society by diminishing the child's future competence, weakening family structure, contributing to early sexual experimentation leading to increased cost for society, diminishing frequency of religious worship, diminishing a child's learning capacity and educational attainment, and reducing the household income, increasing crime rates and substance use, increasing risk of school suspensions, and increasing emotional and mental health risks, including suicide (Anderson, 2014).

It permanently weakens the family and relationship between children and parents, leads to destructive conflict management methods, diminished social competence, loss of virginity, diminished sense of masculinity or femininity, more trouble in dating, more cohabitation, greater likelihood of divorce, higher expectations of divorce later in life; and decreased desire to have children, Fagan,

(2012). Conflict if not constructively resolved can be stressful, physically and psychologically draining, can sour and even destroy relationships, are time-consuming, divert people's attention and energy away from more useful activities, can be costly in terms of the interruption of normal relations or the expenses of dealing with the conflict, can make other problems or issues more difficult to resolve too, (Arora, 2015).

Divorce decrease the performance of divorcees and the compatibility of the children and increase conflicts among all family members (parents and children as well as between siblings), Asadi, (2016). Divorce detrimentally affect individuals and society in numerous ways: reduction in religious practices, diminishes children learning capacity and educational attainments; reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity, leads to increase in crimes and the cost of its associated programs; and decreases health and life longevity, Fagan, (2012).

2.8 METHODS OF MITIGATING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DIVORCE ON CHILDREN

Additionally, the findings unearthed methods of mitigating the negative impacts of divorce on the children; divorcees maintaining healthy relationship, ensuring both parents continue to support children, attending regular counseling sessions when needed, avoiding custody disputes, divorcees supporting each other in taking care of the children, custodial parents praising good qualities of nonresident one, civilly handling of marital disputes, assuring children the parents still care, parents continuous involvement in children issues, quick and permanent resolution of

marital conflicts, assuring children that the divorce is not their fault, sharing imminent divorce early and gradually; and others specify. This concurs with things to remember when dealing with children of divorced parents, being honest, assuring them it will be fine, let them know it is not their fault, ensuring parents maintain strong relationship by avoiding further conflicts (Chowdary, 2017). Children's adjustment is facilitate when nonresident and resident parents are positively involved in their children's lives within the context of cooperative coparental relationship (good divorce) that permits the bonds of kinship with and through their children to continue; pervading the thinking of therapists, family courts, family scholars, and general public (Amato, 2011).

Children benefit when there is regular communication between divorcees as it facilitates exchange of information about the children. Problem-solving intervention for parents are effective in helping them to cope with divorce so too it is with the children as when parents are functioning they too are more likely to do well (Lee, 2000). Effective parenting encompassing both warmth and discipline, developing positive parent child relationship and managing conflict are very critical in protecting divorced children (Pedro-Carroll, 2011).

1. Persons to be involved in Settling Marital Disputes

Furthermore, the results indicate the people to be involve in resolving marital dispute: community elders, fathers in-law, mothers in-law, immediate neighbors, social workers, elder sisters in-law, elder brothers in-law, psychologists, others specify, lawyers, children; and courts. This is supported by family heads resolve

conflict among co-wives, brothers and sisters, truants, street fights and others by scolding the trouble makers and appeasing the offended and even visit them to thank them for accepting a peaceful resolution of the conflict (Ajayi, 2014). While the western world placed emphasis on a judicial system presided over lawyers and judges, traditional Africa uses council of elders, king's court, people assemblies open place, etc. for dispute settlement and justice dispensation (Ajayi, 2014).

Dispute resolution in Africa involves families as well as neighbors and the elders, and the basis of settling disputes is reconciliation instead of retribution or punishment (Boniface, 2012). In Africa, there were levels of conflict resolution disputes resolutions at the interpersonal or family level, the extended family and village or town level. These tiers represent the political units making up the community, the smallest unit being nuclear family headed by a head (Ajayi, 2014). All-women court's approach is advantageous because peer mediators are able to suggest solutions based on the realities of the women's lives, taking into account the social and cultural context in which they live (Vatuk, 2013).

2. Social Welfare Institutions Roles in Preventing Marital Divorce

Furthermore, the findings highlight the roles welfare institutions can play in divorce prevention: prevention of forced and early marriage, conducting public sensitization on divorce impacts, provision of pre and post marriage counseling, promote enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce, lobby incorporation of key social problems in schools curriculum, provision of psychosocial support to spouse in conflict, provision of financial support to families

in need, conducting public sensitization on importance of marriage, promotion of quick marital conflict resolution, promotion of stricter policies; and others specify. This dovetail well with traditional institutions play two important roles: a proactive role to promote social cohesion, peace, harmony, transparency, peaceful coexistence, tolerance, humility, respect; and a reactive role in resolving disputes which have already occurred, (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, 2008).

Religious organizations comprise the single largest array of institutions in our culture that have both a great interest in preventing marital breakdown and the capability to deliver premarital and marital intervention for first, most couples got married under their auspices, they know the importance's of such programmes, they already have the necessary structures, and they are deeply embedded in the cultures and are less likely experience cultural resistances and barriers (Hughes, 2013).

Counseling in our present day generation is useful to all persons and at every stage of life and therapists should develop intervention strategies that will help couples to understand themselves, the threat to their union and take decisions that will help them resolve their difference (Tolorunleke, 2014). In the States, programs like CODIP that provide group support to reduce sense of isolation, clarifying misconceptions, teaching children how to communicate with parents, problem-solving and other critical skills are important in time of uncertainty and change, (Pedro-Carroll, 2011).

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Below are the methods and procedures that will be used in carrying out this study. It shall be discussed under the following headings:

- Research Design
- Population of the Study
- Sample Size and Sampling Technique
- Research Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Method of Data Analysis

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

Descriptive research adopted for this study. The essence is to get data from target population which is to be considered the representative of the entire population. This is preferred because it determines the Social and Mental Implications of the effects of Divorce on the Growing up Children in Nigeria.

3.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population of this study consist of University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) students from SS1-SS3. This is irrespective of sex, age, ethnic and religious affiliations.

3.3 SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

In this study, the simple random sampling technique were used to select the sample size. A total of 100 students will be selected as the sample size of this study.

3.4 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The instrument that was used in this study is questionnaire it was constructed in such a way that all relevant questions such as sex and level of education questions relating to the research objectives will be asked. The questionnaire was administered to University Demonstration Secondary School to ascertain how Socio-psychological Effects of Divorce on the Upbringing of Offsprings of Marriage Relationships in Benin Metropolis, South-South Nigeria.

3.5 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Questionnaire was administered to 100 University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) students from SS1-SS3. Effort was made to see that the respondents are independent in their responses to the questions. The copies of the questionnaires was administered and collected that same day.

3.6 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The responses from the respondents was collected and thereafter converted to simple percentages and tables that was used to answer the research questions of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section basically deals with the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data collected from field survey on the Socio-Psychological Effects of Divorce on The Upbringing Of offspring's Of Marriage Relationships in Benin Metropolis. One hundred copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents out of whom seventy seven (96) copies were filled and returned. The returned questionnaire represents eighty six percent (96%) of these distributed.

The first segment of the analysis, deals with bio-data to which classification were sex, Age, education qualification. For clarity and simplicity, the analysis of data in respect of a particular research question is immediately followed by the interpretation of findings.

4.2 DATA ANALYSIS

Table 4.1: To determine whether children from stable home do better than children from broken home.

Question 1: Children from stable homes perform academically than Children from broken homes

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	28	29.2
Agree	32	33.3
Disagree	28	29.2
Strongly disagree	8	8.3
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 62.5% of the respondents seem to agree that children from stable homes do better in their academics more than those from a broken home, while 37.5% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 2: Children from broken homes have moral disorder than stable homes

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	25	26
Agree	29	30.2
Disagree	33	34.4
Strongly disagree	9	9.4
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 56.2% of the respondents seem to agree that children from broken homes have more moral disorder than those from a stable home, while 43.8% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 3: Children who come from broken families will most likely have difficult time in life

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	34	35.4
Agree	40	41.6
Disagree	18	18.8
Strongly disagree	4	4.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 77% of the respondents seem to agree that children from stable homes are most likely to turn out better in life than those from a broken home, while 23% of the respondents choose disagree.

Table 4.2: To determine the effect of divorce on academic performance of children

Question 4: Divorce of parents affect the child academic performance in school

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	39	40.6
Agree	45	46.9
Disagree	7	7.3
Strongly disagree	5	5.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 87.5% of the respondents seem to agree that divorce of parents has an effect either positive or negative on a child’s academic performance, while 12.5% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 5: Divorce has a massive effect on the growth and academic performance of the child

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	36	37.5
Agree	38	39.6
Disagree	17	17.7
Strongly disagree	5	5.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 77.1% of the respondents seem to agree that children from stable homes are most likely to turn out better in life than those from a broken home, while 22.9% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 6: Lack attention and focuses in school

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	38	39.6
Agree	39	40.6
Disagree	14	14.6
Strongly disagree	5	5.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 80.2% of the respondents seem to agree that children from broken homes are most likely to lose focus in school compared to those from a stable home, while 19.8% of the respondents choose disagree.

Table 4.3.: To determine moral disorder of Children from broken home and stable home.

Question 7: Being from a broken home affects a child moral behavior

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	27	28.1
Agree	49	51
Disagree	16	16.7
Strongly disagree	4	4.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 79.1% of the respondents seem to agree that children from broken homes are most likely to have moral disorder compared to those from a stable home, while 20.9% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 8: The reality of divorce leaves the adolescents in an awkward position that negatively affects their development

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	36	37.5
Agree	44	45.8
Disagree	12	12.5
Strongly disagree	4	4.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 83.3% of the respondents seem to agree that The reality of divorce leaves the adolescents in an awkward position that negatively affects their development compared to those from a stable home, while 16.7% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 9: The effect of divorce on children depends on the age of the children morally as at the time the parents got divorce

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	30	31.3
Agree	42	43.8
Disagree	17	17.7
Strongly disagree	7	7.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 75.1% of the respondents seem to agree that the age of the child is a determining factor of the effect the divorce would have, while 24.9% of the respondents choose disagree.

Table 4.4.: To identify effects of divorce on moral behavior of children from broken homes

Question 10: Children who experience divorce often have an increase in antisocial behavior, anxiety, and depression, along with increased delinquent and aggressive behavior

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	42	43.8
Agree	36	37.5
Disagree	17	17.7
Strongly disagree	1	1
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 81.3% of the respondents seem to agree that Children who experience divorce often have an increase in antisocial behavior, anxiety, and depression, along with increased delinquent and aggressive behavior compared to those from stable homes, while 18.7% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 11: Children from divorced families are nearly five times more likely to suffer damaging mental troubles than those who live with both parents

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	29	30.2
Agree	40	41.7
Disagree	23	24
Strongly disagree	4	4.1
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 71.9% of the respondents seem to agree that Children from divorced families are nearly five times more likely to suffer damaging mental troubles than those who live with both parents, while 18.7% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 12: Experiencing parental discord may lead a child to trivialize the importance of commitment and view the institution of marriage with negativity

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	34	35.4
Agree	44	45.8
Disagree	14	14.6
Strongly disagree	4	4.2
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 81.2% of the respondents seem to agree that Experiencing parental discord may lead a child to trivialize the importance of commitment and view the institution of marriage with negativity, while 18.8% of the respondents choose disagree.

Table 4.5.: To examine how divorce affect the physical and mental growth of the child.

Question 13: Divorce of parents affect a child self-esteem and self-confidence

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	34	35.4
Agree	49	51
Disagree	11	11.5
Strongly disagree	2	2.1
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 86.4% of the respondents seem to agree that children from broken homes tend to have a lower self-esteem than those from stable homes, while 18.8% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 14: Divorce creates a long term negative effects on child

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	35	36.5
Agree	40	41.6
Disagree	19	19.8
Strongly disagree	2	2.1
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 78.1% of the respondents seem to agree that negative effects from divorce is long term, while 21.9% of the respondents choose disagree.

Question 15: Divorce and separation has become a tradition in the contemporary world today

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	34	35.4
Agree	36	37.5
Disagree	23	24
Strongly disagree	3	3.1
Total	96	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The table above shows that 72.9% of the respondents seem to agree Divorce and separation has become a tradition in the contemporary world today, while 27.1% of the respondents choose disagree.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter, the data collected for the research work was analyzed. This chapter aims to summarize the findings of the research and base on such findings, make useful recommendations and conclusion.

5.2 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

From the foregoing chapter four, the following constitutes the major findings of the study.

1. The research shows that, divorce can negatively affect the child development academically and socially.
2. It also reveals that, children whose family is going through divorce may have a harder time relating to others, and tend to have less social contacts.
3. The research also reveal that certain children might have negative mind set towards intimacy, relationship, attachment or marriage, because of their experience growing up in a broken home.
4. It also discovers that, it will affect the personality of the child which finally sharpening's the final outcome of what the child becomes in the future.

5.3 CONCLUSION

It was found that even if divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage, it can lead children to difficulty in life when they need care from both parents and it can

cause drop out and street children in our society. It is affecting children lives and the consequences are lifelong.

Although most children from divorced parents suffer longterm consequences, some children may experience difficulties in adolescence, such as mental health problems, substance abuse, delinquency, and teenage pregnancy. Problems may even persist into adulthood, as they tend to have more economic, emotional, health, and relationship problems.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to reduce the Effects Of Divorce On The Upbringing of offsprings of Marriage Relationships In Benin Metropolis, it is recommended that the following parts (government, Local leaders, religious institution, spouses on marriage and respective responsibilities to their offspring and Social workers and related stakeholders interested in children and related welfare) to intervene as follows:

- **Recommendations to the Government:**

The government of Nigeria should mobilize people about the effect of divorce in order to be aware and care for their families. The government of Nigeria should train people about the relationship among the spouses and couples who wish to get marriage in order to prevent the divorce. The government of Nigeria should help children of divorced parents who were in bad life for their education. The government of Nigeria should make a law which punishing married people who prostitute instead of looking the development of their family.

- **Recommendations to Parents:**

The parents should ensure that the rights of the children are protected by both parents (mothers and fathers) in order to make her/him mature enough. The parents should help their children financially and morally in order to develop their sociability.

- **To Social Workers:**

Social workers and related stakeholders should interact with married people who want to divorce and tell them that divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults because they may respect their relationship and then refuse to divorce. Social workers and related stakeholders should create the organizations which care about the children of divorce in order to integrate them in society and develop their career of education even their maturity.

- **To the Judiciary:**

The judiciary should punish people who do not care about their children when they divorced in order to protect the right of the children.

- **To the Police:**

In order to prevent divorce and to protect the rights of children; it better to teach and advise police to interact with people in order to assess the cause behind their divorce and search the sustainable solution.

- **To the Local Leaders:**

The local leaders are recommended to solve conflicts between married people in order to avoid divorce and to remind spouses their responsibilities in the social

development of their children. Local leaders should also prevent dropout of all kinds of children in order to educate children and develop the community.

- **To Religious Institution:**

The religious institution should preach to married people how to care their family and their relationship among their living. The religious institution should mobilize people to join them for respecting law of God our creator.

REFERENCES

- Astone Mclanahan, (2002). Children with divorced parents score lower than children with continuously married parents on measure of academic success.
- Adebowale, S. P. (2005). Family instability and children's early problem behaviour. *Social Forces* 85(1): 551-81.
- Ajayi, E. (2014). Methods of conflict resolution in African traditional society.
- Amato and Ketin. (2001) "The Effects of Divorce and Marital Discord on Adult Children's Psychological Well-Being.
- Amato, P. (2012). The Consequences of Divorce for Adults and Children: Williams-Owens, W.M. (2017). The behavioral effects divorce can have on the children. Available at https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3353&context=g_c_etds
- Amato, P. R., & Afifi, T. D. (2006). Feeling caught between parents: adult children's relations with parents and subjective well-being.
- Anderson, J. (2014). The impact of family structure on the health of children: Effects of divorce. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4240051/pdf/lnq-81-378>.
- Arkes, J. (2015), The Temporal Effects of Divorces and Separations on Children's Academic Achievement and Problem Behavior. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56(1). 71-85.
- Arora, S. (2015). Formal and Informal Dispute Resolution.
- Asadi, A.(2016). Sources, Outcomes, and Resolution of Conflicts in Marriage among Iranian women: A qualitative study.
- Barry, L. (2003), "The Effects of Divorce on the Academic Achievement of High School Seniors," *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage* 38(3-4):167-185
- Barry, D.H. (2003). The Effects of Divorce on the Academic Achievement of High School Seniors, *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 38(3). 45-57.
- Bernardi, C. (2014). The long-term consequences of parental divorce for children's educational attainment

- Boniface, A.E. (2012). African-Style Mediation And Western-Style Divorce And Family Mediation: Reflections for the South African Context.
- Breivik (2006) Adolescent's Adjustment in Four Post-Divorce Family Structures.
- Chapman (2008), Relationship breakdown and the economic welfare of Australian Mothers and their children.
- Chowdary, D. (2017). Approach of Family Court in settling Matrimonial Disputes.
- Coleman and Benson, (2006). Effect of one's family background continues to play a prominent role in determining life chance.
- Czapiewski, S.M. (2014). Loss of the Parent-Child Relationship after Divorce
- Desrosier (2013). The Impact of Parental Separation on Young Children's Mental Health.
- Fagan, P.F. (2012). The Effects of Divorce on Children
- Fagan P.F., Churchill A. (2012). The Effects of Divorce on Children. Research Synthesis.
- Fagan, P. F., Aaron, C., & Rector, E. (2012). Effects of Divorce on Children, Marri Research. Washington, DC: marriage & Religion Research Institute.
- Furstenberg, F. F., & Kiernan, K. E. (2001). Delayed parental divorce. How much do children benefit? *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63: 446-457. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2001.00446.x
- Harold and Shelton (2007) Marital conflict may also cause parents to distance themselves from their children or even reject them.
- Herzog, M. J., & Cooney, T. M. (2002). Parental divorce and perceptions of past interparental conflict: Influences on the communication of young adults. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 36(3-4): 89-109.
- Hughes R. (2013). Improving Communication to Prevent Divorce– Jeremy Kanter. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 68(1), 222-235.
- Keister LA. (2004) Race, family structure, and wealth: The effect of childhood family on adult asset ownership. *Sociol. Perspect.* 47(2):161–87.

- Lee, C. M., et al.,(2000). Children's reactions to parental separation and divorce. *Paediatrics and Child Health*, 5(4), 217–218.
- Majzub, L. (2012). Perception and adjustment of adolescents towards divorce.
- Majzub N, (2012). Perception and adjustment of adolescents towards divorce.
- McLanahan (2004). Children from intact families have better outcomes and a higher well-being than children from divorced families.
- Nunes-Costa, R. A. et al, (2009). Psychosocial adjustment and physical health in children of divorce Rui A. Nunes-Costa,¹ Diogo J. P. V. Lamela,² Bárbara F. C. Figueiredo. Available at http://www.scielo.br/pdf/jped/v85n5/en_v85n5a04.
- Odenweller, B. (2014). Does parental divorce have an effect on a child education?
- Pedro-Carroll, J. (2011). How Parents Can Help Children Cope With Separation/Divorce.
- Pierret, C. R. (2001). The Effect of Family Structure on Youth Outcomes in the NLSY97. In: Michael RT, editor. *Social Awakening: Adolescent Behavior as Adulthood Approaches*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Rodgers and H. A. Rose, 2002, "Risk and Resiliency Factors among Adolescents Who Experience Marital Transitions", *Journal of Marriage and Family*.
- Sen B. (2000), How important is anticipation of divorce in married women's labor supply decisions? An intercohort comparison using NLS data. *Economics Letters*.
- Sheehan, G. et al, (2004). "Children's Perceptions of Their Sibling Relationships During Parental Separation and Divorce," *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*
- Shelton KH, & Harold GT (2007). Marital conflict and children's adjustment: The mediating and moderating role of children's coping strategies. *Social Development*, 16(3): 497–512.
- Sobolewski JM, Amato PR. (2007). Parents' discord and divorce, parent-child relationships and subjective well-being in early adulthood: Is feeling close to two parents always better than feeling close to one? *Social Forces*.

- Sobolewski, J.M., & Amato, P.R. (2007). Parents' Discord and Divorce, Parent-Child Relationships and Subjective Well-Being in Early Adulthood: Is Feeling Close to Two Parents Always Better than Feeling Close to One? *Social Forces* 85(3), 1105-1124. doi:10.1353/sof.2007.0056..
- Tolorunleke, C.A. (2014). Causes of Marital Conflicts Amongst Couples in Nigeria: Implication for Counselling Psychologists.
- Uche, (2009). Parental divorce can provoke an insecure attachment between a child and his or her parents.
- Uche, B.P. (2009). Short-run effects of parental job loss on children's academic achievement. *Economics of Education Review* 30(2): 289–99
- Vatuk, S. (2013). The “women's court” in India: an alternative dispute resolution body for women in distress.
- Videon (2002) The Effects of Parent-Adolescent Relationships and Parental Separation on Adolescent Well-being.
- Yongmin, S. & Yuanzhang, L. (2009). Post divorce Family Stability and Changes in Adolescents' Academic Performance: A Growth-Curve Model, *Journal of Family Issues* 30, no. 11 Mansfield, Rockville, Maryland.

APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE

Please read the questions carefully and tick or fill the correct answers in the boxes or space provided.

SECTION A: Personal Data

1. Sex: Male [], Female []
2. Age: Below 12 years [], 12-14 years [], 15-16 years []
3. Religion: Christian [], Muslim [], Others []
4. Class: SS1 [], SS2 [], SS3 []
5. Ethnic Group: _____

SECTION B

Key:

- SA = Agreed strongly
A = Agreed
D = Disagreed
SD = Strongly disagreed

S/N	Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
To determine whether children from stable home do better than children from broken home.					
1.	Children from stable homes perform academically than Children from broken homes				
2.	Children from broken homes have moral disorder than stable homes				
3.	Children who come from broken families will most likely have difficult time in life				
To examine the effect of divorce on academic performance of Children.					
4.	Divorce of parents affect the child academic performance in school				
5.	Divorce has a massive effects on the growth and academic performance of the child				
6.	Lack attention and focuses in school.				
To determine moral disorder of Children from broken home and stable home.					
7.	Being from a broken home affects a child moral behavior.				
8.	The reality of divorce leaves the adolescents in an awkward position that negatively affects their development.				
9.	The effect of divorce on children depends on the age of the children morally as at the time				

	the parents got divorce				
To identify effects of divorce on moral behavior of children from broken homes.					
10.	Children who experience divorce often have an increase in antisocial behavior, anxiety, and depression, along with increased delinquent and aggressive behavior.				
11.	Children from divorced families are nearly five times more likely to suffer damaging mental troubles than those who live with both parents.				
12.	Experiencing parental discord may lead a child to trivialize the importance of commitment and view the institution of marriage with negativity				
To examine how divorce affect the physical and mental growth of the child.					
13.	Divorce of parents affect a child self-esteem and self-confidence				
14.	Divorce creates a long term negative effects on child				
15.	Divorce and separation has become a tradition in the contemporary world today.				

