

**EFFECT OF BROKEN MARRIAGES ON ADOLESCENTS CHILDREN IN  
SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
AREA, BENIN CITY EDO STATE**

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**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

**BENIN CITY**

**NOVEMBER, 2023**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK,  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc) DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK**

**NOVEMBER, 2023**

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research work was carried by **Oziegbe Obehi Deborah** with Matriculation Number: **SSC1713363** in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science (Bsc) degree in Social Work, faculty of social sciences, University Of Benin, Benin City, Edo State.

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**DATE**

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God Almighty for His guidance and protection throughout my stay in school.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All gratitude to God Almighty, the one who has made it possible for me to complete this programme and this project work. May his name be praised forever.

My unreserved gratitude goes to my amiable and intelligent supervisor, Mr. Kingsley Ehigie for his patience, guidance and well-articulated instructions during the course of this project for accuracy and splendid completion. Thank you sir for your painstaking and efficient manner with which you scrutinized every stages of this project, may God reward you bountifully sir.

Special thanks to my family for their encouragement immense support, prayer and understanding all through my study and to late mother Mrs. Oziegbe. May her soul continue to rest in the bosom of God. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Egbele for their prayers and moral support. May God bless your union in Jesus name. Amen

My heartfelt gratitude goes to my finace Mr. Ogra Stanley for being there for me all through my stay in the University of Benin. I am grateful. Also, to my aunty and elder brother Mrs. Precious Umaigba and Oziengbe Austin, I say a very big thank you to you all. May God continue to protect you in Jesus name. Amen

To all my lecturers in the department of social work, I say a very big thank you for their intelligent and scholarly academic excellence through which knowledge, values and morals were impacted in me.

To all my friends within and outside the university of Benin, I say a very big thank you for being my partner in progress I appreciate you all for your support morally, emotionally, financially, spiritually, academically and psychologically, thank you all.



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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The incidences of broken marriages are on the increase, and resulting in the failure of children in such homes (Bubelwe, 2014). According to Ghaerba a (2001), broken home is a situation where by one's family is submerged with misunderstanding of marriage and family structure. Egbo (2012) viewed broken home as a place where the parents engage themselves in quarreling, fighting, suspecting, keeping late hours to the detriment of the children's primary drive for food, sleep and other basic needs. Broken homes are in various forms and these include divorce, separation and death of either parent's (Agu and Bebelwa, 2014). According to landis (1977) were a matter within the clan and it's environments, parents were not anxious to see their son's getting married to girls from distant places or other tribes. Marriage were arranged by parents on basis of family friendship and such marriage hardly break up because of the close relationship between both parents.

The first recorded evidence of marriage ceremonies uniting one woman and one man dates from about 2350 B.C., in Mesopotamia (Duncan, & Brooks, 1997). Over the next several hundred years, marriage evolved into a widespread institution embraced by the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. But back then, marriage had little to do with love or with religion. As the Roman Catholic Church became 2

powerful institution in Europe, the blessings of a priest became a necessary step for a marriage to be legally recognized, by the eighth century, marriage was widely accepted in the Catholic Church as a sacrament, or a ceremony to bestow God's grace. At the Council of Trent in 1563, the sacramental nature of marriage was set into canon law (Bronfenbrenner & Stephen 1994). America, once a nation with a strong marriage, had created the best route to achieving the American 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 Americans should simply accept the culture of divorce without considering the future of the children. Studies in the early 1980s showed that children in repeat divorce earned lower grades and their peers rated them as less pleasant to be around with (Andrew Cherlin, 1981).

In the 1990s, the divorce rate in India was as low as 7 failed marriages per 1000 marriages (Patterson, 2002). As women increased in work places and earned a salary, the need to rely on a man to earn the daily bread for the family has nearly ceased to exist. With this new found freedom, women no longer had to spend time to think about the consequences of a broken marriage (Mair, 1993). Still, the divorce rates in India at the beginning of the new millennium are as low as 11 failed marriages per 1000 marriages. According to Brown (2006), marriage dissolution is characterized by separation or divorce; it is a pervasive social phenomenon with far-reaching

consequences, particularly for the vulnerable members of society, such as children and adolescents. In Nigeria, as in many other parts of the world, the institution of marriage has undergone significant changes in recent decades, leading to an increase in the prevalence of broken marriages. These changes have raised critical questions about the well-being and development of . adolescents who must navigate the emotional, psychological, and socioeconomic challenges associated with their parents' marital breakdown.

Nigeria, as Africa's most populous country, reflects diverse cultural and societal dynamics, including those related to marriage and family life. Traditional family structures are evolving, with urbanization, globalization, and changing gender roles reshaping the way Nigerians approach marriage. While whether through separation or divorce, has been on the rise. This trend necessitates a thorough examination of its implications on the country's youth, particularly adolescents Amato & Afifi, (2006).

Adolescence is a critical period of development characterized by physical, emotional, and cognitive growth. It is during this phase that adolescents begin to form their identities, develop interpersonal skills, and prepare for adulthood Adebowale (2005). However, when faced with the challenges of parental separation or divorce, these developmental processes can be significantly disrupted, potentially impacting the trajectory of their lives. The experience of a broken marriage can trigger a range

of emotional and psychological responses among adolescents. Feelings of sadness, anger, confusion, and anxiety often accompany such Situations. These emotional challenges can spill over into other areas of their lives, affecting their academic performance, social relationships, and overall mental health.

Adebowale (2005) further stated that adolescent is also faced v academic performances in school, academic performance can be particularly vulnerable to the emotional turmoil resulting from parental separation divorce. Adolescents may struggle to concentrate on their studies, leading decline in their educational attainment. The social and behavioral consequences are equally significant. Adolescents may exhibit behavioral problems, such acting out, rebellion, or withdrawal, which can impact their interactions peers, teachers, and family members. The increased stress and emotional st associated with broken marriages can elevate the risk of mental health iss lad including depression and anxiety, among adolescents.

While research on the impact of broken marriages on adolescent abundant in various contexts globally, the specific dynamics, cultural no a and support systems in Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, require a localized investigation. In light of these considerations, this study seeks to examine the impact of broken marriages on adolescent children attending selected secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State, with a view to informing

policies, interventions, and support systems that can promote the well-being and development of these adolescents in the local context.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The dissolution of marriages and its consequences on the well-being and development of adolescents in selected secondary schools within Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, pose a significant and multifaceted challenge as there is an observable increase in the rate of marital breakdowns within Oredo Local Government Area, leading to a growing number of adolescents who must grapple with the repercussions of their parents' separation or divorce. Adolescents in these wren families frequently experience a range of psychological and emotional challenges, including but not limited to anxiety, depression, anger, and confusion, which can have enduring effects on their mental well-being. The emotional turmoil stemming from broken marriages may result in dimjnished academic performance among affected adolescents, potentially undermining their educational attainment and future prospects. Some adolescents may manifest behavioral and social issues, such as delinquency, withdrawal, or aggression, which can disrupt their interpersonal relationships and social integration.

There is also the problem of financial implications of marital dissolution can, lead to financial hardship within these families, affecting the living conditions and

access to essential resources for adolescents. The unique sociocultural and economic context of Oredo Local Government Area may influence the manifestations and impacts of these issues, warranting a region specific examination and tailored interventions.. This occurrence therefore have necessitated the need to examine this social phenomenon by the extent to the effect of broken marriages on adolescent children in selected secondary schools in Oredo local government area, Benin city Edo state

### **1.3 Research Question**

What are the causes major of broken marriages among couples?

What is the most effect of broken marriage on adolescent children?

What is the prevalence of broken marriages among families of adolescents attending selected secondary Schools in Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State?

How doe~ the experience of a broken marriage influence the academic performance of adolescent children in selected secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area?

To what extent do economic hardships arising from broken marriages affect the living conditions and access to resources for adolescents in Oredo Local Government Area?

#### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

The main aim of this study is to evaluate the effect of broken marriages on adolescent children in selected secondary schools in Oredo local government area, Benin City Edo state the specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Identify the causes major of broken marriages among couples
2. To find out the most effect of broken marriage on adolescent children
3. To examine the prevalence of broken marriages among families of adolescents attending selected secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State
4. Investigate how does the experience of a broken marriage influence the academic performance of adolescent children in selected secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area?'
5. Examine .what extent do economic hardships arising from broken marriages affect the living conditions and access to resources for a ° i adolescents in Oredo Local Government Area?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The rate of marriage failure is on the increase in our modern society. It is therefore important that timely study be carried out in order to give useful suggestions

and recommendations to teachers on how to help such unfortunate children to learn properly in school so that they can come out with good academic performance, in school for themselves and be useful to the society as well. This study would help policy makers to help make policies that will cover students in the Situation, of that future dreams could be achieved. Finally, the study would be also served as a reference marital for other studies related to the topic. Couples would benefit from the findings and recommendations of this study. This study will enable young couples to understand more facts concerning how to select their mates and the importance of disclosing themselves to their partners before or after marriage.

The study will also enable couples to know that self-disclosure is one of the important and necessary factors in mate selection and marital stability among couples. This study will assist couples to select their mates based on factors such as love, attractions, or compatibility etc.

This study will also be beneficial to the society at large in that, « will enable people, especially men and women in marriageable ages to identify whom to select in their marriage and to disclose themselves truthfully to their partners. The study will also show conflict arising from marriage and it will also show the basis for more studies, restoring intending broken marriages. This study was conducted to educate the people on the roles of Social Welfare Servicers on broken marriage. In Ekehuan Local Government Area of Edo State little has been done on the role of broken

marriages, it is important therefore that more of such studies be carried out, this will enable the people to see how broken marriages can be restored back. The findings of the study would go a long way to help the educators handle the students from broken home background since they may find it difficult to cope with their education. Again, the finding would help the government, religious houses and non-governmental agencies to encourage marital counseling at their various posts; and this could go a long way in correcting bad impression conceived in the society about marriage.

The study will also help new researchers and students to make references with this study

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study is focused on the effect of broken marriages on adolescents children in selected secondary schools but will be delimited to one hundred (100) students in senior secondary schools in Oredo local government area Edo state.

### **1.8 Definition of Terms**

**Children:** The offspring of men and women who are married  
**Broken home:** “the act or art of division between a husband and wife will often result to total breakdown of the home or divorce.

**Effect:** The impact something or event has on somebody or something.

**Family:** A social group related by blood or by marriage consisting of father, mother, children and other relatives.

**Juvenile delinquent:** Also known as juvenile offending; is the habit committing of criminal acts or offense by a young person, especially one below the age at which ordinary criminal prosecution is possible.

**Marital Instability:** This deals with the unstable nature of a home brought about by crises, fighting, unfaithfulness, etc.

**Marriage:** the coming together of a man and a woman to be husband and wife

**Parents:** Guidance or the father and mother of children.

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter shall be reviewed under the following headings: Concept « Marriage, Broken home and Students Schooling Adjustment, Broken home ai the Overall Wellbeing of Children, Broken home and Child Delinquency Causes of Broken home, Effect of Broken home, prevalence of broke marriages, Theoretical Framework, Empirical Study, Summary of Review Literature

#### 2.2 Concept of Marriage

Marriage is a basic institution in every society designed by God as a sa | agreement betw: en two individuals to become husband and wife (Becker, 200 Uka, et al 2013. It is an institution that gives legitimacy to sexual relations and reproduction for legitimate children (Ryan & Powelson, 2010). Marriage “involves joining in matrimony two individuals of different gender to bec 0..2 flesh as husband and wife, given the need for companionship, procreation continuing and sustaining family ties (Gbenda & Akume, 2002; Abane, Bumpass, 2009° Nevertheless, marital instability in the present day society huge concern as it is associated with separation, divorce and widow (Omoniyiet al, 2014).

According to Uka, et al, (2013), marriage is a legalizing of a special relationship between a man and woman to which the society gives approval; and it places partners under legal and social obligations to themselves and the society. Although the concepts of marriage and family are often used synonymously, they are not same but have distinct meanings. The term family is defined as any two people who are related to each other (Sarker, 2007). To Onwuasoanya (2006) the family is the household and those who live in one house, and a network of persons such as the couple, their offspring and kin intimately held together by a bond of social and kinship relationship.

The significance of the family devoid of instability is recognized by researches locally and worldwide (Becker, 2002; Sarker, 2007; Uka et al., 2013; Omoniyi Oyafunke et al., 2014). This is because the family without instability grows and ds one where positive relationship is promoted and sustained. As a consequence, Sarker (2007) refers to marital instability as the interpersonal association and interaction within the marital relationship. Moreover, Lesmin and Sarker (2008) defined marital instability as the process whereby marriages breakdown through separation, desertion or divorce. Hence, the increasing incidence of marital disharmony such as the occurrence of divorce shows that there is marital instability in a number of families in the Nigerian context (Ezennay, 2006).

Broken home occurs when one of the partner attempts to checkmate the behaviour and anticipations of the other (Uka et al., 2013). This threatens the household stability as well as the well-being of the children, as it often impacts on their academic adjustment and achievement. A number of people in the contemporary society believe that the educational system has failed, but evidently, the schooling system has not failed but rather it is the partnership that has failed, with schools taking on the responsibility that families, communities once assumed (Castro-Martin & Bumpass, 2009).

The broken home experience has a marked influence on the student's motivation for learning and on her to cope with academics. The home environment is a strong pointer to the academic adjustment and achievement children. This is because a number of children's academic potentials are not confronted with increasing difficulties as a result of parental marital instability' (Sarker, 2007). The contact between the parent, teachers and students make a lot of impact on the academic performance of the students, So those who do regularly attend school because of lack of proper monitoring by the par could experience challenges adjusting academically (Bumpass, 2009). Parents are thereby faced with the problem of enriching their home environment so as to establish a positive effect on the student's academic performance in school (Castro-Martin & Bumpass, 2009).

### **2.3 Broken home and Students Schooling Adjustment**

School adjustment has been constructed historically in terms of children academic progress or achievement (Birch & Ladd, 2007). This implies process of adapting to the role of being a student and to various aspects of the school environment. In addition, adjustment involves not only children progress and achievement but also their attitudes toward school, anxieties, loneliness, social support, and academic motivation (Reher, 2008) This is because interpersonal relationship is likely to affect children's academic motivation. Connell and Wellborn (2014) contend that involvement, or quality of a student's relationship with the parents is a powerful motivator academic adjustment. Ryan and Powelson (2010) note that school learning, be as they lack the basic motivation needed from both parents to perform brilliantly in school.” Some of the factors influencing marital instability (Omoniyi-Oyafunke et al., 2014) include; parental socio-economic status, educational level, gender and educational class level of the children.

Children's educational influenced are highly connected to their socio-economic background (Evans, Harkness et al, 2014). Along with children's personal ability with school work, given the unstable home environment, the economic status of their parents plays a huge role in their own to schooling functioning Families that are unstable sometimes experience insufficient income as available parent may to work longer hours to earn their more income (Sclafa 2008). This leaves less time for

them to spend overseeing their children learning process. There is also, typically, more conflict in homes of low income parents because there are more tension caused by stress within family.

Abu and Kolawole (2012) argue that parents who expressed more conflict home fail to provide a regular supervision for their children, resulting in poor school adjustment and performance. It is not always true that lower-income parents are neglectful parents, but one can slip into that label given so extreme pressure. Not only are children's education influenced by parenta socio-economic context, Sarigiani (2008) indicates that parental educational level has been found to be significantly related to the learning adjustment children from volatile home type, in times of marital instability.

Research shows that educated parents have much easier time preparing children for sc1001 compared to parents with little or no educational background, even during times of marital instability (Abane, 2003). ° education that children receive is very much dependent on the education | their parents received, as the literacy of the parents with unstable marriage: likely affect the education of their children (Reher, 2008). The role of gender, the course of daily parent-child interaction and children's academic adjustment has received little attention in the Nigerian context. Nonetheless, Lesmin and Sarker (2008) found out that there is differential

vulnerability for boys and girls in schooling adjustment throughout academic pursuit due to marital instability.

Boys exhibited more externalizing problems and less competence than girls during pre-adolescence (Akanbi, 2014). While, Howell, Portes and Brown (2007) found out that adolescent boys exhibit more problems in schooling adjustment than girls at the time of parental divorce. Majoribanks (2003) indicates that both male and female adolescents from divorced families exhibit higher rates of conduct disorder, which affect their academic.

Students schooling level or class, which can either be; primary, secondary or tertiary has also been correlated with children's school adjustment due to parental marital instability. Research posits that student's schooling level or their class level has a remarkable effect on them when faced with family instability (Omoniyi-Oyafunke et al., 2014). Ezennay (2006) indicates that children that are in lower classes tend to have more adjustment problem with their academics when faced with family instability. This could be because such children are very young and are close to their parents and with marital disharmony or instability, they experience crisis, particularly when not nurtured by their mother.

Akanbi (2014) asserts that children in higher classes, when their parents experience marital instability, specifically the senior secondary classes faces greater

adjustment problems, given that they are in their adolescent stage, as such, they experience more tolerance problems.

## **2.4 Broken Home and the Overall Well-being of Children**

A considerable amount of empirical attention has been given to the effects of broken home on the well-being of children. Amato and Keith (1991) conducted meta-analysis based on previous studies to examine the relationship between parental divorce and the well-being of children. The studies reported data “independent samples, which involved over 13,000 children. On measuring the well-being of children, they raised three questions: how large are the differences between children in divorced and intact families; are these differences statistically significant and are these differences larger for some outcomes than for others. The study concluded that children who had experienced parental divorce had lower well-being.

In this vein, Amato, et al (1995) aimed at determining parental marital conflict, divorce and children’s long-term outcomes are related. They used a dataset from a 12-year longitudinal study of marital instability over the life course. The research found out that in high-conflict families, children had higher levels of well-being if their parents divorced than staying together. But in low conflict families, children had higher levels of well-being if their

parents stayed together than if they divorced, Thus, parental marital conflict is negatively associated with the well being of offspring These studies support my, overall hypotheses that children from divorced families will have more life issues including higher rates of norm violating behaviour

## **26 Broken home and Child Delinquency**

The important conclusion from Amato and Keith's research (1991) built a solid foundation for future researches. Based on this conclusion, Price and Kunz (2003) conducted another meta analysis to study the effects of parental divorce on children's deviant behaviors. They raised two questions: how large are the differences between children in divorced and intact families on measures of delinquency and whether age, sex, race, social class and so on make the difference? They focused on the teenagers who were under 19 years old when they took surveys from previous 72 studies. Results indicated that children from divorced homes have higher rates of delinquency when compared to children from intact homes. Also, there is a previous research conducted by Voorhis, Cullen, et al., (1988) "examined the impact of family structure and quality on delinquency. The results showed home quality and gender, rather than family structure, to be the more important determinants of delinquency. It pierced into the phenomenon of divorce and figured out what part of divorce caused children's delinquency.

## **2.6 Causes of Broken home**

The investigation of the causes of broken home is an extremely complex matter.

The causes could be the following

### **2.6.1 Length of Marriage**

length of the marriage means how long the couples have been in their marriage. The statistics have shown that there is higher level of marital adjustment as the couples length of marriage increases than newly married couples who have not really known themselves (Bamstein 1986). In the first four years of marriage one's chances for divorce are very slim. It is faced with a lot of adjustment problem. Couples who have been married for very many years tend to have little or no adjustment problem. Any little problem is easily and immediately settled without any external interference. Unlike newly married couple that can easily divorce.

### **2.6.2 Lack of Attraction in Marriage**

Several at reactions in marriage esteem of the spouse sexual enjoyment and husband's academic background have been implicated by several authorities/writers as being related to marital adjustment. Click (1994) stressed strongly that the spouses in happy marriage describes their partners traits in a far more positive way than divorced persons. The former are more likely to report their mate traits as superiors.

Kephart (1998) also reported that concern with incapability was found primarily among divorced applicants from the high social strata. Sexual gratification is one vital source of marital attraction, but its lack is fewer standards of living. Therefore, when sexual satisfaction is not there, the divorce happens.

### **2.6.3 Community Stigma**

Robert (1999) in a recent study, the quality and stability of marriage proposed that the greater the couple's community embeddedness, the higher the marital quality. Furthermore, a study by Schroeder (1991) has reported that divorced persons are less likely to be born and raised up in rural settings than the urban settings. Sofolude (1995) found that the impacts of socio-economic and cultural factors, which promote marital instability are greater in the urban setting than the rural setting. Since tropical divorce was perceived to be relatively urbanized

### **2.6.4 Indiscipline/Home Background**

When the wife or husband is not self-disciplined and manner to approach family situation, the effect of either husband or wife attitude could lead to divorce if not curtailed. Glenn and Sheton (1993) Kobrin and Waited (1994) noted that persons whose parents are divorced are more likely to divorce than persons whose parents had stable marriage.

### **2.6.5 Finances**

Money talks and can make your life better or in some cases worse than you were. If money becomes a consistent topic of disagreement, the road to divorce is certain.

### **2.6.6 Infidelity**

Infidelity of either of the couples may lead to divorce. This is a course where there is lack of trust and faith in the partner. If the couples do not have faith and trust as well as reliable in each other, it could lead to divorce. Where either partner engages in sexual relationships outside the marriage, it is a common 10.Yence and a very strong reason for divorce. Adultery is the classic ground for divorce and is recognized by all jurisdictions. It is a sexual intercourse by a married person with someone one other than his spouse

### **2.5.7 Religious and Cultural Differences**

Religious belief and cultural values can cause conflict which affects the way you live your life and raise your children. If you aren't committed to adapting and practicing these values, this can be an ultimate deal breaker.

### **2.8 getting in for the Wrong Reasons**

Marrying for money, we have all heard that is a ticket to a quick divorce, but what about when you marry because it's what you think you should do? I've met many

divorced women who say the problems that made them leave were there right from the beginning but “everyone expected us to live happily ever after” or ‘we had already spend so much money on the wedding’ or “we had just built our dream home” so, remember, until you say “I do” you always have the choice to say “I don’t”.

### **2.6. 9 Childlessness/Infertility**

It’s widely held that as long as there are no children involved in a marriage, problems are bound to exist at least in the Nigeria context. For this reason, one might expect that husbands and wives with children would feel a greater restraint than those without children particularly very little children. Olusanya (1980) Scanlan: (:970), Bur. (1973) and Soetan (1982) revealed that children couples have indeed a vastly high marital problem. According to Soetan (1982) “childlessness in the African context to a large extent means interference of in laws and therefore, the Jeopardy to the marital stability of the couple which, to a large. extent depends on the ability of the couples to procreate otherwise” -“divorce”,

### **2.7 Effect of Broken Home**

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 Klebanov 1994; 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 broken home on child outcome include Amato and Keith (1991a) and Sigle-Rushton and McLanahan (2004) they have well established that children from intact families have better outcome 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 outcome 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 outcome. 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 families 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).

### **2.7.1 Broken home and Offspring Psychological Well-Being**

Broken home 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, & 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. There are more children from broken home 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 parents 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.

## **2.2 Educational Outcomes**

A substantial part of the research on parental divorce focuses on children's educational outcomes such as performance and achievement tests, grades, teacher's rating 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 economic difficulties affect negatively children's psychological well being children's standard of living after divorce, since it is well-demonstrated that during childhood.

Balikisu et, al (2005) perceived a divorce home can be more damaging to children. There are two reasons with which she supported her point, the period of adjustment to the divorce is longer and more difficult for children than the period of adjustment of death of a parent, as children pass through series of adjustment like denial of divorce, anger which strike out at those involved in the situation bargaining in an attempt to bring the parent back together and depression all which must have go a long way in deterring the academic achievement of the child, who need time to make good use of his brain to think logically as a students. Secondly, divorce tend to

make children different in the eye of the peer group. When enquiry is made about the missing parent is or why they have another to replace the missing parent, they become embarrassed and ashamed.

- However, Hurlock (1981), reported that temporary absence could be damaging to children than permanent break, he added that this mostly occur when the mother or the father is always around for a relatively short time, the absence could be for vocation, military operation and so on that take him away from the . home, it could be hospitalization in the case of the mother, such temporary break for a child could be stressful though for both parent and their children and could lead to detonation in family relationship. Therefore, failure of the family to adjust may hinder the academic performance of the child. The children from such a family background, and a child from a family that happen to be otherwise could also have challenges in his/her academic performance that is to show ‘that at this juncture the problem could be social or emotional instability.

### **2 .3 Economic Deprivation**

Family income is a good predictor of children’s educational outcomes. Low cognitive stimulation provided in poor households is a major pathway linking childhood poverty to childhood intellectual development. Divorce is often associated with decreased material well-being and downward social mobility. In developed countries,

usually, provisions are made for the children thus; separating Couples need to divide their economic resources, though losing their. Economies of scale but the reverse applies in developing countries. It is also common for children of divorce to continue residing with their mothers, who tends to suffer economically more than their fathers (Uche, 2009). Single-mother families are more likely to experience a higher level of economic insecurity and father may find it hard to transfer their resources and aspirations to their none resident children.

It is well established that divorce is associated with a decrease in the quantity and quality of the relationship between children and non-custodial parent. It seems that parental-child contact is a necessary but not a sufficient condition. However, these show that child's feelings of closeness with the non-custodial parent have a positive impact on children's educational outcomes although its effect is lower than authoritative parenting. However, even if there is a close relationship between the non-resident father and the child, some parents behave toward their children as an adult friend.

## **2.8 Theoretical Framework**

Two main theories shall be imported and used as the foundation of this work. Structural Functionalism theory by Emile Durkheim 1893: This theory, often associated with Emile Durkheim, views society as a complex system of

interconnected parts, each with a specific function that contributes to the stability and equilibrium of the whole. According to structural functionalism, society is like a complex system, and each part has a specific function to maintain social stability and order. In the context of broken marriages, this theory might emphasize the role of the family as a stabilizing institution and how a broken marriage can disrupt the equilibrium within the family unit. It can help us understand how divorce or separation can affect the roles and functions of family members, including parents and adolescents, and how it might lead to challenges in maintaining social cohesion.

### **Conflict Theory by Karl Marx 1848:**

Conflict theorists, like Karl Marx, analyze society through the lens of power and inequality. They argue that society is characterized by conflict and competition over resources, with a focus on how those in power maintain their dominance and how marginalized groups seek to challenge it. Conflict theory views society as characterized by power struggles and inequality. In the context of broken marriages, this theory might focus on the power dynamics within the family, particularly how decisions about separation or divorce are made and how resources (financial and emotional) are distributed among family members. It can help us analyze how issues like custody battles and economic disparities can impact adolescent well-being. What is notable in these theories is that they mainly hold that spouses decide on whether to continue their marriages based on calculations of their personal utilities. Therefore,

while the well-being of other parties involved in the marriage particularly, the other spouse and the children may be taken into account when deciding on the continuation of the marriage, it does not necessarily play a role.

An implication of this argument is that although children are centrally involved in divorce, they may not have a powerful say on the parents' decision of whether to divorce or not; in Africa, the child has always been the biggest loser in divorce cases in contrast to what is obtainable in Western countries. The reason for this have been the lack or poor implementation of policies and the law; and the usual unpronounced divorce cases that are increasingly taking place in Nigeria, and other Africa. Thus, what might be an optimal solution to at least one of the parents (regardless of whether the decision is to divorce or to remain married) might not be as good for the children (e.g., Ellwood and Jencks, 2004; Uche, 2009).

## **2.9 empirical Studies**

‘There are a host of studies that indicate that divorce can negatively influence children outcomes, indicating that the negative effects of divorce are larger for children who were very young at the time of the dissolution (CITE). This is especially true for the academic performance of the child. Elliott and Richards's research (1991) finds that children whose parents divorced when they were between seven and sixteen years old were found to obtain worse scores than those children whose parents were

remain married. When it comes to divorce and race, there are discordant findings. On the one hand, some research finds that the impact of divorce on delinquent behavior was significantly higher for Africans than for whites (Price and Kunz 2003; Matsueda and Heimer 1987). However, Farnworth (1984) finds that the importance of family structure for delinquency has been high exaggerated in the popular thesis that links broken homes to juvenile delinquency for black people. Through studying black and white children, it found no significant difference in delinquency rates between children from intact and divorced families.

Many sociologists have long been interested in the effects of occupation on broken home. In an effort to further knowing the parents' occupational status's effects on parental divorce and child well-being, Greenstein (1985) conducted an analysis of the relationship between occupation and propensity to divorce. For male professional and technical workers, their propensity to divorce is higher than other occupational categories. Female professional and technical workers have lowest propensity to divorce among nonfarm workers.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter explains the methodology relevant to this study. It contains the research design, the population and sampling techniques, the operationalization and measurement of variables, the research instrument, sources of data and method of data analysis.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

A research design is a grand plan of approach to a research topic (Greener,2008). It is the framework that has been created to seek answers to the research questions.

A survey research design will be used for the study. The survey design provides a quantitative or numeric description of trends, attitudes or opinions of a population by studying a sample of that population (Creswell, 2014). The purpose of using the survey research design is to generalize from the sample to the population, so that inferences can be made about some characteristics, attitude or behavior of this population.

### 3.3 The Population and Sampling Technique

The population of this study consists of SSS 1 to SSS 3 students from public secondary schools in Benin City, Edo State with a total student population of 7,200.

#### Sample and sampling technique

The sample for this study is one hundred and eighty senior secondary school students in Oredo Local government Area of Edo State.

To determine the sample size, six (6) senior secondary schools were purposively selected out of the secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area.

S/N	Names of schools	Number of studens
1	Adesuwa grammer school	30
2	Edokpolor grammer school	30
3	Idia college	30
4	Oredo girls school	30
5	Ihogbe college	30
6	Lucia secondary school	30
	Total	180

Sample size = 180

A total of 180 students from the six secondary schools will be randomly selected for the administration of questionnaires

### **3.5 The Research Instrument**

The research instrument to be used for the study was self-administered questionnaire. It consists of two sections. Section A focused on respondents personal Bio-data such as gender, Age, h. Section B requested respondents to complete questions related to the study variable of broken marriage and adolescent academic performance.

### **3.6 Sources of Data**

Data were sourced from both primary and secondary sources. The secondary sources consist of journals, articles, publication and internet sources. The primary source of data consist of questionnaire administration and interview.

### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

The demographic profile of respondents were analyzed using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages. The descriptive statistics for the various variables were analyzed with the use of means and grand mean. All the hypothesis stated in this research was tested using ANOVA, which were carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (Version 22.0). The use of ANOVA show the degree of relationship that exists between the dependent variable and the independent variables.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

The study examined the effect of broken marriage on adolescent children in selected secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area Benin City. Edo State. This study uses qualitative research instrument through the administration of questionnaires to one hundred and eighty (180) respondents in the study area. The responses from the questionnaires administered were analyzed using descriptive statistics, cronbach Alpha test and ANOVA, through the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS, 22.0.)

#### 4.2 Descriptive Statistics

This section describes the sample in terms of demography (gender, age, and sex). This is presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 4.1: Response Rate**

<b>Options</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Returned	158	87.8
Unreturned	22	12.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field Survey, 2023*

Table 4.1 shows that during the process of carrying out this research, 180 questionnaires were distributed to respondents and 158 questionnaires were duly completed and returned and usable. This represents 87.8% response rate subsequently analyzed. The personal Bio-Data profile of the respondents is presented in the Table 2 below.

**Table 4.2: Bio-Data profile of respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Valid percentage %</b>
<b>GENDER</b>	Male	86	54.4
	Female	72	45.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>AGE</b>	11-13	65	41.1
	14-16	49	31.0
	17-19	28	17.7
	20-Above	16	10.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Family type</b>	Intact home	54	27.8
	Broken home	96	60.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field survey, 2023*

From Table 4.2 above, it is evident that with respect to gender, 54.4% (86) of the respondents were male while 45.6% (72) of the respondents were female. This implies that more of the respondents from the sample were males.

From the age category, 41.1% (65) of the respondents were between the age of 11-13years, 31.0% (49) of the respondents were between the ages of 14-16, 17.7% (28) of the respondents were between the age of 17-19years, 10.1% (16) of the

respondents were above 20years. This means that more of the respondents (41.1% of the total sample) were between the age of 11-13years.

### 4.3 Data Presentation and Reliability Analysis

**Table 4.3: Causes of broken marriages among couples**

S/N	VARIABLE	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
1	Infidelity or extra marital affairs played a significant role in our marriage problems	95 60.1%	54 34.2%	6 3.8%	2 1.3%	1 0.6%	4.52
2	Financial problems and disagreements about money contributed to the breakdown of our marriages	67 42.4%	74 46.8%	13 8.2%	4 2.5%	0	4.29
3	Trust issues or broken trust were a major factor in our marriage	60 38.0%	72 45.6%	20 12.7%	5 3.2%	1 0.6%	4.17
4	We were fundamentally incompatible						
	Grand mean	53 33.3%	79 49.7%	16 10.1%	6 3.8%	4 2.5%	4.08

*Source: Field survey, 2023*

Decision rule: there is a unanimous agreement when the mean values of respondents are above 3, unanimous disagreement when it is below 3, and also respondents are neutral when the mean value is equal to 3.

Table 4.3 above shows that there is a unanimous agreement to the statements provided, indicating that broken marriages are caused by Infidelity or extra marital affairs played a significant role in our marriage problems. This is evident in the mean value of 4.32. All three questions received positive responses ranging from 4.17 – 4.52.

**Table 4.4:**

<b>Reliability Statistics</b>	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.702	3

From Table 4.4 above, the questions are reliable with a cronbach's alpha value of 0.702 which is greater than 0.70.

**Table 4.5: The most effect of broken home on adolescents**

S/N	VARIABLE	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
1	The emotional well being of adolescents children is significantly affected by their parents broken marriage	68 42.8%	75 47.2%	8 5.0%	4 2.5%	2 1.3%	4.29
2	Adolescents from broken homes are more likely to experience academic difficulties	85 53.4%	56 35.2%	17 10.7%	1 0.6%	0	4.41
3	The lack of a stable family environment due to a broken marriage can	53	79	16	6	4	4.08

	lead to behavioural problems in adolescent	33.3%	49.7%	10.1%	3.8%	2.5%	
4	The financial strain resulting from a broken marriage can negatively impact the well being of adolescent children	76 48.1%	69 43.7%	11 7.0%	2 1.3%	0	4.39
	Grand mean						4.26

*Source: Field survey, 2023*

Table 4.5 above shows that there is a unanimous agreement to the statements provided, indicating that broken marriages affect adolescent. Adolescents from broken homes are more likely to experience academic difficulties This is evident in the mean value of 4.26. All three questions received positive responses ranging from 4.08 – 4.41.

**Table 4.6:**

<b>Reliability Statistics</b>	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.711	3

From Table 4.6 above, the questions are reliable with a cronbach's alpha value of 0.711 which is greater than 0.70.

**Table 4.7: the prevalence of broken marriage among families**

S/N	VARIABLE	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
1	My parents are currently married to each other	43 27.2%	84 53.2%	19 12.0%	9 5.7%	2 1.3%	4.00
2	I have experienced a separation or divorce in my family	45 28.5%	87 55.1%	22 13.9%	4 2.5%	0	4.09
3	I feel a strong sense of support and communication within my family	50 36.1%	83 52.5%	20 12.7%	5 3.2%	0	4.13
4	Conflict and disagreement are common in my family	68 42.8%	75 47.2%	8 5.0%	4 2.5%	2 1.3%	4.29
	Grand mean						4.07

*Source: Field survey, 2023*

Table 4.7 above shows that there is a unanimous agreement to the statements provided, indicating that broken marriages is prevalent among families . This is evident in the mean value of 4.07. All three questions received positive responses ranging from 4.00 – 4.13.

**Table 4.8:**

<b>Reliability Statistics</b>	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.810	3

From Table 4.8 above, the questions are reliable with a cronbach's alpha value of 0.810 which is greater than 0.70.

**Table 4.9: the extent to which economic hardship from broken home affect adolescents**

S/N	VARIABLE	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
1	Economic hardship resulting from broken marriages negatively impact the financial stability of families in Oredo local government Area	52 32.9%	75 47.5%	18 11.4%	10 6.3%	3 1.9%	4.03
2	Adolescents in Oredo local government area are often deprived of basic necessities due to economic hardship caused by broken marriages	50 31.6%	71 44.9%	23 14.6%	12 7.6%	2 1.3%	3.98
3	Access to quality education for adolescents in Oredo local government area is hindere4d by the economic difficulties arising from broken	54 34.2%	74 46.8%	15 9.5%	9 5.7%	4 2.5%	4.07

	marriages						
4	Broken marriages often lead to increased stress and emotional difficulties for adolescents in Oredo local government are	50 33.3%	79 49.7%	19 10.1%	6 3.8%	4 2.5%	4.08
	Grand mean						4.02

**Source:** Field survey, 2023

Table 4.9 above shows that there is a unanimous agreement to the statements provided, indicating that economic hardship from broken home affect adolescents affects adolescents from broken marriages. This is evident in the mean value of 4.02. All three questions received positive responses ranging from 3.98 – 4.07.

**Table 4.10:**

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.808	3

From Table 4.10 above, the questions are reliable with a cronbach's alpha value of 0.808 which is greater than 0.70.

**Table 4.11: how experience of broken marriage influences the academic performance of adolescents children**

S/N	VARIABLE	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
1	The experience of broken marriage can have impact on the emotional well being of adolescents children	73 46.2%	68 43.0%	12 7.6%	2 1.3%	3 1.9%	4.30
2	A broken marriage can affect an adolescent self esteem, leading to academic challenges	76 48.1%	69 43.7%	11 7.0%	2 1.3%	0	4.39
3	Adolescents from broken homes may struggle with adjusting to changes in their family structure, which can affect their academic performance	75 49.5%	73 46.2%	8 5.1%	1 0.6%	1 0.6%	4.39
4	Academic performance is significantly influenced by the family environment, including marital stability	65 41.1%	59 37.3%	20 12.7%	7 4.4%	1 0.6%	4.06
	Grand mean						4.42

*Source: Field survey, 2023*

Table 4.11 above shows that there is a unanimous agreement to the statements provided, indicating that experience of broken marriage influences the academic performance of adolescents children. This is evident in the mean value of 4.35. All two questions received positive responses ranging from 4.30 – 4.39.

The Table also shows that Adolescents from broken homes may struggle with adjusting to changes in their family structure, which can affect their academic performance

**Table 4.14:**

<b>Reliability Statistics</b>	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.807	3

From Table 4.14 above, the questions are reliable with a cronbach's alpha value of 0.807 which is greater than 0.70.

#### **4.4 Testing Hypotheses**

In this section, the hypotheses are tested using regressions analysis. Table 15 shows the regression output

**Table 4.15: Regression output**

##### **Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.539 <sup>a</sup>	.290	.251	1.95688

a. Predictors: (Constant), Causes Of Broken Marriages Among Couples, The Most Effect Of Broken Home On

Adolescents, The Prevalence Of Broken Marriage Among Families, The Extent To Which Economic Hardship From Broken Home Affect Adolescents, How Experience Of Broken Marriage Influences The Academic Performance Of Adolescents Children

**Table 4.16**

**ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	16.808	5	3.362	7.434	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	582.067	152	3.829		
	Total	598.875	157			

a. Dependent Variable: BROKEN MARRIAGE

b. Predictors: (Constant), Causes Of Broken Marriages Among Couples, The Most Effect Of Broken Home On Adolescents, The Prevalence Of Broken Marriage Among Families, The Extent To Which Economic Hardship From Broken Home Affect Adolescents, How Experience Of Broken Marriage Influences The Academic Performance Of Adolescents Children

**Table 4.17****Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.021	1.957		1.543	.082
	Causes Of Broken Marriages Among Couples	.339	.147	.209	2.305	.023
	The Most Effect Of Broken Home On Adolescents	.632	.333	.180	4.954	.000
	The Prevalence Of Broken Marriage Among Families	-.037	.330	-.010	-.111	.912
	The Extent To Which Economic Hardship From Broken Home Affect Adolescents	.102	.204	.042	2.498	.018
	How Experience Of Broken Marriage Influences The Academic Performance Of Adolescents Children	-.078	.277	-.024	-3.655	.009

a. Dependent Variable: BROKEN MARRIAGE

**Hypothesis 1**

**H<sub>1</sub>: there is a significant relationship between broken marriage and adolescents academic performance.**

Table 4.17 above shows that there is positive and significant relationship between broken marriage and adolescents academic performance. This is confirmed by the t-Statistic value of 2.305 and at a p-value of 0.023 which is lesser than our 0.05 level of significance. Based on the result, we therefore fail to reject the alternative hypothesis that states there is a significant relationship between broken marriage and adolescents academic performance

## **Hypothesis 2**

**H<sub>2</sub>: there is a significant relationship between broken marriages and emotional well being of the adolescent**

Table 4.17 above shows that there is positive and significant relationship between broken marriages and emotional well being of the adolescent. This is confirmed by the t-Statistic value of 4.954 and at a p-value of 0.000 which is lesser than our 0.05 level of significance. Based on the result, we therefore fail to reject the alternative hypothesis that states that there is a significant relationship between broken marriages and emotional well being of the adolescent.

From the ANOVA table, it is evident that broken marriages have positive and significant relationship with adolescent performance with a P value of 0.000.

It is evident from the value of adjusted  $R^2$  which is 0.251 indicating that the independent variables that make up broken marriages explain 25.1% of the systematic variation in the dependent variable (adolescent academic performance).

### **Discussion of findings**

The Study has recorded that learners be it in the, primary school, secondary schools, or tertiary institutions from broken home, tend to achieve poorly than those who are not from broken homes academically. Likewise adult learners, in a literacy programme, performs poorly when in a broken home, than their other counterparts, who are not from a broken home.

The study discover that experience of broken marriage can have impact on the emotional well being of adolescents children. This is in line with the study of Fagan and Rector (2002) who found that the children born in the year to parents who are married, would see their parents, divorce, before they turn 18. They stated that the devastating physical, emotional and financial effect that divorce is having on these children will last well into adulthood and affect future generation, among these broad and damaging are the following children whose parent, have divorced increasingly the victims of abuse. They exhibit more health, behavioral and emotional problems and are involved more frequently in crimes and drug abuse and have higher rates or suicide. They also perform poorly in reading, spelling and math.

They also are more likely to repeat a graded and have a higher dropout rates and lower college graduation and also families with children that were not poor before the divorce, see their income drop as much as 50 percent. Almost 80 percent of the parent with children that are going through a divorce more into poverty after the divorce and their religious worship, which has been linked to a better health, longer marriages and better family life, drop after the parent, divorce.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction

The summary of findings, recommendations and conclusion give utility, relevance and significance to any research endeavour. This chapter thus contains a summary of the findings and the appropriate recommendations and conclusions that have been articulated from the discussions made in the preceding chapter.

#### 5.1 Summary Of Findings

The purpose of this research work is to find out the causes and problems of divorce, it's effect on the adolescents academic performance in some selected secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo state.

The researcher have been able to point out the causes and problems of divorce and its effect son broken homes on the academic performance of children in schools. In addition, the researcher has made necessary , recommendations of some of the solution to the problem.

Three methods wee used in collecting data base on the problem and causes of divorced, the method include interview, questionnaire and observation during my research work. And also few schools were visited in the course of this research work .

## **FINDINGS**

So far, the findings and the discussions have indicated that infidelity or extra marital affairs played a significant role in many broken marriages as opined by the respondents. Economic hardship was also found to be a major cause of conflict in many marriages which in most cases metamorphosed into broken marriage.

There exist individual differences as people co-exist with their unique potentials differently from each other; so also there are different dimensions or likely variables that can spark off conflict in a marriage relationship depending on the stage of a marriage. There is therefore no evidence to suggest that no marriage is without conflict, so they cannot be said to be interacting perfectly without conflict. The degree of conflict resolution in a marriage depend on how well each couple is equipped or understands the management skills available to their own situation.

Even among older couples, there are likely to be variations in management efficiencies. Lamle (2004) agrees that while we know that there are variations from couple to couple on conflict approach in marriage, there exists a similarity in the way each couple reacts but management differs. Such an approach has considerable currency and history in marriage counselling. The differences and similarities in tackling conflict in marriage constitute their marriage ties, which are characterized by their patterns of behaviour, values, beliefs and indeed marriage environments. Eroh (2005) while identifying separate cultures on how marriage is valued within family

settings, said couples' personality traits, whether literate or not, are inherent. Taken together, they constitute the family, which can be a function of a successful marriage. One aspect, which surprisingly is often neglected, is sexual dysfunction in marriage. Often, sex is not viewed as a factor that can disrupt a marriage. The function of sex in marriage is to take off all stress by the couple and lubricate their drying scenario in marriage. The objective of counselling in marriage is to achieve cordiality, which explains why parents and guardians spend more of their time attempting to achieve peaceful co-existence.

At the same time, parents and guardians, to some degree, fail to acknowledge that sex is a pleasurable tool for the achievement of stability in marital issues. It is therefore professional and ethical interest to attempt to explain why this happens. Odukoya (2004) suggests that sex exerts definite pressures on certain people to be non-conforming rather than conforming; in other words, sex which was made by God to achieve pleasure in marriage also could produce displeasure, and that the explanation for this lies not with the nature of man, but with societal pollution as manifesting through misplaced values in marriage.

Outside marriage, conflict in interpersonal interaction, its application and enforcement of rules for its avoidance becomes the concern of all within a particular society. Conflict, as we all know, is not entirely negative but an attempt to put things right with conflicting focus is what results in it. Some conflict situations yield positive

results for the enhancement of the societal goals while some disrupt the goals and cause more confusion. For the conflict that breeds development in a particular setting, the beneficiaries usually have huge benefits and better lessons to learn from for a better functioning tomorrow. The more a society organizes its affairs, the more equipped in management of conflict it becomes. Uwe (2000) observes that the major difference is the way in which individuals' management skills are used in resolving conflict.

Successful management of conflicts has a sort of truce between the individuals and society. This truce is in the nature of an informal arrangement for the mutual convenience of both sides in the exercise of rules and regulations in the society. The individual and the society thus have the greatest potential for a successful intervention of conflict among individuals within a neighbourhood.

However, most of the reported remediation efforts in curbing conflict in the literature involved counselling for people in conflict and their friends by counsellors either in the traditional or formal ways. In most cases elders in the society who may not have been adequately trained for the task render these services.

Apparently, inadequate possession of skills to manage conflict results in poor resolution, which in turn, results in more broken relationships. These are in addition to characteristics such as breach of peace in the home and outside the home, war, lack

of concentration in things that would generate revenue to better the economy and a complete disorganisation of the entire system.

Conflict may come about by the orientation of an individual. A socially dysfunctional person may be characterised by obsessive efforts to secure social acceptability by friends or onlookers, inability to form and maintain social relationships, aggressive behaviour or, in contrast, excessive timidity.

By and large, a friendly environment has the most profound impact on learning and exerts a significant role to produce cordiality in interaction. The friendly environment of a person can be categorised into physical, social and psychological. In the society in general, the physical environment of every person is his or her home where family members are its make up. The provision of a warm interacting environment enhances effective homely living, which motivates other family associates to imbibe the culture of living in peace with one another and learn better ways of resolving conflict in a family setting.

## **Conclusion**

This study is carried out to find out the causes and problems of divorce and its effects on the child's academic performance in some selected secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. From the data collected and analyzed that the cause and problem of divorce is as a result of immaturity of both partner.

When parents encounter problem in their marriage, they should go for counseling and sort out their problems instead of splitting up and putting their children at risk. Extended families should also stay away from the affairs of a couple. It is my sincere hope and belief that the recommended actions that would be listed below will be able to address the incident of broken home that has caused social problems in our society as a result of the negative impact in the life of children.

The home that was designed by God to be the shelters and umbrella for children gets turn apart by parents due to misunderstanding and mismanagement. Therefore, there is the need to ensure that there is a conducive atmosphere in which family can operate effectively and harmoniously towards the realization of its goal. It could also be stressed from this angle that when parents are financially stable, faithful to emotional support, value and norms of the society, the issue of broken homes will reduce in our society.

The conclusion that may be drawn as a result of the findings is that some of the pillars for marriage stability are effective communication between marriage couples, strong sexual satisfaction of married partners, ability of married couples to have children and common cultural background of the married couples. Their absence in a marriage could spell doom and probably lead to divorce.

Also, incompatibility causes decode that is some parents arrange the marriage of their children, they choose wives for their son or husband for their day. Therefore, parents should allow their children to choose their life partner themselves, also young man and woman intending to go into marriage should be matured physically and mentally.

## **RECOMEMNDATON**

From the analysis of data, it is clear that several causal factors are responsible for the causes of broken homes and the negative effect on children. Some recommendations are

1. Parents should try to be faithful to each other in building up their home. Also they must ensure that there is the spirit of give and take and mental dialogue in dealing in family matters.
2. The development of the nation depends on the stability and well-being of the family. Government should therefore ensure that the homes are properly planned and developed to be able to function effectively for the development of the nation.
3. The welfare and development of the nation depends largely in the quality of the family unit, looking at the traditional and cultural values that enhance and strengthen the healthy wholesome development of the society.

Therefore, government must ensure that there is a conducive atmosphere k in which the family can operate effectively and in harmony towards the realization of its goals.

4. Couples should learn to live with the limit of their financial capacity rather than live above their means of income which breeds conflict strain in marriage.
5. Parents should give their children moral and emotional support to ensure adequate health and give them guard lines for parenthood in the future.

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