

**BENIN CITY RESIDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS NOLLYWOOD
PORTRAYAL OF DIVORCE CASES IN NIGERIA**

BY

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BENIN CITY, NIGERIA**

APRIL, 2024

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**BEING A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS
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FULFILLMENT OF FOR THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
BACHELOR OF ART (B.A) DEGREE IN MASS COMMUNICATION**

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DECLARATION

This project is based on a study conducted by me Ewa Precious Ejim, of the department of mass communication, Faculty of Arts, Mass University of Benin, under the supervision of Mr Ndubisi Umoro. All findings and analysis in this study are products of my personal research and where the view of others have been used and expressed was duly acknowledged.

EWA PRECIOUS EJIM
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work was duly carried out by Ewa Precious Ejim with MAT NO: ART1901539 of the Department of Mass Communication, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, Benin city, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Mass Communication.

Mr. Ndubisi Umoro N.
(Project supervisor)

Date

Dr. Daniel Ekhareafo
(Head of Department)

Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty my creator for his grace and sufficiency upon my life.

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

The success of this programme is majorly attributed to God almighty, for his grace, mercy, and strength made available for me to successfully write and complete this academic work.

My profound gratitude goes to my supervisor Dr. Ndubisi Umoro N. for taking his time through the clear insight of the project work. I also acknowledge my head of department Dr. Daniel Ekhaerafo and all my wonderful lecturers. I wish you all God's blessings and good health. I pray God grant your heart desires in Jesus name. Amen.

I would forever be grateful to my supportive parents, Elder and Pastor Mrs Ogonnia Ewa for their support throughout the programme. Also, to my lovely siblings for their love, and support through it all.

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ABSTRACT

This study analysed Benin City Residents Attitudes Towards Nollywood Portrayal of Divorce Cases in Nigeria. The study was built around the tenets of Agenda setting and Media Dependency theory of mass communication. Survey research method was employed in the course of this study and questionnaires were used as primary instrument of data collection for this study. Two hundred and forty (240) copies of questionnaires were physically administered to respondents within Benin City, Edo state. This was aided by the purposive Sampling technique. Also, Focused Group Discussion were used to support facts in this study. A group of six (6) undergraduates of the University of Benin selected from two (2) departments Viz mass communication, Early childhood Education. The study found out that Nollywood movies that feature divorce contents have negative impacts on members of the society. Although, the producers may have had a different agenda, but the contents of such movies are usually misinterpreted in a negative light by members of the society. Since " seeing is believing" as members of the society are constantly exposed to divorce contents. Overtime, it becomes a reality in most marriages in our contemporary society. Divorce has done more harm than good to our modern society, hence Nollywood movies (or the Nigeria film industry) ought to sensitize members of the society on the dangers of divorce on members of the society instead or aiding and abetting it in any way. The media (film in this case) is a powerful influencer that can either make or mar any society, hence the contents of Nollywood movies should be properly seasoned instead of tearing more marriages apart it should mend broken and fix broken marriages instead of encouraging people to opt for divorce at the slightest provocation. A sane marriage is a sane family and a sane family is a sane society. If the family is at peace, the society will be haven to live in. The study recommends that Government should promulgate enabling laws that restrains extreme feminists agenda due to its negative influence on members of the society, and they should also enact stern laws that prohibits domestic violence since it is a major cause of divorce in Nigeria and culprits should be punished so as to serve as deterrent to others. The study also recommended that Nollywood movies should feature less of divorce contents due to its negative impacts on members of the society. In the same vein, this study also examined the impact of celebrities failed marriages as a key actor in promoting divorce rates in Nigeria, hence this study also recommended that celebrities should put in more efforts in making their marriages a world class model considering the influence they weild on members of the society who look up to them as role models.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are several issues besieging the Nigerian society. But one among these issues is discussed in this research work. The topical issue of divorce is both locally, nationally and globally seen. The movie industry is known as one of the most popular media that plays a vital and important role in the society. The movie industry tends to educate, inform, entertain, advocate, preserve culture, promote integration among others by focusing on issues, popular stories and ideas that is of immense benefit to the general mass audience (From the Selected Mass Media Themes, Ezekiel S.Asemah 2011, pg.37 - 49).

This means that the film industry has same function with the mass media. Dominic(2007) in Ezekiel S. Asemah text titled Selected Mass Media Themes defines the media as the channel that are use for mass communication. He added that the mass media is not restricted to electronic gadgets like radio and others but deals with institutions that these machines use to transmit messages. Mass media relate to the public, policies, organisation and technology use in producing mass media messages. Therefore, this form of mass media is broad. It's impact, uses and effects on the audiences cannot be over emphasized, especially the portrayal of divorce in Nollywood movies while playing the roles of entertaining, educating, criticizing.

Also, mass communication can be defined as the dissemination of information to a large, heterogeneous, scattered audience simultaneously through certain mass medium like television and others. Therefore, Nollywood is an example of a mass media. Nollywood is a leading entertainment industry in Nigeria and it is relied upon because of its vital and important role in making the society aware of happenings around them. Their content must be well portrayed so as to avoid the promotion of divorce in the society in anyway. The mass media shows Nollywood programme on Television with the purpose of educating, informing and entertaining its audience on the adverse effects divorce on members of society. For example, Super Story a reality programme by Wale Adenuga production on Independence Television and Nigeria Television Authority also talks about divorce. Mount Zions movies on Edo Broadcasting Station. Most times, Nollywood uses the television, radio, newspaper, cinema houses and other type of New media like YouTube, Net Flix, and others to arrest and persuade its audience and give information about certain divorce issues existing in the society. From the above, it's seen that movies have a strong influence over the society because what people watch influence them, hence Nollywood movies should be seasoned in such a way that its contents does not aid and abate anti-social behaviours like divorce in the society.

Divorce is an idea that is widespread in many societies of the world which has been triggered by some underlying factors. Changes is constant in life therefore a couple is bound to change his or her attitude overtime can cause divorce. Meanwhile, Africa has witnessed the high rate of divorce as a result of the negative adverse effect of westernization. Unfortunately, the global rates of divorce inflated in the 1960s, 1970s and

early 1980s and has dropped slightly since then. But for developed nations like U.S. divorce rate remains high when compared with the rate of earlier eras and in other societies (Whites, 1990 retrieved from an article titled the analytical study of the causes factors of divorce in African homes by Adenitan Adetayo Olaniyi- 2015). The above shows that there is a problem in attaining a peaceful and stable society globally mostly in developing nations. Both news report has shown that more young persons get divorced . Edet Ukpong (2014), in an article titled 'divorce:causes and effect on children' define divorce as a legal dissolution of the marriage relation ;any formal seperation of aman and his wife according to the establish custom, a complete seperation of any kind (2014:185). This means that there is a specific way divorce must be done and most times it is done according to the law and customs. The Vocabulary dictionary added that naturally it is based on permanent seperation because it involves illegal process thereby leaving the partners free to re-marry.

It is important tthat there is no divorce without marriage. Therefore, marriage is seen as the legal union of a man and woman well recognized by the law, through which they become husband and wife. (Concise Oxford English dictionary, 11th edition, 2009 in article by Adenitan, Adetayo Olaniyan - titled the Analytical Study of the Causal Factors of Do orce in African homes 2015). From the above definition, it's seen that Divorce cannot take place and be significant without marriage. Only those who are married can be Divorced. But one wonders why most modern marriages are susceptible to divorce in recent times.

It is observed that divorce is unplanned. This means that every individual intention of getting married is to enjoy a blissful union and produce, care for their unborn kids in a lasting marriage. A growing and young child look forward to being married. Statement like " I would cook for my family when I grow up", "baby don't cry" (with a ruler or doll on the child back wrapped with a piece of cloth. From an early age a child has start having dreams of a blissful and satisfying marriage but the opposite sometimes shockingly become the case. This also lead to the adverse increase in divorce rates in our modern society. Getting married only to divorce few years, months, days later is painstakingly shocking and devastating.

Divorce simply put means living divided lives. This means that the couples hardly cooperate together on any decision in the home. These include finance, children fees and others. Divorce has affected the political aspect of the Nigerian society. A society where divorce it's brought to the barest minimum helps to prevent the use of youths as political thugs to cause chaos during elections period and the loss of lives. Future generations would face political instability due to corrupt leaders. Also, Divorce has affected the social aspect of the Nigerian society through the existence of Anti-social behaviours like arm robbery, Cultism, prostitution, Touts and others.

Divorce has affected the Economic sector of the Nigerian society through Cybercrime. Most youths involved in cybercrime emanate from broken homes. Cybercrime has promote corruption overtime. Some Counsellors and Professionals are victims of divorce irrespective of their theoritical marital knowledge. This shows that certain factors are responsible for the causes of divorce.

Haynes (2005), Mbamara (2004), Onuzulike (2007), and servant (2001), In an article titled 'the birth of Nollywood.: The Nigerian movie industry' by Uchenna Onuzulike believed that the movie titled living in bondage produced by Ken Nnebue in 1992 led to the emergence of Nollywood. The Nigeria movie industry was established in the year 1992 with the aim of promoting it's indigenous culture against western culture therefore giving it's citizens a sense of belonging after encountering colonial rule. Divorce is not a part of our indigenous culture therefore it is considered an abomination. However due to the influence of western culture it has become a norm. Also, some Nollywood stars, marriage counsellors and Celebrities are victims therefore making divorce a huge problem in the society.

In the same vein, Babayemi Olaniyan Esq (2023) in his article titled the wholistic view of divorce in Nigeria, noted that various religious groups have their perception on divorce which is communicated to its audience. The christians and Muslim sees divorce as a sin. He quoted the holy bible Ephesians 5:22 - 32 and Genesis 2: 27 -28 while buttressing the point. Also, Divorce is permitted on the basis of infidelity for some religious sect. The traditional worshippers don't support divorce.

This study further examine how divorce is being portrayed by the Nollywood industry to achieve its aim in exposing the ills of the society with the intention of proffering possible solutions to divorce. The study also seeks to access the content characteristics of Nollywood movies.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Divorce is a serious issue that has plagued our modern society. it is gradually becoming a norm among many Nigerians, to a large extent it has destroyed several homes and marriages. It has been observed that many Nollywood movies proliferate the divorce rate in Nigeria. In spite of, Nollywood portrayal of divorce with an aim of suggesting possible ways to get it prevented, divorce is still rapidly growing in the society. Divorce has endermic effects on the emotional and physiological well being of Couples and it's aftermath is traumatizing many years after Couples are separated. Also, the Nigerian society stigmatize divorcees especially the Female gender.

The growing rate of divorce in the society has a negative impact ton the family. Meanwhile the family makes up the society. If the family is in crisis, it will reflect on the society because the society will be an insecure place to live in because most traits: Anti-social behaviours like Cultism, Rape, Robbery and other nuisance are all traceable to broken homes. In addition, Divorce has adverse consequences on the family in particular. That is, the offspring. It affects their psychological, emotional and mental health and even their studies because they are at the receiving end. They experience hardship while trying to survive in this part of the world.

Nollywood Actors and Actresses are not spared because most of their marriages end with broken homes. The fact that most of them are divorcees, and divorce have grave effects on the members of the society that are looking up to them as role models. The menace of divorce is a major issue that prompted the overall essence of this work.

1.3 research Objectives

1. To examine Nollywood movies portrayal of divorce cases in Nigeria.
2. To identify major causes of Divorce.
3. To examine Gender equality and Feminism as key factors of promoting Divorce.
4. To ascertain the extent to which Celebrity divorce cases influences the divorce rate in Nigeria.
5. To examine the place of domestic violence as major reasons for divorce.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How does Nollywood movies portray divorce in Nigeria?
2. What are the major causes of divorce in Nigeria?
3. How does Gender equality and Feminism promote divorce?
4. To what extent has Celebrity divorce cases influence the divorce rate in Nigeria?
5. How does domestic violence promote divorce?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The geographical scope of this study is restricted to residents in Benin City, Edo state Nigeria. The relevant variables demanded in this study will be easily available in the area. Age, gender, level of education, marital status, Religion. The Respondents are drawn from Single, Married and Divorced adults within the range of 18 years and above because they are more matured to understand the nature of the topic, and are matured enough to understand marriage relationships. Respondents are gotten from all walks of life ranging from students, Businessmen and women, Civil servants, men and women.

Also, the scope of this study adopt both primary and secondary sources of data collection: For secondary source already published books, articles, internet are consulted on account of this work. In other to authenticate the facts in this work, survey research method is adopted to gather primary data or first hand information on this topic.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

This study will be of immense benefits to students, and lecturers in the field of mass communication, marriage counsellors and experts, future researchers on this topic. It will help in the expansion of knowledge. It can be used as a reference material to upcoming generations.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

Difficulty in sourcing materials: It was extremely difficult sourcing for materials because this has not been published before.

Financial constraints: Finance was an issue while carrying out this Research work.

Limited Time frame: The work was restricted to time frame because the period was short.

1.8. Operational Definition of Terms

Attitude: The way in which a person views and evaluate something or someone.

Anti-divorce: It simply means opposing divorce

Couple: Two individuals that are Married or engaged and are in a social relationship.

Divorce: It is the legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.

Divorcee: The name of a female that is divorced.

Divorce: The name of a male that is divorced.

Development: The gradual growth of something so that it becomes more advanced, stronger etc.

Marriage: It is the legal and formal recognised contract between two individuals.

Nollywood: The name of a movie industry in Nigeria.

Portrayal: The act of portraying.

Portray: The way that someone or something is described.

Pro SE divorce: It has to do with where a litigant represent themselves for the divorce without the aid of an attorney or lawyer.

Residents: Individuals that lives at a particular geographical area for a prolonged period of time.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Preamble

This chapter reviews the major concepts of the topic, empirical studies and theoretical framework. It also heighten the stand point of different opinions to the topic of the study.

2.1. Overview of the concept of Nollywood

2.2.0 Historical background of Nollywood

2.2.1 Concept of divorce as an endermic problem in Nigeria

2.2.2 History of divorce

2.2.3 Types and causes of divorce

2.2.4 Nollywood portrayal of Feminism and Gender equality: a key trigger of divorce in the Nigeria society.

2.2.5 Nollywood portrayal of Domestic violence and Cheating as best options to opt for divorce.

2.2.6. Review of empirical studies

2.2.7. Theoretical Framework

2.2.8. Summary

2.1 Overview of the Concept of Nollywood

Whitney as cited in Uyo (1987) in Ezekiel Asemah(2011) text (Pg. 26) titled Principles and Practice of Mass Communication note that Film was known as "the media continuum" which is the oldest electronic mass medium and occupies a middle position. This means that the Film has pre-existed before the emergence of other electronic media like radio and others. Film According to Wainwright (1982:pg.196) in Ezekiel S. Asemah text titled Principles and practice of mass communication (2011) is a visual medium using light and shade as well as words and music to create an effect. This means that it identifies the different tones, the use of different dictions which comprises of various languages like English, Igbo and others, the settings of a film that portrays day and night. During noon time, shadows of actors can be seen and shadows can be used to create suspense or tension in the mind of the audience. Music is used as a background in telling the story or among the characters.

Nwanwene (2002) Cited in Open University PDF titled Film , Cinema and Literature defined film as a series of motionless images projected into a screen so fast as to create in the mind of anyone watching the screen an impression of continuous motion. Such images are projected by light shining through a corresponding series of images arranged on a continuous band of flexible material. The above definition reveals the method or process of making a film to meet the watching needs of the audience.

Ezekiel S. Asemah (pg. 24, 2011) in his text titled Principles and Practice of Mass Communication define film as pictures and images that are recorded on a ribbon of transparent plastic material with the sensitive coating of a photographic plate. This implies that film are images recorded in certain material in a photographer plate for the purpose of making a film.

Nwanwene (2002) Cited in Open University PDF titled Film, Cinema and literature explains further that to understand film, one needs to understand the process of illusion of motion also known as the persistence of vision. From the above definition, vision must be well organised. Film is also a medium of communication. It is a medium that reflects the daily lives of society, by packaging and projecting to the audience content that is reflective of day to day events (From National Open University of Nigeria Pdf titled Mac 324 Film, Cinema and Literature). From the above definition, film mirrors the society and communicate ongoing issues to audience in the society. Video is the visual part of a television. It has to do with something recorded on video tape especially a movie performance. The above definition, reveals that movies, audience watch must be recorded.

History of Film

The history of film is further classified into several eras according to an article on Wikipedia titled 'cinema of Nigeria'. They include:

Colonial Period:

The first sets of films shown in Nigerian Cinemas were "western films". The first film was presented at the Glover Memorial Hall in Lagos between 12 to 22 August 1903.

In 1903, Herbert Macaulay invited the Balboa and company from Spain to Nigeria to make a silent films exhibition in Nigeria. Messer Balboa closed down the cinema house since he was relocating to another west Africa country. But continued to exhibit film shows in other west African countries. From 1903, after Messer Balboa departure, an European trader known as Stanley Jones began exhibiting films in the Glover Memorial Hall. Therefore more European films were produced in Nigeria. Later on, the first documentary film titled 'the visit of the Alaeke of Abeokuta to England' became popular in Nigeria on 3rd August 1904. The colonial period shows the various events that led to the invention of film in the colonial era. Also, Cinema houses were much common or widespread in Nigeria.

The Golden Age Era

During this Era, Cinema houses grew and new cinemas were established. Other western films posters like Chinese and others were on the Cinema halls and others were on the Cinema halls and actors from these industries became well known. Films shot on celluloid were made by film makers in the early 1960s. In 1960s and 1970s, Nigeria productions in more houses grew, mostly productions from western Nigeria Credited to Ola Balogun, Hubert Ogunde and others.

In 1972, Yakubu Gowon issued the indigenisation decree which requested for the transfer of ownership of 300 film theatres in the country from their foreign owners to Nigerians. Nigerians also became more involved in films as film makers, playwrights, screenwriters and others. Film became employers of labour owing to the oil boom

between year 1973 to 1978. When television broadcasting started in 1960s and spread across the country, film producers in Lagos began televising their theatre productions. Unfortunately, the era declined due to lack of finance, the devaluation of naira notes among others. To the extent in which religious bodies acquired the Cinema houses etc. The era declined in 1999. During this Era, Nigerians were allowed to get involved in filming. Also, the use of television as a mass medium was adopted.

Video Film Era

This Era began in the 1980s when television was a well known mass medium. The first film to be shown on television was " Jimi Odumosu's Evil Encounter a 1983 horror film. This video was a hit at Alaba market which became the centre for video distribution and later piracy. The first film produced on video in Nigeria was 'Soso Meji' produced by Ade Ajibye and others emerged. However, a major hot in this era that caused a drastic change was the film titled ' living in Bondage' produced by Kenneth Nnebue's (1992). This happened to be the first commercial video film. Film continue to thrive but declined due to priacy, refusal of government to fund these films and others.

New Nigeria Cinema

During this Era, video method returner to cinema way just like the golden age era. In the 20th century, cinema was structured for the upper and middle class members of the Nigerian society. Silver bird group became the first company to establish Cinema houses in Nigeria while others followed like Genesis Deluxe cinemas and others. Silver bird company established modern cinemas across the major cities of Nigeria like the Silver

bird Galleria in Victoria Island, Lagos. It screened Nigerian films with high production. For instance, Irapada (2006) produced by Kunle Afolayan. During this period till date some government has contributed immensely to the Film industry. President Good luck Jonathan support the film industry with 30 billion naira. Also, literature works has been acted like Half of a yellow sun by Kemi Adeltba among others. (<https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/cinema-of-Nigeria>). In addition, Till date the film industry is improving. It has also helped the Nigeria economy and numerous cinema houses has come to stay like kada cinema at Benin city among others.

Types of Film

According to National Open University (NOUN) Pdf , types of film can be referred to as the genres of film. They are used synonymously to mean the same thing. Films are classified according to their nature or format. Classification by nature depicts the style of packaging while classification by format represents the basic elements that make up a film.

Nwanwene (2002) said the classification of films are: Feature films, Documentary films, and Avantgarde or experimental film. The above explains the types of film. Feature films are manipulated, organised and not totally based on reality, but on the subjective imagination of the film director (Nwanwene 2002, p.17). From the above definition, feature films are based on imagination or thought. Examples of feature film are: Romantic film, Adventure film, fantasy film, Epic film, science - fiction film, Horror film, Animated film, Comedy film, musical - dance film.

Documentary films portray more of reality or real life situations than of subjective imagination. Here, light is not introduced to deceive the audience. (Nwanwene 2002 p. 17). From the above definition real events are being portrayed raw. Examples of Documentary films include: Nollywood documentary movie titled I am not fine (202) produced by Lota Chukwu. Independence day documentation, Historical events(such as Civil war, world war II), Biographic film, well known events, Concerts, An examination of a specific subject area (e.g. nature or science - related themes). Avant- garde films are well known as experimental films. They portray taboos of the society. These films manipulate things to show reality though what they tend to emphasize is what the society does not cherish.

For example, pornographic films (Nwanwene 2002), explained further that because of the restricted appeals of the film. They are often created within a commercial framework. Avant-garde films can be exciting, witty and provocation. They are occasionally used for relaxation and entertainment, but most of the films are technically complex and difficult to understand at least on first viewing. These movies are shocking, immoral, and outrageous therefore requires sympathy and tolerance for viewers. Examples of Avant- garde films include: Pornographic films and cult films. From the above definition, an Avant garde films are wild and horrific. Some Experimental Nollywood films are Billionaires club among others.

It is evident to note that the types of film discuss here are the most popular type among other types. In general, the most common film type in homes are feature film.

Examples of these feature film

Action film: They are movies that adopt fights scenes, gun shot and others in transmitting their message to the audience. Nollywood movie titled king of the boys produced by Kemi Adeltba Kene.

Adventure film: They are movies that comprises the movement from one place to another with the sole aim of discovery a hidden piece, idea, or concept. It can be known as a film of discovery. A nollywood movie titled Manifestation produced by Efe Irele.

Fantasy film: These movies comprises of unreal events. A nollywood movie titled High school magical produced by Sirbalo.

Police and crime film: They are movies that involves clashes between the police and bad gangs. A nollywood titled Brotherhood produced by Jada osiberu.

Romantic film: They are movies that deals with love and romance. A Nollywood wood movie titled Better Half produced by Ruth Kadiri.

Historical films: movies that explains real historical events espicially past events. A Nollywood movie titled Invasion 1897 produced by Lancelot Oduwa Imasuen.

War film: This is an example of film that shows war event. A nollywood movie titled War front (2004) produced by Teco Benson.

HORROR FILM : It is intended to scare and create tension in the mind of the audience. Nollywood movie titled the duplex directed by onyeka Ikechukwu.

Animated films: They are movies that are cartoon-like and are animated of Turtle Taído produced by ARG! Cartoon Animation Tayekeni productions.

Comedy film : The purpose of this type of film is to create laughter, ease tension while teaching a moral lesson. These comedies can be in form of short video and lengthy movies. Examples include: a Nollywood movie titled *Osuafia in London* (2003) produced by Kingsley Ogoro.

Importance of Film

The Open University PDF explain that film has its huge impact in the society. Its importance includes:

The Economic Importance of Film

Film is one of the source of income for government and individuals. Government gets an income through licensing of films and value added tax, while individuals get their money through acting, distribution and marketing. Also, film generates employment opportunities for the increasing population of the country through certain careers in the film industry thereby reducing unemployment to its barest minimum. Both the young and the old are given these job opportunities. These help to improve the standard of living for them. Certain job opportunities in the Film industry include: Script writer, Costumier, Graphic artist, Actor and Actresses, make-up artist, producer, director, photography unit, technical director, gaffer, props and set among others. Individuals are employed at various stages of film production. The building of more film industry brings about the development the society in general. Also, this revenues gotten from the film industry is used to build schools, repair or tar roads, pipe-borne water, among others.

The Political Importance of Film

Film is a powerful tool unity and oneness among countries. This implies that the media uses their media content to promote peace, unity and love among citizens. Unity is a major ingredient that brings about political development.. Film is also a political tool to laundry the image of the country. This means that film exposed the type of politics practiced in the country. Film can portay a country in a good light or bad light. It also exposes the present issues ongoing politically in the Nigeria and sometimes give possible solutions. An example of this is "Gangs of Lagos" featured Adesuwa Etomi.

The Government uses film during mass mobilisation and orientation programmes. In the early 2000, HIV and AID was a trend. The government organised media campaign to enlighten Nigeria citizens on preventive measures against the disease. An example of this is a movie on HIV and Aids on papa Ajasco, Nollywood and superstory. Films is used for propaganda. This means that these movies circulate and promote political ideas and also cultural, religious in nature. or adopt an idea. Films also condemn the negative aspects politics such as money laundering, stealing of ballot boxes during elections among others. This aid the government in making proper decisions that would be in the good interest of the society.It also shapens the upcoming generations on how proper governance should be. Nollywood movies like The house of secrets (2023) produced by Niyi Akinmoloyan and Victoria Akujobi.

Film shapens the opinions and mobilise people for development project. That Is, It disseminate messages on the importance of supporting or abiding to government policies. The Nollywood movie titled the house of secret taught the importance of standing for

justice and truth. This simple attitude allows development in the country and in politics. Also, from the divorce angle, A Nollywood movies title Sparkles produced by Becky Alexander showed that different methods can be used in resolving marital crisis even if one is at verge of seeking for seeking divorce. This will help to bring about the country's development, since the family makes up the society. For instance, health care campaigns, HIV stigma eradication as some of government campaigns can bring about the nation's development.

The Cultural Importance of Film

Film appreciates the rich cultural heritage of a nation. Film appreciates our local languages in Nigeria -speaking through yoruba speaking movies, Igbo speaking movies, Hausa speaking movies etc, local dishes (such as fufu with Ofe Onugbu, starch with Banga soup), traditional dressing, and cultural festivals (e.g Calabar carnival). Film is an important tool in building cultural institutions and inculcating cultural pride. Film as the statement goes, is an establish body that oversee the existence of culture in the society. It also informs us to be appreciative of our tradition and personal way of life. Some cultural institutions in Nigeria include For instance, young ones learn how to speak their language because the film media has exposed it's importance. Examples of these film is Afamefuna produced by Olawumi Fajemirokun, Kenechukwu Egbue, Alabi Omobayowa.

Film also heals the psychological wounds created by slavery and colonialism and to promote morals. This means that film uses it's media message or content to promote

morality in our society and condemn immorality. For example, a Nollywood movies titled 'Foreigners god' produced by Ifan Ifeanyi Michael.

The Role of film in Influencing Members of the Society

Film plays a crucial role in influencing the members of the Nigeria society. Film mirrors the joys, struggles, and complexities faced by any society. Film creates audience emotions and understanding. Film present stories that is likened with our own personal experiences. Films allows the viewers see a different perspective of the society other than what they are used to sometimes through script that the public think is not possible or don't exist or some feel is not right like movies suggesting that an older woman can marry a younger or much younger guy in our Nigerian society and have an enjoyable and lasting home. Film exposed the audience to a variety of issues in our society. Film help audience to think about problems in new ways. Flms aid young ones and adults to see the difference between good and evil therefore guiding them to make a good decision and think independently. For example learning from Nollywood movies that stealing is bad. Also, most Nigeria actors become role models which means that children begin to imitate their actions and behaviours. Film build relationships among members of society through discussion or topics on societal happenings. Film informs the society on how to challenge negative norms behaviours and originate a change. For instance, on the television 'say no to child abuse' and 'speak up' is being communicated to the masses.

Arshita Singh and Dr Neeraj (2021), in his article titled 'Role of Bollywood Cinema in Shaping Youngsters for Social awareness' revealed that film is a powerful

medium of information, education, and entertainment results in the process of opinion building in various social groups. The society is influenced psychologically, culturally, sociologically alongside the drastic transformation in lifestyle through film. Issues like sexual assault, women harassment, and others that society don't talk about because it is considered as a taboo is trashed but some Producers raise these issues which motivate people to speak up. This means that makes the society to freely expressd themselves regarding issues in the society.

2.2.0 Historical background of Nollywood

Nollywood which is the name of the Nigeria film industry was established in 1992. Nollywood started off completely on it's own, thrived and flourished into a multi- billion naira business from over time point of view. After the earlier failed attempt at commercial Films, carried out by Ola Balogun and Hubert Ogunde in the 1980s due to high cost of production. Kenneth Nnebue an electronic dealer and promoter, business man of the Igbo extraction who thought he could sell his tapes faster" if he recorded something on them was successful.(Haynes and Okome 1997). A major turnaround was seen in the Nollywood industry. Till date, Nollywood is well known globally.

Kenneth believed that the sale of video films in a retail market is a good option. That is why, the production of his first film titled "Aje Ni Iya Mi" was very profitable and served as a booster shot for home video production. Later, he released another one called" Living in bondage". The use of English language instead of local languages led to

the growth of the market. Aggressive marketing using Trailers, Posters, Television, and Advertising played an important role in the success of Nollywood. (Benin Media Com Journal p. 87). In addition,, Kenneth Nnebue also known as the pioneer of Nollywood vision for Nollywood aim is to make a better society by teaching life lessons and exposing the ills of the society. (Benin Media Com Journal 20 p.89). The goal of the Nollywood pioneer is still upheld by film producers and the industry.

Recently, Nollywood is the second biggest most wide known film industry in the world. Nollywood ranks second to India' Bollywood ahead of America's Hollywood, grossing \$ 250 million yearly revenue, according to Unesco's recent survey of 99 countries. The Nigerian Film Censor Board estimated an average of about 1,687 new videos alone in 2007. Nollywood movies are shoe-string budgets of time and money. An average production takes just 10 days and cost approximately \$15,000. In the space of 13 years, Nollywood has grown from nothing into a \$250 million dollar-a-year industry that employs thousands of people. The Nollywood idea was possible with two ingredients such as Nigerian entrepreneurship and digital technology. We tell our stories in our own way, director Bond Emeruwa says that is the appeal both for the filmmakers and for the audience. Nigerian stars have become a household names from Ghana to Zambia and beyond. (Gotten from Open University PDF, Film, Cinema and Literature, Pg. 71-75).From the above, the Nollywood movie had excel overtime and has made so much profit. This has helped to improve our Nigerian society.

The Nigeria Film and Videos Censor Board (NFVB) state that film making employs about a million people in Nigeria, split equally between production and

distribution, making it the country's biggest employer after agriculture. Nollywood which is the euphemism for Nigeria's movie industry grosses US\$200m -US\$300m a year in revenues with little or no government assistant. Nollywood movies cost between US\$15,000 and US\$100,000 gotten mainly from the movie producers or marketers as they are better known. Nollywood produces about 50 full length features a week, making it the world's second most prolific film industry after India's Bollywood. (extracted from Open University PDF titled film, cinema and literature,Pg. 71-75). It is discovered that film industry has reduced the rate of unemployment by providing job opportunities. Also, sales has improved overtime.

Nollywood has produced different movies portraying various themes that explains the situation of the Nigeria society which divorce is not excluded. Nollywood also promote and preserve the cultural values of the society. It had even a source of income in the Nigeria economy and made it's economy famous globally.

2.2.1 Concept of Divorce as an Endermic Problem in Nigeria

Divorce is a major crisis . When divorce exist in the home and society, it affect national growth and development negatively thereby bringing it to a standstill. A society is birthed from the family which is the foundation of any society and the smallest unit of the society. Divorce entail losing someone one once loved, unfortunately one might still love the ex-spouse. Also, divorce creates a grieving process that is likened to what we expected when a love one dies.

It is observed that Nigerians value marriage in high esteem therefore a person that has been married before is regarded as a failure. Nigerians believe that marriage makes a single individual to be responsible and is accorded much respect. This is popular in most cultures in Nigeria. Celebrities including musicians, music artists, rappers, actors, actresses, market women, business men, doctors and other professions have experienced divorce. It does not regard one based on occupation, religion, tribe, class, race, etc. Dominick (1990), said that the mass media in serving as a facilitator can be didactic. This means the media is designed to teach the public. Unfortunately, the life style of Nollywood celebrities are copied. Through the mass media, the public choose their role models because everyone directly or indirectly has a role model they observe and copy. Unseemly, these divorced Celebrities are role models to certain members of the public.

Divorce according to Bohanna (2003) as cited in Obiaks Project, is a intricate phenomenon in human relationship that takes place in six stages. They include: emotional divorce stage, economic divorce stage, legal divorce stage, co- parental Divorce stage, community and psycho divorce stage. Every couple in marriage must undergo these various stages of divorce before a divorce can be finalized. According to Miles Manson Family Law Group, Plc explains the various stages a divorce undergoes before the final divorce. These stages was summed up into acronym Known as DABDA. They include: The Denial and Shock stage is the first stage of divorce after experiencing an enjoyable honeymoon. At this stage both partners begin to discover some attitude they never knew was existed in their Partner. Denial means incapable of processing happenings like spouse attitude. The couple adopt a natural method known as the avoidance method. The

couple try to avoid conflict at all cost so as to live in unity with ones partner and make the marriage work even when one is unhappy. At this stage, the couple has headache, cries, be stressed out. Confusion and fear is present at this stage. statement like she will get over it, he didn't mean it, he will apologize and we will be fine as quote. For instance, the man sees the early morning face of his wife when she wakes up, while the wife discovers he has dry spittle on his mouth when he wakes up early in the morning.

The Anger stage is the second process one undergoes. Anger starts from being rejected, deceived, lied to, misunderstood and neglected by the spouse one trust. The partner becomes impatient argues complains. Anger is a passion. why? Is a type of question asked. At this stage, the couple are irritated with this habits and becomes angry about it if the partner continues it. Also, if the couple does not accept it or refuse to adjust to certain behaviours.

The Bargaining stage is the third stage, before divorce is being conceptualise. At this stage, the couple asked the what? question. Considering doing more better. The couples are highly interested to find answers. This questions are meant to eliminate doubt, have a rethink of how they got here and negotiate a different outcome. various reactions are seen on the couple: some feel guilty for not making the marriage to work. Some couples make desperate promises to change. While some couples bargain to stay in the marriage for the sake of their children disregarding a toxic home environment. Some couple negotiate with themselves with their spouse and God with aim of making the marriage to work for the individual at this moment is going through the process of deciding what to do and a decision to make.

The depression stage is the fourth stage, which explains that both partners are drained from consistent disappointment. Depression grows from sadness, grief and loneliness. At this stage, either of the couple or both goes through depression. The couple question the purpose of life and the marriage and feel separated from the society. The couple feels guilty about hurting the children and others they love. Depression leads to fatigue, loss of appetite and difficulty sleeping. The depressed couple at this stage should seek help from the mental health professionals.

The Acceptance stage is the last stage, it is expected that both partners accept their differences and make certain adjustment. But when the acceptance of one's partner cannot be reached. Then the court becomes the solution and last resort. The couple becomes whole again. The couple comes in term with the divorce and reach an agreement. The couple envision a new life by making optimistic response, explore job opportunities, establish new friends, relocate to a new environment. The couple accept to move forward with life without their ex-partner. The above stages represent a grief over the loss of a relationship and marriage.

Divorce is biblically seen as an option or considered when one partner commits adultery. Therefore if anyone remarries a person not divorced under this rule, or if they have not been divorced because of immoral behaviour, then they have committed adultery. Outside this, God mind for marriage to work. Because he initiated it on earth to be a wonderful experience that produces offspring and builds intimacy between couple. Christianity sees divorce as a sin against God. This means that divorce kills God original plan or purpose for marriage. It is believed that marriage is a holy sacrament and not a

contract. Marriage is also believed to be long lasting and everlasting on earth for the both partner because God joined them. It is belief that marriage is for one man and a woman. (<https://www.thechristianmarriage.com/wholistic-view-of-divorce-in-Nigeria-History-and-procedure>). While Muslims sees marriage as a contract. It allows one to marry four wives. The Quran in 30 vs 21, states that one of the signs he has created for you is spouses from among yourselves so that one can live in peace with them, he has made available love and mercy between the couples, surely these are signs for those who represent. (<https://www.thequranofmarriage.com/wholistic-view-of-divorce-in-Nigeria-History-and-procedure/>).

It is observed that Divorce is costly therefore it demands lots of money. Divorce helps to tarnish the emotions of a couple. The partner feels betrayed and deceived after trusting that the partner love for him or her and that the marriage will last forever. Divorce is legal because it involves the permission of the court. Divorce is done based on the constitution with a paper given to be signed. Divorce makes it difficult for seperated couples with children to determine and to take care of their kids unlike when they are still together.

Divorce had led to single parenting which has an adverse effect on the children. Most Celebrities are single parent. Mostly when the other partner re-marries. Unfortunately, single parenting is most difficult in our society due to economic issues. The partner can become frustrated and abandon the child with his /her family members, or leave the child in an orphanage home, or engage in nefarious activities like prostitution, stealing among others to make end meet.

From another angle or in contrast with the above, Terry Arendell author and professor of sociology in her book titled " Mothers and Divorce: Legal, Economic, and Social dilemmas states that divorce offers great opportunities for personal growth and development. This belief has been circulated by psychologists and self- improvement groups. The author is looking at the benefits of divorce to the female gender in marriage. Yes this might be true. In western countries, it is much easier for the female enjoy a good prospect but in Nigeria where there is economic issues then the opportunities become disappointment or frustration or half fulfilled life.

Esther Fisher in Terry's book titled Mothers and Divorce: Legal, Economic, and Social dilemmas revealed that divorce is a dynamic process that can precipitate your growing away from childish dependency towards mature independence. Life is difficult but exciting. romantic adventure demands lots of giving, loving, taking responsibilities, faith, hope and trust in yourself and in others. You are no longer bored as you are liberated and feel freed as you become master of your destiny. This author meant that marriage is a form of bondage. Marriage does not allow both partner to initiate and execute a decision freely without the permission of the other spouse. For instance, a wife must come home early so as to avoid the query of her husband even when her job is highly demanding. The woman cannot be allowed to do certain jobs in the society because she is married and have kids. Like she cannot travel when she has to. Lot of sacrifice are being made when married and divorce frees one to fully achieve his or her dreams.

Statistics of Divorce in Nigeria

Divorce rate had grown rapidly over the years despite its upholding of the cultural values of its society. Even as a developing nation, divorce rate is lower than other western societies. Anthropologist has related the reduction in rate to the Nigeria society's perception of divorcees. That is, Divorcees are stigmatized not just peddling an inappropriate divorce status but for bringing shame to their families. (Extracted from an article titled the rate of Divorce in Nigeria in The cable news by Chioma Iwunze- Ibiam). Adomi Ochuko (2021) state in his book titled Update Current Affairs, Nigeria has thirty-six states and a central known as the Federal Capital Territory(FCT). Nigeria also has six geographical Zone such as South-south, south-west, south-East, North Central, North-East, North-West. Various geographical zones and environment make up the Nigerian society.

A statistics based on analysis of publicly available Census record with the participants exempted on the regional differentials in Marital dissolution in the Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Anthropology vol.12 No.2 by Loretta Favour C. Ntoimo and Monica Ewomazino Akokuwebe (2012) State that the 2006 population census gave divorce and separation rate in Nigeria. They include: Divorce rate in the various region of Nigeria include:North-East is 6.9, North-west is 5.6, North-central is 3.5, Southwest is 4.2, Southeast is 3.2, and south south is 6.2. While the Separation rate in the various geo-political or region of Nigeria. North-East 5.7, North West 5.0, North Central is 5.0, Southwest is 7.0, South East is 4.6, South South is 8.8 and marital dissolution rate in the geo-political zone of Nigeria. Northwest is 10.5, North-East is 12.6, North Central is 8.5,

South East is 7.8, South South is 15.0, and Southwest is 11.2. This are various analysis. According to Sharon Osaji (2023) in Punch Newspaper dated 23rd April 2023 adds that Divorce rate in Nigeria has skyrocketed, based on evidences gotten from the 2006 National Population Census data which recorded that a total of Seven Hundred and Four Thousand (704,000) Nigerians were divorced which comprised of 230,000 Males and 474,000 Females.

Babayemi Olaniyan Esq in his article titled the wholistic view of Divorce in Nigeria - History and Procedure October 24, 2023 state that the Nigeria official statistics said that the dissolving of marriage was uncommon in 2016. The National Bureau of statistics and the Vanguard online Newspapers titled Rate of divorce (2020), said that 0.3% of women and 0.2% of men had dissolved their marriage legally. Recently, this is not the case, from a report in 2018, it was noted that seperation rate in Nigeria recorded a 14% increase. Also, a report in 2018, states that a number of 3000 number of divorce cases was recorded in Badagry, Lagos. In the same vein, in 2018 based dated gotten from Nigeria's Demographic and Health Survey reveals that women are more likely go be divorced or separated than men this is ecause 3% of women in Nigeria were either divorced or separated as against 1% of Men, the data also revealed that 70% of women and 57% of men were either married or living with a partner. A report of 2019 titled Deciphering the high rate of divorce in Nigeria. State that Kano state had 1 million registered divorcees. From a news report it was said that a visit was made to the Social Development Secretariat and the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA). It was revealed that a sum total of 20 - 30 cases of divorce occured daily in their office. Divorce

record from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High court states that two thousand divorce cases were filed between 2019 and February 2020. A minimum of 30 cases were received on a daily basis despite the court effort to reconcile couples using the arbitration panel. Findings showed that the number of divorce cases is higher in the Alkali, the sharia customary court and the customary court within the FCT.

In January 2023, the statistics of divorce at Abuja on the Dubawa report from high court at Muibawa is a total of 32 cases. ([https://www.Dubawa.org/false-divorce cases](https://www.Dubawa.org/false-divorce-cases) filed on FCT in January 2023 not 4000 as claimed in viral tweet). From the evidences presented above it can be deduced that divorce rates in Nigeria has soared its peak over the year unlike in yesteryears when it was seen as a taboo. Divorce has really eaten deep into the fabrics of our modern society and it is one of the reason for our present economic, moral and social imbalance faced in our modern society today.

Impact of Divorce on the society

Divorce has a negative impact and drastic effects on any society where it is prevalent. Many youth jump into marriage thinking it is bed of roses just like the eutopia picture of perfect marriage painted in most Nollywood movies and which built more on fantasy because marriage needs two to make it work. A perfect marriage is a by-product of hardwork and sacrifice from both couples, because love and feelings blow hot and cold and are not merely enough to sustain marriage. Divorce has adverse effects on members of the society, mostly in developing countries like Nigeria where single parenting is a serious challenge, divorce has traumatic impacts on members of the family as well as the

couples, a sane family is a sane society. Not forgetting that the divorcee and the divorcee won't be the same again all through their life even though they re-marry.

In the same vein, divorce affects the society politically, morally and Socially, because most children from broken homes have myopic view about life and since divorce a traumatic aftermath on victims they tend to be emotionally imbalanced. If the family fails to imbibe good moral virtues on children due to broken homes or challenges of single parenting, the individual who was brought up with little or no attention from divorced parents might end up constituting nuisance to the society, this is one of the reasons for the present insecurity challenges our society is faced with. Many kidnapers, bandits and hoodlums, political thugs are products of broken homes.

Overview of Divorce Rate Among Nollywood Celebrities since Inception from 2000 - 2024

Since the introduction of Nollywood, the rate of divorced actors between 1992-2024 (a period of thirty-two years) total of over 20 actors and actresses are divorced or separated. This information was gotten from the various news report. This problem has continue to become a local, national and global trend. This rate has said to have existed due to various factors that are most times unavoidable like being domestically abused, irreconcilable differences and others. "While some Nollywood actors try to live the script in their real marriage" A paraphrased statement made by Chinedu Ani Emmanuel popularly known as Nedu from the Daily Post (<https://www.daily post.ng/2024/01/21>). Despite the fact that divorce is still in an issue, a recent divorce case came up which is the case of a well known Nollywood star and comedian Ayo Makun nicknamed "Ay ", got

divorced after twenty years of marriage which was blessed with a daughter. The above statement made by chinesu Ani Emmanuel is the vivid truth. The script cannot be applied in their homes because every individual is unique, has their differences and every marriage is also different. Because of the uniqueness of every individual. A saying that goes is there is no perfect marriage. The earlier celebrities recognize this the better because it would help them to reduce the rate of divorce and help them to have an enjoyable home.

Overview of Divorce movies

Nollywood in playing their role of educating, informing, advocacy with the sole purpose of providing possible solution saw the need to include divorce among its theme. Divorce movies presents divorce, it's causes and the consequence it attract. Audience are influenced by what they watch on screen and tend to make their daily life decisions from what they learn on movies. Also, marital decisions are made based on what they learn from movies. Some couples got divorced because of the influence of Nollywood movies. For example, Nollywood movies sees divorce as a solution to any home faced with domestic violence. Divorce movies also suggest possible ways to avoid Divorce even in critical situation. Sparkles (20)a Nollywood movies produced by Becky Alexander best explains it. The movie story centers on infidelity as a marital issue that should attract divorce, but it was well managed by his intelligent and faithful wife. Her action helped to save their marriage. The wife discovered about his unfaithfulness and coaxed her husband three side chicks to look after him while seriously sick on the wheel chair. They

were allowed to leave when he recovered. One would expect a divorce just the way it happens in the Nigeria society but she chose to forgive her husband despite it was a hard decision to make. This movie teaches forgiveness as an important virtue that can sustain marriage.

Nollywood said that cherishing ones spouse also aids the sustainance of marriage. The movies better half and closed chapter best explains this. Ojuigo never valued her husband and child. she end up losing him to her sales girl Amara. Nollywood movies tells husband to serve his wife divorce when she commits adultery without forgiving her and putting effort to make the marriage work. This also causes broken home. Marriage is for both partners and it is expedient that the both partners put in effort to make the marriage work.

2.2.2 History of Divorce

Globally, Divorce dates back to the oldest cordified law traced in 1760 B.C during the reign of king Hammurabi of Babylon. It is believed that the king carved 282 laws in stone tablets including the law on divorce (Michael Kudiner P.C. 2015). From the ancient times to the modern times divorce has had it's effect based on the era. This action brought about the law. The laws and reactions towards divorce has undergo continuous changes because of cultural and societal relevance. Bernard Lukoms (2023) explained that these eras are as follows:

The Ancient times: Divorce started from the ancient times at Babylon, Egypt and Greece. It was a privilege that was only granted to the wealthy, powerful people in the

society or those in authority. But it was only permitted based on adultery and cruelty in one's marriage. Divorce could only be initiated by the husband and not the wife because the general society believe that women are the property of their husband.

The Roman Era: In this era, women or wives were allowed to divorce their husband. At this time women were seen as important and allowed a voice when their husband refuse or failed to carry out their obligation. Therefore, it was considered important to add more reasons to divorce. These factors were; a husband abandoning his wife and mutual consent meaning it is agreed by both partners.

The Middle Age: During this period, the Catholic church was allowed to take over the laws of divorce and marriage. Christianity became the government of the day. Based on their religious beliefs the laws was highly affected as divorce was not granted to individuals or couple. In Full consideration, an annulment was granted instead. This means that the marriage was declared null and void. But this was granted to the wealthy and powerful couples in the society for political and religious reasons.

The Reformation period: This period was a very important period because popular individuals like John Calvin and Martin Luther stood against the authority of the Catholic church. They fought for the existence of granting divorce based on adultery and abuse or domestic violence. This removed the strict ban on divorce

The Modern Era: In this era, divorce took a drastic turn as divorce was granted to the general society instead of those in authority and those that are wealthy. This era include the 19th, 20th and the 21st century. Certain reasons was added to the legal cause of divorce which include: Incompatibility and desertion means to leave. A type of divorce

known as the no- fault divorce. (<https://www.kpbl.pl/en/> the history of divorce.) In addition, these ers has shown the existence and the development of divorce overtime and it still exist till date.

History of Divorce in Nigeria

Divorce began from the pre-colonial period but became more obvious during the colonial period as it was highly legalised. Divorce was highly frowned at by the larger society because of cultural, norms and values. Husbands were allowed to send their wives packing when they misbehave or are infertile. When a woman is divorced by her husband she will never be re-married. This reaction was based on the belief that marriage must be sanctified and everlasting not minding the severity of the problem.

Babayemi Olaniyan Esq et al (2023), also explained that after the Colonial masters or British crown made Lagos the crown colony, the first statutory and legal provisions on marriage was established. This allowed for the solemnization and registration of marriage which gradually spread to every part of Nigeria. In addition, divorce laws was introduced in 1872, 1873 and reformed in the year 1877, to aid the divorce process and allow each partner their freedom to re- marry or stay single without any panic or fear in Nigeria. This was an advantage to the women. This law that was made is known as the matrimonial causes act which explains the legal frame work for marriage dissolution in Nigeria.

Babayemi Olaniyan Esq et al (2023) With time, certain terms or names were given to partners who were involved in the legal divorce process. Like the Respondents,

Petitioners and co-petitioners. The petitioner is the individual that initiates a divorce. The Respondents on the other hand is the offender while the co- respondents is an eyewitness or a third party to the divorce case. (<https://www.simplylaw.com.ng.wholistic>). From the above it is understood that divorce has taken has become a part of the society. To the extent that legal laws were introduced to aid divorce unfortunately.

The History of Divorce laws in Nigeria

Divorce law are rules and regulations that guides the legal seperation of married couples. Chioma Iwunze-Ibiam explained that these laws were originated by the colonial masters when they decided to colonise Nigeria. They discovered on their arrival and stay that Nigeria women were not granted access to leave an abusive and oppressive marriage based on their cultural belief, values among others. Also, In certain communities, like the Fulani and others culture practice forced child marriages and bethrothal from birth. In Nigeria, divorce is seen as abominable because it spoils the sanctity of marriage. Husbands can decide to send their wife packing from their home easily without people questioning him.

The Nigeria society believes that every woman is expected to get married and not stay single. If a female is getting advance and not married. She is mocked by the society. Therefore, it leaves them with no choice than to adhere. The female also decide to stay in an entangled, estranged and abusive marriage. The women left with no choice decide to make the difficult decision of enduring an abusive or an unhappy marriage. (Chioma Iwunze-Ibiam <https://www.theNigeriaLawyer.com>). A woman has to remain in her home.

Babayemi Olaniyan Esq et al (2023) further explained that in addition, any woman that decides to take the bold step to divorce her husband is being stigmatized by the society. Therefore, making the divorced woman undergoes another emotional trauma of shame and pain. These laws introduced by the colonialist or the European lead to the legal separation of couples. An example of these law is the promulgation of the matrimonial causes Act in 1857. These Act was made as an opportunity for women to be saved from a trapped marriage. The matrimonial causes act of 1857 allowed for secular divorce which give powers to the court to grant decree of dissolving of marriage, nullity and seperation. (<https://www.simplylaw.com.ng/wholistic>). In these context divorce is a blessing because it helps to protect the lives of women who suffers seriously in their marriage. Also a divorcee and divorce are being treated with questioning eyes.

Babayemi Olaniyan Esq et al (2023), explained that Despite the positive provision of these law, the Nigeria society still treat those that file for divorce with ridicule. Divorced couples also face other challenges like financial difficulty, loss of the custody of children, sexual harassment, job discrimination, and loss of property rights. This is a daily happening in our society.

Babayemi Olaniyan Esq, Michael Abu Esq and Aderonke Afolabi Esq (2023) added that The matrimonial causes Act which is also known as the two year rule states that no couple can file for divorce for marriage below two years old apart if the court grants the couple a leave. This provision was made under section 30. But the two years rule would not be applicable if these following factors are seen, they include; the intentional and consistent refusal to consummate a marriage, adultery and inability to

tolerate on the part of the petitioner, the act of rape, bestiality and sodomy, adopting a cross-petition. Also, a marriage is completely dissolved or brought to an end when a decree absolute is made by the court. The advantage of this is that a once married individual can be allowed and free to re-marry if he or she chooses to. According to the law, ones partner is considered dead if he is absent from his or her spouse for the period of seven years. If they act seperately even though still married are tagged divorce already but just need a legal court verdict to be legally seperated. (<https://www.simplylaw.com.ng/wholistic>)

2.2.3 Types of divorce

Aaron Delgado and associates (2023) in his article titled What is the Different types of Divorce gave several types of divorcing one spouse. One of them is called 'The litigated divorce' which is a type of divorce whereby parties rely on the court in making decisions about issues in divorce using personal lawyers to present their case to the judge, who in turn make decision on the issues like child custody and others. The winner takes everything. Christy Bieber (2023) in her article titled 8 types of divorce also stated that Divorce has various types that are practiced in our society. Some include:

- The mediated divorce is a type of divorce that allows couples to resolve conflicts without asking for a judge interference. Instead, a third party is hired to aid open communication so as to reach a compromise like a marriage counsellor. This simply means that both partners decide to work together without going to court.

- Collaborative divorce is a type of divorce whereby couples hire lawyers who specialize in this type of divorce. Both spouse Attorneys decide working out a settlement to divorce thereby avoiding litigating the case.. Also, both partners are ready to settle or reach an agreement amicably. This is one of the most suitable type of divorce that avoids issues or problem after the divorce has taken place by all partners.
- Fault divorce states that a partner has to prove an evidence that his partner did wrong for a divorce to take place. Christy Bieber (2023) said that insanity, drunkenness among others are a suitable reason for conducting a fault divorce. Father Titus Ikechukwu Nnabugwu (2013) added that issues like physical cruelty, imprisonment, infidelity, abandonment and others is a major reason for conducting a fault divorce. The defense to an allege fault while requesting or petitioning for a divorce is accusation, forgiveness, stupidity, and conspiracy.
- No-Fault divorce involves ending a marriage based on irreconcilable differences between both partners and a no chance of recovery. Also, this type of Divorce is settled amicably while assigning blame. No-fault divorce was introduced to the modern era and it's presently a common trend.
- Contested divorce is a type of divorce where a divorce settlement like property, child custody among others.. It is time consuming and very costly. Aaron Delgado and associates (2022) said that this type of divorce requires one's lawyers to hire witnesses, get some properties and reach out to financial consultants.

- Uncontested divorce is a type of divorce in which the couple agree on a divorce settlement before meeting the court. Both couples comes with a seperation agreement and draft out a parenting plan by working hand in hand. This type of divorce is faster and less expensive.

Some few types include:

- Summary dissolution or simplified divorce is a type of divorce that aids registered couples to legally end their marriage quickly according to Michael R. Young (2024) in his article titled The comprehensive guide to a summary dissolution. Meaning a type of divorce that is easily done.
- Do it yourself divorce is a type of divorce that is done by both couple without a attorney. Both couple draft out the paper work, file it, and present their case in the court. (extracted from an article titled Your Guide to Do-it-Yourself Divorce by Divorce.com staff 2023). This type has to do with the act of returning a brideprice that has been paid on the wife between the family without ithout a lawyer presence.This act is also common in rural communities or remote communities in Nigeria.

Causes of Divorce

Divorce has certain factors influencing it. For instance, The media representatives of the Catholic community is of the opinion that " incompatibility" and "intolerance" of couples are the main reasons for the rapid increase in registered divorces and initiated proces. The Tribune Newspaper titled major causes of divorce in Nigeria by Ayobami

Sanusi (2022) identified infidelity is a motivating factor of divorce. It is one of the legal reasons for divorce in addition to the longer than a year separation and the abuse of your spouse both mentally and physically. He believes infidelity is caused by lack of satisfaction. It's an act of being sexually unfaithful to one's spouse or partner. Either partners can be guilty of these acts. Infidelity also known as adultery is the act of engaging in sexual intimacy with a person aside one's spouse. Infidelity may or may not involve sexual encounters, and takes place in person or online. In the Nollywood movie titled 'Sparkles' produced by Becky Alexander tells a story on how unfaithfulness can destroy one's marriage if it's not well handled. Infidelity is the cause of most divorce marriages in the society.

Financial challenges is another persistent factor following the economic nature of the recent Nigeria society. Justice Yahaya Mohammed of Plateau Sharia Court of Appeal explained that finance is the cause of divorce when interviewed in a Punch newspaper. Marriage is built and empowered with finance. Failure to have money to cater for the family as a man and the non-supportive nature of the woman in terms of finance is a huge problem. This leads to frustration, depression, nagging for both male and female even suicide. For instance, a movie titled 'Oh Father, Oh Daughter' sometimes shown in SuperStory a reality programme Wale Adenuga production.

It is observed that ingratitude is another challenge of divorce. This is caused by looking down on one's spouse, constant nagging both from the female and male partner. This is common in most Nigeria homes having a mentality that others' marriage is more perfect than theirs. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines ingratitude as the refusal to

acknowledge something good from another. A Nollywood movie titled Close Chapter (2022) produced by Udezeh Oyinye.

Marriage founded on deceit. According to the merriam-webster dictionary, deceit can be defined as the act of causing someone to accept as valid what is false or invalid. This simply means that either one of the couples get married while lying about their personal information so that he or she would be accepted. It is most prevalent in our society and most marriages are victims of this issues. This is done because he or she believes she would not be accepted if she comes in her original person. From personal observation, The facts that is mostly lied about the following:

- Family Background: Either of the couple is from a poor background, lies about being a son or daughter of a wealthy and popular man. A male or female from a wealthy background lie he or she is from a strikenly poor background.
- Age: Either of the partner tends to lie about their age just to marry a woman of their dreams. Its done by reducing or increasing ones age so as to gain favour before the one's partner. a woman can lose her marriage of over 12 years because she lies about her age. The Nollywood movie titled "A Bullet for you" by Ruth Kadiri is a good example .
- Type of profession: The type of profession and career is being lied about if the career or business is not in the suppose standard of one's partner. For example a mechanic lied about him being a wealthy business man into importing and exporting goods.

- Cheap lies: lies is likened to being dishonest or been untruthful. This lies covers all aspect of the spouses life. This notes that either of the partners lie about being well travelled whereas he has not left his state since his or her birth. This is a convincing ground to get divorce cause it result to lack of trust.
- Educational qualification: Either of the partner lie about being learned i.e a masters degree holder or Ph.d holder. Religion or OND/HND holder. Either of the couples lie about one's religion.
- Religious background: Religion deals with beliefs like Christianity, Muslims, and others. This attitude is seen in all religion. This is also common in the christian circle, an unbeliever lies he/she is a christian just to tie the lock with a dedicated, committed, christian. The default partners attend services consistently and also join a department in the church to back up his or her claims. After the marriage, he's real personality or lifestyle shows up. He stops attending services , smokes, womanise and get drunk because to him. He had achieved his aim. This has happen to most marriages in our Nigeria society.
- Marital status: This is another major issue that have not just lead to divorce but a serious heart break. Either of the partner lies about he or she being single whereas he has a wife already outside. In real life cases sometimes the other partner would be in another state or country. This has trapped some single ladies in our society. Also, he can lie about his marital status just because he need a male child.

- Favourite: Either of the partners lie about his personal likes, dislikes, taste of colour, careers etc and other personal interest to get a their dream partner. Unfortunately, this leads to lack of trust from ones partner. when trust is brought to its lowest minimum then
- Child out of wedlock: Either of the partner can lie about being a single parent before marriage. So that he or she can get married to their dream partner. This is disastrous because the discovery would lead to break of trust, quarrels and if one is unlucky the marriage would be brought to an end.
- Financial status: Either of the partner poses to be financially bouyant but after marriage when the truth is revealed or leaks. This can lead to divorce mostly if the other partner married him for his deceptive lie.
- Citizenship: Either of the partners can lie about being from a Western or any other African country such as Kenya, Ghana, Ivory coast, Somalia, etc based on birth or family relations like grandparents etc.
- Type of friends: Either of the partners can lie about his or her friends. They lie about their choice of friends. Generally, friends has an effect ones behaviour whether positive or negative. Keeping negative friends can influence ones behaviour to his or her partner in marriage which can result to divorce.

All of the above are painful act of discovery that are forms of deceit that have lead to divorce. Deceit is also seen in the Nollywood A movie titled " Better half" produced by Ruth Kadiri.

Irreconcilable differences is also a cause of divorce. Sharon Osaji (2023), in an article titled "marriage experts worry over rising divorce among young couples" that Adeniyi gave the reason for divorce among young couples which is the inability of couples to properly study each other and the recklessness of not waiting to discover if the love was genuine before getting married. To him is a stable ground for divorce. Ordinarily, a couple are usually from different background, religion, tribe, and has different home bringing leading to different characters. It is expected that understanding and tolerance be adopted as a reconcilable tool but if this is not the case both partners would consistently be at loggerhead. In addition, most law court in Nigeria note that most plaintiff reasons for divorcing is founded on the issue of irreconcilable differences. For instance news report of Tonto dikeh a Nollywood star divorce to kunle was based on irreconcilable differences. A movie titled *A glimpse of hope* produced by Christian Wolf.

Lack of love is one of the causes of divorce. The Vocabulary dictionary describe love as a strong positive emotion of regard and affections. This means that love is based on action and not words. a couple action should be a reflection of what they say or feel. For instance, when financial challenges comes in a marriage relationship, patience must be applied. Ayobami Sanusi (2022), explained that love is a necessity in marriage. The components of love are communication, tolerance, happiness, understanding, forgiveness, confidence in one another, compromise, the singleness of heart. Ayobami believes that without love marriage becomes a contract. Urban dictionary define love as the act of caring and giving to someone. Having someone best interest and wellbeing as a priority.

The above definition explain love. The partner love is being proven in this case. Surprisely, the other couple discovers that he is not truly loved. Lack of love would be explained from two angles. Firstly, some couples get married based on wealth, inheritance, fame, physical look, feelings, and not based on love. However, when this factors disappears, divorce becomes the closest solution. Secondly, when the excitement and high feelings gradually fades without deliberate action from both partners to keep the marriage spicy through maturity seen in communication, true love, and patience. Divorce occurs. A movie titled "Closed Chapter" (2022) featuring Stanley Nzeh produced by Udezeh Oyinye. About a couple who felt they were both in love till their love was tested through her life dream coming true. Ojuigo left her loving husband and seven year old son to pursue her career. Reverene Ibeneme state that there never has been a divorce in a home where the husband and wife both walked in love. (P.8, a book titled " what is killing our marriage" by Rev. Ibeneme).

Parental influence and in law saga as a cause of divorce is prevalent. It was considered that non-commitment or reduced commitment to marriage as an institution and lack of confidence that a happy and stable marriage been maintained can lead to a high risk of divorce among aduts from divorced from divorced homes. (Amato & DeBoer,2001; Glenn & Kramer 1987). Secondly, It is observed that Parental influence is a situation where either of the couple seeks permission from parents in making decisions. In laws are of a spouse family. TInlaw saga is seen when the parents of the couple don't approve of the spouse. Olusanya (1970) and Yaguobu (1984) sees in-law interference as a

critical issue as it disturbs the peace and existence of marriage. A Nollywood movie titled *I am in love* produced by Andy Chukwu among others.

Medical issues such as infertility, low sperm count, impotency, barrenness and sudden illness like cancer, stroke, hynia, genotype, blood group being on wheel chairs due to accident, loss of sight, HIV AIDs, are causes of divorce. Otite and Ogionwo (2001) argued that childlessness in marriage is a predictor of divorce in Nigeria. In most traditional society, the reactions of villagers is worst to the woman and overlooked for the men. It is believed that infertility is caused by the barren woman and mock, humilate her. The villagers and inlaws advices the husband to divorce the wife or have an additional wife to bear his name. A movie titled *Fried beans* produced by Samuel Ajibola.

Though scarce, the issue of a male child is another major factor which leads to divorce. In most Nigeria society and culture, a woman is considered barren if she has no male child but female children. In Nigeria society, a male gender is highly regarded but modernisation has helped curb this idea proving that female children or gender is also important. In some culture, it is believed that the woman does not have a stand in her home and can be sent packing any moment. This attracts maltreatment from their husband. Sometimes, the husband uses this factor as an excuse for Infidelity.

Thornton (2001) indicated age in marriage as the two most major triggers of divorce. Age is a sole determinant of a choice of a marital partner. The movie titled "*Better half*" produced by Ruth Kadiri explains this in a better form. The female protagonist decide to not marry her husband after the discovery his age. This is can be a serious issue in marriage.

Ayobami Sanusi (2022), in the Tribune online Newspaper titled Major Causes of Divorce in Nigeria, noted that Infidelity, the lack of communication, unforgiveness, lack of love, lack of mental preparation, lack of courtship, the issues of infertility are the reasons for divorce. "Why is divorce rate high among young couples? By Premium Times reports that couples file for divorce because of certain reasons like abandonment, infidelity, Incompatibility and others. These reasons make it possible, for accurate information to be gotten. (<https://www.Dubawa.org/> false-divorce cases filed on January 2023, not 4000 as claimed as viral tweet/march 6.2023). From the above newspapers the different causes of divorce were enlisted. It means that divorce don't just happen. It exist from different factors which are not well managed or resolved early.

2.2.4 Nollywood Portrayal of Feminism and Gender Equality: A key Trigger of Divorce in Nigerian Society

In some Nollywood movies, feminism is seen as one of the major factor that triggers the act of divorce. The Merriam-Webster dictionary states that feminism is a the act of fighting for the political, economic, and social equality of both sexes by organizing activity that will protect women's interest and rights. Feminism is indeed a blessing because it gives the woman a voice in her home and the society at large. Feminism appreciate the strength and self esteem of the woman. Feminism believe that a woman can be a career woman, Successful business woman. The woman can go into politics, become a traditional ruler etc instead of just being a housewife. In this recent era, the female gender is well appreciated and valued unlike past eras or ancient times. Females like Ruth Kadiri, Uchenna Mbunabuo, Funke Akindele among others are successful Nollywood film female Producers. Also, according to different current affairs and past

Nigeria history professor Ngozi Okonjo- Iweala is a global economist, the first woman to head the world trade organization among others, Aderoke kale is the first female Major-General in the Nigerian army, Folorusho Alakija is the richest in Nigeria and second richest in Africa net worth over one billion us dollars and others. However, feminism has caused havoc in some homes and the society at large due to civilization. African homes has seen feminism as a threat to the society because of their traditional values and customs like most African countries. In Nigeria, this has disrupt harmony in the home. As the wife no longer submit to her husband since equally earns with her husband. This becomes worst if the wife earnings is more than her husband remuneration. She lose respect for him, abuse him both with words of the mouth and indirect actions. This also make her belittle her in-laws. An example of Nollywood movies that portrays feminism is titled "Half broken things" (2022) produced by Uchenna Mbunabuo.

Often, the wife who earns more than her husband believe that her spouse cannot satisfy her. She search for it in the act of infidelity.

2.2.5 Nollywood Portrayal of Domestic Violence and Cheating As Best Options to opt for Divorce

Nollywood over the years has portayed domestic violence as one of the major causes of divorce in the society and still does. domestic violence against women and its incidence is high in countries all over the world as it relates to the social construction of gender and gender relations inherent in patriarchal societies that culturally construct males to be assertive and females receptive, this has led to, over the years, violence in relationships where intimacy is shared among partners and is regarded as violence against

women by their intimate partners in literature relating to violence against women (Inokoba, 2011 in a Journal titled Mass Media Messages and domestic violence in Nigeria by Busari Dauda). Domestic Violence is a term that is commonly used to describe any form of abuse in marriage. Domestic violence is a harm against ones spouse. From a general view, domestic violence is also a violence against children, parents, or the elderly. Domestic violence comes in various forms like physical, verbal, emotional,, financial abuse, religious abuse, sexual abuse among others. Religious abuse simply means insulting ones belief or mocking ones belief like a christian condemning Muslim religion or a Muslim condemning christian religion. Financial abuse comes in the form of one oppressing his or her spouse because the other partner is financially standing. a wealthy wife can belittle or disrespect her husband who receives lower income. It is also observed that financial abuse is common in marriages. Domestic violence involve violent physical abuse, like strangling, marital rape, beating, female circumcision, the use of iron on ones spouse and others which can lead to death. Domestic violence can be the act of being physically abusive that is, the use of insults, Bad habits or attitudes like getting drunk, uncontrolled or hot temper, and others can encourage domestic violence. In the society, most drunk husband end up beating their wives in front of the children and it is prevalent in some Nigerian marriages. Some tend to endure it while others choose the escape root of divorce. Male are also a victim of domestic violence as some husband suffer from psychological maltreatment from their wives.

Globally, the victims of domestic violence are mostly women that because they tend to experience a more severe forms of violence. The World Health Organization

(WHO) states that one in three of all women face domestic violence. In some countries, domestic violence are allowed legally mostly in cases of real or suspected infidelity on the part of the woman. Research says that there is an important relationship between a country's level of gender inequality and rates of domestic violence. Countries with less gender equality experience higher rates of domestic violence. The crime that is scarcely reported is domestic violence globally. Domestic violence can lead to death. Domestic violence can be considered an evil act. For instance, the media gave the information that Domestic Violence caused the death of a gospel Celebrity Osinachi Nwachukwu. Nollywood stars like Monalisa Chinda, Chika Ikeh among others were victims of domestic violence from news report (<https://www.NaijaGist.com> 2018). Nollywood movies like 'The tears of my mistake' produced a Nollywood movie explains domestic violence as the cause of divorce. In an attempt to eradicate domestic violence, A Journal titled Mass Media Messages and Domestic Violence in Nigeria's by Busari Dauda, explained that Nigeria joined some international organisations like the universal declaration of human rights(1998), The convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women CEDAW (1981), the African charter on Human and peoples Rights (1981) and others. However, domestic violence still persist despite the emergence of these establishment.

Nollywood Portrayal of Cheating as a Best Option for Divorce

Nollywood is a type of media that disseminate information to the large, heterogeneous, scattered audience simultaneously. Cheating also known as infidelity can

be defined as the act or process or state of being unfaithful to ones spouse from my point of view. Nollywood movies presentation of infidelity as an option for divorce another factor. One of the spouse or both is involve in infidelity . Some wives cheat because of the need for more finance to meet their personal demand and to look good or georgous all the time. Some wives cheat on their husbands because they are not well satisfied by their husband sexually. Some husbands believe its their right to cheat and cannot be discouraged from this. While some other husband see it as falling into lust mistakenly, but it can also destroy their home. Often, Nollywood also kick against divorce as a solution to infidelity. This means that in some Nollywood movies both spouse embrace the virtue of forgiveness and reconciliation Examples are "Sparkles" produced by Becky Alexander. Some Nollywood personality experienced divorce due to infidelity from their partners. Some examples of Nollywood stars include: Fathia Balogun, Ini Edo, Tontoh Dikeh among others. (From <https://www.naijsgist.com>.2018)

2.2.5B. Dangers of Divorce on families

Divorce solely has it's dangers on the family and society. The family makes up the large society. Therefore whatever happens in the family has a major effect on the society. An author named Rev. Dr. S. O. Ibeneme (1988) in his book titled What is killing our marriage pointed out that giving birth to a child outside love is a crime against the child. Every child has a right to be love. If the opposite is the case, it leaves a major stigma in the society.

These dangers makes this act to be a dangerous one. professor Nkeonye Otakpor(2016, Pg 9) in his book titled Philosophy and Logic said that John Locke an empirist philosopher said that man at birth is a "tabula Raza' which means a clean slate and it is in the process of growth, that experience writes knowledge into the mind. This means children are innocent when brought to the world and naturally learn how to live or survive in this life. Parents are the first tutor the child have that is reason being parents are more experienced and a child feels secure in his parents. Also, whatever behaviour the parents possess the children copy both directly and indirectly. when parents give their child an advice. The child observe the parents actions, if it's contradictory. a child learns faster from their parents action than an advice. Therefore, Children from an abusive home learns fast some ill behaviours of their parents like the wife using insulting words on her husband, the husband physically man handling their wives in front of the children. When the children are older and married they end up beating their wives or abusing their husband with words. To this child, his act while grown up is right. An abusive home is disastrous because it can lead to the death of a spouse.

Another danger is, the child having felt unloved by his parents becomes hostile towards people in the society. He falls into peer pressure and expose to various crimes like arm robbery, kidnapping, Cultism, prostitution among others to be able to cater for their need in this difficult economy. If care is not taken, the child can eventually die at an early age or youthful age. Domestic violence can accidentally lead to the death of a child when he tries to intervene. Liken it to the society a future saver is loss.

Some of these children end up as illiterates constituting a nuisance in the society. The society therefore becomes a dangerous zone for one to live in. These kids become robbers, Thugs, kidnappers among others. Mostly in the cities, insecurity becomes the order of the day. Most likely, children from cheating homes grow up to become womanisers and unfaithful to their spouse when married. In conclusion, this affects society because it destroys societal morals.

2.2.6 Review of Empirical Studies

Materials related to the research topic were reviewed for academic purpose. They include:

Nenuwa Temotope Ejiro-Oghene (2021) in her project titled Audience perception of Gender stereotype in portrayal of Domestic violence in Nollywood movies explained that domestic violence is the intentional and persistent abuse of an individual in the home in a way that causes pain, distress or injury. She emphasized that domestic violence goes beyond physical violence. It includes psychologically or financial violence that occurs in a family-type relationship and forms a pattern of controlling attitude. Domestic violence consists of physical violence, sexual violence, psychological abuse, and controlling attitude. She stated that physical violence includes the pulling of hair, slapping, kicking and hitting with the fist.

Sexual violence includes rape, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual abuse. Psychological abuse includes insults, threats, intimidation, discrimination etc. Controlling behaviours such as stalking, depriving one the right of association, the denial of

educational, economic, health-care opportunities. She employed the use of Agenda setting theory and the gate keeping theory to buttress her point. Questionnaires was adopted in finding out audience opinion Gender stereotype on the portrayal of Nollywood domestic violence movies using mass communication students of the University of Benin as a case study. She also conducted several materials both online and offline articles resulting in an indepth study. These work is restricted to domestic violence which is one among the various causes of divorce. The Researcher is going beyond domestic violence as it focus on the entirety of divorce and Nollywood theme of divorce.

Izuchukwu Benjamin Obiekwe and Nzubechukwu Christian Ekebosi (2012), in her Research work titled Family Income and Marital Stability in Anambra state with a specific study of Njikoka local government area of Anambra state. He adopted the correlational research design. The population of the study include 1000 married men and women. 140 respondents were randomly selected for the purpose of this research. The study made use of questionnaire for the collection of data. An average correlation coefficient of $r=87$ was applied.

The respondents demographics were analysed using simple percentage while Pearson product moment coefficient (r) was used to test null hypothesis one and ANOVA was adopted to test hypothesis two all based on 0.05 alpha level of significance. The result revealed that marital stability is strongly associated with family income. This is because financial income is used to solve family issues which results in personal, marital and family relationships stability. Solving family problems with ones family income can promote marital stability. Marital Stability of married couples is based on

importance between the amount of the males and female Income. The study recommended that marriage counsellors, religious figures, counselling psychologist should advise married couple to see themselves as one. In line with this, all Income received in the relationship should be used for the maintenance of the family. In addition, family marriage education programme should be provided through the mass media (radio, television and newspaper), the government and his agencies such as the Ministry of Women Affairs are encouraged take up their social responsibility devotedly. The limitations of the research focuses on family income as one of the causes of marital instability. This happens to be a cause of divorce. The Researcher would go beyond the above cause by explaining other causes of divorce while alongside some Nollywood movies.

Adenitan Adetayo Olaniyi (vol 5, no.5, 2015), in his journal research work titled Analytical study of the casual factors of divorce in African homes explained that divorce is a happening among African couples and the entire world. He said that the family is the foundation of any continent in the world. He also said that rampant divorce is found to have social- economic and political effect on the society. The primary data was collected, served and analyze through face-to-face and online means across countries in the continent. The data targeted sixty married homes and forty divorcees, consisting of sixty married couples living together, twenty men are divorcees and twenty women divorcees selected at random and given copies of questionnaires. The result showed that respondents suggest infertility is the main cause of divorce. While other causes are ignorance, poverty, unemployment, and others. Lastly, counsellors were encouraged to carry out more

research on this area so as to get a lasting solution to divorce. The research work is restricted to the causes of divorce in African as a continent. The Researcher would explain divorce in relation with Nollywood movies.

2.2.7. Theoretical Framework

Based on the research topic, the theories that will be adopted include:

The Agenda Setting Theory

Agenda setting was developed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald L. Shaw in 1972/1973.(From Ezekiel S. Asemah 2011 text titled "selected mass media themes"). These scholars introduced agenda setting everyone study today. The theory of Agenda-setting can be traced to the first chapter of Walter Lippmann's 1922 book, public opinion who argued that the mass media are the principal connection between events in the word and the images in the minds of the public. (retrieved from Ezekiel S. Asemah et al 2017 text titled theories and models of communication). This means that the media are the middle men that brings events happening in the society to it's audience who thinks about and discuss this events on a daily basis. For example, when better half a Nollywood movie was produced, people believed that age is no longer an issue in marriage. Also, marrying a younger guy should not become an issue in marriage.

Wimmer and Dominick (2000) in Asemah et al (2017) text observe that the theory on agenda setting by the media proposes that the public agenda or what kinds of things people discuss, think and worry about is powerfully shaped and directed by what the media choose to publicise". This means that if the media or Nollywood chose to give the

most time and space to covering Divorce, this issue becomes the most important item on the audiences' minds.

Folarin (1998) in Ezekiel S. Asemah(2011) textbook notes that agenda setting theory implies that the mass media pre- determine what issues are regarded as important at any given time in a given society. This means that the media decides on what issue is most important for the public to dwell on or think about. Ikpe (2012) in Asemah et al (2017) text explained that the agenda setting metamorphosed from hypothesis to a theory and the rule has changed from agenda setting to agenda building. From the above, it is seen that the public follow whatever agenda set by the mass media. Ezekiel, Angela and Adeline (2017) notes that The theory also means that most of the pictures stored in our heads and think about, most of what the public discuss are based on what the public has read, listened to or watched in different mass media. This implies that Nollywood movies that the audience watch tend to store in our heads, re-plays in our mind and affect the public discussion on divorce issues which also align with what the movie industry want the public to think about.

Therefore, the Nollywood coverage of divorce in our society is important because the issue becomes what the public worries and think about. This results in the production of movies on divorce like Closed Chapter produced by Udezeh Oyinye where the issue of betrayal in marriage is being portrayed thereby exposing societal events. a Nollywood movie titled Better half produced by Ruth Kadiri and others. The public becomes more exposed to this trend and sees the need to avoid divorce if possible, to build and sustain a long lasting marriage relationship. But in tough cases like domestic violence, prevention

or separation is more better than losing ones life which Nollywood divorce contents has portrayed sometimes. For example, i have no husband which can be related to certain real events like the death of a Nigeria famous gospel singer Osinachi Nwachukwudue to Domestic violence. During this period, Nollywood movies focused on domestic violence as a major good reason for divorce in Nigeria.

The Media Dependency Theory

This theory was formulated by Sandra Ball-Rokeach and Melvin Defluer in 1976 as stated in Ezekiel S. Asemah text (2011) in his book titled 'Selected Mass Media Theme'. This theory is also called the media system dependency theory is an extension of the uses and gratification theory. The difference between these theories are: media dependency looks at audience goals as the origin of the dependency while the uses and gratifications approach emphasises audience needs. However, they agree that the use of media lead to media dependency.

DeFleur and Ball-Rokeach (1976) in Ezekiel S. Asemah text describe dependency as the correlating relationship between media content, the nature of society and the behaviour of audiences. The above definition states that dependency is an important tool in every society and in marriage because it aid one to make positive or negative decision even in marriage. The society copies whatever the nollywood believe is true. Dependency also means that the audience decide on how to run their marriage, how to sustain it, how to also end their marriage based on information they constantly receive from the Media.

Nollywood movies often time paints the eutopic ideologies about marriage, most movies centres on the fact that marriage ought to be a bed of beautiful roses, it always have to be blissful, so when one is no longer enjoying being married he or she can opt for divorce . Since marriage comes with several challenges and a lasting marriage need efforts from both partners, however, Nollywood over the years keep seeling the ideologies of finding a perfect bride or groom as criteria for a perfect and happy home. These ideologies overtime is what is playing out in the society and is a major reason behind the proliferation of divorce in Nigeria.

We are a product of what we are continuously exposed to, media messages can make or mar members of society to a very large extent. Nollywood movies have both positive and negative impacts on members of the society who are exposed to their contents.

According to little John (2002) in Ezekiel S. Asemah text (2011), people will become more dependent on media that meet a number of their needs than on media that provide only a few ones. The scholar meant that people rely on the media for direction on what decision to make when they are faced with difficulty or problems in marriage. They also rely on Nollywood movies because it has varieties of media contents that cuts across all sphere of life experiences on a daily basis.

From the above scholars, the society tends to depend on media content to be able to make certain life decisions like Nollywood. Nollywood is a type of media that the public rely on to relieve boredom, to gain knowledge, to be more exposed to divorce issues, to learn different ways in tackling divorce cases, learn certain skills and

behaviours. This is because if the media stop showing divorce then the society is void of divorce cases. Divorce movies watched by audience help the singles, married and seperated to make certain life decisions.

2.2.8. Summary

In chapter one, the Researcher gave an introduction of the topic being discussed. In chapter two, the Researcher gave in-depth details on the topic for a better understanding. Research reviews was made on related topic so as to feel the essence or importance of the study. In addition, theories was used to explain the topic.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1. Preamble

This chapter gives a detailed explanations on the research method on " Benin city residents attitude towards Nollywood portrayal of divorce cases in Nigeria" employed in this study. Also, the sample size, Research instrument, sampling technique, Research design, the method of data collection and method of data analysis would be explained.

3.2 Research Design

Research design is said to be the different method used to gather information in the process of conducting a research work. This design can be observational research design (Asemah, Gujbawu, Ekhareafo, Okpanachi 2017, text titled Research methods and procedures in mass communication, pg 60, 131 - 135). The Researcher employ the Survey research design, Focus Group discussion design. The reason for this is to get information or data on the above research topic discussed.

3.3 Population of the Study

According to the National Population Commission of Nigeria and National Bureau of statistics (2022), the estimated population of Benin city covering Ikpoba-okha, Egor and Oredo local government is 1,605,700. This population statistics is large, therefore the Researcher population of study was drawn deliberately from 600 people. These 600

people was used to represent the entire population of residents in Edo state, Nigeria. A Population can be defined as the total number of persons living in a geographical area. Population was further explained using the Taro Yamane as sample size. This formular was adopted to aid the calculation of the data collection.

3.4 Sample Size

The Researcher adopt the total of 600 people or resident as sample size. This number is used to determine the number the solution or result to be gotten.

The sample size of this study was determined using the Taro Yamane formula of 1967. It state that:

$$n = N / 1 + N(e)^2$$

Where,

n = desired sample size

N = population for the study (600)

1 = Theoretical constant

e = expected error margin (5%)²

$$= (0.05)^2$$

Hence, n

$$n = 600 / 1 + 600 (0.005)^2$$

$$n = 600 / 1 + 1.5$$

$$n = 600 / 2.5$$

$$n = 240$$

Therefore, the Researcher would adopt the sample size of this study as 240. or therefore the sample size for this study is 240.

3.5 Sampling Procedure/Technique

The Researcher adopts the purposive sampling technique as it's sampling procedure in this work because the population of the study is extremely large. Asemah, Gujbawu, Ekharefo, Okpanachi 2017,, pg 60, 131 - 135) state that Sampling is a set of rules that guides the selection of small number of cases to represent a larger number of cases. Meaning a few can be used to represent a whole. In addition, purposive sampling also known as choice or judgement sampling is a sampling method in which the Researcher uses his or her judgement to choose respondents and selects those that best meet the purpose of the study. Also this method allows the researcher to purposively target a group of people believed to be reliable for the study therefore eliminating certain members of the population. The purpose of sampling is gain information about the population due to its large size. It is also for adequate representation.

3.6 Research Instrument/Administration

The Researcher instrument adopted for the research include: Questionnaires, Interviews and Focus group discussion. A structured questionnaires was distributed to residents of Benin city comprising of students of the University of Benin Ekehuan and Ugbowo campus, civil servants, business men and women, because they are capable to understand the topic. Hard copies was distributed to Respondents so as to get audience opinion on the topic.

3.7 Validity and Reliability of Instrument

The Researcher is adopted questionnaires as the primary instrument for data collection for this work because it reflect the variables of this study. A questionnaire is defined as a structured form that is either written or printed consists of a formalized set of questions designed to collect information on some subject or subjects from one or more respondents(Business jargon, 2016). It means that is simply a set of questions designed to investigate a given subject matter (Asemah et al 2017). Therefore from the two above definitions, it means that questionnaire is used to find out response if a topic is true or false and find out societal opinions on issues.

The validity of this work will be examined by the research supervisor to know if the instrument gives the right answers to the research questions and whether the set objectives were achieved.

3.8 Method of Data collection

The Researcher admistered a structured questionnaire to respondents who resides in various locations within Benin city, Edo state, Nigeria. Their responses to the questions in the questionnaire were carefully analyzed using frequencies, percentage and statistics method. These physical copies of questionnaire were also distributed in the course of this work and were collected at the spot.

Also, Focus group discussion was employed or adopted. Focus group discussion means an in-depth discussion with a group of six to twelve people, who are the medium used to gather preliminary information for research projects to help develop items for

survey research, understand the reasons behind a particular phenomenon, see a group of people interpret a certain phenomenon and test preliminary ideas or plans.(Asemah et al 2017). A focus group discussion comprising of 6 persons from two selected departments: 3 mass communication and 3 childhood education students (Undergraduates of the University of Benin) were used.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

The Reasearcher adopted both the quantitative and qualitative method in this study. Therefore, the researcher employed the use of tables, frequencies, numbers and percentage in the analysis interpretation of facts (information) or data gathered during the course of this work or study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 - Introduction

This chapter seeks to present, interpret and give a thorough analysis of all the primary data sourced from the field in the course of this research statistical tables and percentages were used to present data for better understanding.

4.2 - Data Presentation of Demographic Information

SECTION A: Data Analysis on Demographics

TABLE 1: Data Analysis on Returned Rate.

STUDY POPULATION	QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTERED	QUESTIONNAIRE RETURNED	PERCENTAGE (%)
Benin City Residents (Viz students, civil servants, Business men and women)	240	240	100%
Total	240	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

The table 1 indicated that 240 questionnaires was distributed to respondents who are residents of Benin City and the questionnaire gathered.

TABLE 2: Age of Respondents

AGE BRACKETS OF RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
18 - 24	125	50%
25 - 30	46	20%
31 - 45	41	20%
46 and above	28	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Analysis from table 2 indicated that majority of the respondents were between the age range of 18 - 24 which amounted to 50% of the sample population of this study. Others were within the age range of 25 - 30 and 31 - 45, very few 10% were above 46 years of Age.

TABLE 3: Gender of Respondents

GENDER	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Male	88	40%
Female	152	60%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

By implication table 3 indicates that majority of the respondents were females because they amounted to 60% of the population of this study, the males were 40%.

TABLE 4 : Religion of Respondents

RELIGION	FREQUENCIES (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Christian	222	93%
Muslim	8	3%
Traditional religion	6	3%
Others	4	1%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Analysis of table 4 indicates that majority the respondents are christians because they amounted to 93%, the Muslims, Traditional and other religious worshippers were very few.

TABLE 5: Occupation of Respondents

OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Students	144	60%
Civil servants	37	15%
Business men /women	59	25%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 5 indicates that majority of the Respondents are students, because they amounted to 144 (60%) respondents. The Business men/women are few that is 59 (25%) respondents and the very few 37(15%) respondents.

TABLE 6: Marital Status of Respondents

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Married	71	30%
Single	166	70%
Divorced	3	0%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 6 indicates that the majority of Respondents are single because they amounted to 70% (166 respondents), the married are 71 respondents (30%) while the divorced are very few (3 respondents i.e 0%).

TABLE 7: Educational Qualification of Respondents

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
SSCE	97	40%
OND/HND	37	20%
B.A/B.Sc	87	30%
OTHERS	19	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 7 indicates that majority of the Respondents (97 i.e 40%) are SSCE holders, 37 respondents (20%) are OND/HND holders, while 87 respondents (30%) are B.A/BSc holders and other qualifications with those with no qualifications are (19 respondents 10%).

4.3 - Analysis Psychographic information (SECTION B)

TABLE 8: Are there divorce contents in Nollywood movies?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	214	90%
No	14	5%
Undecided	12	5%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 8 indicates that majority of Respondents were of the opinion that there is divorce contents in Nollywood movies. This is because 90% comprising of 214 Respondents agreed that such conte are prevalent in most Nollywood movies, only a few comprising 14 (5%) objected and only a few 12 respondents that is (5%) maintained a neutral position on the issue.

TABLE 9: How does Nollywood movies portray divorce is Nigeria?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Positive light	66	30%
Negative light	103	40%
Undecided	71	30%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 9 indicates that majority of the Respondents were of the opinion that Nollywood movies does portray divorce in a negative light which are 103 (40%) respondents. A few 66 (30%) respondents were of a contrary opinion and 71 (30%) maintained a neutral position on the issue.

TABLE 10: To what extent does Nollywood movies encourage divorce in Nigeria?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Very high	56	20%
High	53	20%
Low	88	40%

Undecided	43	20%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 10 indicates that majority of the Respondents who is a total of 109 consisting of 56 (20%) and 53 (20%) respondents ticked the very high and high option. While 88 (40) respondents ticked low and a few 43 (20%) maintained a neutral position.

TABLE 11: Do you think divorce promote Anti- social behaviours (e.g drug abuse, kidnapping, immorality etc) among members of the society.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	137	60%
No	77	30%
Undecided	26	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 11 indicates that majority of Respondents 137 (60%) were of the opinion that the contents of Nollywood Divorce movies promote Anti- social behaviours among members of the society. Only 77 (30%) disagreed and 26 (10%) maintained a neutral position.

TABLE 12: How would you rate infidelity as a cause of divorce in Nigeria?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
High	110	50%
Very high	83	30%
Low	24	10%
Undecided	23	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Data Analysis on Table 12 reveals the above that majority of Respondents (110 i.e 50%) rated infidelity as a major cause of divorce in Nigeria, 83 respondents (30% of the population) chose the very high option, this indicates that most of the respondents believe infidelity is the major cause of divorce in Nigeria, only a few 24 ticked the low and 23 ticked the undecided options which were 10% each.

TABLE 13: Marriage founded on deceit can cause divorce.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Agree	108	40%
Strongly agree	109	50%
Disagree	8	0%
Strongly disagree	15	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 13 above shows that majority of the respondents (109 i.e 50%) strongly agreed that marriage founded on deceit can cause divorce. Only a few (about 8 respondents (0%) disagreed and 15 respondents (10%) strongly disagreed.

TABLE 14: Do you think Nollywood movies on health complications like infertility, low sperm count etc are a cause of divorce?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
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Yes	124	50%
No	72	30%
Undecided	44	20%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Data on table 14 above indicated that 124 Respondents (50%) which was the highest were of the opinion that Nollywood divorce movies that feature health complications can promote divorce. 72 respondents (30%) of the population were not in support hence they ticked the "No" option while respondents (20%) maintained a neutral position.

TABLE 15: Does Feminism and Gender equality pose a threat to marriages in Nigeria?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	145	60%
No	56	20%
Undecided	39	20%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

A close look at table 15 above reveals that majority of Respondents (145 i.e 60%) were of the opinion that Feminism and Gender equality pose a threat to marriages in Nigeria. 56 Respondents (20%) were of a contrary view that it does not affect marriages, while 39 respondents (20%) maintained a neutral stand on the issue.

TABLE 16: How would you rate feminism and Gender equality as a cause of divorce in Nigeria?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
High	84	40%
Very high	49	20%
Low	75	30%
Undecided	32	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 16 above indicates that majority of the Respondents (84 i.e 40%) rated feminism and Gender equality as a major cause of divorce in Nigeria. 49 Respondents (20%) rated it "very high", 75 respondents (30%) rated it low and only a few 32 respondents (10%) chose the "undecided" option.

TABLE 17: Feminist are likely to end up with broken homes.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	119	50%
No	68	30%
Undecided	53	20%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 17 above indicates that majority of the Respondents 119 (50%) were of the opinion that feminists are likely to end up with broken homes. 68 Respondents (30%) of the sample population disagreed and 53 (20%) maintained a neutral position. i.e they neither here or there.

TABLE 18: How would you rate Nollywood movies that feature divorce?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Good	111	50%
Very good	24	10%
Bad	73	30%
Very bad	32	10%
Total	240	100%

Source Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Data analysis on table 18 above reveals that majority of the Respondents 111 (50%) rated Nollywood movies that featured divorce contents as "Good". 24 respondents (10%) rated it "very good". 73 respondents (30%) rated it as "Bad" and the remaining 32 respondents (10%) rated it "very bad".

TABLE 19: Do you think celebrities promote divorce in anyway?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	159	70%
No	47	20%
Undecided	34	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

According to table 19 above, majority of the Respondents (159 i.e 70%) of the sample Population were of the opinion that celebrities promote divorce in our society. 47 Respondents in (20%) were of a contrary opinion and 34 Respondents (10%) maintained a neutral position on the issue.

TABLE 20: To what extent does domestic violence triggers divorce rate in Nigeria?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
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	(F)	(%)
Very high	147	61%
High	50	21%
Low	31	13%
Undecided	12	5%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Data analysis on table 20 above indicates that majority of the Respondents 147 (61%) believed that domestic violence promote divorce in Nigeria. 50 Respondents rated domestic violence " very high". That is, it is a major cause of divorce. Only a few Respondents rated it low 31 (13%) and 12 Respondents (5%) maintained a neutral stand on the issue.

TABLE 21: How do you rate Nollywood portrayal of domestic violence as a major cause of divorce?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
	(F)	(%)
High	83	30%
Very high	85	40%
Low	39	20%
Undecided	33	10%

Total	240	100%
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Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 24 above indicates that majority of the Respondents 85 (40%) rated Nollywood's portrayal of domestic violence as a major cause of divorce in Nigeria, hence they rated it very high. 83 Respondents (30%) ticked the high option, 39 respondents (20%) rated it low and 33 respondents (10%) ticked undecided.

TABLE 22: Do you think couples who are victims of domestic violence are mentally and psychologically affected?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	205	90%
No	30	10%
Undecided	5	0%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

From table 22 above, we can deduce that majority of the Respondents (205 i.e 90%) were of the opinion that domestic violence has psychological and traumatising effects on couples (who are victims of it), 30 respondents (10%) disagreed, and 5(0%) maintained a neutral position.

TABLE 23: Domestic violence should be a good excuse for divorce.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	186	70%
No	42	20%
Undecided	12	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 23 above indicates that majority of the Respondents were of the opinion that domestic violence is a good reason for couples to opt for divorce. Thus is because 186 Respondents (70%) of the population of this study affirmed it by ticking the "yes" option. Few Respondents 42 (20%) disagreed, hence they ticked "No" and 12 (10%) Respondents neither chose Yes or No, i.e they were neutral on the issue.

TABLE 24: Divorce is the best solution to unreconcilable differences in marriage?

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Yes	109	50%
No	95	40%
Undecided	36	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Data analysis from table 24 above indicates that majority of the Respondents (109 i.e 50%) were of the opinion that divorce is the best solution to unreconcilable differences in marriage. While (95 i.e 40%) objected and only a few (36 i.e 10%) maintained a neutral position on the issue.

TABLE 25: Divorce has done more harm than good in the society.

RESPONSE CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
Agree	105	40%
Strongly agree	77	30%
Disagree	46	20%
Strongly disagree	12	10%
Total	240	100%

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Analysis

Table 25 indicates that majority of the Respondents were of the opinion that divorce has done more harm than good in the society. This is because (105 i.e 40% of them agreed that divorce has done more harm than good in the society, (77 i.e 30%) tick strongly agree, a few of them (46 i.e 20%) objected and a few (12 i.e 10%) strongly disagreed.

4.4 - Discussion of Findings and Implications

The Discussion of findings of this study is based on providing answers to the research questions with a view to achieving the objectives of the study.

Research question 1: How does Nollywood portray divorce in Nigeria?

Data Analysis on table would be used to proffer solutions to the research question above: Table 9, 10, 18. A quick analysis of table 9 above indicated that majority of the respondents 103 respondents (40%) of the population of this study were of the opinion that Nollywood movies portray divorce in a negative light i.e divorce is bad. This means that Nollywood movies are Anti- divorce or against divorce. About 66 respondents (30%) opined that Nollywood movies portray divorce in a positive light, since majority chose "negative light". It means that producers of Nollywood movies that feature divorce contents are not in support of promoting divorce in Nigerian Society, instead the movies were originally intended to fight divorce or discourage it. Even though the reverse is usually the case due to media perception and retention, sometimes the messages in movies can be misinterpreted by members of the society. This is where selective attention and selective exposure comes into at. Table 10 above indicated that majority of the respondents believed that contents of Nollywood movies encourage divorce in many ways, that is why 40% (109 respondents) ticked the high and very high option when asked to rate the extent to which Nollywood movies encourage divorce in Nigeria. However, table 18 above revealed that majority of the Respondents rated Nollywood movies that featured divorce as Good. 111 Respondents (50%) of the sample Population

of this study rated it "good". 24 respondents (10%) said Nollywood movies that feature divorce are very good. While only a few 30% and 10% rated the content of Nollywood divorce movies as "Bad" and "very Bad".

Agenda setting theory of mass communication comes in handy here, the theory posits that the media through their contents/messages (films, movies) sets Agenda for public discussion in society. This theory simply means that media messages or contents that the people are exposed to has the tendency of shaping and re-shaping their perception about contemporary issues in the society one of which issues bothering on divorce has risen to the centre stage today in modern society. According to Akpogiran and Okoro 2016: 22 citing Mc combs and Donald Shaw (1972) " the media may not tell us what to think but the media certainly tell us what to think about, they set Agenda and allow us to ponder over such issues. Nwankwo (2013:107) adds that the mass media set Agenda for public discuss through her portrayal of events or issues, the degree of relevance attached to an issue can be measured through the quantity and frequency of reports on such issues. Walter Lippman (1992) cited in Asemah et al (2016:74) posits that the news media (in this case film or Nollywood industry), constructs our view of the world. Movies are mirrors and reflections of contemporary issues that are significant in society. Since Nollywood constantly feature divorce contents it has gone a long way towards creating a negative impact on members of the society, although it was originally Anti-divorce, but the meaning of the messages portrayed in them is usually misinterpreted by members of that society as though Nollywood movies are pro-divorce or in support of divorce. Since

"film" are powerful weapons that can shape and re-shape the perception and behaviour of members of the society. Nollywood portrayal of divorce has been understood in recent times. This is because since Nollywood movies started featuring more on divorce contents, the divorce rates in Nigeria has skyrocketed i.e divorce is gradually becoming a norm in our modern society. Summarily, Nollywood movies often paints the eutopic ideologies about marriage i.e they portray marriage as an institution that ought to always bring happiness, bliss and satisfaction between a perfect man and woman and when the reverse is the case, then divorce should be the best option.

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What are the major causes of Divorce in Nigeria?

To accurately provide the research question above, table 12, 13, and 4 will be thoroughly analysed. Analysis on table 12 above indicates that majority of the Respondents 110 (i.e 50%) rated infidelity as high and 83 (30%) rated infidelity very high. This means that the majority of Respondents were of the opinion that infidelity is a major cause of divorce in Nigeria. By implication, this means that many average Nigerians usually opt for divorce when they discover that their spouses are cheating. Only a few respondents disagreed which amounted to 10% (i.e 24 respondents) and this is very low. It therefore means that one of the major or primary cause of divorce in Nigeria is "infidelity or Marital unfaithfulness".

A close look at Table 13 above reveals that majority of the respondents 109 (50%) of the sample population of this study strongly agreed that marriage founded on deceit can cause divorce. This brings us to another cause of divorce which is "deceit" or

lies. couples that are not true to one another or are hiding deep secrets about themselves or their pasts are most likely to end up in divorce especially when their spouse finds out the truth subsequently in the future.

Table 14 reveals that health complications like infertility, low sperm count etc can also cause divorce. This is because about 124 respondents (50%) of the population, agreed that Nollywood movies on health complications can promote divorce, because such act as an eye opener for victims in such situations to seek divorce. And this has proliferated the growth of divorce in Nigeria society in no small way.

Research question 3: How does Gender equality and feminism promote divorce?

To get an answer to the question, references will be made on table 15, 16, and 17. Analysis on table 15 above indicates that majority of the Respondents (145 i.e 60%) were of the opinion that Feminism and Gender equality pose a threat to marriages in Nigeria, only a few (56 Respondents i.e 20%) disagreed and a very small faction of the population (39 Respondents i.e 20%) maintained a neutral stand on the issue. The above information simply means that feminism and Gender equality which is grossly against the African's cultural portrayal of "men" as the head in all things as flawed is the major reason divorce is prevalent in Africa today. Adoption of the western principles of gender equality has not helped modern marriages in Nigeria at all, instead it is silently tearing most homes apart, because as the saying goes "two captains can never be on the same ship, since "man" was originally created as the head of the first family in Genesis chapter 1 and 2. Also, most importantly Ephesians chapter 5 verse 22 (king James version) quote that "wives, submit

to your own husband as unto the lord, verse 23 adds that " the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church".

Analysis of table 16 above indicated that majority of the respondents 40% (i.e 84 respondents) ticked the high option when asked if feminism and Gender equality can be seen as a major cause of divorce, 49 (20%) respondents ticked a "very high" option. By implication, this means that majority of the respondents which amounted to a total of 60% of the total population rated feminism and Gender equality as a major cause of divorce in Nigeria. There is a saying that " #quity is not Equality". Yes there is need to give woman a chance to be the best version of themselves but that does not mean that they should take the place of their husbands or pord over them or order them around in the name of civilization. However, 30% of the population (75 respondents) did not agree that feminism and Gender equality promote divorce in the society. Since the majority always wins the vote, it therefore means that from the evidences presented in the field survey above that Feminism and Gender equality can cause divorce.

A close look at data analysis on table 17 above reveals that majority of the respondents (119 i.e 50%) agreed that feminists are likely to end up with broken homes, 68 Respondents (30%) disagreed and 53 Respondents (20%) were of a negative opinion. By implication, the above information means that the chances of feminists and proponents of Gender equality ending up with broken homes is usually very slim. Most of them usually opt for divorce faster than others because they don't want to be controlled in anyway. Although, if because it has helped to promote equal rights for women in

modern society. However, extremists of the feminist and Gender equality agenda usually end up with broken homes.

Research question 4: To what extent has celebrities divorce cases influences the divorce rate in Nigeria?

In other to answer the above question analysis on table 19 above will be used. A close look at table 19 above reveals that 159 (70%) respondents agreed that celebrities promote divorce in our society, 47 Respondents 20%) disagreed and 34 (10%) were neutral on the issue. By Implication, the above information means that majority of the respondents believe that failed celebrities marriages is capable of influencing members of society negatively. Some Nollywood stars likes of Ayo Makun (AY), Tonto Dikeh, Funke Akindele, Monalisa Chinda, Andy Chukwu etc have track records of failed marriages, and most ladies who look up to them as their "idols" tend to embrace the concept of divorce without thinking about it's consequences, because they want to be free and independent just like their favourable movie stars, and this is a very serious problem. There exist a nexus or a link between celebrities actions and inactions and it's aftermath influence on their followers or fans.

According to Defluer and Ball- Rokeach (1976) as cited in Ezekiel S. Asemah (2011), 'Media dependency theory is seen as the correlating relationship between media contents, the nature of society and the behaviour of audiences'. It means that the society or happenings in a particular society determines the type of content, these media content is passed to the public who decides to rely on it in making certain decisions. These lead to the audience behaviours being shaped by the media. This makes Celebrities to be great

influencers that are capable of shaping the behaviours of members of society either positively or negatively.

Celebrities in this case refers to actors and actresses in Nollywood film industry. These actors take up roles in movies and are treasured in the hearts of many of their followers, some goes as far as following up on them, their marriage relationships e.t.c. sometimes, most of these celebrities may have dark sides such as having track records of divorce cases, overtime they keep trying to explain their reasons to their followers and overtime these faithful followers tend to see nothing wrong in their actions, and when they are going through similar cases like their favourite celebrities especially when it comes to handling marital challenges the best option is to opt for divorce because their favourite celebrity is still doing well even with his or her track records of divorce.

Research question 5: How does domestic violence promote divorce?

Data analysis on table 20, 21 and 23 will be used to proffer solutions to the research question above. Analysis of table 20 above indicates that 147 (61%) respondents ticked the very high option when asked the extent to which domestic violence triggers divorce rate in Nigeria, 50 (21%) ticked the "high" option. By implication, this means that majority of the respondents which amounted to a total of 82% of the total population rated domestic violence as a major cause of divorce rate in Nigeria. Domestic violence can be emotionally. It has to do with the unfair treatment of a partner by one's spouse. This is a criminal act because it is a breach of the fundamental human right codified in the 1979 constitution of Nigeria as cited in A.D.Nzemeke & E.O.Erhagbe (2002) text

titled 'the Nigerian Peoples and Culture states that human needs to be treated with respect and dignity which include: right to freedom of speech, right to dignity of human persons, right to freedom of conscience, thought and religion, right to liberty, and majorly right to life. By implication, these rights must be highly valued." Right to life" means that every citizen life is precious and of high value in the Nigerian society. Therefore it is the duty of the law to protect the lives of its citizens. In marriage, every spouse must regard the life of his/her partner, and protect him/her because they are a part of the society. Nevertheless, overtime this right have being breached through domestic violence act in marriage. It has been reported that victims of domestic violence lose their precious lives in the process. Like the once well known gospel celebrity or gospel singer Osinachi Nwachukwu. She died while enduring an abusive marriage even though her husband was jailed. Domestic violence daily silence victims dreams, goals and vision, meaning the victims end up living an unfulfilled life. Therefore, domestic violence should be a good reason for divorce so as to maintain a healthy, and stable life. Also to fulfill God's plan and purpose that would affect lives positive way. Another example is Monalisa Chinda, a nollywood celebrity that suffered domestic violence but saved her life through divorce in the year 2008. She is still affecting lives positively through her gift (acting), thereby living a self-fulfilled live despite her failed marriage. Domestic violence reduces the partners self worth which has led to traumatic impacts on victims therefore making domestic violence a criminal act in Nigeria that attracts a jail term of 3 years. The statistics of domestic violence shows the extent to which this major factor has resulted in broken hearts leaving both partners psychologically and mentally stressed. From another angle, the offspring

are affected psychologically and mentally to the extent that some females from broken homes sees no reason to be married in future while some males that sees it as a good way to discipline their wives often repeat this in their marriage. Both the poor, the average and the very wealthy in the society are not spared as domestic violence has no regards for any.

However, 13% of the population (31 respondents) disagreed that domestic violence is a cause of divorce. They feel domestic violence is not enough reason to get divorce. Also, some due to personal beliefs choose to endure the marriage than to leave their matrimonial home so as to avoid being ridicule by the society and help the children grow up with both parents. But since Majority always win, it therefore means that from the evidences presented in the field survey above, domestic violence has triggers divorce rate in Nigeria. While 5% (12 respondents) maintained a neutral position.

A close look at data analysis on table 21 above reveals that majority of the respondents 40% (85 respondents) ticked the "high" option when asked to rate Nollywood portrayal of domestic violence as a major cause of divorce. 83 Respondents (30%) ticked the "very high" option. By implication this means that majority of the Respondents which a total of the 70% of the total population rated Nollywood portrayal of domestic violence as a major cause of divorce in Nigeria. Meaning, Nollywood divorce movies portray domestic violence as a good ground for divorce because it can lead to death. However, 39 respondents (20%) ticked the low option. This implies that they disagree on the issue.

Data analysis on table 23 above reveals that majority of the Respondents (186 respondents i.e 70% agreed that domestic violence should be a good excuse for divorce

because there is a popular maxim that says " prevention is better than cure" and a stitch in time saves nine. in addition, domestic violence is a breach of one's individual or human right and right to life. However, 42 respondents (20%) disagreed. They explained that domesttic violence is not a quantified reason for divororce. . This respondents implies that marriage is supposed to be for a life time,. Therefore it is expected that both partners endure their marriage and draw plans on ho to promote or sustain their marriage. It add that both partners can resolve their issues no matter the peak of violence. Nevertheless, majority of the respondents as stated earlier were of the opinion that divorce is the best antidote or best solution to abusive marriages.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter introduce the summary findings, conclusions and Recommendations based on Findings of this study.

5.1 - Summary

This chapter summaries details of this study, it lays emphasis on the method of data collection and the findings generated from the data collected. The study was aimed at analysing Benin City Residents attitudes towards Nollywood portrayal of Divorce cases in Nigeria. The study was meticulously carried out using the survey Research methods, and focused Group Discussions; for the survey Research method. Questionnaires were used as instrument for gathering primary data from respondents. The focused Group Discussion on the other hand, comprised of six (6) undergraduates of the University of Benin, information gotten from the Discussion were used to beef up facts in this work.

Also, various Textbooks, Journals and online Articles were also consulted with a view to gathering secondary data to support facts in this study.

5.2 - Findings

Major findings in this study below are some keys findings made in the course of this study based on responses gathered from respondents as well as facts gathered from various authors, Textbooks, Articles and Journals related to this study. Some of the findings made from this study are:

1. There are divorce contents in Nollywood movies.
2. Nollywood movies portray Divorce in a negative light.
3. Contents of Nollywood Divorce movies encourage divorce in Nigeria society.
4. Divorce promotes Anti-social behaviours (such as Drug abuse, kidnapping, immorality e.t.c) among members of the society.
5. Infidelity is a major cause of Divorce in Nigeria.
6. Deceit is an underlying factor that promotes divorce in Nigeria.
7. Nollywood movies that feature Health complications among couples can trigger divorce among couples with similar challenges.
8. Feminism and Gender equality pose a threat to marriages in Nigeria.
9. Feminism and Gender equality is a major cause of divorce in Nigeria.
10. Extreme feminists are likely to end up with broken homes.
11. Nollywood movies with divorce contents are good.
12. Celebrities with failed marriages influence divorce rates in Nigeria society.

13. Domestic violence triggers divorce rates in Nigeria.
14. Domestic violence affects couples (victims) mentally and psychologically.
15. Divorce is the best solution to unreconcilable differences and constant domestic violence in marriage.
16. Divorce has done more harm than good to the society.

5.3 - Conclusion

Conclusively, Divorce has done more harm than good to members of the society like a two- edged sword, divorce is both a blessing and a curse, especially when we look at it from the angle of couples in an abusive marriage, which embrace it as an escape route to constant domestic violence (physical, emotional and sexual abuse). It is also a curse in the sense that it affects both the spouses, the children and the society at large, in the sense that divorce promote anti-social or deviant behaviours among members of the society. A peaceful society is a by-product of stable families, because the family is the smallest unit of every society. A failed family is a failed society.

The media (in this case Nollywood film industry) are mirrors of the society, their contents reflects issues that concerns members of the society, since they are very powerful influencers that build public opinions and influence societal behaviours and conduct through setting Agenda for public discussions, they to a large extent they order the course of modern society, because audience who are exposed to their contents overtime are shaped and re-shaped by messages conveyed through films. Their decisions are influenced based on the messages portrayed in most Nollywood movies members of

the society form decisions based on what they see in most movies just as the popular maxim goes "the eyes are the windows of the soul". If the industry keeps setting Agenda on divorce. Overtime, the society will tend to view it as a norm, and this is the major reason divorce is common place today unlike yester years when the Nollywood industry was focusing on contents that promotes good African virtues like respect, submission, patience, tolerance, forgiveness and love etc. The reverse was certainly the case, because the rate of divorce was reduced.

In the same vein, the industry should strive against pushing feminist agenda to the extreme because of the negative impacts feminism and Gender equality has on marriages in Nigeria. Contents of Nollywood movies should be seasoned so much so that it is targeted at teaching morals, fixing broken homes instead of tearing marriages apart.

5.4 - Recommendation

The Recommendations were made based on the findings gotten from this study:

1. Nollywood movies should feature less of divorce contents due to the negative impacts it has on members of society.
2. Couples with health complications like infertility, low sperm count etc should seek medical help instead of resorting to divorce.
3. Government should promulgate enabling that restrains extreme feminists Agenda (due to its negative influence on members of the society)

4. Government and Non-governmental organisations like Human rights activists should enact stern laws that prohibits domestic violence and mete out punishments to culprits so as to serve as deterrent to others.
5. Celebrities should put in more efforts in sustaining their marriages because they are role models to members of the society.

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APPENDIX I

Department of Mass Communication,
Faculty of Arts,
University of Benin,
Benin City.

Dear Respondents,

REQUEST FOR THE COMPLETION OF ITEMS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

I am **EWA PRECIOUS EJIM** a final year student of the Department of mass communication, the University of Benin. Am conducting a research on the topic: **"BENIN CITY RESIDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS NOLLYWOOD PORTRAYAL OF DIVORCE CASES IN NIGERIA"**. In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Arts (B.A) degree in mass communication. Your assistance in providing answers to the questions specified in the questionnaire would be appreciated, as candid response will help solve the problems accurately.

I hereby solicit your effort to get the questionnaire completed. All information obtained will be treated with utmost confidentiality as it is purely for academic purpose. Thank you.

Yours Faithfully,

Ewa Precious Ejim
Researcher

QUESTIONNAIRES

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (PLEASE THE ANSWER FROM THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS BELOW).

1. Age: (a) 18 - 24 () (b) 25 - 30 () (c) 31- 45 () (d) 46 - above ()
2. Gender: (a) Male () (b) Female ()
3. Religion: (a) Christian () (b) Muslim() (c) Traditional religion () (d) Others ()
4. (a) Student() (b) Civil servants () (c) Business men/women ()

5. Marital status: (a) Married () (b) Single () (c) Divorced ()
6. Level of Education: (a) SSCE () (b) OND/HND () (c) BSC /B.A () (c) Others ()

SECTION 2: PLEASE TICK THE FOLLOWING ABOVE

7. Are there divorce contents in Nollywood movies? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
8. How does Nollywood movies portray divorce in Nigeria? (a) Positive light () (b) Negative light () (c) Undecided ()
9. To what extent does Nollywood movies encourage divorce in a Nigeria? (a) Very high () (b) High () (c) Low () (d) Undecided ()
10. Do you think divorce promote Anti- social behaviour (e.g drug abuse, kidnapping, immorality etc) among members of the society? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
11. How would you rate infidelity as a cause of divorce in Nigeria? (a) High () (b) Very high () (c) Low () (d) Undecided ()
12. Marriage founded on deceit can cause divorce. (a) Agree () (b) Strongly agree () (c) Disagree () (d) Strongly disagree ()
13. Do you think Nollywood movies on health complications like infertility, low sperm count etc. are a cause of divorce? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
14. Does Feminism and Gender equality pose a threat to marriages in Nigeria? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
15. How would you rate Feminism and Gender equality as a cause of divorce in Nigeria? (a) High () (b) Very high () (c) Low () (d) Undecided ()
16. Feminism are likely to end up with broken homes (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
17. How would you rate Nollywood movies that feature divorce? (a) Good () (b) Very Good () (c) Bad () (c) Very bad ()
18. Do you think Celebrities promote divorce in any way? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()

19. To what extent does domestic violence triggers divorce rate in Nigeria? (a) Very high () (b) High () (c) Low () (d) Undecided ()
20. How do you rate Nollywood portrayal of domestic violence as a major cause of divorce? (a) High () (b) Very high () (c) Low () (d) Undecided ()
21. Do you think couples who are victims of domestic violence are mentally and psychologically affected? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
22. Domestic Violence should be a good excuse for divorce? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
23. Divorce is the best solution to unreconcilable differences in marriage? (a) Yes () (b) No () (c) Undecided ()
24. Divorce has done more harm than good in the society? (a) agree () (b) Strongly agree () (c) Disagree () (d) Strongly disagree ()