

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DIVORCE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN ABEOKUTA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OGUN STATE

KASALI GAFAR OLUWATOYIN AND TANKO ABUBAKAR BABAWO

Department of Psychology, Guidance and Counselling Federal College of Education, Abeokuta.
Kasaligafari0@gmail.com 08057928809 abuisyak@gmail.com 08063940763

Abstract:

The study examined causes and effects of divorce on academic performance of primary school Pupils in Abeokuta South Local Government Area. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. 100 respondents were randomly selected from 5 School in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State A well-structured questionnaire was administered to gather information from the respondents. Mean and standard deviation statistics were employed to answer the research questions raised in the course of the study. Results revealed that, high degree of women has been proven to be involved in divorce which actually affects the children's academic performance. This is based on reason that most of the women cannot single handedly take care of the children economically. It was also revealed that some children living with their father or mother are easily carried away emotionally in class. Finding revealed that domestic violence, infidelity, financial problems, lack of communication, and constant argument are the leading causes of divorce which eventually broke the home of so many families. It was recommended among others that, government and international bodies should make effort to implement harder decree for granting divorce to couples. Likewise there is a need for couples to live within their income, fake life may cause disharmony in the home. In addition, social welfare workers, marriage counselor should also help the youth in our society to prepare them for marriage as most children suffer as a result of broken homes. Lastly, early marriage should be discarded as marriage is meant for two mature minded adults and not for boys and girls.

Keyword: Family, Marriage, Divorce, Academic Performance, Pupil, Education

Introduction:

Parents play a major role in life of their pupils, they serve as their role model at early stage of their life. Children always look up to and observe their parents behavior, attitude and character and their steps from a very young age (Dewit, 2019). Throughout childhood, family play a vital role in building pupils attitude, character, behavior, beliefs and expectation. Meanwhile, divorce is process of putting an end to the marriage. Unhappily married parents often struggle with the choice between staying together for the benefit of their children and getting a divorce.

Divorce is a painful and traumatic experience for all those who are involved and it can cause disruption of family life (Giddens& Phillip 2017). Marriage is the foundational institution in which divorce protrudes. Therefore, it is crucial to analyze its composition. There are several factors which could lead to a divorce in marriage. According to Preller(2015) sexually incompatibility is one of the factors that contribute to divorce. This may occur when a couple has been in a relationship for a long period of time and suddenly one partner developed cold feet sexually. Ill-health may also play a part by causing lack of interest in sexual relationships in marriage. In this way, it may lead a partner who is not sick to seek for sexual pleasure outside the marriage or deciding to leave the marriage since there is no more sexual excitement in it. Other reasons include infidelity, lack of trust, violence and emotional or physical abuse of substances or alcohol may be contributing factors.

Ayorinde, (2019) explained that divorce is a legal separation of husband and wife so they can be free to remarry again. Ineffective communication, lack of intimacy, infertility, financial status and bad behavior were seen as the major causes, and the result of this divorce lead to poor academic achievement on children of the victims. Divorce is a legal dissolution of marriage by

court or other competent body. It can also be defined as annulment of official separation in marriage. It is observed by the researchers that marriage between a man and a woman is expected to be a permanent affair and lasting association until death takes away one of the partners but changes in the Nigerian society, marriage is now seen to be a temporary affair which can dissolved if either part by cruelty, desertion or adultery goes against the wishes of their union.

Divorce is actually a legal dissolution of marital union which, involve the governance of the marriage bind between a husband and his wife. For a marriage to be successful there is need for a couple to be in harmony mentally, physically and spiritually. In other words, the husband and the wife must have a common goal and each have to contribute his or her own towards the fulfillment in the family and keyword should be love (Cohen, 2016). Parents play a vital role in their pupils' lives, serving as their earliest and most important role model. Children tend to look up to observe their parents behavior from a very young age (Herzog & Cooney, 2016). Throughout childhood, family experiences play a role in building pupil's attitude, beliefs and expectation. (Rogers & Rose 2016) report that children of divorce experience determined sad effects such as depression, anger, aggression, parent-child conflict as well as parental divorce in terms of research, a common question among social scientist regarding children and divorce is how these children are affected by their experience and how they are different from those who are not experiencing ongoing parental conflict and discord. Experiencing parental discord may lead a child to trivialize importance of commitment and view the institution of marriage with negativity (Donald 2015).

According to Mc Donald (2015) as cited earlier on, divorce is defined as the dissolution of a relationship, which is recognized as many relationship. It marked by formal court proceedings and its decree is divorce. Divorce is usually accompanied by formal arrangement owing of property, custody and support of children if there any. The property adjustment may also include a provision requiring alimony to be paid by one partner to the other although alimony is less frequently granted today. Children from divorced families are nearly more likely to suffer damaging mental troubles than those who live with parents. This shows that two parents are much better in bringing up healthy children than one. Children who come from broken home will most likely have difficult time in life. Children of divorced parent are roughly likely to dropout from school than peers who benefit from living with parents who are divorced (McLannahan, 2016). Some children from broken home are likely to turn to drug abuse or negative behaviors. The fact is that every child needs and deserves the love and care of their both parent. Happy family is the best environment for children. A strong family home is a place where children learn good things and gain the identity, discipline, moral education that are essential for their life and development. Nigeria, as a nation with a strong marriage, had created the best route to achieving the Nigeria dream.

It is now become a normal thing in which is commonly seen everywhere as the path to personal liberation. In this many experts argue that, because nothing can be done about it, all Nigerian should simply accept the culture of divorce without considering the future of the children. The qualities of parental relationship spill over into relationship with their children. Couples with satisfying marital relationship are more warm and supportive towards their children (Amato & Ketin 2014) speculated that the gap in well-being between children divorced and non-divorced parents might have narrowed either because divorce become more easily socially accepted or parent were making greater efforts to reduce the potentially disruptive impact of divorce on their children. Children with divorced parents score lower than children with continuously married parents on measure of academic success (AstoneMcLannahan, 2015). The quality of functioning is one of the predictors of pupils' behavior and well-being. Several within group studies shows that either a conflicted relationship or custodial parent are linked with a variety of negative outcomes include lower academic performance, internalizing problems, externalizing problems, reduced self-esteem, and poorer lower competition (Buchanan, Smacco by Dombush, 2016). The effects of divorce on children are traumatic divorce can cause children to question their self-worth, to experience unnecessary grief, guilt or

confusion. Young children especially, have difficulties understanding the rationalities of their parents' decision to divorce: In a marriage it is difficult for children to find a sense of security experience shows them that what seemed and good fell to pieces and left them empty. Growing up in a broken home may also cause children to have difficulties in future relationship.

Parental relationship plays a key major role in determining the academic performance of their children in school. Family harmony can easily be affected by parental conflicts. The degree of parental conflicts varies from mild to serious. These conflicts affect the academic performance of their children, hence lead to dropout from school. In their recent longitudinal study, (Harold A, and Shelton 2016) revealed the roles of marital relations and pupils' academic performance. In accounting for the relationship between spouses affects the pupil's adjustment directly through the emotional stress level, role modeling and academic performance (Cumming 2010).

Statement of the Problem

Divorce leads to negatively affected parental involvement in their children's school work, which leads to young pupils who come from parental divorce feeling unwanted and not loved by one of their parents. This usually leads young children expressing anxiety and anger at the same time. A child might begin to blame his father for divorcing his mother, which may lead to a relationship breakdown between father and son. Young children may feel they are not protected by both parents, therefore, lead them to find a place where they feel they can be protected such as staying in a foster care. Some eventually commit crime and drop out from school because of lack of guidance. Meeting of a gap on the children's existence because there is no adult to guide and direct their behavior and desires as children learn by imitation. There is increase in domestic work and redistribution of household chores, which leaves the children with little or no time for their studies. Also, it has been observed that children from broken homes suffer from other problems such as non-provision of basic material needs like food, clothing and learning material. It is against this background that this study is investigated causes and effects of divorce on the academic performance of pupils in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

Objectives of the Study

1. Investigate the effects and consequences of divorce on primary school pupils' academic performance.
2. Ascertain the causes of divorce among women in.
3. Examine the psychological and health effect of divorce on primary school pupils.
4. Identify the strategies for addressing the effects of divorce on academic performance of primary school pupils.

Research Questions

1. What are the effects and consequences of divorce on primary school pupils' academic performance in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State?
2. What are causes of divorce among women in Abeokuta South?
3. What are the psychological and health effect of divorce on primary school pupils in Abeokuta South?
4. what are the strategies for addressing the effects of divorce on academic performance of primary school pupils in Abeokuta South?

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. in which questionnaire was used to collect data from parents (respondents). The population for this study comprised of all selected parents in Abeokuta South Local Government Ogun State. The sample size for the study comprised 100 parents randomly selected from Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. The selection was done through the use of purpose and random sampling techniques. The instrument adopted for this study is a well-structured questionnaire. The researcher obtained the validity of

the research instruments by subjecting it to construct criticisms by other experts in the field.

To test for the reliability of the research instrument, twenty (20) parents in Abeokuta north local government Ogun State were selected randomly who are not part of the population of the study.

Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and mean and standard deviation statistics to classify result of the respondent's opinions and views.

Result and Discussion

Research Question 1: What are the effects and consequences of divorce on the children academic performance in preschools in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State?

Table.1: The effects and consequences of divorce on the children academic performance in preschools in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	SD	D	??	Std. Dev.
1.	The effect of divorce diminish children learning capacity	57	31	7	5	3.14	0.75
2.	Divorce in a family can leads todropout or suspension of children from school.	30	51	12	7	3.25	0.93
3.	Lack of parental involvement can result to poor academic performance.	33	52	10	5	3.32	0.85
4.	Anxiety and depression, along with increased delinquent and aggressive behavior are the effects and consequences of divorce on children academic performance.	53	30	13	4	3.07	0.77
5.	Academic failure and poor mental attitude to learning are the effects and consequences of divorce on the children academic performance	39	37	19	5	3.08	0.87
Cumulative Mean = 3.17				Decision Mean = 2.50			

The result of the data in table 1 revealed the responses to the effects and consequences of divorce on the children academic performance in preschools in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. . It was observed that the means of items 1 to 5 were all higher that the decision mean which indicated that all the items were accepted by the respondents. It was also observed that the cumulative mean for the five items which was 3.17 was found to be higher than that of the decision mean which was 2.50 ($3.17 > 2.50$).

Research Question 2: What are the remote causes of divorce among women in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State?

Table 2: The remote causes of divorce among women in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	SD	D	??	Std. Dev.
6.	Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of divorce	35	44	17	4	3.19	0.86
7.	Infidelity is one of the most common reasons for divorce	22	30	35	13	2.69	1.04
8.	Financial problems are remote causes of divorce among women	37	40	19	4	3.13	0.86
9.	Lack of communication is one of the main reasons for divorce	33	27	29	11	2.76	0.97

10.	Constant argument is another cause of divorce among women	39	35	18	8	3.01	0.87
Cumulative Mean = 2.96				Decision Mean = 2.50			

The result of data in table 2 revealed the responses to the remote causes of divorce among women in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. It was observed that the means of items 6 to 10 were all higher than the decision mean which indicates that all the items were accepted by the respondents. It was also observed that the cumulative mean for the five items which was 2.96 was found to be higher than that of the decision mean which was 2.50 ($2.96 > 2.50$). This means that all the stated items are the remote causes of divorce among women in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

Research Question 3: What are the psychological and health effect of divorce on primary school pupils in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State?

Table 3: The psychological and health effect of divorce on primary school pupils in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	SD	D	??	Std. Dev.
11.	Increased risk of developing mental disorders	35	37	21	7	3.02	0.93
12.	Feelings of loss, anger and confusion	40	37	15	8	3.06	0.92
13.	Divorce may trigger an adjustment disorder in children	18	32	37	13	2.69	1.06
14.	Divorce on primary school pupils may lead to depression	34	47	13	6	3.22	0.89
15.	Poor academic performance and outcome	29	33	24	14	2.81	1.05
Cumulative Mean = 2.96				Decision Mean = 2.50			

The result of data in table 3 revealed the responses to the psychological and health effect of divorce on primary school pupils in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. It was observed that the means of items 11 to 15 were all higher than the decision mean which indicates that all the items were accepted by the respondents. It was also observed that the cumulative mean for the five items which was 2.96 was found to be higher than that of the decision mean which was 2.50 ($2.96 > 2.50$). This means that the stated items are the psychological and health effect of divorce on primary school pupils in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State.

Research Question 4: Identify the strategies to address the effects of divorce on academic performance of children in pre-schools in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State?

Table 4: The strategies to address the effects of divorce on academic performance of children in pre-schools in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	SD	D	??	St d. Dev.
16.	Provision of financial support to families in need	39	37	19	5	3.08	0.87
17.	Conducting public sensitization on the impact of divorce on children	28	48	18	6	3.18	0.93
18.	Psychosocial support provision to difficult marriages	24	51	19	6	3.20	0.95

19.	Enforcement and banning of early and forced marriages	29	41	21	9	3.02	0.99
20.	Enactment and enforcement of strict laws against divorce	27	26	37	10	2.69	0.97
Cumulative Mean = 3.03				Decision Mean = 2.50			

The result of data in table 4 revealed the responses to the strategies to address the effects of divorce on academic performance of children in pre-schools in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. It was observed that the means of items 16 to 20 were all higher than the decision mean which indicates that all the items were accepted by the respondents. It was also observed that the cumulative mean for the five items which was 3.03 was found to be higher than that of the decision mean which was 2.50 ($3.03 > 2.50$). This means that the above statement is the strategies to address the effects of divorce on academic performance of children in pre-schools in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State.

SUMMARY

Marriage is a legally and socially recognized union between two individuals typically characterized by emotional commitment, financial partnership, social and families bonding. It remains the hallmark and fundamental in achieving pupil's academic success especially at an early stage. The effects of divorce on children are traumatic divorce can cause children to question their self-worth, to experience unnecessary grief, guilt or confusion. Young children especially, have difficulties understanding the rationalities of their parents' decision to divorce.

Parental relationship plays a very important role in determining the academic performance of their children in school. Family harmony can easily be affected by parental conflicts. Moreso, infidelity, lack of communication, incessant conflicts, and financial problems among many others are regarded as remote causes of divorce. The quality of functioning is one of the predictors of pupils' behavior and well-being. The study revealed that either a conflicted relationship or custodial parent are linked with a variety of negative outcomes including lower academic performance, internalizing problems, externalizing problems, reduced self-esteem, and poorer lower competition. Parental relationship plays a very important role in determining the academic performance of children in school. Family harmony can easily be affected by parental conflicts.

CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study, it was concluded that the high degree of women has been proven to be involved in divorce which actually affects the children's academic achievement. This is based on reason that most of the women cannot single handedly take care of the children economically. It was also drawn from the study that some children living with only their father or mother are easily carried away emotionally in class. This will make them not to concentrate fully: as a result on their performance. Most of these children who are divorce victim commit themselves to drugs which would be given to them by some of their peers. Those children who are divorce victim are often absent from school when their mothers or fathers are out of work. Based on data analyzed, some of these children engaged in immoral activities. They do not know the harm they are doing to themselves especially the girls because their mother or father is too busy to give them sex education. Based on the data analyzed, most children from divorce home suffer emotionally, when compared with children whose parents are together even when their salaries are the same.

Finally, children with divorced parents score lower than children with continuously married parents on measure of academic success.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the outcome of the findings, the following recommendations were raised;

1. The government and NGO should make an effort to implement harder decree for granting divorce to couples. This will reduce its occurrence in Abeokuta and Nigeria at a whole.
2. Government should set up marriage counseling Centre across the board to ensure that parents accommodate each other.
3. There is a need for couples to live in harmony within their income. False life may cause disharmony in the home. Neither of them should be extravagant or stingy to each other.
4. Others like social welfare workers, marriage counselor should help the youth in our society to prepare them for marriage as most children suffer as a result of broken homes.
5. Early marriage should be discarded as marriage is meant for two adults mature minds, not for boys and girls. Maturity will helps the couples to bear and forgive one another as conflicts arise among couples.

REFERENCE

- Ainsworth L. (2018) "Residential Mobility and Adolescent Violence," *Social Forces* 84, no. 1 (2005): 363, 373.
- Amato, D. J. & Ketin. D. R. (2014) Childhood Stress and symptoms of drug dependence in adolescence and early adulthood *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 69, 61- 72.
- Astone Mclanahan, C. (2015) Return migration: The European experience economic policy: A European forum. 22 (April). 213-42.
- Atkinson, D. (2010) "Consequences of Family Disruption on Children's Educational Outcomes in Norway," *Demography* 46, no. 3 (2009): 565.
- Ayorinde, I.O (2019) Effect of parental separation on the academic performance of secondary school students: *Journal of family affairs* Vol 3(3): 61-129.
- Bray M. Abd-El-Fattah, O. (2015) "Effects of Family Background and Parental Involvement on Egyptian Adolescents' Academic Achievement and School Disengagement: A Structural Equation Modelling Analysis," *Social Psychology of Education* 9, (2006): 153.
- Buchnan C. Smacco, T. Dombush, A. (2016). Classroom belonging among early adolescents: Relationships history of child sexual abuse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 23, 81-90.
- Cline F. (2015) "'Likely to Receive Mostly A's' by Structure of Family of Origin and by Current Religious Attendance." Available at <http://marri.us/wp-content/uploads/MA-100.pdf>. Accessed 13 September 2011.
- Cohen, S. O. (2016). Gender differences on a locally standardized anxiety rating scale in mathematics for Nigerian Secondary Schools in Nigeria. *Journal of Counseling and Applied Psychology* 1. 22-29.
- Cummin, F. D. (2010). *Human intimacy: Marriage, the Family, and Its Meaning* (10th ed.). Belmont: Thomson Wards worth.
- Czapiewski S.M (2014) Potter, "Psychosocial Well-Being and the Relationship Between Divorce and Children's Academic Achievement," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 940-941.
- Dewit, C. (2019) "Family Structure, Residential Mobility, and School Dropout: A Research Note," *Demography* 31, (1994): 582.
- Donald. M.C. (2015) The economics of child labour *American Economic Review*, 108, 663- 679.
- European Monitoring Union Report, (2013) "Post divorce Family Stability and Changes in Adolescents' Academic Performance: A Growth-Curve Model," *Journal of Family Issues* 30, no. 11 (2009): 1546-1547.
- Anderson, H. (2014), "Does Parental Involvement Eliminate the Effects of Parental Divorce on the Academic Achievement of Adolescents?," *Journal Of Divorce & Remarriage* 37, no. 1/2: 109, 111-112.
- Furstenberg, K. Jim S. and Glenda Fredman, "The Social Environmental Correlates of Reading Ability," *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 31, no.5 (1990): 689-690.

- Giddens, A. & Philip, W. S. (2017) *Sociology* (7th ed.). London: Polity Press
- Heaton, J. 2010. *South Africa family law* (3rd ed.). Durban: LexisNexis
- Hetherington E. M. & Kelly J.. *For better or worse*. New York: Norton.
- Goode, J. (2015) The long-term consequences of parental divorce for children's educational attainment. *Journal of Population Science* Vol 30: 161-162.
- Harold, A., and Shelton, G. (2016) Educational performance and child labour in Paraguay. *International Journal of Educational Development* 15:47-60.
- Herzog, M. D. Cooney, M. C, (2016) Patterns of attachment: A psychological and content, *Psychological Bulletin* 120:338-375.
- (2016) Family of child labour: A study of child hawkers in Calabar. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*.4 (1).12-21.
- Kolen, C. (2015) Marriage and divorce: causes and correctional effects on children academic performance: Vol 3: 15-41
- Mclannahan, O. C (2016) Family of child labour: A study of child hawkers in Calabar. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*.4 (1).12-21.
- Nita Kolen, S. T. (2011) The psycho-social effects of divorce on children. A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement of University of Venda. For degree of Social Work at the University of Venda, Thohoyandou.
- Preller, J. M. (2015). Mixed motives, mixed outcomes when accused parents won't agree to withdraw care. *Journal of Medical Ethics*.35(10), 635-7.
- Rogers J. & Rose. J. A (2016) Is child labour inefficient? *Journal of political Economy*, 88(3).412-427.
- Ruth, T. (2013) *Marriage and divorce: Statistics*. Statistics South Africa, Pretoria: South Africa Government Printers.

