



**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES  
CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES**

**Title: THE EFFECTS OF DIVORCE ON SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN  
AND THEIR COPING STRATEGIES: THE CASE OF GOJO TOWN**

**By: Tayech Deksis**

**Advisor: Aynalem Megersa (PhD)**

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Addis Ababa University  
Center of Gender Studies

Thesis Approval

This is to certify that Tayech Deksisa has conducted the thesis entitled ‘The Effects of Divorce on School Aged Children and their coping strategies: The Case of Gojo town’ is under my supervision. This work is original and suitable for the submission in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Master of Arts Degree in Gender Issues.

Hence, we examined and approved that it was conducted according to the regulations of the University and qualified the requirements and standards with respect to originality and quality.

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| _____    | _____     | _____ |
| Advisor  | Signature | Date  |
| _____    | _____     | _____ |
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| _____    | _____     | _____ |
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## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| Art   | Article.                                |
| CDC   | Center of disease control               |
| CRC   | Children research center                |
| EWLA  | Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association    |
| FDRE  | Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia |
| IDI   | In-depth interview                      |
| KII   | Key informant interview                 |
| NGOs  | Non-governmental Organization           |
| (n.d) | No date                                 |
| RFC   | Revised Family Code                     |
| US    | United State                            |
| M -1  | Male one                                |
| F-1   | Female one                              |
| KI-1  | Key informant one                       |

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## **Abstract**

*The main objective of this study was to find out the effects of divorce on children and coping strategies that the divorcees' children employ, in case of parents' divorce in Gojo town. The study focused particularly on school aged children whose parents' were divorced in Gojo town. The study was designed to explore the experiences of children of divorced families using qualitative approach. An indepth interview was employed as main data gathering instrument. The study included six (6) female and five (5) male children from divorced parents, four(4) custodies of children whose parents divorced and six (6) key informants from the three concreded sector offices including Children & Women affair, Social affair and court office of Gojo town as data sources, and purposive sampling technique was used to select the participants. The findings of the study indicated that the effects of divorce on children regardless of sex had economic, social, psychological and academic problem among others during the post-divorce time. Besides, divorce had effects of internal behavioral impact on female children and external behavioral impact on male children. Furthermore, divorce had physical stress effects of household burden on female children and outside work load on male children at post-divorce condition. Apart from this, both female and male children of divorced families were able to use different stratagies such as self-employment in their post- divorce lives to cope with divorce related problems. The coping strategies that female children were using after their parents divorced were working at 'gulit'/labor marketing and domestic work. Moreover, the coping strategies that male children were using at post-divorce condition were shoe shining, street vending, washing cars and carrying load/sack. Hence, the study has recommended both governmental and non-governmental organizations ought to provide evening school at woreda level in order to enhance the academic status of children of divorced families since they are challenging with educational dropout. In addition, to keep the well-being of street children, woreda governmental sectors and societal parties should contribute their part in supporting the marginalized children. Likewise, since the offered donation couldn't include all children of divorced families, governmental and non-governmental parties had better to make the donation all inclusive.*

# CHAPTER ONE

## Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Societies in many countries encourage marriage which might be separated by divorce. This is done based on the nature of customs, traditions, beliefs and values of the people in a certain culture. Recently, considering the social, economic and cultural dynamism taking place in the society, Ethiopia has embarked on the regulations of child right. For instance, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (hereafter FDRE) along with international instruments had revised the old family law in the year 2000. Thus, the Revised Family Code (RFC) was designed to serve all citizens equally regardless of the form of celebration of marriage. The code emphasized the effects of dissolution of marriage in the interest and well-being of children's life. As a result, the RFC (2000, Article 80(3) indicated that where the agreement of the spouse on condition of divorce does not sufficiently protect the interest and well-being of their children, the court may approve the divorce agreement and correct the defects on the condition of divorce.

Furthermore, divorce is a rapidly common social phenomenon that is spreading at an alarming rate. The rate of divorce has increased significantly not only in the developed but in the developing nations (Sharma, 2011). Studies indicate that divorce in America affects children of every racial, religion, and socioeconomic status. Approximately 50% of all first marriage will end in divorce, with over 1 million children being affected per year (CDC, 2012).

In the local context, for example, Daniel (1994) argued that the agreement of spouses and /or a petition for divorce is the outcome of failure of family for many personal, social and economic reasons. Abera (2008) also argued that divorce is one of the major troubles that affect the family system. The effect could be with varying degree and it affects all family members but usually economically low status group and their children may suffer more from economic, social and psychological problem.

In the past, concern has been focused on the problems of the parents, but lately there has been a growing interest in the effects of divorce on children; not only the divorcing couple suffer, but also their children are affected. Hence, divorce is a big challenge for the children. Divorce seriously affects the whole family system in general and has critical effects on children in particular. For example, a case study conducted by Seblewongel (2009) pointed out that divorce is not an event happening at a single point in time; it represents an extended transition in lines of parents and children.

Children whose parents are divorced are being at a great risk for psychological and social adjustment than from intact families (Sisay,1997) . As a result, children of divorced families are exposed to various psychological and psychosocial problems. Thus, the negative impact of divorce, continue to adulthood where adults from divorced family found to have problem in intimate relationship and then those adults from non-divorced family (Walsh, 1993). Similarly, according to Woldekidan (2003), in Ethiopia around 4,042,357 children are estimated to live under difficult condition due to family dissolution. Hence, it can be that family dissolution could highly affect the life situation of children.

Therefore, the present study has been different from the earlier studies like: Serkalem (2006), Hawi (2014) and Wubedel (2014) studies as it is intended to find out the effects of divorce on children and investigate coping strategies children might adopt to overcome the challenges they might face at post-divorce in the Gojo town, Jeldu Woreda of West Shoa Zone, Oromia regional state. This study is also different from the previous ones because it is conducted in different socio-cultural context. Furthermore, the earlier studies used both quantitative and qualitative method; however, the present study is designed to employ qualitative research approach.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Studies suggest that divorce greatly affects children than the spouses. Accordingly, Markham (2013) argued that divorce has both short and long term effects both in psychological and physical aspects of the children. Divorce has also the linkage of streetism which was tending to difficulty in the life of children. Regarding to this, Indrias (2006) reported the total number of street children reached 600,000 in the country and more than 100,000 were found in the capital (Addis Ababa).

On the other side, couples set mediation on financial and custodial arrangements of the separation, allocation of marital property and provision for children. Concerning this view, in the Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 83(4)), after deciding the divorce, the court may give time gap for reconciliation on conditions of the divorce for not more than six months. This indicates that, the divorce decision had already taken with court judgment, but the length of six month had given for the couples to abandon their marriage vows. The length of this six month was given for the spouses in order to have probability to change their idea of divorce decision. At the gap of time given with in this six month time, according to the culture of the society, the mediation procedure can take place.

As indicated in the previous section, studies conducted in Ethiopia in different areas focusing on several issues of divorce. Among them, some focused on the impacts of divorce on the lives of women and their children. Regarding this, Serkalem (2006) investigated the socioeconomic impacts of divorce that focused on both women and their children in the Ethiopian context. Her study dealt with divorce effects only in Addis Ababa which excluded the possible strategies that children might use at post-divorce.

Furthermore, Hawi (2014) in her study investigated the effects of divorce on adolescent self-esteem. Her study found out the effects of divorce only on the status of adolescent at Addis Ababa city.

Wubedel (2014) also assessed if there are any positive results seen in the lives of women following divorce. Wubedel's study focused on finding out the the Causes and Psychological Impacts of divorce on Women supported at the EWLA (Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association). The investigation of Wubedel study focusd on district situation of Addis Ababa.

The present study is different from the previous studies in some considerable issues. Accordingly, it focuses specifically on finding out the effects of divorce on children and the coping strategies children exercise after divorce. Moreover, this study focused on identifying the gender effects of divorce on children. Meaning that this study unlike the previous studies intends to find out the effects of divorce on female and male children and the coping strategies they used after divorce.

Therefore, this thesis critically investigates the effects of divorce on the children of Gojo town. Thus the researcher selected Gojo town as the insider was observing problems related to divorce and its effects on children in the current time at place of work and living area. Having this assumption, the researcher checked with the document at Gojo town court office. Accordingly, as presented from the court office of the Gojo town, the total number of divorce case in the consecutive three years means from 2007 to 2009 E.C. the number of settled divorce case was one hundred seventy four (174). This pointed to the number of divorce case by year shows that in the year of 2007, 48 in the year of 2008, 54 in the year of 2009, 72. This implies, the degree of divorce cases shows at an increasing level.

In doing so, the study focused on the effects of divorce on children, with particular emphases on economic, social and psychological or emotional impacts of divorce on children's life and the coping strategies that children are using after divorce. Taking this into consideration, the present study tried to answer the following research questions:

- What are the effects of divorce on female and male children?
- What are the strategies that female and male children are using as coping mechanisms?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

### **1.3.1. General Objective**

The general objective of the study was:

- ✚ To explore effect of divorce on children and coping strategies that children use after divorce in Gojo Town.

### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives**

Specifically the study was designed:

- ✚ To find out the effects of divorce on female and male children.
- ✚ To investigate the coping strategies that female and male children are using after divorce.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

As dozens of research works indicated, divorce is becoming a critical social concern in both urban and rural areas. Similarly the rate of divorce effects on children was increasing through time. For instance the number of divorce case by year shows that in the year of 2007, 48 in the year of 2008, 54 in the year of 2009, 72 totally from 2007 to2009 one hundred seventy four (174). Therefore, issue of divorce and its effects on children ought to be minimized or otherwise get a reliable solution by investigating coping strategies that children might adopt at post-divorce situation which enabling them to maximize thier well-beings.

Thus the study may provide information for policy makers and concerned stakeholders to minimize the prevalence of divorce while enabling to maximize children's wellbeing.

## **1.5. Scope of the study**

The research only focused on the effects of divorce on children and its coping strategies in Jeldu Wereda Gojo town, West Shoa zone, Oromia Regional State.

## **1.6. Limitation of the Study**

The issue of divorce and its effects on children can be difficult because of sensitivity of cultural issues from place to place or society to society. Hence while conducting the study; there was a bottleneck that faced during the research. For instance; shortage of the given resource like time, budget and logistics.

## **1.7. Operational definitions**

Psychological effect- refers to a complex psychological phenomenon that occurs when several related factors overlap.

Self-esteem- According to Webster, self esteem refers to confidence in one's own worth or abilities; self-respect. Or possessing little self-regard that can lead people/children to become depressed. It is also used in the same way in the current study

Internal behavior- internal behavior means what's happening inside, like thinking and feeling emotions.

External behavior - external behavior means what can be observed, like walking and talking

Socio-emotional problem- can be operationalized as social–emotional difficulties in childhood predict the development of depressive symptoms in later stage.

Depression- means feeling depressed, sad, hopeless, low, down and loss of interest and/or pleasure.

Physical stress - engagement in work

Social Capital- can be operationalized as social networks that are central to cooperation and collaboration.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2. Review of Related Literature

#### 2.1. Definition of Divorce

Divorce can be defined as the dissolution of marriage by law or locating the end position to the marriage and break marriage bond in full power. In view of that, Meron (2008) itemized that divorce is the dissolution by law; the dissolution being termed as divorce from the bond of matrimony, suspension, and divorce from bed and board; the former divorce puts an end to the marriage, stop over marriage bond in full force. To condense this, marital dissolution by law can happen with complete dissolution and partial dissolution. In this dissolution process, there is separation between the spouses for periods of time or gap between them in bed and feeding process and the other. To indicate this more, as the spouses present application for divorce, the court put postpone counseling them to their purpose of divorce. Thus, as revealed by Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 78(1 -2) there is the power of court concerning petition of divorce by mutual:

- 1) Where a petition for divorce is made under Article 77 (1), the court may discuss with the spouses separately or jointly and counsel them to renounce their intention to divorce.
- 2) In the event that the spouses did not show willingness to renounce their intention to divorce, the court may, having regard to circumstances, dismiss them giving a cooling period of not more than three months.

This may have a probability to reform/restructure of their marriage through mediation if they change their decision. However, if there is no amendment of condition on divorce decision, they can re-application in new form. According to Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 79(1 -2) divorce by Mutual consent may have probability to re-application in the following ways.

- 1) Where the spouses did not change their intention to divorce within the cooling period given to them under Article 78 (2), they may re-apply to the court to approve their agreement to divorce within six months from the last date of such cooling period.

2) Notwithstanding the six months' time limit provided in Sub-Article (1) of this Article, nothing shall prevent the spouses from submitting a new petition for divorce.

## **2.2. Different Types of Divorce**

They are two types of divorce: fault based and no fault based (Grounds for Divorce, n.d). In the past decades divorce laws have shifted from fault-based divorce to no-fault divorce all over Europe and the US. There exists a vast literature on this 'no-fault revolution', which has received extensive attention in the law and economics literature. An overview can be found in Dnes and Rowthorn (2002). Some of the divorce may not require cases and some of the others are accepting the predictable reason. The following is a description of each type of divorce.

### **2.2.1. Fault Based**

Fault divorce is decided simply if one of the partner is determined to be shamefaced or responsible about the issue of divorce. Concerning to this, Nakonezny, Shull, & Rodgers ( 1995) presents that if fault is considered, then divorce is granted only if one spouse is determined to be "guilty" (of adultery, physically or sexually abusing the spouse or a child, abandoning the home for a period of time, or other serious offenses) and the other spouse is determined to be "innocent"

A main concern related to children's adjustment is that proving guilt and innocence in a fault-based divorce tends to perpetuate acrimony and conflict between the parents, which may lead to worse outcomes for their children.

Based on the agreement between the spouses divorce may have a probability to be recounseling. This indicated that to make the spouses jointly through mediator and cooling period of divorce.

Concerning to this there is the power of the Court with divorce by Petition as documented by Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 82(1 -6) .They are listed as follow:

1) Where the attempt made under Sub-Article (1) has followed or is likely to fail the court may direct the spouses to settle their dispute through arbitrators of their own choice.

2) Where the spouses did not agree to settle their dispute through arbitration, the court may dismiss the parties by giving them a cooling period of up to three months.

3) Where all the efforts made under the preceding provisions have failed, the court shall pronounce divorce within one month from the receipt of the reports or arbitrators, or may be the end of cooling period, as the case may be.

4) From the time the petition for divorce is brought before it, the court shall forthwith give appropriate order regarding the maintenance of the spouses, the custody and maintenance of their children and the management of their property.

5) Where circumstances absolutely require that one of the spouses leave their common abode, the court shall, when giving an order under Sub-Article (5) of this Article, take into consideration the interest of children and the condition of the spouse who may be affected more by leaving their common abode.

The agreement of the “innocent” spouse is needed to grant the divorce, and divorce is not granted if both spouses are “guilty.” In theory, the innocent spouse is awarded alimony, child support, and property in a fault-based divorce. If fault is not considered, both spouses do not need to provide consent, and alimony, child support, and property are no longer awarded according to fault but according to needs and the ability to pay.

### **2.2.2. No-Fault**

A no fault divorce is much less complicated than a fault divorce. In a no fault divorce there is no need for evidence or proof of wrongdoing. Instead, any legally recognized reason for divorce is acceptable.

Peters (1986, 1992), Allen (1992), Friedberg (1998), Wolfers (2006) for the US, and recently Gonzalez and Viitanen (2009) and Kneip and Bauer (2009) debated that no-fault trajectory was only recently introduced; pay off. (I.e. expected alimony payments) were unknown to spouses and their legal representatives when choosing a divorce trajectory. Alimony payments and trajectory choice can thus a priori be considered as independent and there is therefore no need to control for expected pay off.

No-fault grounds for divorce were also enacted in all 50 states between the 1950s and 1980s, and all 50 states now allow no fault divorces. However, only 15 states have entirely eliminated fault-based divorce Grounds for Divorce (n.d.). In the other 35 states, one may choose between a no-fault divorce and a fault based divorce.

The most common reasons for selecting a fault based divorce are to avoid a longer waiting period often required for a no-fault divorce or to obtain a larger share of the marital assets or more alimony.

Generally, irreconcilable difference, or the more inability to get along, is considered a valid reason for no fault divorce. This means that the other spouse cannot prevent his or her partner from filing for divorce. By challenging the decision, he or she only lends or offers merit/distinction to the fact that the couple do see eye to eye. i.e. He/she can support only through offering tangible evidence (.Meron, S., 2008, p.12). In rendering to this context, the other partner can compromise difference to the reality if he/she see the couple face to face.

This point of view concluded that no fault divorce is greatly complex than a fault divorce. In this type of divorce presentation of the approval or evidence for misconduct is not essential. As an alternative, several legitimately documented purposes intended for divorce stands tolerable. Therefore, incompatible variance or the extra incapability to acquire alongside, be deliberated an effective cause meant for no fault divorce. To designate this additional partner cannot preclude his/her partner from the filing for divorce.

## **2.3. Divorce and Legal Provisions**

### **2.3.1. Conditions of Divorce**

There are two ways of conditions of decisions for divorce, Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 76 (a &b). In consequences, marriage shall dissolve by divorce where:

- The spouses have agreed to divorce by
  - (a) mutual consent and such agreement is accepted by the court; or
  - (b) The spouses or one of them made a petition, for divorce, to the court.

### **2.3.2. Divorce by Mutual Consent**

Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 77(1 -3) publicized that, Petition for Divorce by Mutual Consent wherever:

1) The spouses have agreed to divorce by mutual consent, such agreement, which shall also regulate the consequences there of, shall be submitted in writing to the court for approval.

According to the above context, divorce by mutual has three obligatory applications those help as proof for the issue of divorce because both of them require indication to determine the suggestion.

In addition, in Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 80(1 -3), there is approval of divorce by Mutual Consent. These are: (1) the court shall approve the divorce agreement only when it believes that the agreement is the true expression of the intention and sharp consent of the spouses and is not contrary to law and morality. (2) The court shall also approve the conditions of the divorce agreed between the spouses together with the divorce agreement. (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Article (2) of this Article, where the agreement of the spouses on the conditions of divorce does not sufficiently protect the interest and well-being of their children, or, where it adversely affects the interests of one of the spouses, the court may approve only the divorce agreement and give decisions it may deem appropriate to correct the defects on the conditions of divorce.

This is based on the agreement between the spouses. .i.e the spouses may make change of their suggestion through the mechanisms of intermediation. In view of this, Asfaw (2008) mentions that though traditional mediation is not a new concept in Ethiopia, the needs assessment he made come up with the importance of two relevant mediations in Ethiopia context.

These are community mediation and court-annexed mediations. Community mediation is management and resolution of disputes at the grassroots level with trained mediators who understand cultural diversity of the community, or by community volunteers or a combination of the two.

Court-annexed mediation is processes where a court-recognized mediation is available or mediation is mandatory as part of the litigation process for disputes that have already been applied to the court.

When divorce is mediated in the community or when court refers divorce case to court-recognized mediation centers, the divorce process will be handled in less painful way. Even at this stage, the spouses could have the chance to agree to improve their relationships and save the marriage and family from divorce

### **2.3.3. Divorce by Petition**

Petition for divorce as documented by Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 81(1 -2) indicated as follow: 1) A petition for divorce may be made to the court either by the two spouses conjointly or by one of them. 2) The spouses or one of them may state in the petition the reasons for divorce.

According to the above notion, the spouses can present their application in two ways. The first one is two of the spouses are presenting their application together with or lonely for divorce. The other option is one of the two spouses can express in the application the causes for divorce.

There are some situations that lead to make decision to the risk of divorce. According to Revised family Code of Ethiopia (2000, Article 83(1 -4), there are four decision on conditions of divorce (Revised family Code of Ethiopia,(2000; Article 83(1- 4).These are: 1) Where the marriage is dissolved by divorce under this section, the court shall request the spouses to agree on the conditions of divorce. 2) Where the spouses are not willing to agree or have failed to agree in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article, the court shall, by itself, or through arbitrators, or experts appointed by it, or by any other means it thinks appropriate, decide on the conditions of divorce. 3) The conditions of divorce agreed upon by the spouses or decided by arbitrators or experts shall be submitted to the court for approval. 4) After deciding the divorce, the court may postpone the judgment on conditions of the divorce for not more than six months.

Over all, there is the indemnities where the cause of the divorce is imputable to one of the spouses and where justice so requires, the court may order such spouse to make good the damage sustained by the other spouse (Revised family Code of Ethiopia, 2000; Article 84).

According to this point of view, guarantees be situated somewhere the reason of divorce is complain to one of the partners and wherever righteousness consequently necessitates, the court of law mandate such partners to create better to damage continuity by the extra spouse.

#### **2.4. The effects of divorce on children life**

The effects of divorce are disturbing even when the event is experienced at an early age. These disastrous effects follow children through all their life. Offspring who have lived in home environments that lack love, respect, and effective parental communication have broken models of attachment.

Besides, they have more severe problems on their social interactions and their romantic relationships in adulthood. Because of their anxiety and fear over their own future love and marital relationships, children of divorce are more likely to divorce and become single parents themselves (McDole & Limke, 2008; Amato, 2000).

Divorce has its own effects on the life of the children. This is due to increase different risks on children's like: psychological, academic and social problem. Accordingly, Brain (2011) stated that divorce is associated with increased risk for numerous psychological, academic and social problems throughout the life-course.

The study shows that the life children from divorced families are likely worse. In the study of Amato and Keith (1991) examined that the results of 92 studies involving 13,000 children ranging from preschool to young adulthood to determine what the overall results indicated.

The overall result of this analysis was that children from divorced families are on "average" somewhat worse. As Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) reported there was evidence among their sample of "decreased availability of the parent, a sharp decline in emotional sensitivity and emotional support for the child, decreased pleasure in the relationship, decreased attentiveness to the child's needs and wishes, less talk, less play, less interaction altogether, and a steep escalation in the inappropriate expression of anger"(p 117). They found that, because of these changes, children become burdened with more than just the immediate impact of divorce.

They also experience a series of divorce-related changes in daily living. These burdens add additional stress to the normative changes of growing up, especially during adolescence.

Children from divorced families expressed feeling that no one was in charge at their house, they are responsible for their own care and the care of their parent.

In general, children whose parents divorced were inclined to economic, social and psychological difficulty. Accordingly, Abera (2008) argued that divorce is one of the major troubles that affect the family system. The effect could be with varying degree and it affects all family members but usually economically low status group and their children who suffer from economic, social and psychological problem.

## **2.4.1. The Effects of Divorce on Female Children**

### **2.4.1.1. Behavioral problem**

Both girls and boys whose parents divorced were encountered with behavioral problem at post-divorced situation. However, they may not face with identical behavioral problem. Hence, girls from divorced family are more likely to affect with the problem of internal behavior like anxiety and depression. This show that because of their mother doesn't have a good model of marital status, they feel less probability to follow the consideration of motherhoods.

With reference to this, Zaslow (1989) reports that girls from divorced family through their internalizing behavioral problems (e.g. anxiety, depression,) are less likely to come to the attention of parents or health care professionals.

In similar study evidence from cohort studies shows that the negative impact of divorce on girls has a delayed effect and tends to emerge during adulthood, when they experience greater anxiety and depression than boys (Rodgers and Pryor, 1998).

Moreover, female children from divorced family were found with loss of self- confidence in their life because of their family dissolution. Concerning to this view, Johnston, Gonzalez and Campbell (1987) found that family divorced girls were follow –up in high depression and withdrawn.

According to this notion, the life of family divorced female children expected to internal behavioral problem. It is interesting that in the few studies which report more problems among parental divorced females are found primarily in areas of depression and dissatisfaction with social support (Frost & Pakiz, (1990) and child reported dissatisfaction and distress (e.g. internalizing behaviors) Allison & Furstenberg, (1989).

On contrast to this, boys from divorced family were visible to that the problems of external behaviors. Such as: aggression, crime, theft/ misuse of material. In relating to these views, Zaslow(1989) found that boy's from family divorced may primarily exhibit their disturbance through externalizing behaviors (e.g. aggression, delinquency, substance abuse). The same study found the effect of divorced on boys in relation to behavior, work load and lack of happiness. Accordingly, Guidubaldi and Perry (1985) found that boys in divorced families exhibited more adverse effects in terms of inappropriate behavior, work effort, and happiness.

Furthermore, boys' whose parents' divorced likely to face with the absence of their father character as a model and they grow behavioral problem. The study shows that boys in particular suffer from the lack of male role models and are therefore more likely to develop behavior problems (Simons et al, 1999 cited in Mackay, 2005).

#### **2.4.1.2. Lower self-esteem**

Girls from divorced family may have lower self-esteem in their life. In relation to this notion, Slater et al. (1983) found that girls from divorced family had lower self-esteem and more behavior problems. Furthermore, while female from divorced family reported, higher levels of family conflict inclined their visible to psychological worries. Hence, they were predictable to poorer emotional situation. Concerning to this view, Wallerstein and Kelly (1974) found that, one year following divorce, 63 percent of the girls were worries in psychological condition.

#### **2.4.1.3. Households burden**

Female children those whose parents divorced were expected to affected with households' burden in order to the process of managing their parents otherwise took option to follow working at their neighborshouse to survive themselves from the challenges faced them after divorce.

Accordingly Ruschena, Prior, Sanson & Smart, D. (2005) found that for female children from family divorced, the process of experiencing to serve their parents' after marital dissolution, of learning to alternate between households and of potentially moving schools or neighborhoods can be very challenging.

#### **2.4.1.4. Financial impact**

Female children whose parents' divorced might be with their mother or motherheaded families at post-divorce situation. However, womens after divorce probably exposed to financial difficulty which made unavailability condition to help their children after divorce. Related to this, on the basis of data collected in 1997 by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, Smyth and Weston (2000) found that females were still likely to experience financial hardship after divorce even after the introduction of the Child Support Organization and increases in government income support, together with increasing availability of work for women. Thus as their mother predictable to financial impact at-post-divorce, femle children of motherheded were expected to economic difficulty at post-divorce status.

#### **2.4.1.5. Effect of educational dropout**

Female children from divorced families are prospective to encounter with the drop out of school. As reference to this context, McLanahan & Sandefur, (1994) presented that girls from divorced families are likely drop out of high school. This is because of girls whose families divorced were influenced with difficulty of household works and exposed to lack of time to study. In conferring to this context, Ayele (2008) argues that life is more burdensome for female children in the countryside and that even there, girls tend to be given less time to study.

Furthermore, female children whose parents' divorced were possibly too disturbed with house works burden and they likely to absent from the school highly. In view of this context, Frost and Pakiz (1990) found that girls from recently disrupted households reported absenteeism in higher proportions.

In addition, girls from divorced family appear overloaded with household labor to have the duties of helping their families. This develops the danger of depressing, low self-confidence, insufficiency and failure regarding to their successes.

#### **2.4.1.6. Effects on Marital Decision**

Girls whose parents' divorced are expected to be anxious while they make decision around marital status. Concerning to this view, Judith Wallerstein & Sandra Blakeslee (1989) presents that girls whose parents' divorce are likely to be hampered or even overwhelmed by anxiety when it comes time to make decisions about marriage.

Moreover, girls whose parents divorced were predictable to the problem of idealistic interaction of marital status. This is directing that they might be encountered with unrealistic communication which is impractical relations of marriages. Related to this notion, Robert Bolgar & etal. (1995) found that the problem of being overly compliant or overly dominant is much more prevalent in the romantic relationships with the marriages of the daughters of divorced families.

#### **2.4.2. The Effects of Divorce on Male Children**

##### **2.4.2.1. Academically, Behaviorally and Socio-emotional problem**

Parental divorced boys are commonly exposed to the academic, behavioral and socio-emotional problems. Regarding to this view, many researchers agree that parental divorced boys have more problems with academically, Kaye (1989) behaviorally and in socio-emotional areas (Guidubaldi & Perry, 1984).

In addition studies have consistently found that parental divorced boys, especially younger boys, are more vulnerable to the effect of divorce after their parents' divorce, boys from divorced families performance more poorly on a wide variety of academic and mental- health measures (Guidubald & perry, 1985; Heatherington, 1989).

Moreover, the same studies discussed that boys from divorced families exposed to the problem of antisocial behavior since they might had the lack of closely related with their helpful father communication which is using to decrease un antisocial behavior and increase un attainments of boys than girls. This shows that, boys might be separated from their father after divorce and they managed with motherheaded family system as well as they might had absence behavioral shaping from their father relation.

Regarding to this concept, Amato & Keith (1991a); Hetherington (1993); Zimiles & Lee (1991) found that Close relationships with supportive fathers are more likely to reduce antisocial behavior and to enhance the achievement of sons. This indicates that, boys' whose parents' divorced exposed to lack of helpful relations of their father and they influenced with behavioral problem in the social life.

#### **2.4.2.3. Work load**

Boys whose parents divorced were mostly inclined to carry heavy weight to overcome the challenges that faced after their parents divorced. In view of this notion, Ayele (2008) found that the heaviest tasks are carried out by parental divorced boys living in the countryside. According to this view, boys whose parents divorced were challenged with the carrying loads with their pre matured age means more than their age.

#### **2.4.2.4. Street Children**

Street children are affecting with the sensation of anxious and concerns around various difficulties in their lives. And also their school has become either a fictional or an infrequent entertainment when there is enough time and/or money.

These circumstances indicate work that is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of the street children (ILO, 1995, Convention 182 - Article 3). In agreeing to this view, the conditions of street children shows that the troubles on their health and lack of care. Regarding to this, Ojelabi and Oyewole (2012) reported that street children are confronted with discrimination and view health and social services with suspicion. According to this views street children are tending to exposed with the health problem.

However, they decided to practice the life of street children because of lack of any option. Concerning to this view, OHCHR( 2011) found that street children can develop over time into strong street connections that, combined with social stigma and prejudices, make it difficult for children to find desirable options off the street.

## **2.5. The strategies that female and male children are using to coping mechanisms after divorce**

### **2.5.1. Family Treatment**

Children's adjustment to divorce is possible. However, it is a long process that involves suffering and that demands an open attitude and dedication. There are multiple strategies that parents can implement to ease their children's adjustment to divorce. Nonetheless, in many cases caregivers are not aware of these alternatives or they are so overcome by their new living situation that they forget about their options.

Through different activities children of divorce can develop coping skills, express their emotions, clarify their misconceptions, disengage from their parents conflicting situations, eliminate self-blame and rebuild their self-concept and self-esteem.

These age appropriate different activities can help children understand their current living experiences, and think in alternative solutions to their concerns about their parents' divorce. Referring this, Blackstone-Ford et al (2006) supports that the engagement of children in multiple active-positive-fulfilling activities can lead to an increase in the self-worth of children. This believes that parents should acknowledge their offspring achievements and they must set time aside to join their children in their special events.

In this context, coping skill support children to actively help themselves and to adapt as well as to make conscious choices from the information about divorce and to adopt the approaches that help them to cope. As revealed with Children Research Center /CRC (2002) many children actively helped themselves to cope and to adapt, making conscious choices about whom to talk to about the divorce, and adopting strategies that helped them to cope.

They need treatment that would help them reduce their depression, calm their anxiety and rebuild their self-concept and self-esteem. These relationships augment children self-esteem and help them gain confidence in their abilities to overcome the difficult situations that will emerge after their parents' divorce. Teyber (2001) considers that consistency and effective discipline are crucial elements in helping children of divorce build a sense of predictability and control over the new environment that surrounds them.

In this view, Children need heartfelt but firm discipline. Also they need to know that they are loved and protected and they need reassurance that in their new families, their parents are in charge. Thus, Children need to be aware that they are being raised in a safe environment where they are respected but also where they would have to meet realistic rules and expectations.

### **2.5.2. Social support**

Parents are often unable to adequately support their children when marital dissolution occurs due to their own distress, and children often seek and gain support from those outside the immediate family such as grandparents and friends. To provide this, in the ALSPAC study, grandparents and friends were children's key confidantes for those following parental divorce and in their current stepfamily situations (Dunn and Deater-Deckard, 2001). In addition, households and families are neither a unitary phenomenon nor closed social entities, but are intricately intertwined with the wider social networks of support.

Perhaps a central concept in family collectives is the one described by the Swedish social anthropologist Eva Poluha. Poluha (2004: 55–59) talks of social life, in which one must take part in order to be a meaningful member of society. Similarly the same study Harcombe (1993) and Demaray & Malecki (2003) contend that social support systems play a buffering role in helping individuals cope with undesirable life events. Therefore, social support perform a big role in contributing serves children whose parents were divorced to survive challenges might face them after divorce.

### **2.5.2. Legal Commitment**

In Ethiopia, there are a wide range of support mechanisms in the extended family and other social institutions for children whose parents were divorced (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 2012). This indicated that, once the issue of custody is settled, the parent who is assigning with custodial power over the child may demand maintenance allowance for the child. The law will be provided that sufficient allowance will be given for the child after divorce by the non-custodian parent. One requirement for deciding on the amount of maintenance allowance for the child from the non-custodian parent is that the custodian parent will be shown amount of income.

This indicates that it is provided under RFC Art. 113 (1) recognize that the court has to make a decision on child custody, child maintenance and also visitation right. In the same token the RFC follows the 'best interest of the child' criteria and the only difference here is that it does not matter whether the child is below 5 years old or not (Art.113/2/).

This means the mother will not be given child custody just because of age of the child. In addition the same article provides that in making a decision the court has to take into account the income, age, health and condition of living of the spouses as well as the age and interests of the children.

### **2.5.3. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) support**

Non-Governmental Organizations supplied assistance for children whose parents divorced to make available for their life status. Concerning to this there was evidence that children whose parents divorced have been gain access to services provided through Non-Governmental Organizations (Beales, 2002). According to this view non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were one of the supporters part those offered services situation children whose parents divorced.

### **2.5.4. Coping strategies that female children are using after divorce**

#### **2.5.4.1. Gulit/ Labor Marketing**

Females whose family divorced may keep up the effects of divorce by creating labor market and use saving strategies more.

Some studies support this context reported that facing the prospect of divorce can encourage females protect against its consequences, for example by improving one's position in the labor market (Özcan & Breen, 2012) or by saving more (Gonzalez & Özcan, 2008).According to this context girls whose parents divorced are using Gulit market /lobar market as a coping mechanism for the defense of difficulties after divorce.

#### **2.5.4.2. Domestic Work**

Girls whose parent divorced were surviving their life status by ways of undertaking the household of someone's. Regarding to this view, Ruschena, Prior, Sanson & Smart, D. ((2005) found that for female children from family divorced, the process of experiencing their parents'

marital dissolution, of learning to alternate between households and of potentially moving schools or neighborhoods can be very challenging.

This indicated that female children whose parents divorced were facing challenge with household burden of their divorced parents and neighborhoods or someone's house.

### **2.5.5. Coping strategies that male children are using after divorce**

#### **2.5.5.1. Participate In Different Works**

Male children from parental divorced are take parts in several works to survive the challenges faced after divorce. Some common jobs that family divorced male children may involve are shoe shinning, street vending, washing car, taxi cashier, taxi driver and doorkeepers.

In relation to this context, Unicef (2000) reported that some jobs which male children of divorced families might be engaging are: Shoe shinning, Street vending/peddling, Selling bread and other snacks, Washing and watching cars, Mechanics, Petty trading, Cashier on taxi vans, Providing changes to taxi drivers, Housemaids or boys, Porters, Working in warehouses sorting export items, Working as assistants to fishermen, Cleaning fishes on lake shores and Prostitution.

#### **2.5.5.2. Carrying loads/sack**

Male children whose parents' divorced are using the coping mechanisms of carrying different heaviest loads in order to help them self. In view if this context Ayele (2008) found that the heaviest tasks are carried out by boys from family divorced living in the countryside. According this concept, boys whose parents divorced were carrying load or sack to defend the challenges that might face them after their parents divorced.

## **2.6. Feminist Perspectives**

Feminist theory was used in this study because of its applicability to marital separation. Gender relations are central to family life, so feminist theory was important to an understanding of family issues such as divorce. Feminist perspectives for example: radical feminist was using in this study. Feminists such as Thorne (1992) assert that gender plays a significant role in the organization of both family and the state.

Furthermore, it also contends that men dominate women in both the private and the public arenas. In the family, the traditional division of responsibilities between spouses in most societies, with the husband as provider and wife in the domestic roles results in women's economic dependence on men. Women also carry far greater responsibility for domestic duties and children, whether or not they work outside the home.

Housework is not only unpaid, but also often burdensome and devalued. Feminists argue that 'constraints built into society limits women in their efforts to be successful providers for their families (Kamaruddin, 1995).

### **2.6.1. Radical Feminist**

In the public sector, according to feminist theorists, women in general remain in a secondary position. This is evidenced, for example, by the high numbers of women in many societies who work in low paying jobs compared to men. Feminists argue that gender inequalities in the family and those that prevail in the public sector are related.

For instance, Reskin and Roos (1990) contend that women's continuing economic, legal and political subordination outside the households affects their ability to claim full equality. Similar study with Kamaruddin (1995) contends that women's weak position in the labor market is a consequence of their domestic role. This in turn reinforces their subordination in the home.

Other feminists argue that men dominate high status jobs Archer and Lloyd (1982) such as those in policy and law making arenas. They control the health, legal, welfare, educational, economic, judicial, religious, and reproductive policies. The concept of the feminists shows that the subordination of women economically, socially and politically by men. This may influence to make divorce that affect children wellbeing.

In addition, they claim the way these systems function is primarily determined by patriarchal beliefs and values (Waldby et al.1989: 98). Men make laws and policies that affect women and children. Therefore the extent to which such policies adequately meet children's needs is questionable.

Feminists arguments discussed above have important implications for children's experiences of separation since women in many countries are giving custody of children. These implications can be direct or indirect.

According to feminist scholars, women's performance of the bulk of household work as well as their low economic resources during the period when they are married are some of the major factors that account for their worse off economic circumstances that follow divorce.

This trend is noted by among others Okin (1989) as cited by Kamaruddin (1995: 39) who asserted that "although the economically subordinate situation of women frequently remains concealed during marriage, it becomes instantly obvious on marriage breakdown... ". Not only do women face economic distress following divorce, some face social and psychological distress as a result of the economic distress. The distress affects their children as well.

It is clear therefore that the prospects of divorcing women, especially if they are custodial parents, are in many ways much segregator than the prospects of divorcing men. This is because of the legacy of their pre-separation economic circumstances.

Another indirect implication is that because men dominate policy making jobs, policies they make to meet children and women's needs such as laws governing divorce, division of property, child custody, domestic violence and child support may discriminate against women and children.

Feminists such as Sapiro (1990) therefore contend that families and households in patriarchal societies are not only affected by the gender inequalities that are prevalent in families, but are also affected by those that prevail at the state level.

Furthermore, male domination over women also had indirect implications for children through violence on women. Concerning this, Peled (1998); Levendosky et al. (2000) contend that violence on mothers affects children's emotions as well as their mothers' parenting skills. Not only does male domination had indirect implications for the lives of children of divorced parents in maternal custody, it also has direct implications. One of the direct implications is when children themselves are victims of paternal violence. And both child abuse and women abuse are some ways by which men express and / or increase their dominance over family members.

Concerning this, according to feminist scholars Bowker et al.(1990: 166 ) "violent and prevalent men have high needs to dominate their wives and children. Hence, they achieve and maintain the level of dominance they consider appropriate by a variety of oppressive strategies, including wife beating, child abuse, marital rape, psychological abuse, punitive economic deprivation, and forced social isolation". Feminists also contend that the girl child is likely to become the second victim of the battering husband (Dobash and Dobash, 1977, Bowker et al, 1990).

The Feminist perspective has several methodological implications for research. One of them which were used in this study is that it favors qualitative methods. Feminists such as Oakley (1994) contend that children are capable of contributing meaningful research data and that in order for researchers to adequately address children issues and they should focus on their view points. Therefore, among all the about feminist perspective, radical feminist perspective is more related to this study.

### **2.6.2. Social Network Theory**

Over the past two decades, there had been an increased interest in conceptualizing human behavior in the context of large family and social systems and the social network model were emerged as a useful theoretical model for the analysis and description of complex social systems and interactions (Tolsdorf, 1976). In addition, the discoverer of network theory was Bott (1957) in her study of marital roles in the families.

Her work showed how morphological characteristics of networks could be related to marital role segregation, and since then, the importance of social networks as a mediating factor in human behavior was studied with respect to mental health issues such as personal crisis (Boswell, 1969); help-seeking behavior (McKinlay, 1973); hospital and psychiatric admissions (Hammer, 1963; Tolsdorf, 1976) and divorce ( Colletta, 1979; Wilcox, 1981). The concept of this context shows that social network was essential to play role in mediating marital dissolution.

Moreover, Mitchell (1969: 2) defines a social network as "a specific set of linkages among a defined set of persons, with the property that the characteristics of these linkages as a whole may be used to interpret the social behavior of the persons involved". More simply, Bott (1957: 320) defines a network as "all or some of the social units (individuals or groups) with whom a particular individual or group is in contact".

Network analysis is therefore an approach that focuses on properties of individual and group relationships to assess an individual's social environment (Fischer, 1977). According to proponents of social network theory, individuals and families interact with various social networks, some of which are supportive; others are not, while still others can be sources of stress.

However, most literature on social networks focused on the supportive functions of networks only, rather than on both supportive and non-supportive functions. A focus on both supportive and non-supportive functions is crucial as it gives a balanced perspective of the role of social networks.

It must be remembered that while networks can provide support, they can also provide wider social functions ranging from the socialization of children to the generation of delinquency/negligence (Hill, 1992).

The presented study adopts the view that concepts about social networks form a useful tool in examining both the functional and dysfunctional influences of significant others in individual adaptation. Accordingly, Mitchell and Trickett (1980) also adopted this view in their overview of literature on social networks. This study therefore not only explored supportive functions of networks, but also non-supportive ones. For example, questions such as members who caused stress to children, what they do or don't do were covered and how their actions and behavior affected children's perceived adjustment.

In addition to the concept of function, the other concept that is used in this study is that of stability. This refers to the degree of stability of the individual's links with his / her network members (Mitchell and Trickett, 1980). Divorce is a family transition that can create instability in the composition and functions of some children's social network members. In this view, Froland and colleague (1979: 83) contend that the stability of an individual's network in the areas of structure, interaction and function is important to his / her adjustment to stressful situations. In the present study, as in Froland and colleagues' study, stability is examined by asking custodies and children about moves (changes in neighborhoods) and loss of contact or feelings of loss of support in order to understand how stability or instability of a child's network affected children's adjustment.

The concept of frequency is using to explore, for example, how often children are contact with their network members.

Dispersion is using to examine perceptions of how close or far away children lived from their significant others, while and accessibility examined the case with which children made contact with their network and members. Like communication with their peer and with the others.

### **2.6.3. Family Stress theory**

Family stress theorists propose that the definition of the situation interacts with the stress or event and the family member's resources to produce a crisis situation (McCubbin et al, 1980); Peterson, 1984). Based on the nature of this study, the searcher used the concepts of family stress theory which seemed relevant to it. These are: what are the effect of divorce on children and coping mechanisms that children adopt after divorce. When applied to children's experiences of divorce, family stress theory emphasizes that whether children perceive the various divorce related experiences as stressful as well as how they cope with them / adjust largely depends on their definitions and perceptions of their experiences, as well as personal, family and social network resources.

Family stress theory shows that the complexities involved in the process of how divorce affects children. Thus, it emphasizes how the same or similar events can be defined very differently by people affected. In the presented study, each child's definitions / perceptions of the various divorce related experiences are asked.

In this Family stress theory's, the concepts of divorce effect and coping strategies that children adopt post-divorce were also used to guide the questions in the interview schedule.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3. Research Design and Methodology**

#### **3.1. Research Design**

Based on the issue under investigation, the researcher employed qualitative research methods to collect relevant data for this study. Concerning this, Yin (2003) has confirmed that qualitative method is very helpful to understand complex sets of social phenomena and allows retaining the whole data of meaningful societal life. Qualitative method will be also included using the in-depth interview and key informant interview. For this, it was important to undertake descriptive research where the real life experiences and their perceptions figure out in the form of narration and describing in detail the life situation of parental divorced children through confidential interviewees.

According to Creswell (2007), there are different criteria in selecting research approaches based on three factors which included the research problem, the researcher's personal experiences and the people for whom the research was written. A criterion of research design appropriate for a particular based on the research problem in order to identify the means of obtaining information, the nature and objective of the problem to be studied as well as to identify the availability of time & money for the research work. Such a design can even be given to others for their comments and critical evaluation.

Therefore, qualitative study design was used for this research as the strength of qualitative research lies in its ability to explore a topic in depth (Marshall & Rossman, 1995 as cited in Liu, 2013). It can be using to discover people's thoughts and opinions. Moreover, according Miles & Huberman (1994) as cited in Liu (2013) qualitative research can also be conducted through intense contact with the representative population; it could also diversify details of people's feelings and their logic for doing something.

### 3.2. Study Area

Jeldu is one of the districts in West Shoa zone of Oromia regional state. It is bounded by Meta Robi Woreda in the East, Elfeta and Mida kegn Woreda in the west, Gind-Beret and Abuna- Gindiberet Woreda in the North, Ambo and Dendi Woreda in the south. There are different public service offices in the district. The woreda court office provides services to four towns and thirty eight rural kebeles in the district. Among these Gojo is one of the town selected for the current study purpose. Gojo town contains only one kebele (Gojo -01). This area was selected as it is the capital town of Jeldu woreda that serve to dispay the general divorce cases.

**Figure-1: Map of Gojo Town**



Source: Jeldu Woreda Administration Office

### **3.3. Data Types and Sources**

There are two types of data sources namely primary and secondary data (Kothari, 2004). The primary data are those which are collected afresh and for the first time, and thus happen to be original in character (e.g. key informant interview and indepth interview). Secondary data is defined as data that have been previously collected for some other purpose. Hence, for this study, both primary and secondary data sources are proposed. As regards primary data, information will be obtained through the administration of both indepth and key informant interviews to the respondents that were selected using purposive and random sampling technique. Regarding secondary data, documents available were analyzed and reviewed in line with literature pertinent to the study.

### **3.4. Instruments of Data Collection**

#### **3.4.1. Interview**

Data is a proof that directs the researcher towards research objectives. Thus, data collection was done using opened ended and semi structured interview. Indepth and key informant interviews was conducted with children of divorcees, custodial parents and Woreda concerned sectors such as children & Women's affairs, Social Affair office staff Gojo town and court Office staff of Gojo twon. This was done to get a deeper analysis of the effects of divorce in the future of the divorcees' children. Before conducting an interview, the researcher prepared an interview schedule consisting of semi structured questions. Based on these questions, some probing questions were also asked to obtain an in depth information from the participants. The willingness of the participants was assured before the interview was conducted to address ethical considerations. As indicated in section 3.3 above, the main sources of secondary data for this study were different documents including articles, legal documents, policy guidelines and court documents. Specifically, information obtained from the court office provided the statistics of divorced family data.

### **3.5. Population and Sampling Technique**

#### **3.5.1. Participants of the study**

Participants of the study were children whose parents were divorced of age more than six and less than eighteen and custodies of children that include father custody, mother custody and relative custodies were selected for an in-depth interview. Furthermore, Children & Women's Affairs office, Social Affair office staff and Court Office staff of Gojo town were also included in the study as key informants.

#### **3.5.2. Sampling and sampling techniques**

For the successful accomplishment of the research objective, the researcher has employed purposive and random sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was used to select sample that should be representative or to select those who are known to have needed information. As a result, six informants were chosen from three mentioned offices. These include three individuals from respective office heads, and three experts from the three offices. This also allows that the researcher to obtain detail answers that is useful for the study.

In addition, with reference to the various researches by different scholars in relation to the effect of divorce on children, it shows that small number of informants are including for qualitative researches. According to Murray (2012) state that researcher use only 12 participants thinking that the sample is sufficiently large to conduct a qualitative study. In addition to this view, Patton as cited in Schneller (2001) presents that sample for qualitative samples are often small in order to allow an in-depth, detail examination of a specific issue. To conclude this notion, selecting small sampling for qualitative research was useful to obtain detail information for the study

On the other hand, stratified sampling was employed to divide the study population into strata, then randomly select within strata. Consequently, the target population in the three consecutive years (from 2014-2017) five individuals were randomly selected for the in-depth interview from each years.

This indicated that less than one year (the divorce document settled in 2010/2018); it may not show the divorce effects on children clearly. The total divorced settled document for each of the above three years sequentially will be shown in the next table.

**Table-1.** Number of Divorce Case by Year (2007-2009)

| Year  | Divorced settled document |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 2007  | 48                        |
| 2008  | 54                        |
| 2009  | 72                        |
| Total | 174                       |

As well as the divorce document settled above the year (2007/2014), had difficulty in terms of tracing the children since their parents remarried after divorce. Furthermore, children whose parents divorced may go to University or any far place to find job. Thus, the researcher planned to take five settled divorce family from each mentioned years court document with the total of fifteen divorced families. Each five divorced family members from each three years were selected randomly by lottery method.

### **3.6. Data Analysis and Presentation**

In this study, qualitative design was used. Firstly, data obtained from indepth and key informant interview were translated into English lanagauge from Afaan Oromoo. Then, the data was transcribed for further analysis. Thirdly, information obtained through interview and data gathered from documents were discussed and analyzed qualitatively so as to provide meaning. Finally, results were discussed by combining interview findings with document data.

### **3.7. Organization of the Study**

The study was organized in to five chapters. Accordingly, chapter one began with the introduction section of the study followed by back ground, problem statement, research questions, and objectives of the study, significance of the study and scope of the study. In the second chapter, relevant literature which includes theoretical and empirical evidences were reviewed.

In the third chapter, the research methodology including research design and approach, sources of data, method of data collection, population of the study and sampling design, method of data analysis and presentation and organization of the study were presented. In the fourth chapter, results of the study were discussed and reported. Finally, based on the findings, conclusions and recommendations were posed.

### **3.8. Ethical Consideration**

This study mainly dealt with divorcees' children, and therefore are ethical issues that specific to children require special consideration. So, all participants involved at any stage of the study were informed that participation is voluntary. They were also informed that all the response data will be discarded after the information is compiled into the thesis. Meaning that is confidentiality would be strictly managed.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4. Results and Discussion**

#### **4.1. Description of the Target Participants**

The description of target population of the study could be presented according to the data collected from children of divorced families, custodies of children whose parents divorced of age six to twelve and key informants of public sectors.

The children participants whose parents divorced included six (6) females and five (5) males. Additionally, four (4) custodies of children whose parents divorced of age six to twelve (6-12) and two informants from each of the three official sectors, totally six (6) informants were communicated. The next table shows the description of those target participants.

**Table -2 Description of Target population**

| Participant | Sex    | Parts of participants      | Age | Education level | Job status        |
|-------------|--------|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1           | Female | Child of divorced families | 13  | 5 <sup>th</sup> | Domestic work     |
| 2           | Female | "                          | 14  | uneducated      | Domestic work     |
| 3           | Female | "                          | 15  | "               | "                 |
| 4           | Female | "                          | 16  | 8 <sup>th</sup> | Self-employment   |
| 5           | Female | "                          | 17  | 7 <sup>th</sup> | student           |
| 6           | Female | "                          | 18  | 4 <sup>th</sup> | Domestic work     |
| 7           | Male   | "                          | 14  | uneducated      | Self-employment   |
| 8           | Male   | "                          | 15  | 8 <sup>th</sup> | Daily labor       |
| 9           | Male   | "                          | 16  | uneducated      | "                 |
| 10          | Male   | "                          | 17  | "               | "                 |
| 11          | Male   | "                          | 18  | 5 <sup>th</sup> | "                 |
| 12          | Female | KI                         | 36  | 8 <sup>th</sup> | Self-employment   |
| 13          | Female | KI                         | 56  | uneducated      | Wage -employment  |
| 14          | Female | KI                         | 56  | "               | Domestic work     |
| 15          | Female | KI                         | 59  | "               | Self-employment   |
| 16          | Female | Children & Women affair    | 40  | Degree          | Head office       |
| 17          | Female | "                          | 34  | Degree          | expert            |
| 18          | Male   | Court office               | 42  | Degree          | expert            |
| 19          | Male   | "                          | 38  | Masters         | Advice headoffice |
| 20          | Male   | Social affair              | 58  | Degree          | Expert            |
| 21          | Male   | "                          | 37  | Mastrers        | Head office       |

## **4.2. The Effects of Divorce on Children**

### **4.2.1. Psychological Effect**

Children of both sex (male and female) are tendig to psychological effect after their parents got apart. This might indicate that after their parents divorced they usually feel inferior and get frustrated in their life. When asked, one of the male child respondents whose age was 15 years during the interview, he described that his situation was very frustrating. He stated, *“I am morally defeated. Others do not see me inferiority, but I would accept myself as if I were inferior to others”* (M-1). This implies that the child has developed certain psychological dissonance due to peer or socitial negative image. Therefore, children from divorced parents do not feel happy even if they come across comfortable life situation.

In the same way, another 17 years old male respondent reflected his view as follows: *“the life situation may be good or badt; I usually feel unhappy and everything is unfortunate for me.”* (M-2) This may also indicate that children from divorced family are always under distressful conditions of any circumstances. Even if they are in good situation, they usually think the complex psychological effects that occur when several factors overlap.

Similarly, females/girls from divorced parents felt that their self-respect became lower than their counterparts after their parents got divorced. This exhibited that children develop negative self image after their parents' ended marriage. They refelect this by comparing their life before and after divorce. For example, one of the respondents (F-1) whose age was 16 stated her feelings as follow: *“I am not comparing myself with others. I feel that people expect me as my life is incomplete compared to others. As aresult, my moral becomes detororiated.”* In relation to this notion, Slater et al. (1983) found that girls from divorced family had lower self-esteem and more behavioral problems. Thus, from the above quotation, it can be deduced that children from divorced parents usually develop lower self- esteem in their life as compared to other children.

### **4.2.2. Economical Effect**

It is clear that children whose parents divorced are exposed to economic problems at post-divorced period. Because of this, they are forced to do several activities inorder to achieve the difficult life situation at post-divorce.

However, their income might be limited only to their daily life situation. As regards to this, one of the respondents (M-1) described his views as follow; *“I am not happy with my current job. However, I use it for my daily consumption. I dropped out my education because my father ignored me and my current income does not support my education except my daily life. So, I had to drop my education.”* This shows that children of divorced family are forced to drop their education due to lack of appropriate support from either family.

In addition, female children were mostly exposed to financial problem after their parents get divorced. Since they depend on their custodial parents at post divorce, they are forced to engage in house chores activities which probably does not have a payment. Regarding this, one key informant interview (F-1) explained as, *“I haven’t any income source; my job is not calculated in to salary. I simply work at home and prepare food for the relatives. However, except for feeding, I can’t fulfill my wish as that of my friends.”* This indicates that female children face many economic problems than their male counter parts after their parents depart.

From the above idea it can be possible to understand that girls from divorced parents were likely to have the financial problem because of they spend their time on household works. Related to this, Smyth and Weston (2000) found that females were still likely to experience financial hardship after divorce.

#### **4.2.3. Social Effects**

Children from divorced parents are prospective to face socio-emotional problems.

Since their parents divorced, their option/chance was live with one side of their family or their relative custodies. Specifically, divorced children who live with their relative custodies come across many social challenges because through time their relative custodies become intolerance to help them. As a result, those children face problems of suitable clothing and other basic needs. And finally, they are marginalized by their friends and society. One of the respondents (M-1) who was grade 8<sup>th</sup> student explained such situation in the next way,

*'I have never got the chance to lead better life. In the school, I feel inferior to my classmates. Once a time, I have never forgotten the time when my teacher took me out the classroom and other students laughed at me due to the bad smell of my plastic shoes. I am not happy in life anyhow let it be as my God permit.*

Furthermore, female divorced children who prefer to live with their mother are usually disregarded by the society as impolite. This is probably because of the dignity given to patriarchal position in the society. This outlook creates negative impact in the society to disregard female as inferior particularly when mother becomes head of the family. Concerning this issue, informant (F-1) expressed her view in the following way, *"A girl has honored with her father. Society considers me as 'daughter of women' and I have negative attitude towards the society."* In the above narration, girls whose parents divorced were ignored by the society, and they have less value among their surrounding. Moreover, according to her view, girls whose parents divorced face problem with marriage. They may have less chance to get arranged marriage compared to their counter parts. As the respondents indicate, even if these children get arranged marriage, their dignity was disregarded by society or they themselves lost their confidence on their self-esteem.

Related to this point, Participant (F-2) described her opinion about as follow, *"Related to marital status I am so afraid to make decision. Even though I have a chance to get marriage, because of my family marital background I am afraid to make decision about it; I always ask myself what are the advantages my parents got from their marriage"*.

According to the above context, girls whose parents divorced felt worry to make decision about their marriage arrangement. Concerning this view, Wallerstein & Blakeslee (1989) presents that girls whose parents' divorce were expected to be hampered or even overwhelmed by anxiety when it comes time to make decisions about marriage.

Abera (2008) also argued that the effect of divorce could affect children who suffer from economic, social and psychological problem. In general, both male and female children whose parents divorced came across economic, social and psychological challenges.

#### 4.2.4. Academic problem

Children from divorced parents are facing challenges with academic problem after the divorce. As their parents divorce, they start life with their custodies or alone.

This may be creating negative impact on their academic life. For this reason, they start to confront new life to support their education and themselves. Regarding this, one of the respondents (M-1) explained the academic problem he is facing at post-divorce in the next way:

*At this time, I am fifteen (15) years old. Two of my sisters and I live together. All of us live with our grandmother. Because she is getting older, she lost of her tolerance and she said that 'you have father & mother, and then leave my house'. Now, I am a daily laborer. This situation has impact on my education status. In addition, in this year, I will take grade 8 National exam. Furthermore, I scored less marks than usual in the class."*

Therefore, children from divorced family pass through lots of challenges which they can not overcome even being with their custodies. With similar issue, other participant (KII-1) of age fifty six (56) years old discussed the issue as follows: *"Their mother followed new husband; their father left his children on me and married another wife; I myself felt so tired and getting older; in what means can I be able to help these children for their education you think?"*

Furthermore, children whose parents divorced suffer from lack of sufficient income for their daily life. Even if they were interested to continue their education, they might face with problem of adequate income for their educational achievement.

Concerning this, the respondents (e.g M-2 and F-1) expressed that children from divorced family come across a lot of problems while trying to deal with their education.

They also required assistance to continue their education without being dropped out from school or being late behind from their other classmates. Both female and male children from divorced parents strive to continue their education from the day of divorce but still they face challenges from their custodies. So, they shift from one custodial parent to other so as to find comfortable situations for their education.

In conclusion, both male and female children from divorced parents encountered the challenges of academic problem at post-divorce condition. Accordingly, Brain M.D Onofrio (2011) stated that divorce is associated with increased risk of academic problems throughout their life.

#### **4.2.5. Behavioral problem**

Children of divorced parents usually develop behavioural frustration such as anxiety, depression, unhappiness etc. After their parents divorced, the children might feel lack of hope and better future because they begin to lead a desperate life with new environment. Specifically female children who start to live with their mother custody at post-divorce begin to emotionally frustrate due to early departure from their mother. For instance, one of the participants (F-1) the situation as follows:

*Usually I am not happy & my moral is getting lower and lower. So, I don't want to talk this to every one. I have so many problems to talk about. I try to escape from my problems in addition to my mother's difficult life condition. I worry for her besides my problem. So I don't want to worsen my burden that makes her angry rather I keep it myself.*

In the same way, female children whose parents divorced usually feel unhappy with the life after their parents divorced whether the life situation was better or not. Even if every thing may be properly available for their life through their custodies, these children might not happy at post-divorce life situation. It is also depicted that girls whose parents divorced were mistreated because of the challenges they face with internal problem. This indicates that they simply feel anxiety and depression internally. Accordingly, Zaslow (1989) reported that girls from divorced family through their internalizing behavioral problems (e.g. anxiety, depression,) are less likely to come to the attention of parents or health care professionals.

On the other hand, male children whose parents divorced were visible to be inhibited with the problem of external behavior. Since, their parents divorced, these children determine to follow the life with their relative parents at post-divorce status. Through a time, male children whose parents divorced could develop an involuntary and uncontrolled behavioral problem.

Likewise, male children whose parents divorced might also follow the life of street children at post-divorce condition. At this life status, they could be visible to the lack of good behavioral model among their relative friends. Thus, they initiate to act what they observe from their relative friends.

According to the above piont of views, post-divorce life affects the external behavior of boys whose parents divorced. In relating to these views, Zaslow (1989) found that boys from divorced family may primarily exhibit their disturbance through externalizing behaviors (e.g. aggression, delinquency, substance abuse).

#### **4.2.6. Physical stress**

Girls whose parents divorced encountered lots of physical stress due to household burden and these children also do not have constant living place. They change their residence from place to plce. Concerning this notion, respondent (F-1) of age eighteen (18) who dropped her education at grade 4th gave her opinion as follow:

*When my parents got divorced, I went to country side where my granddad lives in order to search for better life. But, I became confused with a number of jobs including house work and outside work in that area. I used to fetch water from the river, I used to clean cattle dang, I used to prepare injera, I used to cook wat and I used to wash clothes.*

This depicted that the respondent (she) did not have any rest even if the house work was completed because she was prepared to another chores after accomplishing one. No one could understand her burden. Moreover, female children whose parents divorced determined to work at somone's house in order to subsist their life at post-divorce situation.

Nonetheless, their benefit and diligence might not as they expected. In the same interview the other respondent (F-3) of age fourteen (14) who lives at someone house described her view about the situation of household challenges in the following way:

*I decided to live someone's house to survive my daily life. However, I do more than my ability with burden of jobs. I am fourteen (14) years old. But, I carry water with twenty (20) liters container; I do all the house chores & in addition to this I can't get sufficient food. You can observe from my physical appearance which looks like skeleton (See Appendix-5)*

The above view shows that girls whose parents divorced were encounters of strong attachment of the household burden including outside works without any rest Accordingly Ruschena, Prior, Sanson & Smart (2005) found that for female children from divorced family, the process of experiencing their parents' marital dissolution, of learning to alternate between households and of potentially moving schools or neighborhoods can be very challenging.

On the other hand, male children whose parents divorced probably encounter with physical stress of work load more than their age level. At post-divorced period, male children are forced to be engaged in difficult tasks such as carrying sack (quintal) in order to survive the challenges they face after their parents divorced. Thus, their life situation was challenging and frustrating. As regards to this notion, participant (M-1) of age fifteen (15) expressed his idea about this situation as follow;

*In this stage I am fifteen (15) years old. But, in order to survive my life I do work load more than my ability. You see, I carry this sack (quintal) Moreover, because lack of breakfast at morning, some times I faced nearly to fail down. The income which I get from this job is in sufficient. Simply used for my daily feeding which isn't remains for other matter & days.*

Furthermore, male children whose parents divorced also expected to challenged with the shortage of food while they faced to the absence of the chance to carry sack at post-divorce. Consequently, participant (M-2) whose age of eighteen years (18) old describe his perception concerning the effects of work load after his parents divorced in the next way.

*Look, I do lots of difficult tasks to win my bread after my parents got divorced including loading & unloading stones in to car, loading & unloading potato in to car and carrying sack. I occasionally do such jobs because there is less opportunity to get the chance of doing always. I also seldom have a chance to eat food from the women whom I take some load from the market to their house.*

As indicated above, boys whose parents divorced were suffering from lots of life burdens similar to their female counterparts. In view of this notion, Ayele (2008) found that the heaviest tasks are carried out by parental divorced boys living in the countryside. In addition, male children whose parents divorced are forced to lead street children life situation after their parents divorced. Since the time their parents divorced, some children are obliged to live with their relative parents in remote areas and exposed to different physiological and psychological stresses. In such life situation, those children might be exposed to behavioral problem which might lead them to the life of street children. In this life condition, they feel inferior to other mates among the society they live with.

Therefore, they usually worry about their life status at post-divorce which inclined to the life of street children. Participant (M -1) of age sixteen (16) gave his description in a very frustrating way. *“Am I included in the life standard of human being? My godness! Its cold weather condition, its rainy weather condition. What matters are better for me? I live until my God’s wish.”* Moreover, children whose parents divorced were also concerned about their daily life including feeding and shelter.

Street children usually come from divorced, separated or widowed parents. Those who come from divorced family are highly vulnerable to street life. They are forced to lead street life after their parents divorced.

Therefore, they usually worry about their life status at post-divorce which prone to the life of street children. Moreover, children whose parents divorced also suffer from problems such as feeding and shelter. For example, one of the respondents (M-2) of age eighteen (18) years old expressed his idea as follows, *“During day time I do daily labor, during night, I suffer from cold weather.”* Cognizant with the above idea, male children whose parents divorced were expected

to the impairment of their health status and lack of care for their life situation. In addition, they are exposed to lower standards in their life condition. About this concept, ILO (1995, Convention 182 - Article 3) reported that life circumstances indicate work that is expected to harm the health, safety or morals of the street children.

### **4.3 The strategies that children of divorced family use as coping mechanisms**

Children of divorced parents need to be treated by using different strategies. These strategies can be used by different stakeholders in the society. And the most common strategies used in this study are the following.

#### **4.3.1 Family Treatment**

Children whose parents divorced need special treatment that would help them reduce their depression, calm their anxiety and rebuild their self-concept and self-esteem. However, from the time their parents got apart, these children start to think about the cohabitation of their mother and their father. For this reason, they might not be happy with any situation after their parents divorced. Related to this issue, one of the participants (F-1) age 17 gave her opinion about her mother treatment as follow:

*My mother tries to fulfill my need as much as she can. Whenever I keep silent, she tries to make me speak. She advises me that things will be all right in the future when I grow up. She wishes all the luck in my future life. I wish my mother and my father would live with me.*

Furthermore, children whose parents divorced could also required family treatment for their educational status at post-divorced situation.

As they put their future hope completely on their children, their parents' motivated to support their children for their future growth. The other respondent (KII-1) whose age was fifty six (56) described her opinion as follow:

*What can I add after this rather I am waiting my date? I lost my physical appearance in upholding my children. As long as God help me, I will get chance on my children. Even if I am in a problem, I never want to see my children face any problem. As much as I can, I will try to help them in their education.*

From the above point of view, it is possible to recognize that parental treatment play a big role to build logic of certainty and regulate the new life situation for children after their parents divorced. In relation to this, Teyber (2001) considered that regularity and actual support are crucial elements in helping children of divorce to build a sense of predictability and control over the new environment that surrounds them. In this view, children need heartfelt but stable discipline.

#### **4.3.2 Social Capital**

Building social capital has a paramount role in coping with challenges that children face after their parents divorced. Social network helps achieve a great part to endure difficulties that might encounter children during post-divorce. Therefore, it was a support that categorize into relative support, friends support and societal support.

Relative support plays a wonderful role to encouraging children whose parents divorced at post-divorced situation. Therefore, this social capital might categorize in to relative support, friends support and societal support.

Relative support was playing a wonderful role to encouraging children whose parents divorced at post-divorced condition. This type of supportive was most of the other type of support for the reason that receiving the responsibility at least until those children able to help themselves as custodians. Regarding to this point of view, informant ( F-1) whose age of sixteen (16) years old expressed her idea as follow:

*Since my father and my mother were divorced, I live with my grandma. She helps me as much as she could be starting since I was seven (7) and now I am sixteen (16) years old. Thus I could help myself by selling onion, green paper and other goods in the market. Moreover, I could help my grandmother.*

Similarly, relative family of children whose parents divorced more focused on caring for those children at post-divorce to show their kindheartedness. Regarding this issue, participant (KII-1) whose age was fifty nine (59) described her view in the following way. *“Their father was a lonely son for me. Since his marriage was already broken, I had just decided to assist his children. Whether the life situation was suitable or not, I will not separate from his children in my life”*. It can be said that relative families especially grandmothers have good concern for their divorced children.

Likewise, children from divorced parents get different support from their peers particularly for their education accomplishment. For instance at post-divorced situation, children whose parents divorced might show the deficiency of education properties and clothing. As a result, their friends might support them individually or in groups. Regarding this context, one of the informants (M-1) of age fifteen (15) described his idea as follows, *“God touched the heart of my friends and they gave me the uniform which I wear at school. And some of them helped me in buying exercise book and pen.”*

Furthermore, societal support had also its particular part for the achievement of divorcees’ children life whose parents divorced at post-divorced condition. Accordingly, those children could expose to the scarcity of clothing and starving at post-divorce situation. Thus, different societies take part to protect those difficulties that might face children of divorced families after their parents divorced.

Concerning this concept, one of the participants (M-1) whose age was eighteen (18) years described his views about the social support in the next way: *“In different ways, different peoples lend me their hand. This “jacket” was given me from someone and I sometimes have my lunch from the women who I take her purchased material to the home”*.

According to the above point of view, social support is essential to mitigate the challenges that children face at post-divorce. Regarding to this concept, Harcombe (1993) and Demaray & Malecki (2003) contend that social support systems play a protecting role in helping individuals cope with undesirable life events, particularly for children of divorcee.

### **4.3.3 Governmental and non-governmental support**

Different parties such as governmental and non-governmental organizations need to provide necessary supports to children of divorced parents. They might offer the supports of educational, economical and advising assistance. For instance, children & women affair is a governmental body deals with children and women issues. This office provides special treatments such as access to free education and material support to children of divorced parents.

#### **4.3.3.1 Advising support**

Children and social affair department also offers different supportives for children whose parents divorced so as to make them succeed in their life during post-divorce situation. Moreover, they could give advising for those children and for their custodies in order to build those children's moral. One informant from the experts of children and women affair whose age of thirty eight (38) years old described her view as, *"The first stage of supportive system for children whose parents divorced is giving necessary advice for their custodies. Not only this but also our staff members contribute (20) birr monthly and we bought them exercise book & clothing"*. This indicates the concern that the society has to support children of divorced parents. The respondents also witnessed that such governmental bodies periodically help him in providing funds (M-1).

In contrast to this, the above support from children and women affair office is not common for all children whose parents divorced. Just this office might compromise this obligatory benefit for children of divorced families who could communicate with their office. For instance, one of the respondents (M-2) claimed that he did not know such office let alone getting support from this body. Social affair is also the other governmental office that has its own role in the provision of supporting for children whose parents were divorced.

Socail affair office might made communication with non-governmental organization for sponsoring children whose parents divorced at post-divorce period for the accomplishment of their academic endavour. Therefore, one of the participants from the experts of socail affair (KII-4) gave his idea as follows:

*For children whose parents divorced in different ways, we suggest different supports. For example, we provide them how they can be benefited through engaging in different Non Governmental Organizations. For instance, Tesfa Organization provides a kind of fund from six to eight (6-8) packed carton of exercise book and pen per yearly.*

#### **4.3.3.2 Economical Support**

Correspondingly, social affair office was making the economic accessibility for children whose parents divorced through the provision of different budget at post-divorced condition. Moreover, they might protect some observable problems on the life of those children at post-divorce. Concerning this, the respective head office of social affair explained:

*Our office has responsibility for monitoring the life status of children whose parents were divorced. He indicated that there are 63 children who were registered in their office. And 2% of budget was using for their support purpose. Moreover, protecting difficulty of child- labor of children whose parents divorced those less than eighteen (18) years old is their responsibility.*

On the other hand, the above discussion couldn't encompass the whole children whose parents divorced. Children of divorced families who did not have communication might lose this chance. Court office has also taken the accountability of supporting children whose parents divorced from legal point of view. Concerning this idea, two of the participants from the court office (the respective head office and one informant from the experts of court office) provided their description as follows:

*Concerning the issue of children of divorced parents, special workers were sent to our office from the federal level of governmental parties. Those special workers have the responsibility to investigate the life status of those children.*

*As well as there is the budget from our office that available for children whose parents divorced five hundred birr (500) had given yearly for each of them.*

Furthermore, after the divorce settlement took place, the disagreement could be made between the custodies of children and funding agency. Accordingly, custodies of children might appeal to the court office; this court office could give judgmental support. Regarding this concept, one of the participants, (KI-1) expressed her suggestion as follows:

*At the beginning of judgment day of the divorce settlement, the required alimony was decided for my children with court office justice. Nonetheless, my husband didn't give me it properly; so through the procedure of re-application to the court office, warning letter was given to my husband and he gave me aptly.*

From the above idea, it is possible to appreciate that all children & women affair and social affair as well as legal bodies play their own roles to the rehabilitation of children whose parents divorced and this can be considered as a coping strategies. This indicates that it was provided under Art. 113 (1) of the RFC recognized that the court has to make a decision on child custody, child maintenance and also visitation right.

#### **4.3.3.3 Educational Support**

Moreover, different NGOs promote the life of children whose parents divorced in several ways. Through this promotion, children of divorced families may achieve their life at post-divorce situation. In relation to this point of view, participant (M-1) whose age of fifteen (15) years of grade 8<sup>th</sup> student described his opinion as follows, “*with the endowment of Korea Organization, I became benefited. They provided exercise book, clothing, shoes and food material.*”

#### **4.3.3.4 Food and clothing support**

Non-Governmental Organization is one of the sponsor part that serve children whose parents divorced with funding to maintain their life condition at post-divorce status. Related to this concept, one of the participants (F-1) of age thirteen (13) years old who was grade 6<sup>th</sup> student at the time of the study explained her views in the following way:

*The donation which I got from compassion organization through church helped me a lot to lead my life after my parents divorced. They help me many things such as t'eff' for food, soap; clothing, shoes, blanket and all necessary equipment for my education could be covered by them.*

*Not only have these but also for my future hoped if I will get the chance to enter University, they encourage me so far.*

Moreover, different NGOs promote the life of children whose parents divorced in several ways. Hence, through this promotion, children of divorced families could achieve their life at post-divorce situation. In relation to this point of view, participant (M-1) whose age of fifteen (15) years old who was grade 8<sup>th</sup> student describe his opinion as follow; *“with the endowment of Korea Organization I became benefited. They provided: exercise book, clothing, shoes and foodstuff”*.

In contrast to the above idea, NGOs had their criteria to offer their donation. This criteria could differ from one NGO to another. According to this criteria their endowment might not include the whole children of divorced families. Regarding to this issue, respondent (M-2) of age thirteen (13) years old who was grade 5<sup>th</sup> student express his views next to this; *“I can't get chance of NGOs donation. Because they have their own criteria to select children whose parents divorced. For instance once a time I missed this because of their criteria focused on children of divorced families those HIV carrier”*.

To conclude the above context, non-governmental organizations in the study area play their role for the achievements of the life of children of divorced parents at post-divorce. In relation to that, Beales (2002) presented that children whose parents divorced have been tried hard to gain access to services provided through Non-Governmental Organizations.

#### **4.3.3.5 Children Self-employment Activity**

Children whose parents divorced participated in different income generating tasks. Both female and male children of divorced parents were forced to engage themselves in different self-employment activities such as mini market called ‘gulit’, domestic work, shoe shining, street vending etc. in order to support themselves after divorce.

Occasionally, female children engage in marketing compared to male children. About this circumstance, a participant (F-1) whose age is sixteen (16) years old described her view as follows, *“gulit market is my income source through which I make money to survive with my grandmother.”* In the above discussion, it was conceivably to realize female children whose parents divorced were using gulit market as coping strategies to overcome the challenges that they might face during post-divorce. Concerning to this, Özcan & Breen(2012) or by saving more Gonzalez & Özcan( 2008) reported that facing the prospect of divorce can encourage females protect against its consequences, for example by improving one’s position in the labor market.

On the other hand, female children whose parents divorced were working at domestic work to survive the challenges that they might encounter after their parents divorced. Regarding this concept, an informant (F-2) expressed her opinion in the following way. *“After my parents divorced, I have been at my relatives and I was helping my grandmother in all household works. This means I was benefited from serving them.”*

Similarly, children are employed in domestic works in order to overcome challenges and sustain their life. Furthermore, they help their custodies with the salary they get. Concerning to this issue, one of the respondents (F-3) elaborated as, *“after my parents divorced because of difficulty of my life status, I was employed with salary to someone; I help my mother with this income. This is only for the sake of winning bread not to getting better life situation”*.

According to the above discussion, female children whose parents divorced were working hard and irritating some tasks for the sake of survival. Regarding to this view, Ruschena, Prior, Sanson & Smart ((2005) found that for female children from family divorced, the process of experiencing their parents’ marital dissolution of learning to alternate between households and of potentially moving schools or neighbor hoods.

On the other hand, male children whose parents divorced were using shoe shinning as a coping strategy to persist their life condition after divorce. In this work item they feel inferior to their life status, eventhough they had the hope for their life situation.

About this, a participant (M-1) whose age of eighteen (18) years old stated his idea as follow; *“I live on shoe shinning hoping bright future for my entire life.”*

Similarly, male children of divorced families feel dependence on themselves. In addition the other people might give motivation in their work place. As regard to this concept, respondent (M-2) described his view according to the next way. *“I live depend on this shoe shinning until today. People who I serve encourage me by saying ‘don’t worry! Many people bought cars starting fom this shoe shinning; so they give me moral strength and I am encouraged as they tell me their own story”.*

Furthermore, street vending is one of the coping strategies that male children whose parents divorced were using up to cope with the difficultiesthey might face after their parents divorced. Whereas they participate on this work, they thought about how to become their better lifecycle prominence which was used to forgate their life difficulty that might face them at post-divorce condition. Concerning to this, participant (M-1) of fifteen (15) years old explained his view as follow; *“I survived by selling various goods on the road and around the market. Moreover, I am trying to be transformed from street marketing to advanced trading.”*

In addition to this, male children whose parents divorced might be intersted tostreet vending work with their confidence as its was free from tax rather than feeling about life difficulty at post-divorce. Besides, they could move from place to place in order to search better marketing.

Relating to this view; respondent (M-2) of age seventeen (17) gave his idea in the same interview in the next way. *“I benefited from this street vending. I mean that it is informal trading so that there is no taxation. Additionally, I made more customers by moving from place to place and this helps me to live on my job.”*

Moreover, male children whose parents divorced were used washing car toward help themselves at post-divorced situation. Those children might feel self dependent after their parents divorced whether its profits was better or not. Regarding to this concept, one of the informants (M-1) of age fifteen (15) years old explicated his opinion as follows: *“By washing car, I am able to be free from dependency. If I get more or less income, I live with it for today and God know for tomorrow.”*

From the above discussion, it is possible to understand that male children whose parents divorced were participated in different works like shoe shinning, street vending and washing car in order to survive their life situation after their parents divorced. In relation to this context, UNICEF (2000) reported that some jobs which only male children are engaged are shoe shinning, street vending/peddling, selling bread and other snacks, washing and watching cars.

In addition, boys whose parents divorced were carried sack and different loads in order to achieve their life condition after their parents divorced. Eventhough wasn't adequated for their life status at post-divorce, they were used this job item to sustain their life challenges that might encountered them after their parets divorced. About this conception, participant (M-1) of age seventeen (17) years old express his idea nextly; *"I live on daily labor work. However, it is not enough for my life; I serve myself only for daily consumption"*. Moreover, children of divorce families might feel degraded while they began carrying sack after their parents' divorced. Though; they develop their confidence through a time. Concerning to this point of view, respondent (M-2) whose age of eighteen (18) years old explain his opinion as follow. *"I started this labor work in hidden way because I couldn't get any other option. But I gradually accustomed to it. I know got confidence rather than stealing."*

In the above discussion, boys whose parents divorced were aided themselves with carrying difficulty loads to sustained their life status of post-divorce. In view if this context Ayele (2008) found that the heaviest tasks are carried out by boys from family divorced living in the countryside.

#### **4.4. Findings of the study**

The purpose of this qualitative study was to find out the effects of divorce on children and its coping strategies in Gojo town. The findings of this study begin with elaborating the effects of divorce on children and its coping strategies that children were using after their parents divorce.

The major effects of divorce on children at post-divorce situation are: economic, social and psychological problematic situation. Not only this divorce has also effects on children academic status, behavioral problem and physical stress after their parents divorced.

On the other hand, the coping strategies those children were using after their parents divorce presented as follows; Such as: family treatment, social capital, governmental & non-governmental support and children self-employment activities.

In general, the major findings of this study were;

- The effects of divorce on children at post-divorce situation are: economic problem, social impact, psychological problem and academic problem,
- Divorce had effect on the internal behavior on female children-depression & low self esteem,
- Divorce had effect on the external behavior of male children such as delinquency and aggression,
- **The effect of divorce on physical stress of femal children was house hold burden while out side work load and street children life on male children.**
- With regarding the coping strategies, the study fong out that children were using at post-divorced condition like:
  - ✓ Family treatment
  - ✓ Social capita (relative,friends and societal support)
  - ✓ **Governmental and non-governmental supports however, wasn't included all children of divorced families.**
  - ✓ Children self-employment activities. (Female children were using' gultit' and domestic work while male children were using: shoe shinning, street vending, washing cars and carrying sack

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

#### 5.1. Conclusions

Based on the above major findings, the following conclusions were drawn.

The major effects of divorce on children at post-divorced conditions were concluded as economic problem, social impact, psychological problem and academic problem. Divorce had also the effect of physical stress on both female and male children after their prents divorced. However, it had the house hold burden of physical stress on female children whereas out side work load and street children life of physical stress on male children at post-divorce.

Moreover, divorce had the behavioral problem on children of divorced families. Nevertheless, it had more effect on internal behavioral problems on female children though it had effect on external behavioral problems on male children.

Correspondingly, the coping strategies that children used at post-divorced statu are concluded as follows:

- **Family treatment** which had essencial role for helping children at post-divorced situation.
- **Social cpital** various parts of social (relative, peer and societal) offer their supports for children of divorced families. Social network theory provides this issue about the essentialty of socialization inorder to avoide be neglecting as of children socialization. Regarding to this concept, Hill (1992) adopted that it must be remembered that while networks can provide support, they can also provide wider social functions ranging from the socialization of children to the generation of delinquency/ negligence.

- **Governmental and non-governmental support:** the endowment of this parts play a great role to achieve the life of children at post-divorced. However, it was **not** involved at the whole children of divorced families in Gojo town.
- **Children self-employment:** both female and male children motivated to participate in to their self-employment activities to succeed their life status at post-divorced. Hence female children use ‘gulit’ and domestic works (servant). On the other hand, male children use shoe shinning, street vending, washing cars and carying sack/loads.

## 5.2. Recommendations

On the basis of the above conclusions, the following recommendations were made.

- ❖ To mitigate the problem of academic status of children whose parents divorced;
  - Both governmental and non-governmental organizations ought to make the strategies of provide evening school at woreda level to promote how those children work at day time to help themselves and follow their education at night time.
- ❖ Toward the resolution for the physical stress on the life of street children of male children whose parents divorced;
  - Woreda governmental sector and societal parts had better provide shelter like: kebele houses and contribute essential donation and
  - Since their supportive system wasn’t include whole children of divorced families, governmental and non-governmental parts should offer funding which include all children whose parents were divorced and make awareness for those children in order to create awareness for all children whose parents were divorced.

- ❖ Parents ought to take the some accountability to alleviate the effects of divorce on children as follow;
  - ✓ Before taking decision about divorce, they had better to think the life of their children at post-divorce,
  - ✓ After divorce issue was decided, their children might be with their mother custody or their father custody is the best option and
  - ✓ In the wage employment progression, they ought to have an agreement between children and employer based on the job item which children can do or not more than their capability.

Generally the researcher offers future researchers to conduct on this issue for further study.

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**Appendix- 1**  
**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**  
**CENTER OF GENDER STUDIES**

**Researcher Tayech Deksisa Negera**

**Title of the research** is “The Effects of Divorce on school aged Children and their coping strategies”.

**The objective of this study** is to explore effects of divorce on children and coping strategies that children use after divorce in Gojo Town. These questions are designed to collect data about the effects of divorce on female and male children after divorce.

**Procedure:** The procedure of obtaining the information required for this research will be done with qualitative approach. The researcher is going to do an in-depth study of the effects of divorce on male and female children and coping strategies that male and female children are using up. The interview will be recorded and the responses analyzed in the terms, themes and sub-themes.

**Risks and discomforts:** The only discomfort that the researcher can predict the discomfort or stress that may arise from talking about the traumatic experience of children whose families were divorced. Furthermore, the researcher will not continue with the interview if any major worry arises and will ensure that the respondents will not be forced to continue the interview in any distress. If it is necessary for any treatment, the researcher will arrange by coordinating with concerning and available governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**Benefit of this study** is that the policy makers, government officials, professionals, the

Community members and others may have new insight of alleviating this global and national problem, divorce through strengthening its effects on children on the study area.

**Participants’ rights:**

- Participation is totally voluntarily based
- You may withdraw at any stage of the process without negative consequences or with any information being published or disclosed.

- Total confidentiality and anonymity will be highly secured
- Access to the results of the research, if you so desired.

**Confidentiality and anonymity:** The researcher will allocate false name for you to ensure that after the data has been collected no one will be able to identify who you are. The researcher will also destroy all evidences that link you to the research after the research process completed. With regard to confidentiality, the researcher will respect your confidentiality and only collect information that is relevant to the research study. Furthermore, if at any stage you feel that privacy is being violated the researcher will reorganize the study to ensure that you are in no way compromised. Thus, the interview that you are going to asking will be anonymous.

I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding, so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION!!!**

**PART I - Background information**

Name..... Age.....  
 Sex..... Place of birth/origin.....  
 Region/Zone..... Sub city/Wereda.....  
 Current address  
 Town..... Woreda.....  
 Educational level..... Occupational status.....  
 Sector/responsibility..... Date of interview.....  
 Tel.no.....

## **Appendix- 2**

### **In-depth interview to be asking children whose parents were divorced**

**Dear children** (children whose families were divorced)

1. What are you doing to overcome the challenges that you might face after your family divorce?
2. When did your parents get divorce?
3. What did your life look like before and after your parents' divorce?
4. What are your main activities after your parents' divorced both inside and outside the home?
5. Do you have excess money for your life after your parents' divorce?
6. Where did you get financial support (alimony)? If so, is it enough for your expenses?  
(Problems: education, health, clothing, food, and others)
7. A. How do you explain the effects of your parents' divorce on your economic status?  
B. How do you explain the effects of your parents' divorce on your psychology condition?  
C. How do you explain the effects of your parents' divorce on your social situation?
8. Are you satisfied with your current life at post-divorce?
9. Do you have any governmental and non-governmental treatment?
10. How you explain social treatment to overcome challenges you might face after your parents divorced?

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation and willingness in the name of Addis Ababa University College of development studies center of gender studies.

**THANK YOU!!**

### **Appendix- 3**

#### **Key informant interview (KII) to be asking custodial parents of children whose parents divorced in Gojo town,**

**Dear parents (custodies of parental divorced children).**

#### **PART II. Effects of divorce on children and how they overcome the challenges after divorce.**

1. Explain the Situations of your children whose parents divorced and yourself after divorce.
2. What do you think about the effects of divorce on your female children whose parents divorced?
3. What do you think about the effects of divorce on your male children whose parents divorced?
4. What you observe from the psychological effects of divorce on your children whose parents divorced?
5. What are the economic effects on your children after their parents divorced?
6. What are the social effects on your children life after their parents divorced?
7. What coping strategies that female children are using up after their family divorced?
8. What coping strategies that male children are using up after their family divorced?
9. What are the main sources of income for parental divorced children after their family divorce?
10. Did they get financial support (alimony) from their father/mother? If so, is it enough for those child expenses? (Education, health, clothing, food, and others)
11. Do the children properly attend school after their family divorce? If no, why not?
12. What is the academic performance of the children looks like after their family divorce?
13. Did you observe any behavioral change from your children after their family divorce? If yes, how?
14. Do you think your children are happy and satisfy with your support and care after their family divorce? If yes, how? If no, why not?
15. Have you ever observed any particular pressure on your children that are emotionally or psychologically difficult because of their family divorce? (Problems: easily upset, angry, feel sad, inferiority, stress, depression, loss of confidence, etc.).

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation and willingness in the name of Addis Ababa University College of development studies center of gender studies?

**THANK YOU!!**

## **Appendix- 4**

### **Interview for asking key informants of sectorial offices in Gojo town.**

**Dear key informants** (children& women affairs, social affairs and court offices of Gojo town).

1. What do you think about the effects of divorce on female children at post-divorce?
2. What do you think about the effects of divorce on male children after their parents divorced?
3. Is there any special treatment at woreda level for children whose family divorced which belongs to your sector?
4. What are the strategies to be structuring as a support of children whose parents divorced?
5. How many children whose parents divorced benefited with the supports of your sector?
6. Do you get any fund from governmental or non-governmental to promote the life of children whose parents divorced?

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation and willingness in the name of Addis Ababa University College of development studies center of gender studies.

**THANK YOU!!**

## Appendix- 5



Female child whose parents divorced & who worked at someone's house.  
Source: court office.