

Addis Ababa University
College of Social Sciences
Graduate Program of Social Work

The Lived Experiences of Adolescents of Divorced Parents in Addis Ababa

(Cases Presented in “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance Court)

By: Hawi Seid

A Thesis Submitted to

The School of Social Work

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Masters

of Social Work

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

September 2021

Addis Ababa University
College of Social Science
Graduate Program of Social Work

The Lived Experiences of Adolescents of Divorced Parents in Addis Ababa
(Cases Presented in “Lideta” Federal First Instance Court)

By: Hawi Seid

Advisor: Abebe Assefa (PhD)

A Thesis Submitted to

The School of Social Work

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Masters
of Social Work

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

September 2021

Addis Ababa University
School of Graduate studies

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Hawi Seid entitled: “The Lived Experiences of Adolescents of Divorced Parents in Addis Ababa from cases presented in “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance court” and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters in Social Work complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Signed by the Examining Committee:

Examiner _____	Signature _____	Date _____
Examiner _____	Signature _____	Date _____
Advisor _____	Signature _____	Date _____

Acknowledgment

Above all, I thank Almighty God for always being with me in all my endeavors and giving me endurance to complete my study. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude for my advisor Dr. Abebe Assefa for his invaluable comments and professional advice from the inception and completion of this study.

My deepest thanks goes to my mother Fatuma Kelifa and families Momina Shafi, Aida Seid, Sumeya Seid, Nebila Seid, Eden Tesfaye and, Robera Ibrahim who has been with me all these years helping and encouraging me to accomplish my study successfully. I am also grateful to the Social workers working in "Lideta" Federal First Instance court for their continuous support and provision of information for the study.

I am also indebted to my friend Maraki Getachew for being by my side and supporting me to complete the study. Finally, I would like to thank my fiancé Daniya Ali for his everlasting love and continuous encouragement to accomplish this study.

Table of contents

Contents

Acknowledgment	iv
Abstract	vii
1. CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of The Problem	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.3.1 General Objective of the Study.....	6
1.3.2 Specific Objectives	6
1.4 Research Questions.....	6
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	7
1.6 Limitation of the Study.....	7
1.7 Researcher Self Reflexivity	8
1.8 Conceptual Definition	9
2. CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Theoretical Explanation of Divorce	11
2.2 Empirical Studies of Divorce.....	14
2.2.1 Cause of Divorce	14
2.2.2 Effect of Divorce	18
2.2.3 Effect of Divorce on Adolescents	19
2.3 Summary of Reviewed Literature.....	22
3. CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS	24
3.1 World View of the Researcher	24
3.2 Research Design	25
3.3 Research Area	25
3.4 Sampling Technique	26
3.5 Sample Size	27
3.6 Method of Data Collection	28
3.7 Method of Data Analysis.....	30
3.8 Quality Assurance of the Study	32

3.9	Ethical Consideration	32
4.	CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS	34
4.1	Background Information of the Participants.....	35
4.2	Meaning of Divorce	35
4.3	Perception of Divorce before, during and after their Parents' Divorce	38
4.3.1	Experience of adolescents before the separation of their parents	38
4.3.2	Experience of adolescents during the process of their parents' divorce.....	40
4.3.3	Experience of adolescents after the separation of their parents	42
4.4	Impacts of Divorce on Adolescents well being.....	45
4.4.1	Emotional and Psychological impacts of Divorce	45
4.4.2	Social impacts of Divorce	48
4.4.3	Educational problems	53
4.4.4	Health problems	55
4.5	Adolescent Relationship with Non-Custodial Parents.....	56
5	CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION	62
5.1	Experience of Participants before Parental Divorce	63
5.2	Experience of Participants during Parental Divorce.....	66
5.3	Experience of Participants after Parental Divorce	67
6	CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION	71
6.1	Conclusions	71
6.2	Implications.....	73
6.2.1	Implication for policy	Error! Bookmark not defined.
6.2.2	Implication for education	74
6.2.3	Implication for practice.....	75
6.2.4	Implication of research	75
6.3	Recommendations	76
	References.....	77
	Appendices	77

Abstract

This study is about understanding the experience and challenges of adolescents' lives before, during, and after their parents' divorce. To this effect, the study used qualitative research design to understand the stories and meanings constructed from seven research participants coming from divorced parents. The sample size of the study was determined based on data saturation. In addition, the study used descriptive phenomenological research approach to understand the lived experience and subjective meaning of the experience of the participants. Data was collected through the use of in-depth interviews and observation. Purposive sampling was used in the study in which participants are deliberately been approached based on inclusion criteria. Additionally, Giorgi's method of data analysis was used to analyze the information gathered from the research participants. The findings of the study indicated that a group of adolescents had a disrupted life before the divorce of their parents leading to emotional, social and health problems. Hence, their parents' divorce gave them a sense of freedom, peace and closure in their lives. On the other hand, the remaining group of adolescents had a happy and peaceful experience while their parents were living together. Consequently, they had a painful experience when their parents got divorced and had a difficult time of getting a closure during and after their parents' divorce. During the process of parental divorce, all adolescents felt uncomfortable going to "Lideta" Federal First Instance court and talking about the issues of their parents with assigned Social workers at court. Moreover, there was no custody battle between the parents during the process of divorce in court. Hence, adolescents had no experience of choosing sides between their parents. Furthermore, a number of adolescents had endured negative emotions because of the remarriage of their parents. In addition, all adolescents had a deteriorated relationship with non-custodial parents/families which lead them to develop the feelings of low self-esteem and abandonment in their lives. Nevertheless, adolescents had established a close bond and attachment with custodial parents which has supported them to accord to the negative impact of parental divorce. This study has concluded that parental divorce has got a positive and negative impact on the lives of the adolescents. It also paves the way for further research investigation and development of policies concerning the impact of parental divorce on the lives of adolescents.

Key Words: Adolescents, Custodial parents, Divorced parents, Non-custodial parents

1. CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

According to the legal definition of divorce (2021), divorce is discontinuation of marriage undertaken by a legal action which obliges a request for commencement of divorce by one of the spouse in marriage. It can also be defined as a separation or departure of marriage (Olaniyi, 2015). Furthermore, according to the Ethiopian Family code, three forms of marriage are acceptable in the eyes of the law. These are civil, customary, and religious marriages. However, the outcome of ending the marriage in all three forms is identical. There are three reasons for ending a marriage in Ethiopia which are death or passing of one of the partners, violating crucial conditions of marriage, and divorce (Asfaw, 2011).

Amato & Cherlin (2010) indicated that divorce is increasing around the world and the United States has a great prevalence rate of divorce in the world. Additionally, 48% of matrimony concludes in dissolution of marriage. Likewise, divorce appears to have taken its own charm because it became very common in America and been acknowledged as a choice to be undertaken in order to solve marital complications (Cordero, 2008) Similarly, divorces in African countries are becoming a common trend among married couples. In 2007, African metropolitan cities had a divorce rate of 52% of single parents (Monama, 2011). In addition to the common cause of divorces such as religious differences, poverty, and unemployment, infertility is considered the main reason for divorce among people in African countries (Olaniyi, 2015)

According to Shibeshi (2015), Ethiopia has also undergone the issues of divorce and its related effects. For instance Tilson and Larson (2000) have indicated that within 30 years, 45% of married couples have ended their marriage. Moreover, two-third of women have initiated for divorce within the first five years of marriage.

In the academic literature, there are different elements indicated as causes of divorce. For instance for Walcotte & Hughe (1999), physical violence, alcoholism, drug use, and decreased tolerance of unsatisfying relationships are mentioned as the main reasons whereas, for Härkönen, (2013) financial problems, in-law interference, religious difference, communication, and sexual problems are factors that contribute to divorce. Hence, there is no single reason which can be applicable to all.

People in a family experience divorce in different ways (Kuczynski, & Mitchell, 2009). Most couples who are divorced feel stressed because of the adjustment to a new family situation. They also feel lonely and face financial as well as emotional difficulties after they get divorced (Amato, 2003). Just like adults are victims of the effects of divorce, children and adolescents also experience parental divorce and can give meaning to the process of their parents' divorce. They also have their own experience as a result of the new ways of their living arrangements (Kuczynski & Mitchell, 2009). Hence, this study seeks to understand the lived experience of adolescents of divorced parents in Addis Ababa from cases presented in "*Lideta*" Federal First Instance Court.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The issues of divorce have been studied and elucidated by several researchers. For instance Vasudevan, Devi, Bhaskar, Areekal, Chintha and Lucas (2015) conducted a study on the causes of divorces among couples in Kerala, India. The study pointed out the inability of divorcees to be sexually compatible followed by emotional incompatibility and adjustment problems as the causes of divorce. In addition, alcohol abuse which leads to one partner physically abusing the other and better knowledge or educational level among the female than male divorcees were also visible causes of divorce among couples in Kerala, India.

Amato and Previti (2003) studied people's reasons for divorce in USA and listed out some basic causes of divorce such as drug use, financial problems, physical abuse, and sexual incompatibility. Moreover, infidelity was also seen to be a prominent factor for the cause of divorce and occurs when one partner cheats with another person on his or her spouse. Furthermore, the study added that the causes of divorce and decisions for initiating divorce made by divorcees differ with social class, gender, and life course variables. The central theme of the findings is that divorcees never made themselves accountable for the dissolution of their marriage but rather blamed their ex-spouses or partner for the divorce.

Osafo, Oppong, Asante, Ampomah and Osei-Tutu (2021) conducted a study on factors contributing to divorce in Ghana. The study focused on identifying the reasons for court suits in Accra region of Ghana and found out that there are six major reasons leading couples for initiation of divorce. Abuse, infidelity, gender role ideology, financial support followed by third person interference and financial problems are listed to be the causes of divorce. Moreover, the study indicated that women were disrespected by their husbands which eventually led to the ending of their marriage.

Bekele (2006) studied the cause and impact of divorce on divorced women and their children in Addis Ababa. The study investigated the causes and the economic impact of divorce on divorced women and children. The results of the study showed that the problem of divorce is associated with several different factors such as economic hardship, fertility problems, ethnic differences, and religious differences. In addition, the study indicated that in-law and friends interference in marriage are seen to be the major causes of divorce and as result of divorce, women and children are stressed. Women are forced to have economic burden to support their children.

Benedicta, Irwan, Hidayana, Ruwaida, Kartikawti and Krim, (2017) studied the causes and consequences of divorce after child marriage in Sukabumi, Rembang and West Lombok Regencies, Indonesia. The study indicated that age is correlated with divorce in a sense that early young age groups have more possibility to get divorced than those age groups who are in the early adulthood because of emotional immaturity. The study pointed out that financial problems was also a cause of divorce and young couples were economically dependent on their parents to sustain their living conditions and as a result of divorce, families of the divorced women were forced to take care and raise their grandchildren.

Anderson (2014) conducted a study on the impact of family structure on the health of children in California. The study focused on assessing the effect of family structure on the wellbeing of children and pointed out that divorce has a substantial effect and life changing impact on the wellbeing, emotions, health, and development of children. Besides, children endure a low psychological development and poor academic performance as a result of the separation of their parents. Divorce affects children's social competencies, behavior and social relationships in the future.

Bilge and Kaufman (1983) studied the effect of divorce on families in a cross cultural data and investigated the lives of children and one parent families. The findings of the study revealed that single female households are becoming a common trend in most of the societies. In addition, the study indicated the presence of adequate significant assets and social support plays a great role in alleviating economic problems and emotional exhaustion for parents as well as children.

Bethelehem (2016) conducted a study on the economic and psychological impacts of divorce on the academic achievement of students in Mekanisa Elementary School in Addis Ababa. The study investigated whether divorce affects students' psychosocial interaction in and around school as well as at home. Consequently, the study revealed that children from divorced families have behavioral, social, and academic problems. Moreover, children had a deprived social interaction with peers in school and families at home as a result of divorce. Divorce has psychological impact on children such as depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

The studies of Vasudevan et.al (2015), Amato (2003), Benedicta, et.al (2017) Bilge & Kaufman (1983), Osafo et.al (2021) and Anderson (2014) are not consistent with the socio-cultural context and existing policy framework of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia because in other countries, marriage maybe viewed as a contract between two couples but in Ethiopia, it is regarded as a lifelong commitment. Additionally, marriage is not just a union of two couples but rather a union of two different families coming together. Hence, when divorce is initiated it disrupts not just the married couple but separates and interrupts different families as a whole.

The aforesaid studies conducted in Addis Ababa did not take in to account children and adolescents experience to divorce of their parents and coping strategies of divorce by taking in to account different age groups of children in explaining the effect of divorce. Furthermore, In the

Ethiopian context, there is insufficient understanding of adolescents' perspectives and experiences before, during, and after their parents' divorce. Therefore, this study looks at the adolescents view and meaning construction to feel the knowledge gap by studying the lived experience of adolescents to divorce of their parents. Moreover, this study fills the gap by taking in to account the social cultural context of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General objective of the study

The general objective of the study is to understand the lived experiences of adolescents of divorced parents in Addis Ababa from the cases presented in “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance court)

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- To understand the meaning and experience of adolescents to divorce of their parents.
- To identify the challenges faced by adolescents after the divorce of their parents.

1.4 Research Questions

The major research question was “How do adolescents explain their lived experiences after the divorce of their parents”?

1. How do adolescents explain and give meaning to their experiences before, during and after their parents' divorce?
2. What are the challenges that adolescents face after the divorce of their parents?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This particular study provides valuable information about adolescents meaning construction to their parents' divorce. In addition, it gives in sight and detailed understanding about the experience and lives of adolescents before, during and after their parents' divorce. The study can also help professionals such as social workers in court and divorce mediators to guide and teach divorced parents as well as couples who are undergoing a divorce about co-parenting, parenting skills and help them come to a common understanding for the sake of greater good of their children.

This study familiarizes different professionals and individuals working with adolescents about the physical, social, and emotional response of adolescents to their parents' divorce. Consequently, this study helps parents and adolescents to develop coping mechanism of the negative impact of parental divorce. This study also paves the way for further research investigation and development of policies in relation to the impact of parental divorce on the lives of adolescents.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

This study was limited to the lived experience of adolescent children. Hence, the study did not incorporate the meaning of divorce and experience of children who are less than 10 years old with divorced parents. Additionally, the study did not include the experience and view of divorce of divorced parents. This particular study has not incorporated adolescents whose parents were

divorced for more than a time of one year. It will only be limited on the meaning and experience of becoming children from immediate divorced parents.

This study is methodologically limited in a sense that, it will only use qualitative research method. Qualitative research cannot be statistically represented. In addition, the researcher has used a phenomenological research design in which the researcher had a prolonged time of interactive interview with the participants. Furthermore, the findings of the study were only limited from the cases presented in “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance court.

1.7 Researcher Self Reflexivity

Reflexivity is a way of amending prior perception of an incident in order to avoid the influence of past understanding of an event (Haynes, 2012). Therefore, the researcher was guided by Husserl’s notion of Epoche/bracketing in which the researcher puts away implicit presumption of an event and have the ability to proceed with a phenomena free of judgmental thinking and behavior (Gareth, Jacquelyn and Adams, 2019). Here after, I have set aside my preconceptions and childhood experience to conduct the study. In addition, I have avoided siding with any of possibilities and have provided a brief background of myself that could have influenced this particular study.

I grew up in a divorced and disrupted family. My parents got divorced when I was 12 years old and had custody battle over me and my siblings during the process of their divorce. Moreover, as a child, I have visited “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance Court to discuss about my wellbeing and parental issues with the assigned Social Workers at court. As a child, I was emotionally abused because of the frequent conflicts between my parents before, during, and after their divorce. I was

the eldest child for my parents so I had to share all the emotional exhaustion and disagreements between my parents. In addition, I was caught in the middle and had a difficult time choosing sides between my parents. I never had a good childhood experience because I felt lonely and neglected as a result of the continuous hatred and disagreements between each other.

I used to get very jealous of other families who had loving parents. I had also experienced living with two step moms and a step dad in three different households. The remarriage of my parents had disrupted my life in the long run. Furthermore, my childhood experience and unhealthy relationships with my parents had affected my current marital status and relationship with my partner. Consequently, I became a single divorced mother who's making an effort not to repeat the same mistake of my parents and trying to reduce the negative impact of parental divorce on my four years old son. Regardless of my perception on the impacts of parental divorce on adolescents and past childhood experience, I have approached the participants of the study with a clear and neutral mind to understand their own meaning construction and experience of their parents' divorce.

1.8 Conceptual Definition

Adolescents are group of individuals who are in the age category between 10-19 years old and are characterized by cognitive, social, and physical changes of the body (Csiszentmihalyi, 2021).

Custodial parent is a parent that has sole legal and primary physical custody over a child who is granted the right to make major decisions concerning the child's upbringing (Afesha 2017).

Non-custodial parent is a parent that doesn't have legal custody but is granted visitation rights and parenting time (Afesha 2017).

2. CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, literature with regard to divorce and experience of adolescents to divorce of their parents is reviewed. To this effect, different theoretical explanations as well as empirical researches in relation to divorce are discussed.

2.1 Theoretical Explanation of Divorce

There are different theoretical explanations given to divorce and experience of children to parental divorce. This review includes the conflict, exchange, institutional, micro economics specialization, attachment, triangulation, and family system theory.

The conflict theory argues that class oppression in the capitalist system plays a prominent role in causing divorce. Couples living together may have in balance of power among each other where one spouse or partner has greater power over the other. In addition, one side of the spouse may have greater responsibilities, roles and burdens which lead to ending or dissolution of marriage. Moreover this theory interprets the issues surrounding divorce as affected and influenced by social and economic traditions rather than problems of the couple's relationships (Geoffrey, 2001).

In converse to the conflict theory, the exchange theory contemplates that marriage or relationship is based on giving something and in return gaining something from it. Couples who gain a reward and cost from each other are likely to be happy and have a very slight chance of getting divorced and in quite the reverse way, couples who are not involved in a give and take process of exchange; the possibility of ending their marriage will be much advanced. In addition,

this theory argues that if couples expectation of quality of relationship falls below their expectation, they will be dissatisfied in their marriage and end the marriage (Donovan and Jackson, 1990).

Rendering on the study of Becker (2009), the microeconomic theory suits exchange theory in many aspects. Microeconomic theory assumes people to organize their household in such a way that the utility of commodities is maximized and if the collective utility of marriage is less than the expected utility of the alternatives, the marriage will be ended.

The specialization theory argues that men and women specialize in different roles where women do the household chores and nurtures children while men works outside the house or in the market to be the breadwinner of the household. Similarly, the institutional theory views marriage as an institution and emphasizes on the norms and roles the society has imposed on both the husband and wives (Becker 2009). However, regardless of the similar arguments stated by these two theories, the mechanisms of theorization differ in a sense that the specialization theory gave a slight emphasis on material incentive to keep the marriage going on without the productivity gains from specialization whereas the institutional theory viewed marriage as depraving if husband and wives violate gender norms of what husbands and wives roles should be and look like (Sayer, Liana & Suzanne 2005).

The attachment theory conveys that marriage is a bond between two couples and when it is broken, it has a severe effect and consequence on both the divorcees. This theory argues that that the availability of an attachment figure in relationships is important to the strength of the bond and when this availability is broken, the security of one spouse or the other is threatened. In addition, divorced couples endure loneliness and miss the ex- partner. As a result, divorcees feel a

sense of grief because of the divorce (Bowlby, 1969). However, although the distress caused by divorce is great for both partners, this theory does not indicate how divorced couples cope up with the effect of divorce on their lives (Eagen, 2004).

In relation to children, the attachment theory states that after parental divorce, children/adolescents tend to be separated from their parents. Children bond from their parents will be diminished as a result of divorce. Parents will not be physically available and have reduced parenting style because of the new adjustments and transition of life. Hence, children/adolescents feel stressed and lonely. They tend to develop feeling of anger, loss of emotional support and insecurity (Bowlby 1969). Consistent with this information, Hines (2007), asserted that adolescent feel identity and role confusion as a result of their parents' divorce.

According to Bowlby (1973), children who have strong relationship with their parents in their early childhood especially with their mothers tend to develop a good functioning relationship with their partners in the future. Moreover, they develop a positive attitude towards marriage and family. In quite the reverse way, Carranza, Kilmann and Vendemia (2009), argued that children with divorced parents who had a weak relationship with their parents in their early childhood face difficulty constructing a meaning and healthy relationships with others in the future.

Family system theory explains the effect of divorce on children and families as a whole. People living together and who are interrelated is considered to be a family. Children tend to delineate from the standard rules and roles in the family as a result of showing reaction to the effect of divorce. Hence, this theory argues that if a child or any member in the family is at fault, the person should not be blamed alone for his or her actions but rather the whole family must be seen at fault (Goldberg & Goldberg, 2008).

According to Buchanan, Maccoby, and Dornbusch, (1991), the theory of triangulation can be understood in relation to the family system theory. Moreover, this theory states that after divorce, divorced parents may come into conflict to have custody of children. During this conflict period, adolescents may feel stressed and confused.

Children/adolescents' face difficulties in choosing sides and may feel like they are caught in the middle of the parental conflict. After the divorce of their parents, children tend to have a deteriorated relationship with their parents. Parents become busy adjusting to the new transition of their life and give less time to their children. Consequently, they feel unworthy and considered not to be taken seriously by their parents (Dunlop & Birmingham 2001).

2.2 Empirical Studies of Divorce

2.2.1 Cause of divorce

According to Seblewongel (2009), socio-cultural, economic and individual factors are common causes of divorce. In addition, Walcott & Hughe (1999) have stated that demographic factors such as age, religion, income, and education play a prominent role in causing divorce. For instance, couples who marry at a young age are less prepared and committed for a married life. Moreover, the study reported that the older the couples are, the longer they will be able to sustain their married life and couples who marry at a later age are more realistic of the marriage and are able to understand what marriage in general can provide for them.

Castro-Martin and Bumpass (1989) have found similar results. The study pointed out that couples who marry at a young age have a greater probability to get divorced than those couples who get married at an older age. Consistent with this information, Tilson and Larson (2000) conveyed that

age differences followed by cultural and religious difference are the factors that contribute to divorce. Similarly, Rahel (1992) mentioned that religion is one of the main causes of divorce. Having different religion in marriage creates marital instability and leads to the dissolution of marriage.

Rahel (1992) added that every society from which the spouse comes forbids marriage of different religion followers and intervenes in the marital process which eventually leads to the dissolution of the marriage. In addition of the religious difference, the study revealed that having different ethnicity and cultural background is also cause of divorce.

In addition to Rahel (1992) findings, Adegoke (2010) asserted that education is an important factor in causing divorce. The study revealed that when women are educated, there is a greater chance of the possibility for divorce. This is because educated women are keen to learn new ideas about marriage which might be unwanted or disliked by the other partner which eventually leads to the instability of the marriage.

In relation to social cause of divorce, Clayton, Nagurney and Smith (2013) have discussed about the use of Facebook and asserted that the use of Facebook is highly interrelated with divorce. The study revealed that the use of Facebook among couples creates disagreements and decreases communication among each other and when one of the spouses continuously chats with another women or ex- girlfriend, they may find themselves cheating on their partner. In addition, attention and love sought to be given to the current partner will be reduced and consequently conflict and quarrel will arise and divorce will be initiated.

Consistent with the above information, Benedicta, Irwan, Hidayana, Ruwaida, Kartikawti and Krim, (2017) argued that relationships or marriage among early young age groups that started

through Facebook results in divorce because of little knowledge about the behavior and attitude of the partner and awareness of the family background.

Regarding the economic causes of divorce, Adams (1986) stated that there are direct and indirect causes of divorce. Low financial arrangement and unemployment leading to the dissolution of marriage are listed to be the indirect cause of divorce where as poor interaction and difference in ideas among couples about consumption pattern in the house are listed to be the direct causes of divorce.

According to Oppenheimer (1997), women employment strengthens the economy of the household which in turn can solve problems of financial difficulties as well as arguments in relation to issues of finance. It will also create division of roles in the household. Hence, this creates stability of marriage and coherence between the couples. Similarly, Amato (2000) asserted that women with a stable income and employment have less conflict with their partners because of stable financial arrangements. This increases positive interaction and agreement among couples which minimizes the dissolution of marriage

Rogers and DeBoer, (2001) have found different results in relation to employment. A woman being employed creates instability of marriage. This is because women employment brings change of status and roles in the household. This dramatic change may create disagreements between the partners which lead to the initiation of divorce.

Seblewongel (2009) conveyed that having too many children is a cause of divorce. Couples with low economic status fail to support their children because of low income. Hence, this creates conflict between the couples which leads to the ending of their marriage. Similarly, Liene and Jody

(1999) argued that getting pregnant and having children before marriage makes couple not to consider their marriage more seriously and become less committed to their marriage.

Tilson and Larson (2000) have found different results in relation to children. The study indicated that having children increases the connection of couples. Due to bearing children, couples will have common grounds between each other. Consequently, this creates stability of marriage. Consistent with this information, Lynstad and Jalovaara (2010) argued that having children creates trust and connection between couples which in turn minimizes the probability of getting divorced.

Concerning the individual causes of divorce, Lowenstein (2005), stated that sexual and emotional incompatibility plays a vital role in causing divorce. Couples may be displeased in their sexual activity and may also face difficulties finding common grounds between each other. Moreover, differences among themselves may be visible in their marriage which in turn leads to divorce.

Aissetu (2006) have argued that lack of communication is a cause of divorce. The study indicated that couples fail to discuss their problems and bring possible solution to their issues in their marriage. Hence, failing to have a good communication in marriage increases the probability of divorce

Amato and Previti (2003) added that jealousy followed by extra marital affairs and mistrust among couples is a common cause of divorce. Furthermore, the study argued that couples having problems of trusting one another have greater possibility of getting divorced. This is because loosing trust among couples creates frequent disagreements which lead to the ending of their marriage.

Ego is the other important factor in causing divorce. When couples behavior is regulated by the ego of oneself, marital problems may arise because of the reason that one of the spouse or partner is fulfilling his or her personal interest over the family interest and need (Kitson, Babri, & Roach 1985).

2.2.2 Effect of divorce

Divorce has an effect on the psychological and wellbeing of individuals. Couples face difficulty to adjustment of new life transition. Moreover, they feel lonely and depressed as a result of the divorce. In addition, couples tend to have more economic burden and responsibilities to raise children as a single parent than they were together (Harkonen, 2013).

According to Tilson and Larson (2000), as a result of divorce, divorced women in the rural part of Ethiopia face difficulties of being independent and support themselves and their children. This is because women tend to have long term economic dependency on their husbands. They also face problems of owning equal share of assets and resources with their partners after the divorce. Hence, they tend to have low income and low socio-economic status as a result of the divorce.

According to Bekele (2006), divorce couples have a diminished interaction with each other. As a result, they feel lonely and depressed. Likewise, Bane (1997) argued that divorce does not only affect couples, but it disrupts society as a whole. Household managed by single mothers is becoming a common trend in a society. They usually have financial problems and face difficulties managing finance which is an indication of financial instability. Single mothers without any job increases the likelihood of generating low income families in a society. Similarly, Adegoke (2010) asserted that just like marriage unites two different families of the married couple, divorce separates and breaks down in laws and extended families which can continue for generations.

2.2.3 Effect of divorce on adolescents

According to Secombe and Warner (2003), children feel abandoned and sad as a result of their parent's divorce. They also encounter the difficulty of getting used to the immediate effect of divorce. Similarly, Czapiewski (2014) stated that conflict and disputes between divorced couples affects the developmental growth of children and weakens the attachment between parents and children.

Consistent with the above information Adofo and Etsey (2016) argued that after parental divorce, adolescents exhibit the feeling of depression followed by loneliness and anger in their lives. Adolescents also exhibit aggressiveness such as anger, disappointment and start to take matters in their own hands as a result of divorce of their parents (Carl, 2011). Similarly, Moon (2011) added that parental divorce creates emotional problems such as depression, loneliness, frustration followed by low self-esteem and poor performance at school.

According to Wallerstein and Blakeslee (1989) adolescents coming from divorced parents have low academic achievements and tend to lose focus in their classroom. In addition, they develop behavioral problems and become aggressive in school as result of their parents' divorce. Furthermore, Carl (2011) conveyed that divorce is a unique event marking important changes in the lives of children. The loss of one parent in the household brings about a painful experience to children.

Regarding the social effect of divorce, substance abuse, low self-esteem, unsatisfactory educational attainment, and pessimistic view of marriage in the future are mentioned as the negative impact of parental divorce (Ncube, Mulaudzi, and Mudau, 2018). Similarly, Newman and

Newman (1975) argued that parental divorce affects the happiness and healthy social relationships of adolescents with others. Moreover, they develop the tendency of separating themselves from peers, members in a family, and society as a whole.

According to Amato and Booth (1991), a deteriorated relationship between a parent and a child leads to emotional problems such as depression and anxiety. Similarly, Czapiewski (2014) added that children who have a weak relationship with parents will develop a low self-esteem and lose the bond towards their parents.

According to Esmaeli and Yacoob (2011), an ongoing dispute between couples before and after the divorce leads to obliviousness to the needs and feelings of adolescents. Besides, the neglectful action of parents to give attention to their children negatively affects the social and emotional development of a child. Additionally, poor communication and continuous parental conflict disrupts the lives of adolescents resulting in emotional and health-related disease.

In addition to Esmaeli and Yacoob (2011) findings, Amato (2000) has reported adolescents who are caught in the middle of parental conflict and issues such as visitation schedules, living arrangement, and child support cannot better adjust to the new family transition in their life. However, good communication between divorced couples helps adolescents to develop coping mechanisms to the unpleasant effects of divorce.

Wolf (2016) has also reported that negative comments, criticism and battles between parents create a stressful environment for a child. Likewise, parental divorce leads to the feeling of triangulation in which a child feels of being caught in the middle of disputes between divorced couples.

Concerning the remarriage of another spouse, instant remarriage of new partners can affect children negatively. In addition, children who are not given adequate time to get close with step-parents may have a difficult time accepting the remarriage of their parents (Amato 2000). Similarly, Czapiewski (2014) asserted that the absence of a parent further escalates when divorced couples engage in to a relationship with new partners.

Regarding the positive effects of divorce, Mcloughlin and Whitfield (1984) stated that adolescents get disturbed as a result of living in a household of dissension and differences between married couples. Moreover, they are prone to increased risk of tension and emotional stress when living in a conflicted household. The study further argues that adolescents choose living in one parent home where there is peace and low conflict in the family.

In addition to Mcloughlin and Whitfield (1984) findings Boyd (2015) conveyed that children feel free and happy if they are no longer struggling with the bitterness of continuous arguments in the family. Moreover, children will have a diminished wellbeing when they are not able to protect themselves from a hostile and conflicted household.

Concerning the coping mechanism of adolescents to the negative impact of divorce, Esmaeli and Yacoob (2011) argued that the presence of peers, relatives and, close relationship with parents help adolescents to better cope up with the negative impact of parental divorce. Furthermore, Wolf (2016) conveyed that good communication and relationship between children and parents is useful and effective to alleviate the negative effect of divorce.

2.3 Summary of Reviewed Literature

The theories mentioned in the above section of divorce explain the factors and effects of divorce on divorced couples and children. The research questions of the particular study seek to answer the experience and challenges of adolescents to their parents' divorce. To this effect, the attachment theory indicates a diminished relationship of children to their parents as a result of divorce. In addition, it explains the character of children such as loneliness, insecurity and anger after the separation of their parents. Similarly, the theory of triangulation explains the stressful involvement of children between the conflicting ideas of their parent as a result of divorce. Hence, the researcher was guided by the combination of the two theories to conduct the study.

The above reviewed researches have explained about the different causes and effects of divorce on married couples. Religion, education, age, and income difference are reported to be the major demographic factors whereas unemployment, low income, and family size are conveyed to be the economic cause of divorce. Additionally, the use of Face book was informed to be the cause of divorce. Loneliness, depression, economic problems and family breakdown are stated to be the major effects of divorce.

Just like divorced couples face hardships and stress as a result of divorce, adolescents are also prone to various kinds of experience because of their parental divorce. Most of the studies have reported that parental divorce has got negative effects such as loneliness, depression, low self-esteem, poor academic performance, and other related problems in their lives whereas few studies have reported that parental divorce have brought a positive outcome such as sense of relief and freedom to their lives. Nevertheless, almost all the studies mentioned in the literatures in

relation to children and adolescents have focused on the effect of divorce after their parents' divorce.

The literature studies have failed to describe the whole experience of adolescents by comparing and contrasting their lives prior, during and after the event of their parents' divorce. In addition, most of the studies have used quantitative method to explain the effect of parental divorce on adolescents. Furthermore, the lived experience and adolescents meaning construction to their parents' divorce was over looked by the previous studies. Hence, there is a need to look for qualitative research design and phenomenological research approach that should be linked in explaining the experience of adolescents in relation to the three phases (before, during, and after) of their lives

Accordingly, this particular study has used qualitative study and phenomenological research approach to describe the true experience and stories of the study participants to compare, contrast and understand their experiences in relation to the three phases of their lives. I myself have conducted a study on the effect of divorce on men in Addis Ababa (Bole sub city). As far as my knowledge is concerned, the availability of published materials on the lived experiences of adolescents of divorced parents in Addis Ababa is limited. Therefore, this particular study seeks to study the lived experience of adolescents to their parents' divorce from cases presented in "*Lideta*" Federal First Instance court.

3. CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS

This part of the paper presents the world view of the researcher, design, research area, technique, sampling, and sample size, method of data collection, quality assurance and ethical consideration to be employed to address the objective of understanding the lived experience of adolescents to divorce of their parents and respond to the research questions in conducting the study.

2.1 World view of the researcher

The researcher has a constructionist view of the world rather than positivist, transformative or pragmatic world view because of the belief that people have got their own different meaning and create their own world through interaction and mutual agreement. Moreover, reality is socially constructed which is based on subjective understanding and meaning (Cresweel, 2014).

The constructivism or social constructivism world view argues that people through interaction develop subjective meaning of the world in which it's dynamic and adjusted through time. In addition, people subjective experience is different from one another which enable the researcher to understand the multiple views and experience held by different participants (Cresweel, 2014).

The researcher aimed to conduct the study with constructionist view of the world which in turn affects the data collection method. Open –ended questions was employed and depending on the responses given by the participants, the researcher has coined more probing questions in order to have more detailed subjective meaning of the participant's experience. In addition, the researcher analyzed the information gathered from the participants based on their subjective interpretation.

Furthermore, since the researcher have a constructionist view of the world, this particular study has employed qualitative approach because its focuses on storytelling and meaning construction of participants.

2.2 Research Design

This study was a qualitative cross- sectional study. Qualitative research technique was employed in this study to understand and analyze the different experience and stories of the participants in the study. Qualitative data is usually seen as richer, more vital as having greater depth and more likely to present a true picture of a way of life or people's experience, attitude, and beliefs (Holborn, Langley, & Haralambos, 2004).

This particular study used a phenomenological research design to comprehend the nature of a particular phenomenon. According to Cresweel (2014), a phenomenological research is an approach to qualitative research that emphasizes on the lived experience of participants about a certain phenomenon. In addition, this particular research approach has helped the researcher to accord a detailed description of a phenomenon as experienced by the research participants Furthermore, using this design helped the researcher to explore the different experience and meanings constructed by the participants about their parents' divorce. Hence, the researcher has selected a phenomenological research approach to document the lived experience of adolescents to their parents' divorce.

2.3 Research Area

This study was conducted in “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance court. This particular court is commonly referred as the 7th criminal bench where especially known as children friendly court It is located around “*Lideta*” church close to Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and city Development. The court mainly has child friendly room and entertains cases from the seven sub cities of Addis Ababa (FDRE, 2004).

The reason behind why I chose this particular setting is because I had exposure to “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance Court, Addis Ababa for Field practice ii as part of my practicum. Hence, I developed the personal interest to continue my stay in the court and chose to learn the lived experience of adolescents to their parents’ divorce. Hence, the research questions emanated from the stay I had in the court.

2.4 Sampling technique

The participants of the study were adolescents who have divorced parents. The reason behind for choosing adolescents as research participants is because adolescents are prone to various risk factors such as peer pressure, family problems, violence, hyper activities and schooling problems. In addition, adolescents are aggressive and start viewing the world differently as they experience change in their body (Levitt, Selman & Richmond, 1991). Furthermore, change in family structure influences the physical, emotional, and over all being of development of adolescents (Langton & Berger (2011)

Non-probability sampling technique was utilized in the study. Likewise, this study used purposive sampling in order to collect the required information for the study. Purposive sampling is a type of sampling technique in which people, events and settings are intentionally chosen for

the purpose of collecting relevant information (Babbie, 2007). Consequently, this sampling was used based on the criteria of the participants having their cases handled in “*Lideta*” First Instance Court, have similar background (divorced parents), endured the immediate effect of parental divorce (less than one year) and the availability of their files in the court.

Purposive sampling has helped the researcher to deliberately approach participants who have homogenous meaning of experience of incidents in their life (Denzin, 2008). Hence, rendering on the information obtained from “*Lideta*” First Instance Court, the researcher had purposefully approach divorced parents or families with adolescents so as to gather the required information of the study.

Adolescents are those individuals who are in the age groups between ten to nineteen years old (Csiszentmihalyi, 2021). Accordingly, adolescents who have divorced parents were approached on the basis of fulfilling the criteria of emanating from immediate separated families because the researcher intended to document the fresh experience of participants to their parents’ divorce. Moreover, this particular study has incorporated participants whose parents were divorced from the time of three months till one year of time. Additionally, the inclusion criteria of this study were adolescents living with female (male) single parents, step mother or step dads and those living with the grandparents of the divorcees.

2.5 Sample size

The sample size of this particular study was seven (three males and four females) and the size was determined based on data saturation. According to Glaser and Strauss (1967), data saturation refers to the point where there is no need of new information because of redundant and similar

responses from participants. Therefore, the researcher has determined the sample size based on the redundancy of response from participants while inquiring the open ended questions to respondents in the study.

2.6 Method of data collection

The study has used both secondary and primary source of information to gather the desirable information intended for the study. Secondary information was gathered from various books and journal articles related to the study. The study has employed an in-depth interview to adolescents by following covid-19 protocols such as self-distancing and the use of personal protective equipment's (masks and hand sanitizers) to minimize the spread of Corona virus. Nevertheless, the researcher was challenged to get the permission of the parents to allow their children to be approached.

Except of few parents who understood the purpose of the research, many parents had refused to give consent for the interview with the adolescents. Those participants who were given the consent by their parents for the interview had an in depth-interview in a way that they felt safe and had a sense of freedom during the interview process. In addition, the researcher has taken a great deal of time and effort to understand and apply child friendly data collection.

According to Freeman and Mathison (2009), children have the ability to share their experience and tell their feelings using their own words and voices with proper and suitable level of approach. The application of Art based techniques was found to be effective while conducting the study with children. Therefore, the researcher has made some of the participants to take time and put their feelings, thinking, and understanding into drawings. Furthermore, the research participants have

clearly explained their drawings in an interactive manner. Additionally, the researcher had a face-to-face interview for a minimum session of 45 minutes with each participant in their homes.

The researcher had a face-to-face in-depth interview with two key informants (Social workers) working in the courts for a minimum of 30 minutes in their working place to share their knowledge about the activities of Social workers, encounters they had with adolescents coming from divorced parents and how different cases are handled in “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance court.

The researcher had also searched for points of storytelling. Hence to this end, participants were given the chance to openly discuss about their stories and experience about themselves with the researcher. Likewise, an interview guide was prepared and employed by the researcher to guide and follow up the in-depth-interview. The researcher has conducted the inquiries with research participants in their homes and has recorded the interview sessions using tape recording.

Observation was also used as a tool by the researcher to gather information from the participants. According to Ciesielska and Jemielniak (2018), a systematic observation in a study helps a researcher to understand and be acquainted with the physical setting, actors, emotional expressions and interactions with other individuals. To this effect, the researcher did not only record and document the verbal communications but also observed the gestures, facial expression, silent emotions, laughter, personal hygiene, home setting, and relationship of the participants with custodial parents/siblings to make the study more accurate and truthful.

Regarding the entry into the setting, I had exposure to “*Lideta*” Federal First Instance Court, Addis Ababa during the month of February as part of my practicum before beginning the data collection process. Therefore, I was an insider to the setting and had already established contact with the Social workers working in the court. During my stay in the court, I had the chance to come across with different adolescents coming from divorced parents. Hence, I was curious to

learn and understand the lived experience of adolescents of divorced parents. Consequently, the researcher took the next step of presenting a written formal letter from Addis Ababa University to “*Lideta*” First Instance Court to grant me their permission to gather relevant information for the study.

2.7 Method of data analysis

This particular study used qualitative approach to gather the desirable information required for the study. To this effect, the information was gathered from the research participant’s tape recorded, transcribed in to a verbal text and translated into the English language. Moreover, the use of audio tapes allows the researcher to guide and control the steps of interview questions with the participants (Cresweel, 2014).

The researcher has collected the necessary information from participants and prepared different lines of stories from them. Then the researcher has categorized the related stories in to one theme. Finally, the researcher described the meanings emanated from the stories of the participants and provided supporting evidence for the meanings. Furthermore, the researcher analyzed and interpreted the findings of the study by comparing or contrasting to the reviews literatures of the study.

The researcher has followed Giorgi’s methods of analysis to conduct the data analysis section of the study. According to De Castro (2003), there are five steps in Giorgi’s method of analysis. The first step is known as Familiarization in which the researcher aims to have complete idea and clear meaning of the experience of the participants involved in the study. Moreover, the researcher avoids making interpretation on the experience of the participants of the study.

The next step involves diverging the report and description given from the participants in to meaning units. Hence, the researcher divides important phrase, sentence or paragraph that describes the perceptions and experience of the participants. Furthermore, the researcher refrains from providing an elucidation on the divided meaning units.

The third step involves a complete change of the meaning units in to a simple language. Consequently, the researcher first changes the words used by the participants to his/her own words without overlooking the circumstance and experience of the participants. Then, the researcher makes a connection between the meaning units and the research question of the study. The meaning units will be revised and written in to a meaningful and simple terminology.

The fourth stage has two procedures and involves combination of information about the change of the meaning of units of each description of the experience of the study participants. The first procedure involves synthesizing the individual descriptions and construct's a detailed statement of distinct features of each participant whereas the second procedure involves making a generic description about their experience. In this phase, the researcher selects the most generic and crucial account of the participant and constructs a comprehensive summary of the experience of the participants under study.

Finally, the researcher merges the changed meaning units from all the responses given by the study participants and provides an overall analysis to report the shared experience of the participants of the study. Then the researcher emphasizes on significant stories and experience of the participants to provide a generalized findings of the study.

2.8 Quality Assurance of the Study

Since the participants of the study were adolescents, the researcher was careful and attempted to openly have good mutual interaction with the participants. Consequently, the participants had openly discussed their stories and experience freely and got used to the researcher's presence. Besides, the researcher had discussion with peers to receive assistance on the interpretation of the gathered information which in turn increases the quality assurance of the study.

This study has methodologically triangulated the gathered information from the study participants. Accordingly, the researcher has made similarities between the response provided by the participants and the non-verbal communications such as facial gestures, emotions and tones of voices with the aim of crosschecking the collected data's so as to advance the truthfulness of the study. The researcher was also transparent, reflexive, comprehensive and systematic in gathering information from research participants.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

Ethics in research requires researchers to recognize and acknowledge participants voluntarily participation, confidentiality and never to harm research participants (Neuman 2007). To this effect the researcher has taken in to account all the ethical consideration in conducting the study. The participants of the study were adolescents. Since adolescents can't make decisions for themselves, the researcher had the permission of parents or legal guardians to allow their children

to participate in the study. Likewise, adolescents have signed the assent form and had a one-time interview with them in their homes.

The researcher had managed risk of further harm to the child, interacted and inquired question in a way that the child felt safe and had a sense of autonomy. According to Moustakas (1994), phenomenological research begins with easy going communication between the researcher and participants in order to make them feel at ease and comfortable. Hence, the researcher had approached the adolescents with easy and friendly conversation.

Regarding the potential covid-19 risk factors, the researcher has assumed the study participants to have unknown other health related issues so they may be more at risk of contracting the virus. Since the participants of the study were adolescents, the researcher assumed that they may not comply in using the personal protective equipment against the virus properly. Therefore, the researchers used COVID-19 protocols such as self-distancing and carefully approached the adolescents to make sure that they wore their masks properly to reduce the chance of contracting the virus.

4 CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS

This particular chapter deals with the findings of the study. Moreover, the finding of the study was bracketed and the translated meaning units were coded following the research questions of the study. Additionally, the coded meaning units were categorized and labeled accordingly. Furthermore, the researcher has not made any interpretation on the experience of the research participants but has indicated a connection between the labeled meaning units of the study. The findings of the study are organized into five sections. Accordingly, the first section of the chapter provides the background information of the research participants.

The second section of the chapter deals with the experience of adolescents and meanings they give to the divorce of their parents. This particular section explains about participants' perception, feelings and reaction about divorce before, during and after the incident of their parents' divorce, while the third section of the chapter deals with participant's challenges faced as a result of their parents' divorce. Consequently, participants have reported their experience in relation to the challenges they encountered before, during and after their parents' divorce. The last section of the chapter presents the findings gathered from the Key Informants working in "*Lideta*" First Instance Court.

4.1 Background information of the participants

Table 1 Background information of the study participants

Pseudo Names	Sex	Age	Time of parents' divorce	Parental ways of ending their marriage
Abiy	Male	16	Five month ago	Legally separated
Asrat	Male	16	Four month ago	Legally separated
Dejen	Male	16	Eight month ago	Legally separated
Hayat	Female	16	Three month ago	Legally separated
Ilham	Female	15	Three month ago	Legally separated
Selam	Female	17	Six month ago	Legally separated
Tizita	Female	12	One year ago	Legally separated

The research participants of the study had incorporated both sexes ranging from the age of twelve to seventeen years. All parents of the research participants were legally separated. In addition, the participants of the study had endured the immediate effect of their parents' divorce because the time of their parents' divorce ranges from three months till one year of time.

4.2 Meaning of Divorce

Four of the research participants have defined divorce negatively and provided a similar meaning to the term "divorce". Moreover, as they began giving the definition of divorce, I felt their disappointment and losing hope of having a beautiful family. They felt that their family is destroyed and came to the realization that they are no longer a whole family but rather a broken one. In addition, they exhibited anger when they provided a description on the meaning of divorce.

For instance, Asrat was filled with much hatred to the notion of divorce while explaining what it meant to him. He provided the meaning of divorce as follows:

Divorce is a hideous process and affects the love and unity of people in a family. It is also a horrible and unpleasant process which breaks down a family. I just feel so embarrassed to bring my friends over to my house after the incident of my parents' divorce.

Selam spoke her words with despondence. She was staring deeply as if she was looking inside her thoughts. I felt her sad emotions while she was describing the meaning of divorce. She describes the meaning of divorce as follows:

When couples fail to communicate and disagree to live together, they get separated and end their marriage. It's very easy for couples to get a divorce but they also make the life of their children miserable and allow them to go through a painful process in their life.

Ilham's descriptions on the meaning of divorce was a bit different because she has described divorce before, during and after the dissolution of her parental marriage in a simple manner. In addition, I didn't see any kind of heart-break or remorse in her eyes. Unlike the previous participants, she confidently described divorce not as painful of an experience as she had anticipated. She was sitting calmly and her eyes were sharply looking at me which indicated that she had prepared answers for the questions that I would ask her. Ilham describes her story as follows:

While my parents were living together, I believed that divorce was a painful process and I watched couples getting a divorce in the movies as well as in the neighborhood. I used to cry and feel very sad when I hear couples getting a divorce. During the process of my parent's divorce, I believed that divorce was the hardest thing no one should ever endure

in their life. But later, I realized that divorce was not a painful process as I imagined. In fact, it's a process of ending disagreements and quarrels at home.

Similarly, in the view of two of the participants of the study, they described divorce as a termination of conflicting ideas and behaviors at home. They believed that divorce is a rule and not an exception which is in contrast to the normal expectations and norms of the society. Moreover, they described that the divorce of their parents have made them free of any hardships and emotional exhaustion in their life. For instance, Hayat was describing what divorce meant to her, I didn't notice any kind of negativity in her expressions. She was feeling a sense of relief when explaining her parents' divorce. In her eyes, divorce was a solution and not demise. She describes the meaning of divorce as follows:

When couples fail to come to common terms, they get a divorce. Additionally, married couples get a divorce to bring peace and harmony to the household. I just feel relieved because I got fade up of their differences and arguments with my parents' every day. I felt the peace of mind when my parents got divorced.

The above accounts indicate that parental divorce has negatively and positively affected the study participants. Four of the participants have viewed divorce as a terrible process which disrupted their family. In contrast, three of the research participants have stated that their parents' divorce was a good incident which made their lives much better and easier. Furthermore, I have observed the personal hygiene of the participants. All the study participants were properly dressed and exhibited a clean body.

4.3 Perception of Divorce before, During and after their Parents' Divorce

4.3.1 Experience of adolescents before the separation of their parents

When the topic of discussion about their experience of lives before their parental divorce was raised, three of the research participants expressed their feelings in anger and resentment towards their past experience. In addition, they reported that they felt stressed and unhappy while they were living with both of their parents. Their lives also became disrupted as a result of frequent conflict between their parents.

Tizitas experiences before her parent's separation was dreadful as seen in her facial gestures. Her eyes showed the utter darkness she must have been feeling during that period. I encouraged Tizita to draw her feelings on paper. She drew herself, her, sister, and her parents. In the drawing, she and her little sister were standing in the middle while both her parents were standing in the opposite corner distanced from one another. The drawings showed that she felt alone and responsible for her little sister. She shared her life experience as follows:

While my parents were living together, they were never happy and showed artificial connection and love between each other in front of other people. They always seemed a joyful couple outside home. Nevertheless, my parent's pain and sorrow became contagious to me as well as my little sister. They showed their true colors and behaviors at home and had frequent disagreements between each other. As a result, I felt uncomfortable and unhappy in my life.

Hayat was also troubled while her parents were together. She seems to be uncomfortable while she was describing her experience before the divorce of her parents. She felt invisible and unwanted by her parents. Additionally, Hayat reported that she neither got the time nor the attention she needed from her parents. Despite the effort she had taken to hide her feelings, the anger and resentment she had towards her mother was clearly seen on her face. She brings back her memory as follows:

Before the incident of my parents' divorce, my parents only gave time to their disagreement and quarrels they had between each other. They never cared or had time for me. After the birth of my little brother, my parents were aggressive towards each other. I believe that they had lost the love they had for each other. My mom is very much younger than my dad and told him frequently that he was old and ugly. She just felt so embarrassed to be seen with him. This accelerated the conflict between them and disrupted the whole family.

According to the participant accounts, their parents had poor communication and were not able to love and respect each other while they were together. Consequently, the participants were not free of conflicts and disturbances at home. On the other hand, Dejen had a different life experience compared to the previous participants. He was completely oblivious to his parent's inability to continue their marriage. He was unaware of his parent's arguments because they made it their priority to hide that from him. He was shocked to later learn that his parents were getting a divorce. Dejen describes his experience as follows:

While my parents were together, I used to have long hours of discussion with my mother. I felt happy living with both of my parents. In addition, my parents didn't show their disagreements in front of me. The conflict they had between each other was hidden and

kept their issues private. I thought I had a peaceful and happy family until the day I had to find out that they were getting a divorce.

Abiy also had somewhat of a peaceful and calming experience before his parent's divorce. There was no negativity reflecting from his body while expressing what he experienced. He had accepted the way things were between his parents and considered their routine to be normal. He actually has some yearning towards the life he had before his parents' divorce. Abiy has reported that he appreciated that period of his life. He describes his experience as follows:

Before the event of the divorce, my parents weren't really close and used to sleep separately. However, they still acted as a family and ate meals together. They also discussed several family issues and came up with a solution. I got used to my parents living situation and I didn't feel bad because I still get to live with both of my parents"

The above two accounts of the participants indicate that they had a peaceful and restful experiences while their parents were living together. Moreover, they missed the life they had with both of their parents.

4.3.2 Experience of adolescents during the process of their parents' divorce

Almost all of the participants stated that they had a difficult time going through the process of their parents' divorce. They all had to discuss their parents' situation with assigned social workers at court and felt emotionally disturbed when describing their experience. Abiy was explaining his experience in an unease state. He was clueless of what was going on with his parents during their divorce. I could see the confusion in his eyes when explaining the turn of events in

the process of the divorce. When he came to full awareness of what was going on, he felt all hope is gone and that his life was over. Abiy shares his story as follows:

I heard from the Social workers at court that my parents were getting a divorce. It was a very heart- breaking to hear my parent's issues from the people outside my home. My dad just brought me and my siblings instantly to court without giving a full explanation of the reasons why we had to go to court. I also felt nervous and uncomfortable visiting the court for the first time. I was forced to look at new faces and wished that there was a supernatural power that could make me disappear instantly from the court as well as end the drama between my parents.

Selam had a similar life experience. It seems as there were different emotions in her. She misses her mom and at the same time, she was angry at her. It was obvious in her gaze that she was not sure of her exact feelings towards her non-custodial parent. Her parents, especially her mother, didn't make an effort to understand her point of view in many decision-making processes and was not willing to take the custodial right of her child. Selam describes her experience as follows:

I used to believe that I was close with both of my parents. However, my mom filed for a divorce without discussing her decisions with any of the family members at home. I felt betrayed by my mom and had a hard time choosing and accept that I will be living with only one parent in the future. In addition, I tried to discuss some ways of helping my parents get back together with the Social workers at court. Nevertheless, my mom made it clear that she won't take back her decision of getting a divorce.

Hayat was a victim of feeling unwanted and unloved by one of her parents. Moreover, she felt like some object that was being used for her mother to gain her personal benefits in her expense. The betrayal and resentment filled throughout her body towards her mother was very conspicuous to anyone who could watch her tell her story. She has reported that her mom didn't want her and described the process of her parents' divorce with irritation and dissatisfaction as follows:

During the process of the divorce, my mother wanted to have custody over me and my siblings. My mom had cheated on my dad and didn't care for me in the past. She just wanted my dad to give her child support and use the money for her own benefits. I felt angry on my mom for choosing a random guy over her family.

The above findings show that the participants have endured frustration and anger during the process of their parents' divorce. In addition, they have expressed annoyance and disappointment while discussing the matters of break up and issues of their parents with the Social workers at court. Furthermore, almost all the non-custodial parents were unwilling to have the legal primary rights over their children. Hence, the participants didn't have difficulty choosing between their parents. Nonetheless, they felt unwanted and abandoned by their non-custodial parents.

4.3.3 Experience of adolescents after the separation of their parents

Three of the research participants stated that their lives became better after the divorce of their parents. They all described their current living situation and experience by comparing to the episodes of lives they had in the past. Hayat was feeling a sense of relief and tranquility while

explaining her life post-separation of her parents. It was clear that she was in a state of content and happiness in the current condition she is in her dwelling. She shares her story as follows:

My life got changed after the divorce of my parents. Currently, I feel relieved and I am free of any worries and disappointment in my life. While my parents were together, I have to come home and listen to their quarrels. Since there are only two rooms in our house, I was not able to escape the conflict with my parents. Now, I can only hear the sounds of cars, animals and, people in my neighborhood. I really feel peaceful and can concentrate on the things I need.

Tizita's experience of life was a bit different from the previous participant. She was very emotional while describing her life experience. I noticed that she had very mixed feelings towards her mother. On one hand, she is clearly frightened of her. On the other hand, she seeks for her approval and love even though she is faced with constant criticism and violence from her mother. She shares her life experience as follows:

My parents had lived separately for four months of time. Seven month ago, they got a legal separation from the court. I used to live with my mom before they ended their marriage and she was very violent towards me. One time, I got absent for few days in school because of my grandmother's funeral. As a result, I missed few lessons notes and homework at school. Hence, one of my teachers wrote a comment in my communication book and I was very scared of my mother and tore a page in the book to hide the teacher's message. Nevertheless, my mother found out that I lied to her and bit me severely. I quickly run away and started to live with my dad. My dad took the action of getting a legal separation and

custody over me from the court. Currently, I feel happy and I never had to endure my mother biting and insults anymore”.

The remaining four participants had a different life experience after the incident of their parents' divorce. They were all sad and wished their parents were back together. For instance, Dejen longs for the time where his parents were together. He feels incomplete and broken without his parents being together. Loneliness and melancholy are the feelings that he gets constantly visited by which led him to be depressed often. Furthermore, he made an effort to change his emotions in to drawings. He drew a person who is sad, confused and alone and described clearly that the person in the picture was him. Dejen reports his experience as follows:

I really feel sad because my parents are no longer living together. Many things are absent in my life. During the holidays, I feel very depressed and missed the days where there were variety of foods on the tables and people coming to our home to share their happiness with us. A home without the whole family makes you feel lonely.

Asrat was also hurt as a result of his parents' divorce. He felt abandoned not just by his parents but as if the whole world has abandoned him. Anyone in the living room could empathize with the way he was expressing his pain during that time. He describes his life experience as follows

During the first two weeks of my parents' divorce, I just couldn't stop crying and felt a heavy pain inside my heart. I thought the whole world had turned against me. I just had a hard time of accepting my parents' divorce for a while.

The above accounts of the participants indicate that they became unhappy after the divorce of their parents. In addition, the participants have endured sadness and missed the close connection they

had with both of their parents. Furthermore, I have observed the home setting of the study participants. They all lived in a crowded settlement and places built within a very close range to one another which has a poor structural quality. I sat down in the living rooms and observed that all the study participants had an additional one or more room other than the living rooms. Nevertheless, the living room was in a good condition and clean.

4.4 Impacts of Divorce on Adolescents well being

4.4.1 Emotional and psychological impacts of divorce

All of the participants have reported that they had not been considered seriously by their non-custodial parents but only received adequate care and attention from their custodial parents. For instance, post-divorce period for Selam was very challenging because she had to adapt to new environments and had to go through unfamiliar emotions. The negligent action of her mother made her feel worthless and unwanted. The value that she gives to herself highly decreased due to the aftermath of her parent's divorce. I saw her tear running down while she was expressing her anger towards her mother. I had to give her time to calm down. Selam describes her story as follows:

I don't feel that my mom is giving me the time and attention I need from her anymore. We use to have long hours of discussion about different issues such as future plans and being a teenager. She always advised me not to fall in love with a guy and to focus on my studies. After the incident of the divorce, we didn't get along well because of the argument I had with her about the issues of her divorce. I was very angry at her for filing the divorce instantly and leaving me with my dad. She didn't have the financial capacity to take care

of me so I was forced to stay with my dad. My mother made me feel that I am no more important in her life anymore.

Ilham's life following her parent's divorce had some silver lining. Even though she usually didn't receive care and attention from both of her parents while they were together, one parent began to give the attention and nurture she needed after their divorce. Moreover, she felt neglected by her mother but admired the positive feelings and attention her father had given to her. Her face brightened up whenever she mentioned her father, while she kept looking down and tried not to cry whenever the mother was mentioned,. Ilham shares her story as follows;

While my parents were together, I never got the nurture and attention I seek as a child from my mother. Her careless behavior has continued even after the incident of the divorce. In quite the reverse way, my dad started to give time and attention to me as well as my siblings. He started helping me with my homework and discussed the teaching of the Islam religion. Before my parents' divorce, my dad never noticed and given me attention. However, he started checking and noticing the way I look and dress at home and school. Consequently, I become very happy getting the attention from him.

The above participants have stated that they were not able to be considered seriously by their non-custodial parents. However, they felt happy getting the attention they deserve from their custodial parents. In contrast, Asrat's life experience was a bit different from the other participants. He felt like not much has changed in his life after his parent's separation. No negative impact was seen on him caused by the divorce. His parents never made time to spend it with their children because they were preoccupied with work and this continued after their divorce as well. He described his experience as follows;

While my parents were together, both of them had a very busy schedule all the days in a week. They worked hard to give me a better life for me and my siblings. Hence, I didn't feel that I didn't matter in their lives even after they got a divorce. I was just used to their busy schedule since I was a little boy.

Regarding the participants experience of remarriage of their parents, only three of the participants have endured the feeling and experiences of having step-dads in their lives. Even if they hadn't lived with their step dad in the same roof, they were resentful and disappointed of having a new step-dad in their lives. For instance, Hayat seemed infuriated with the fact that there is a new man in her mom's life and the anticipation of the step father's involvement in her life makes her feel highly anxious. Her Mom's unfaithfulness caused mistrust towards her mother and she has displaced jealousy because of the remarriage of her mother. Hayat shares her story as follows:

I was really hurt by the actions of my mother. She already had a man in her life while she was still with my dad. My dad confronted her several times but she denied and refused to accept her bad deeds. After divorcing my father, she got remarried and is leading a happy life with her husband. I even felt more hurt when I heard that she got pregnant. There is also the negative story in my society about step-parents which worsens my anxiety. In addition, I just felt so jealous and angry with her because she is giving all the attention and care to her new family. In addition, the thought of calling my step dad a dad in the future makes me want to jump over a cliff.

Tizita's experience is not so different from the previous participants. The fact that her mother has fully directed her attention towards her new partner and began neglecting her children

made Tizita's loathe the new man more and more. She couldn't really fathom what kind of emotions she was feeling to the unfamiliar situation of her mom with another guy that is not her father. She described her experience as follows:

I felt really angry at my mother for getting remarried to another man. Before the legal separation of my parents, I lived with my mother for a while and I knew my step dad because he often visited my mom. One time, my little sister was sleeping in the same bed with my mother but I saw her moving my sister on the ground and brought my step dad to sleep on the bed with her. I was used to my parent's sleeping on the same bed but I felt a strange feeling when I saw my mother sleeping with another man.

The above accounts indicate that the participants had experienced negative emotions such as frustration and anger because of their remarriage of their mothers. They had a hard time of accepting their parents' remarriage in their lives.

4.4.2 Social impacts of divorce

Five of the participants have stated that they had a deteriorated relationship with their neighbors and friends at school after their parents' divorce. Moreover, they felt embarrassed and chose to keep a distance from the people around their home area and school. For instance, Dejen felt mortified to even walk straight around his neighborhood and felt like he had to keep his head down. He was filled with resentment towards his parents especially his father for making him go through all this experience when he had done nothing wrong. He felt out of place and secluded because people kept on giving him the eye for his father's wrongdoings. Dejen describes his experience as follows:

After the event of my parent's divorce, I lost all the connections I had with my friends as well as my neighbors. My father's betrayal of the family was a topic of discussion during coffee ceremonies around my home area. I hear people gossiping about my family so I had to put my head down when I walked around the streets. Likewise, my friends chattered about my family issues behind my back. I just hated them for making a really big deal out of my parent's divorce.

Asrat felt depressed and chose to isolate himself as a result of his parents' divorce. He felt the heavy burden of the society on his shoulders after his parent's divorce and did what he could to avoid the accountability. He describes his experience as follows:

During the earliest stage of my parents' divorce, I felt to be alone and minimized my social interaction with others. I just wanted to avoid the questions about the issues of my parents' divorce from other people in my life".

Ilham's experience was a bit different from the other participants. The separation of her parents caused a positive outcome in her life rather than a negative one. Her home was a hostile environment that she felt she had to run away from before her parent's divorce. She leaned on her friends in her time of trouble which made her social interactions get better. All this unpleasantness came to an end following the divorce of her parents which made Ilham feel a great sense of relief. She succeeded to maintain the strong relationship she had with her friends after her parent's separation. She reports her ordeal as follows:

While my parents were together, I always chose to run away from home and spend my time in my friend's house. I got fade up of the unpleasant events in my home so I hid myself

outside my home. After the divorce of my parents, I felt relieved but still managed to increase the bond I had with my friends”.

Tizita reported that she had a low self-esteem to socially connect with others before the legal separation of her parents. Her mother made her feel like a she is a liability and a good for nothing. As a result, she became an introvert and didn't give anybody a chance to approach her. Her father, on the other hand, made a significant amount of contribution for her to regain her self-esteem and self-worth seeing that her mother had destroyed it. I could see it in her eyes that she feels a great deal of gratitude towards her father for supporting her in her journey of healing. Her social life is much better once her father gained full custody. Tizita describes her story as follows:

While I was living with my mother, I didn't have the self-confidence to hang out well with my friend's at school and neighborhood. My mom made me feel that I was not worthy of anything. Nevertheless, I started to socially interact with my friends at school when my dad got custody over me and my little sister. He made me feel that I mattered in this world and advised me to get close to my peers and people around my home area.

Negative and positive feelings were exhibited by the participants after the occurrence of their parents' divorce. The negative social impact of divorce includes social isolation and low self-esteem while the positive impact of divorce incorporated the increased feeling of self-worth and improved social interaction with other people. Concerning the social connection with the family of both parents, all of the participants have reported that they had a diminished relationship with the families of their non-custodial parents.

For instance, Selam felt like a stranger to her relatives of her non-custodial parent. The bond and closeness they used to have before the event of the divorce broke so suddenly and she feels it will never be the same again. She describes her experience as follows:

While my parents were together, all the families from both sides of my parents gathered together during special events and holidays. There is a saying that marriage is a union between two different families. In contrast, divorce became the breaking down and separation between two families. As soon as the incident of my parents' divorce, the families of my non-custodial parents started to keep their distance from me. They never checked or cared for my wellbeing anymore.

Ilham described her story with frustration and bitterness. She felt she had to take in all the hatred from her mother's side of the family projected towards her because she is her father's daughter. I could see her fidgeting and uncomfortable as she narrated her experience. She describes her story as follows:

I lost all the social connection I had with my mother's family. They never liked my dad because he had a different religion from my mother's family. While my parents were together, they pretended to show a good affection to my dad and me. After my parents' divorce, my mother's families were happy and chose to minimize their relationship they had with me. Since I had my father's blood, they didn't want me to be part of their family anymore.

The study participants have further described their responsibility they had after their parents' divorce without any probing questions. Five of the participants have reported that they conduct their household chores and socialize with other members of the family in the household.

For instance, Asrat feels the responsibility of his absent parents is left on his shoulders and tries his best to help out his siblings. Despite his attempt to fill the gap, he still feels the void caused by the abandonment of his mother. He describes his experience as follows:

Even if I was hurt by my parents' divorce, I still make an effort to conduct my regular works at home. I believe that people move on and since my mom has left the house, my siblings and I have made division of roles in the household. I clean the house and make my bed. Furthermore, each of us conducts our activity and household chores very well.

The remaining two of the participants reported that they had endured identity and role confusion in their household before the event of their parents' divorce. For instance, Hayat felt immense indignation not only towards her mother but her whole home. She lost intimate connections with all the people that she loved once. The distress of the event of the divorce caused her to be apathetic to looking after herself. She shares her story as follows;

Before the divorce of my parents, I never felt a sense of belongingness in my family. After I heard that my mom had cheated on my dad, I hated my home. Hence, I never had any roles and activities in the household. Additionally, I didn't interact well with my siblings. I just didn't care to dress well or take care of myself. Never the less, I started giving time and listen to my inner thoughts after the events of my parents' divorce. I initially developed hope and became aware of my identity. I eventually socialized well in my neighborhood and participated in making my environment clean and beautiful.

Regardless of their parents' divorce, five of the participants have managed to perform their roles and activities at home. In quite the reverse way, two of the participants did not have the self-awareness before the event of their parents' divorce. They eventually performed their roles and felt a sense of belongingness after their parents' divorce.

4.4.3 Educational problems

Four of the participants stated that they failed to concentrate on their lessons and had lower school achievements as a result of their family disruption. For instance, Dejen's performance and attention drastically dwindled in school following the divorce of his parents. He became negligent towards his school work. His longing for being understood of what he was going through caused him to revolt against the school authority. Subsequently, he feels disappointed in himself which led to the desire of isolation. He shares his story as follows:

I really had a hard time of accepting my parents' divorce. Hence, I didn't listen attentively to my teachers in the classroom. I felt like leaving school and preferred to be alone. Consequently, I didn't do most of my home works and got lower grades at school. Additionally, my teachers didn't make an effort to understand my situation. They mostly sent me out of classes because I didn't obey their instructions. Hence, I didn't attend most of the classes in school.

Asrat has also faced academic difficulties in school as a result of his parents' divorce. He was mentally disoriented from his environment. His mind was constantly wondering about without giving much importance to his responsibilities. The despair on his face was clearly noticeable. He describes his experience as follows:

*During the process and after my parents' divorce, I lost all my focus at school. There is an expression used by all teachers and students in school "**Body present and mind absent**" I was a student who was just present in class but my mind was elsewhere and filled with disappointment and issues of my parents".*

The remaining three participants had a different experience on the impact of parental divorce on their school performance. Hayat was affected positively by the separation in that it was only after the divorce that she felt a sense of liberation and saw a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel. She understood her self-worth and the importance of education following the divorce of her parents. Hayat describes her experience as follows:

While my parents were together, I never was eager to go to school or cared to perform well in my grades because of the conflict between my parents. I just didn't understand the purpose of getting an education and never had a role of a student. After the divorce of my parents, I started to give time and listen to my inner thoughts. I initially developed hope and became a new person with clear goals and ambitions in my life.

Parental divorce has positively and negatively affected the participants' educational attainment. Regardless of the divorce of their parents, some of the participants have managed to give attention and perform well in school while the others had a difficult time of getting better grades in school.

4.4.4 Health problems

In the description of the adolescents, parental divorce has both favorable and unfavorable effects on the lives of the participants. In the experience of four of the participants, they had endured health problems after their parents' divorce. The negative feelings such as anger and frustration had affected their health.

As supporting evidence, the mental health of Selam was quite affected by the event of the divorce which caused her to have physical issues such as loss of appetite and insomnia. She was in denial for a long while. It took a while for her to accept the reality of the situation at her home and move on with her life by adapting to the changes. Later on, she came to the realization that she needs to look after herself. I could see the positive spirit in her that is looking forward for a better future. Selam describes her experience as follows:

During the earliest stage of my parents' divorce, I totally lost my food appetite and had difficulty sleeping during the nights. Since my parents' divorce was swift and unexpected, I didn't get my mind ready to accept the facts in my life. Later on, I understand that I should move on and began to take care of my health.

The other three participants had a different experience in relation to the effect of divorce on their health. They reported that they had poor health condition while their parents were living together. For instance, before the divorce of her parents, Ilham was frequently agitated due to the constant arguments at home. Her distress caused her to have severe headaches every now and then as well as minor eating disorder and mood swings. Both her mental and physical status elevated after the divorce and she feels that she is currently in a much happier place mentally. She reports her story as follows:

I used to have frequent headaches as a result of the frequent yelling and disagreements between my parents at home. I didn't have a good appetite for food. I even get carried away when I had conversations with my friends. After the divorce of my parents, I had better health and lived my life peacefully.

Parental divorce have undesirable effects such as loss of appetite and headache leading to deteriorated health status while the desirable effects include good appetite and stable mental conditions on the participants of the study.

4.5 Adolescent Relationship with non-custodial Parents

All the participants have reported that that they had a deteriorated relationship with their non-custodial parents. Without any probing questions, they have conveyed that they had weak emotional connection and are not involved in their lives as they used to be anymore. For instance, Dejen's non-custodial parent was rarely involved in his life which caused him to feel unwanted. The negligence of his father to show up on important occasions in his son's life made him feel abandoned. He fears that one day, his father would disappear out of his life for good. Dejen shares his concern as follows:

I could certainly say that my father is absent in my life. It's been a while since I saw or heard from him. Even if there was a visitation schedule arranged for me and him by the court, he rarely visited me and was never present in any of my school events or activities. He just finds a way to make excuses not to visit me and fulfill his obligations as a dad.

Hayat's experience was also very similar to Dejen's story. She stated that she had unpleasant relationship with her non-custodial parent. She feels that she is at crossroads because she is pressured to make a difficult choice between two parents' desires and expectations. On one hand, she doesn't want to give up on her mom despite her mom's indifference towards her and her sibling's lives. On the other hand, the pressure from her father's side to meet his expectations of forgetting the existence of her mother seems to be weighing her down. Hayat describes her story as follows:

After the divorce of my parents, I never talked to my mother for a quite a while. She doesn't seem to show interest to visit or think about me and my siblings anymore. My dad also wants me to forget about her and have a life without her.

In the description of the study participants, they had poor relationship with their non-custodial parents. They felt abandoned and are not given the adequate attention and care by them. Hence, they are relying on their custodial parents to get the necessary care and consideration needed as a child.

The study participants have discussed briefly about their coping mechanisms to the unpleasant effect of their parents' divorce. Accordingly, four of the participants reported that they had a difficult time of dealing with the negative impact of divorce. Nevertheless, they stated that they are making an effort to move forward and focus on their future.

For instance, although Selam had made efforts to forget the past and forge a new hope for her family, her Dad is not ready to fully accommodate the changes. The relationship between her dad and herself got better since they communicate openly, however, when the topic of her mother is mentioned, he keeps avoiding the conversation. Her father's failure of moving on seems to be

holding her back. If you look closely in to her eyes, you could see that she feels incomplete and something is missing without the connection between the two parents. It is as if she yearns for tension between her parents to end. Selam shares her experience as follows:

I really feel unhappy about my current family transition but my dad puts an effort to support me and increase the bond we have between each other. Hence, I started to open up to him and talk about various issues about school and neighborhood. However, we never talked about my mom and the events about the divorce with my dad. He just feels uncomfortable and sad when discussing about the issues of our past.

Dejen reports that his mom got more attached to him after the incident of the divorce and he was happy with the close bond that he had with his mother. Despite his mother's remarkable attempts to fill the void of his father's unavailability and her expectation to completely remove his father put of his life, he still wishes his Dad could be around. His mother's tough love is welcomed by him. He describes his experience as follows:

Since I was really disappointed by the actions of my dad, my mom always tried her best to cheer me up and make me smile. She takes me to recreational centers to enjoy and have a good time with her. However, she never allowed me to talk about my dad because she wants me to forget and put all the pain behind us. My mom has given me a curfew at home and I respect and follow the rules at home”.

The other three participants have not endured the negative effects of their parents' divorce. They were calm and stated that they felt happy after their parents' divorce. In addition, they reported that they have found different ways to support themselves and create harmony in their homes. For instance, the separation of Ilham's parents led to a harmonious and stable environment

in the household. As a result, she feels very secure and doesn't feel the need of bringing up the topic of her mother. The open communication between her and custodial parent increased their bond. Ilham describes her experience as follows:

Before my parents' divorce, I had an abnormal and disrupted home for a while. Currently, my siblings and I started to listen to each other and my dad has set clear rules and duties at home. We all perform our roles effectively. In addition, we have a family meeting twice a week and discuss and give opinions freely. Nevertheless, I don't talk about the topic of my parents' separation or about my mom with any of the member of the family anymore. We also read "Quran" as a family together and pray to have a good future in my life.

In the description of all the participants, the support and close attachment with their custodial parents have helped them to deal with the negative impact of divorce. As I have observed, all the adolescents had a warm and loving relationships with their custodial parents. Some of the adolescents had a adorable nick while the others had a sweet calling of names (endearment) which boosted a good parent-child relationship. As I observed, the adolescents had respect and showed a good attitude toward their siblings and custodial parents. Nevertheless, all the adolescents were not allowed to talk or express their feelings about their non-custodial parents. This was considered as a way of coping mechanism to their parents' divorce by their custodial parents.

Generally, three of the study participants had a positive experience of their parental divorce. Since they lived in a conflicted household before the events of their parents' divorce, they felt happy and had a sense of relief while their parents got divorced. Currently, they exhibited better health, good educational attainment and socially interacted well with other individuals in their surrounding environment. In quite the reverse way, four of the study participants had a negative

experience of their parents' divorce. Since they lived in a peaceful and a happy family, they never expected the divorce of their parents. Currently, they felt unhappy and exhibited minor health problems, poor academic performance and had low social interaction with other individuals around school and home environment. Nevertheless, they are making an effort to cope up with the undesirable effects of their parents' divorce.

Concerning the information gathered from Key informants working in "*Lideta*" First Instance Court, they have reported that children court cases are handled on the basis of four premises. These are child custody evaluation, juvenile delinquents, survivors of child abuse, and adaption. Concerning the custody case, Social workers will conduct a study evaluation of the divorcees and a case will be opened on the divorced parents as ordered by the judge of the court.

The first tool of gathering information is a question and answer form (questionnaire) to gather information about the parents of the child. Then Social workers will conduct an interview with the divorced parents to make decisions about which parent should get the custodial right of the child. In addition, observation and document analysis will also be used in a custody case to gather the necessary information from the divorced parents. Additionally, visitation schedules will be decided by the Social Workers based on the assessment and gathered information from both the divorced parents. Moreover, priority is given to promote the need and wellbeing of the child.

The Key informants reported that there are numerous adolescents' cases of divorced parents coming from different areas of Addis Ababa throughout the year. However, there is no exact number of adolescents coming from divorced parents each month. As supporting evidence, one of the Key informants shares her information as follows:

During the month of May and June, there were twelve adolescents' cases that came from divorced parents. They all seemed nervous when they visited the court for the first time and discussed their parents' issues with us. However, we use child friendly approach and start with a friendly conversation to make them feel relaxed. This includes discussions such as self- introduction, hobbies, potentials, favorite food, and future plans of the child. They slowly start to open up and discuss about various issues such as parental reasons for divorce, choice of living arrangements, personal challenges, needs and arrangements of visitation schedules in the future. Then we make decisions that promote the greater good and wishes of the child.

Regarding the behaviors of adolescents coming in “Lideta” First Instance Court, the Key informants have reported that most juvenile cases handled in the court have a background of divorced parents. In addition, they have asserted that adolescents undergo a rapid physical, emotional and social development in their lives. Consequently, they are surrounded by major risk factors such as family and environmental problems. One of the key informants shares his story as follows:

Children who are in the age category of 9-15 years old are considered to be juvenile delinquents. Most of the delinquents including street children have a divorced family which has lead them to commit crimes and deviate from the common norms of the society. In the Ethiopian context, children who are above 15 years old are treated equally with the rest of age groups of people. Additionally, the court settings of the delinquents are different from other courts settings. Children who are less than nine years old are not considered convicts because they have minimum cognitive skills to make decisions and cannot think of the consequence of their action.

Concerning the characteristics of adolescents coming from divorced parents in a custody case, the Key informants asserted that that they had encountered adolescents who were emotionally stressed and muddled because of the custody battle between the divorced parents. As a result, they were confused and had a hard time in making choices of living arrangements between their parents. In contrast, they have also encountered adolescents coming from divorced parents who didn't experience any custody battle between their parents. As supporting evidence, one of the key informants shares her information as follows:

In some cases, both parents of the child come to a common agreement in getting the custodial rights of their child. However, there was a case of an adolescent in which both parents refused to take the responsibility of raising their child. The mother of the child had plans of getting remarried so she didn't want her child to get in the middle of her plans whereas the dad reported that he has a very busy work schedule and rather choose to give a child support every month to the mother. They both pointed out that the opposite parent should take the custodial rights but I told them both that that they are legally obligated to take care of their child. Finally, the father was convinced and took the custodial right of his child. During this process, the adolescent felt neglected and emotionally hurt as a result of feeling unwanted by his parents

5 CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

In this section, discussions of the findings are presented following the research questions of the study. In addition, the results of the study are discussed in relation to previous theories and reviewed literatures of the study. Accordingly, the experience and lives of the participants are

discussed before, during, and after their parents' divorce. Additionally, the researcher has made an interpretation and implication on the findings of the study. The findings of the study revealed that adolescents have exhibited different emotional characters, prospects, achievements and different kinds of parent-child relationships before, during, and after their parents' divorce.

5.1 Experience of Participants before Parental Divorce

Some of the participants' accounts in relation to the meaning of divorce indicated that it was a favorable outcome while others viewed divorce simply as a demise of a union. In addition, the ceaseless arguments of parents before the incident of the divorce caused the participants to be victims of discomfort and unstable mental health. This finding is in accordance with the study results indicated by (Mcloughlin & Whitfield 1984)

The finding of this study indicated that some of the participants' parents were drowned in the petty arguments between each other before the event of their divorce which is also shown in the study of Esmaeli and Yacoob (2011). Additionally, some of the participants had role confusion as a result of the endless disputes between their parents and didn't want to belong to a conflicted family. Moreover, they believed that their self-belongingness belonged elsewhere. This finding is similar to the study findings of Hines (2007).

The findings of the study imply that adolescents were adversely affected by the conflicts and disputes between their parents at home. The negative feeling of the adolescences has impacted the health and normal stage of being a teenager. In addition, some of the participants have learned and internalized the conflict in their household. Consequently, they tend to develop a negative attitude towards marriage in the future. This information is similar to the studies of (Carranza,

Killmann & Vendemia 2009). Hence, it can be understood that the parents' of the participants have neglected the care and attention sought to be given to their children. This action has affected the health and stable development of adolescents which is also indicated in the study of Esmaeli and Yacob (2011).

Some studies in different parts of the world (Carl, 2011; Adofo & Etsey 2016; Moon 2011) revealed that after parental divorce, adolescents tend to exhibit emotions such as depression loneliness, and frustration. In quite the reverse way, this study has revealed that some adolescents have experienced the mentioned emotions by the previous studies prior to the divorce of their parents. This implies that the stage of adolescence is a sensitive period and the different emotions endured by some of the participants have brought a negative impact on self-belongingness, problems at school and home environment.

Unlike the attachment theory (Bowlby, 1969) which argues that children lose the bond with their parents after the event of the divorce, this finding indicated that some of the participants had already lacked a good relationship with their parents especially with their mothers before their parents' divorce. In contrast with the findings of Wallerstein and Blakeslee(1989) which argued that adolescents become aggressive and had low educational attainment after the divorce of their parents', this finding found out that some of the participants have faced low academic achievements, unfortunate stressful life and increased vulnerability to unpleasant behaviors prior to the divorce of their parents.

The finding of this study also revealed that the place some of the adolescent's considered home was not a home anymore. This is because married couples had too much problems and clashes between each other which eventually led to the end of their union. In this process,

adolescent became desperate to find a quiet family and environment elsewhere. This finding supports the results of the study indicated by (Mcloughlin and Whitfield, 1984). Rendering on my observation of the participants, all the study participants had a limited number of rooms in the household. Accordingly, some of the adolescents were directly exposed to the disputes between their parents which elevated their emotional disturbance.

Rendering on the observation of this study, since the place of residence of the adolescents are closely compacted together, the noises and disturbances in the household are often heard by the neighbors causing them inconveniences. As a result, their condemnation and judgment on the adolescent and the parents are enacted.

Some of the participants account revealed that they had a peaceful and harmonious family before the event of their parents' divorce. This implies that the stability and security provided to adolescents by couples increases the parent child attachment and helps adolescents have a positive view of having a family in the future which has been indicated in the attachment theory (Bowlby, 1973).

A healthy relationship between parents minimizes the risk factors of adolescents such as drug use, health problems, peer influence, and other related problems in their lives. Nevertheless, when the union comes to an end some of the participants have found it difficult to accept and adopt the new family transition. Hence, they exhibited loneliness, betrayal, rage, and hopelessness in their life which has also been shown in the studies of (Adofo & Etsey 2016; Moon 2011; Carl 2011). Both the findings of this study and the reviewed literature have indicated that parental divorce have transformed and somehow disrupted the life of adolescents negatively. In addition, they have missed the life they had before the divorce of their parents

The studies of Wallerstein and Blakslee (1989) indicated that after the incident of parental divorce, adolescents face difficulty of being attentive in the classroom. However, this study has revealed that some of the participants have faced hardships of performing well in school prior the divorce of their parents and had better education attainment after their parents' divorce due to the relief and termination of disputes/conflicts between their parents.

5.2 Experience of Participants during Parental Divorce

In contrast to the studies of Dunlop and Bermingham (2001), all the participants of the study didn't face any difficulty of choosing sides between their parents. Moreover, as Key informants have indicated, some cases of adolescents coming from divorced parents have absence of custody battle. Similarly, this study has revealed that almost all of the noncustodial parents have given their consent and agreement to custodial parents (fathers) without any disputes in the court. In addition, the mothers of the participants had low economic status and couldn't provide child support to the custodial parents of their children.

It was common that the bond between a mother and a child is unbreakable. There is also the cultural norm of mothers demanding custodial rights and usually granted as the primary care givers from the court. However, the findings of this study revealed that the mothers were more than willing to give the custodial rights of their children to the fathers of the participants. In addition, the Key informants have also reported that they encountered cases of adolescents in which mothers do not demand custodial rights of their child.

Hence, this raises an ambiguous question. Can just be because women seek a better life as a single woman or want to have a better life by getting remarried? Furthermore, the modern world

is evolving and the roles of fathers are becoming more prominent in their children lives than in the earlier periods. Consequently, fathers of this generation are not only bread winners but also taking more role than mothers in raising their children.

The absence of custody battle between divorced couples has created a peaceful family transition to the adolescents. This indicates that the participants had a low feeling of being caught in the middle which played a great role in minimizing the negative outcome of divorce. However, the participants felt unwanted and abandoned by their non-custodial parents as it is also indicated by Key In formants when exposed to any absence of custody battle between parents.

Some of the participants account indicated that their parents have kept their conflict hidden which indicated that parents have protected their children from emotional problems. Moreover, they haven't put their child to be caught in the middle of their differences. This particular finding goes against the theory of triangulation (Buchanan, Maccoby & Dornbusch, 1991) which argued that divorced parents tend to have custody battle over their children after the decision of ending their union.

Even if the participant parents in this study had no cooperation and teamwork to raise their children together, they never had a battle and were in good terms of making decisions in relation to the rights given to the primary custody of their children in court. Consequently, this particular action promotes good parenting style and helps adolescents' to better cope up with the new family transition in their lives.

5.3 Experience of Participants after Parental Divorce

The findings of this study revealed that after parental divorce, some of the participants had a sense of relief and freedom in their lives due to the end of conflict between their parents. In addition, they felt more at ease when they are relieved from the constant bickering between their parents. This finding is consistent with the study findings indicated by Mcloughlin and Whitfield, (1984). Furthermore, both the literature information and the findings of the study imply that parental divorce has a positive effect for adolescents. This information supports the study of Boyd (2015). In quite the reverse way, some participants had unfavorable experience and exhibited negative emotional characters such as loneliness, low self-esteem, worthlessness, and betrayal which boosted their emotional problems. This finding is similar to the study findings of Moon (2011).

Some of the participants account revealed that after parental divorce, they felt abandoned and faced problems of social interaction because of their parental divorce. This finding implies that some of the participants' confidence in meeting people, engaging in conversations and activities are negatively affected due to the backstabbing and ridicule of the people around them. This finding is parallel to the studies of Newman and Newman (1975)

Considering the long-term negative effect and unhealthy parent child relationship affects the participants' future adult life. This is because these feelings would keep dwelling and heighten the challenges in their latter life. This finding goes in line with the study findings of Carranza, Kimann and Vendemiay (2009). The finding of this study also indicated that some of the participants had poor performance in school after the divorce of their parents which is also shown in the studies of Wallerstain and Blakeslee (1989).

Both the above literature findings and results of this study imply that adolescents were not supported adequately in school by parents, teachers, and their surrounding environment to deal with the unfavorable outcomes of their parental divorce. It has to be noted that adolescents should not be solely blamed for poor performance and behaviors at school as well as elsewhere. This is because the whole families of the adolescents are at fault for not understanding the hardships and difficult time they had to go through in their life. This information goes in line with the family system theory Goldddberg and Goldberg (2008) which indicates that all members in a family should be at fault for the action of member in the family.

Some of the reviewed literatures (Amato & Booth 1991; Czapeiowski, 2014) indicated a deteriorated relationship between a parent and a child after parental divorce as a whole. However the findings of this study specifically indicated that all the participants had a deteriorated relationship with noncustodial parents which resulted in different kinds of negative emotions such as self-worthlessness, anger, sadness and health problems (loss of appetite, sleeplessness and headache) after the divorce of their parents.

Unlike the attachment theory (Bowlby, 1969), all the participants had close bonds and attachment with their primary care givers (Custodial parents). Moreover, the custodial parents had managed to physically and emotionally be available to their children which has lead all the participants to make an effort of moving forward and have an optimist attitude towards their future. Hence, this action of the parents has led the participants to cope up with the negative impact of divorce as it is indicated in the studies of (Esmaeli & Yacoob, 2011). Moreover, the close bond and relationship between the participants and siblings had helped them to cope up with the unfavorable outcome of parental divorce.

The attachment theory (Bowlby, 1969) and studies of Amato and Booth (1991) have only indicated the weak parental child relationship, while the findings of this study have added the loose relationship of the adolescents with the families of the noncustodial parents. This indicates that participants had endured the estranged relationship between the adolescents and family of their noncustodial parents. Consequently, they believed that they are somehow to blame for the divorce of their parents.

The information from the reviewed literature such as Esmaeli and Yacoob, (2011) and the findings of this study revealed that the rivalry and hatred between parents before and after their divorce have caused a great decline of teamwork and cooperation of parents to raise their children. This implies that the participants had lacked a healthy whole family that they can rely on in their lives. Moreover, relying on just one parent for every situation in their lives will still create a gap in their lives.

The study of Wolf (2006) has indicated the condemnation and criticism between parents after their divorce. However, the findings of this study revealed the absence of criticisms between parents but rather complete disregard of the existence of the other parent after the event of the divorce. Henceforth, the results of the study imply that adolescents are not given a platform to speak out about their feelings and emotions to their custodial parents as well as others in their environment. Furthermore, since their feelings are disregarded and not acknowledged at home, they tend to pile up their emotions leading to different behavioral problems in the future.

The finding of this study also indicated that some participants had experienced the remarriage of their parents to another spouse. Accordingly, the participants have further developed negative emotions such as jealousy, disappointment, and hatred towards their step-parents. This

implies that some of the participants were not given the time to process the new events and form a relationship with their step-parents as is indicated in the study of Amato, (2004).

Consequently, they tend to believe that the step parents have somehow played a role in breaking up the family. It also seemed that the participants were not informed and did not take any part of making decisions about themselves as well as the lives of their parents. Furthermore, the instant change and decisions of their parents towards their own life have negatively affected some of the participants of the study.

Regarding the activities of Social workers at court, they worked for the well-being of all parties (divorced parents) with particular attention of the needs of the child. Furthermore, the Social worker gave a priority for promoting the best needs of the child. This implies that the social worker's roles in courts are the implication of the commitment of the government towards promoting the right of the children. They are abided by the law of the country while they deal with various cases in the court.

6 CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Conclusions

The study aimed at understanding the lived experiences of adolescents of divorced parents in Addis Ababa from the cases presented in "*Lideta*" Federal First Instance court. To this effect, the study had specific objectives of understanding the meanings and experience of adolescents to divorce of their parents as well as identifying the challenges faced by adolescents after the divorce of their parents.

The study has achieved both the objectives very well. In this study, some of the parents of the participants were able to hide their conflicts from their children. Accordingly, the adolescents were not exposed to the negative emotions before the incident of their parents' divorce. However, they found it difficult to get closure from the divorce of their parents leading to different challenging periods characterized by emotional, health, educational and social problems in their life.

Literatures also asserted that emotional exhaustion, unhappiness, poor educational attainment followed by diminished health and social interaction were mentioned as the negative impact of divorce. Prior to the divorce of their parents, few of the participants lived in a conflicted household filled with constant disputes and disagreements between their parents. Therefore, their parental divorce helped the adolescents to obtain the closure and contentment in their lives. Subsequently, they felt relieved, happy, and hopeful about their future. Furthermore, the overall being and educational attainment of some of the adolescents had drastically improved as a result of the positive outcome of parental divorce. Likewise, literatures pointed out that adolescents with agitated family unit are more likely to exhibit feelings of freedom and relief after the divorce of their parents.

In contrast with the triangulation theory, almost all parents of the study participants had no custody battle over their children during the process of their divorce in court. With the exception of one participant, all the fathers of the participants have taken a legal custodial right of their children from the court. However, they haven't demanded child support from their former spouse. Similarly, the court hasn't ordered child support on the mothers considering their economic incompetency to raise their children. Even though there was no direct interview conducted with

the mothers of the participants, the study has concluded that there is a value shift from the love and needs of adolescents to one's own life and desires in life.

Following the divorce of their parents, the entire participants had built a good and better relationship with their custodial parents. In contrast with the attachment theory, custodial parents were able to form a good connection with their children in order to minimize the negative effects of the absence of their custodial parents. This was also considered as a way of coping mechanism to the unfortunate effects of parental divorce but all the study participants were prohibited to discuss their feelings about their custodial parents at home and the weak relationships between adolescents and non-custodial parents/families have caused a significant decline in their self-actualization and self-esteem about themselves.

Even though this study has documented the above findings, it has got some limitations. To start with, the study failed to document further detailed investigation about adolescents' relationships with step-parents and step-siblings. Moreover, prior to the legal separation of the divorced couples, the study has not been able to assess the court and cooling process of the divorced couples. Hence, the study was in capable of covering the experience of adolescents as well as their parents during that period. Furthermore, family is a basic institution and the study couldn't further document the attempts of keeping the members of the family together.

6.2 Implications

Rendering on the findings of this study, the researcher has come up with social work implication for policy, education, practice, and research.

6.2.1 Implication for policy

As an implication for social work policy, Social Workers can work collaboratively to activate policy and family laws to promote the wellbeing of families and adolescents. Since the study has revealed that the policy in parental divorce seems to be gender-biased, the policy should be revised with the base of equity between the two sexes. Therefore, social workers should advocate and intervene in the reassessment of policy in relation to families and parental divorce.

6.2.2 Implication for education

As an implication for social work education, the study revealed that adolescents were affected by the gossips about their parents' divorce in their neighborhood. In addition, there is the negative storytelling and labeling given to step-parents by the society. Consequently, adolescents became anxious of getting used to remarriage of their parents. Hence, Social workers should try to create public awareness in the society in order for people not to engage in condemnation towards victims of divorce and promote positive story telling's about step-parents.

Social Workers can also work collaboratively with community leaders to give awareness about the support given to adolescents coming from divorced parents. Moreover, they should educate the society about the undesirable impact of parental divorce. Furthermore, social workers should notify divorced parents to give their children a platform of expressing their feelings towards their non-custodial parents. In addition, custodial parents should be given awareness in relation to listening and acknowledging the feelings of their children.

6.2.3 Implication for practice

As an implication for social work practice, mediation in courts as well as elsewhere should be extensively practiced in order to reduce the percentage of parental divorce. University community service alongside the department of social work should also be more facilitated in order to help adolescents cope up with the negative impact of divorce

Social workers should encourage parents to seek marriage counseling before they undergo a divorce. They should apply variety of therapeutic methods with divorced parents and adolescents to mitigate the traumatic experience in their lives. In addition, a well-organized committed staff that could work as a team with practical resource should be established in courts to provide an effective and fair service for clients.

6.2.4 Implication of research

As an implication for social work research, further research should be conducted on the coping mechanism of adolescents to the negative impacts of divorce. This study also gives different topics for research investigation. For instance topics about adolescents' relationships with step-parents and step-siblings, single women experience and perceptions of a new life after divorce and experience of parents before the legal separation were identified as potential research area from this study

6.3 Recommendations

The study has indicated that some adolescents had a poor academic performance as a result of their parents' divorce. Hence, members and officials in school should work alongside with parents to understand and better help adolescents cop up with the negative outcome of divorce. Furthermore, Social workers should be hired in private and governmental schools to provide different support and enhance the social, psychological and physical wellbeing of adolescents.

Courts should prepare counseling service officers to help adolescent's better deal with the adverse effect of their parents' divorce. Moreover, services should also be given to adolescents who experienced positive outcome of parental divorce to further enhance their self-confidence and healthy development in their lives. Social workers should further continue their follow up and occasionally make a home visit on adolescents even if after the decision of rights of custodial parents are given from the court.

Educational programs about good parenting and adolescents' wellbeing to divorced couples should be practiced in courts. These promote a healthy family and mitigate disputes between divorced couples. Additionally, programs about the ways of positive relationships between adolescents and non-custodial parents/families should be practiced in courts

References

- Abebe, T. (2010). *Problems surrounding divorce in federal revised family code law and practice*. Ethiopia: St. Marry University College.
- Adams, B. N. (1995). *The family: A sociological interpretation*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers.
- Adegoke, T. G. (2010). Socio-cultural factors as determinants of divorce rates among women of reproductive age in Ibadan metropolis, Nigeria. *Studies of tribes and tribal*, 8(2), 107-114.
- Adofo, P. & Etsey, Y. (2016). Impact of divorce on adolescents students in Ghana. *Pyrex Journal of Psychology on Counseling*. Retrieved May 10,2021 from <http://www.pyrexJournals.Org/pjpc>
- Afesha, N. (2017). Legal and Practical Aspects of Child Custody, Visitation and Maintenance: A Case Study in SNNP Regional State. *Mizan Law Review*, 11(2), 275-303.
- Aissetu, B. (2004). *Divorce and its psychosocial and economic impacts on mothers and children*. Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University.
- Amato, P & Previti, D. (2003). People's reasons for divorcing: Gender, social class, the life course, and adjustment. *Journal of family issues*, 24(5), 602-626.
- Amato, P & Cherlin, D (2010). Research on divorce: Continuing trends and new developments. *Journal of marriage and family*, 72(3), 650-666.
- Amato, P. R. (2000). The consequences of divorce for adults and children. *Journal of marriage and family*, 62(4), 1269-1287.
- Amato, P. R., & Booth, A. (1991). Consequences of parental divorce and marital unhappiness for adult well-being. *Social forces*, 69(3), 895-914.

- Anderson, J. (2014) The impact of family structure on the health of children. California: *Journal of Marriage and family*, 2 (3), 47-61.
- Asfaw, F. (2011) *Divorce and Ethiopian Law-Divorce and its effects under Ethiopian Family Law*. Ethiopia: Asfaw and associates law office. Retrieved March 22, 2021 from www.hg.org/usacities.asp
- Babbie, E. (2007). *Research Methods in Sociology*. Australia: Cengage Learning.
- Bane, M. J. (1976) Marital disruption and the lives of children. *Journal of Social issues*, 32(1), 103-117.
- Becker, G. S. (2009). *Human capital: A theoretical and empirical analysis, with special reference to education*. University of Chicago press.
- Bekele, S. (2006). *Divorce: its cause and impact on the lives of divorced and their children*. Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University.
- Benedicta, G. D., Hidayana, I. M., Ruwaida, I., Az Zahro, F., Kartikawati, R., Susanti, L. R., & Ramadhan, F. R. (2017). *A Qualitative Study on the Causes and Consequences of Divorce after Child Marriage in Sukabumi, Rembang and West Lombok Regencies*. Indonesia: AKY press.
- Bethelehem, G. (2016). *A Case study in Mekanisa Elementary School*. Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University.
- Bilge, B., & Kaufman, G. (1983). Children of divorce and one-parent families: Cross-cultural perspectives. *Family Relations*, 59-71.
- Bowlby, J. (1969). *Attachment and loss: Vol. 1 Attachment*. New York: Basic Books.

- Bowlby, J. (1973). *Attachment and loss: Vol. 2 Separation*. New York: Basic Books.
- Boyd, K. (2015). Positive effects of divorce on children. Kids in the house. Retrieved May 5, 2021 from [https://www. Kids in the House.com/blogs](https://www.KidsintheHouse.com/blogs).
- Buchanan, C. M., Maccoby, E. E., & Dornbusch, S. M. (1991). Caught between parents: Adolescents' experience in divorced homes. *Child development*, 62(5), 1008-1029.
- Carranza, L. V., Kilmann, P. R., & Vendemia, J. (2009). Links between parent characteristics and attachment variables for college students of parental divorce. *Adolescence*, 44(174).
- Castro-Martin, T. & Bumpass, L. (1989). Recent trends, marital disruption. *Demography* 26 (2), 279-286.
- Carl, P (2011). The impact of divorce on young children and adolescents. *Psychology today*, 19.
- Cherlin, A. J. (2010). Demographic trends in the United States: A review of research in the 2000s. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72(3), 403-419.
- Ciesielska, M., & Jemielniak, D. (Eds.). (2018). *Qualitative methodologies in organization studies*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Clayton, R. B., Nagurney, A., & Smith, J. R. (2013). Cheating, breakup, and divorce: Is Facebook use to blame? *Cyber psychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 16(10), 717-720.
- Cresweel, J. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed approaches*. (4thed.) London: Thousand Oaks: Sage publication

Csiszentmihalyi, M. (2021) Adolescent. Encyclopedia Britannica Retrieved from:

<http://www.britannica.com/science/adolescence>

. Cordero, D. W. (2008). The breaking of a family: Children in the battlefield. *Attachment and Divorce: Family Consequences*. Retrieved from <http://www.personalityresearch.org/papers/eagan.html>

Czapiewski, S. (2014). Loss of the Parent-Child Relationship after divorce: Does Custodial Arrangement Matter? Retrieved from Sophia, the St Cathering University repository website: <https://sophia.stkate.edu/msw-papers/305>

De Castro, A. (2003). Introduction to Giorgi's existential phenomenological research method. *Psicología desde el Caribe*, (11), 45-56.

Denzin, N. K. (2008). The new paradigm dialogs and qualitative inquiry. *International journal of qualitative studies in education*, 21(4), 315-325.

Donovan, R. L., & Jackson, B. L. (1990). Deciding to divorce: A process guided by social exchange. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 13(4), 23-35.

Dunlop, R., Burns, A., & Bermingham, S. (2001). Parent-child relations and adolescent self-image following divorce: A 10 year study. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 30(2), 117-134.

Eagan, C. (2004). Attachment and divorce: Family consequences. *Rochester Institute of Technology*. Retrieved on January, 22, 2006

Esmaeili, N. S., & Yaacob, S. N. (2011). Post-divorce parental conflict and adolescents' delinquency in divorced families. *Asian Culture and History*, 3(2), 34-40.

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) (2004), Criminal code: Criminal procedure Code of Ethiopia.

Freeman, M., & Mathison, S. (2009). *Researching Children Experience*. New York: Guilford press.

Geoffrey, M. (2001) *Conflict theory and divorce*. London: Sage publication.

Glaser, B., & Strauss, A. (1967). *The discovery of grounded theory: Strategies for qualitative research*. Piscataway, New Jersey: Transaction.

Goldberg, H. & Goldberg, I. (2008). *Family therapy: An overview*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks

Härkönen, J (2013) *Divorce: Trends, patterns, causes, consequence*. Sweden: Stockholm University. .

Haynes, K. (2012). Reflexivity in qualitative research. *Qualitative organizational research: Core methods and current challenges*, 72-89.

Hines I.T. (2007). Adolescent adjustment to the middle school transition: The intersection of divorce and gender in review. *RMLE Online*, 31(2), 1-15.

Holborn, M., Langley, P., & Haralambos, M. (2004). *Haralambos and Holborn Sociology: Themes and Perspectives. AS-and A-level Student Handbook Accompanies the Sixth Edition*. Collins Educational.

Kitson, G. C., Babri, K. B., & Roach, M. J. (1985). Who divorces and why: A review. *Journal of Family Issues*, 6(3), 255-293.

Kuczynski, L., & Mitchell, B. (2009). Dialectics and Transactional II/Iode/s: Conceptualizing Antecedents, Processes, and Consequences of Change in Parent-Child

Relationships1. *Pathways of human development: Explorations of change*, 151.

Law.Com (n.d) Legal dictionary- Retrieved January 16, 2021 from <https://dictionary.law.com/>

Langton, C. E., & Berger, L. M. (2011). Family structure and adolescent physical health, behavior, and emotional well-being. *Social Service Review*, 85(3), 323-357.

Levitt, M. Z., Selman, R. L., & Richmond, J. B. (1991). The psychosocial foundations of early adolescents' high-risk behavior: Implications for research and practice. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 1(4), 349-378.

Liene, W. & Jody (1999) *Towards understanding the reasons for divorce*. Melbourne: Australian institute of family studies.

Lowenstein, L. F. (2005). Causes and associated features of divorce as seen by recent research. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 42(3-4), 153-171.

Lyngstad, T., & Jalovaara, M. (2010). A review of the antecedents of union dissolution. *Demographic Research* 23, 255-292.

McLoughlin, D., & Whitfield, R. (1984). Adolescents and their experience of parental divorce. *Journal of adolescence*, 7(2), 155.

McNarry, G., Allen-Collinson, J., & Evans, A. B. (2019). Reflexivity and bracketing in sociological phenomenological research: Researching the competitive swimming lifeworld. *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*, 11(1), 138-151.

- Monama, T. (2011). 9 million kids with no dads. Retrieved 28 April, 2012 from the World Wide Web: <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2011/04/05/9-million-kids-with-no-dads>.
- Moon, M. (2011). The effects of divorce on children: Married and divorced parents' perspectives. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 52(5), 344-349.
- Moustakas, C. (1994). Transcendental phenomenology: Conceptual framework. *Phenomenological research methods*, 25-42.
- Ncube, D., Mulaudzi, L. M., & Mudau, T. J. (2018). The impact of divorce on teenagers social behaviour at Hamangilasi village in Limpopo, South Africa. *Gender and Behaviors*, 16(2), 11485-11499.
- Neuman, L. (2007). *The Basics of Social Research* (2nd edition). Boston: Pearson Education.
- Newman, B. M., & Newman, P. R. (1975). *Development through life: A psychosocial approach*. Dorsey.
- Olaniyi, A. (2015). Analytical study of the causal factors of divorce in African Homes. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, 5(14), 18-29.
- Oppenheimer, V. K. (1997). Women's employment and the gain to marriage: The specialization and trading model. *Annual review of sociology*, 23(1), 431-453.
- Osafo, J., Oppong Asante, K., Ampomah, C. A., & Osei-Tutu, A. (2021). Factors Contributing to Divorce in Ghana: An Exploratory Analysis of Evidence from Court Suits. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 62(4), 312-326.

- Rahel, Demeke (1992) *Divorce and its effect on society*. Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University.
- Rogers, S. J., & DeBoer, D. (2001). Changes in wives' income: Effects on marital happiness, psychological well-being, and the risk of divorce. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63(2), 458-472.
- Sayer, J., Liana, D., & Suzanne M (2005) Women's Economic Independence and the Probability of divorce. *Journal of Family Issues*: 2 (21), 906–943.
- Seblewongel, Fekadu. (2009) *Cause of divorce and its consequence of women and their children in Addis Ababa: The case of Lideta sub city*. Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University.
- Secombe, K.. & Warner, R. (2003). *Marriage and Families: Relationship in Social Context*. Belmont: Wadsworth
- Shibeshi, A. (2015). *Causes of divorce and its effects on children's wellbeing in Yeka sub-city, Addis Ababa* (doctoral dissertation, thesis).
- Tilson, D., & Larsen, U. (2000) Divorce in Ethiopia: The impact of early marriage and childlessness. *Journal of biosocial science*, 32(3), 355-372.
- Vasudevan, B., M, G. D., Bhaskar, A., Areekal, B., Lucas, A., & Chintha, C. (2015). Causes of Divorce: A Descriptive Study from Central Kerala. *Journal of Evolution of Medical and Dental Sciences*, 04(20), 3418–3426. <https://doi.org/10.14260/jemds/2015/494>
- Wallerstein, J. S., & Blakeslee, S. (2004). *Second chances: Men, women, and children a decade after divorce*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

- Wolcotte, I. & Hughe, J. (1999): *Towards understanding the reasons for divorce*. Australia: Australian institute of family studies.
- Wodajeneh, M. (2006). Pertinent contributing factors to divorce among the residents of Addis Ababa. *Unpublished master's thesis*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University.
- Wolf, Brianne. (2016). Psychosocial and Academic Implications of Divorce on Adolescents: A Social Work Perspective. Retrieved from Sophia, the St. Catherine University repository website: https://sophia.stkate.edu/msw_papers/679

Appendices

Appendix A: Consent Form with parents

Hello, I am a second year master's student of Addis Ababa University, department of Social work. At present, I am conducting a study on the lived experiences of adolescents of divorced parents in Addis Ababa from cases presented in "*Lideta*" First Federal Instance court. The nature of this particular study is to understand the experience and meanings constructed by adolescents to divorce of their parents. Moreover, there will be unstructured open-ended questions in which participants share their experience with the researcher.

The interview will take about a minimum of 45 minutes. Furthermore, since adolescents can't make their own decisions, I kindly request for your permission to allow your child to participate in the study. I will also attempt to interact and inquire question in a way that the adolescent feels safe and have sense of autonomy. However, if your child feels stressed or uncomfortable during the interview session, your child is free to stop or to refuse to participate in the study. In addition, the information provided in the study will be kept confidential and anonymous. Hence, if you agree to allow your child to participate in the study, please sign the consent form. Thank you.

Name_____

Date_____

Sign_____

Time of the interview_____

Place of the interview_____

Date of the interview_____

Appendix B: Assent Form with study participants

Lived experience of adolescents to their parents' divorce (Cases presented in "*Lideta*" Federal First Instance court)

Hello, my name is Hawi Seid. I am a second year master's student of Addis Ababa University, department of Social work. Your parents/ care givers have given their permission to allow you to conduct the interview. I also kindly ask for your consent to participate in this study. Moreover, this form provides detailed information about the study. If you are not able to read or understand the contents of the form, I will read and explain the information verbally to you.

Purpose of the study

This study aims to document your whole experience to your parents' divorce. The reason behind for you to take part in this study is because the researcher aims to document your own meaning construction to your parents' divorce.

Expectations

If you choose to participate in this study, you will describe your personal profile, meaning of your parents' divorce, experience (before, during and after), challenges, and coping mechanisms to your parents' divorce. In addition, the interview session will last for a minimum of 45 minutes. With your consent, the interview will be audio recorded.

What do I gain from participating in the study?

Even if this study has no direct benefit to you, your participation in the study will allow other concerned bodies, individuals, parents, professionals such as mediators and social workers to have a detailed understanding about the lives of adolescents coming from divorced parents. Accordingly, social workers and other professionals will learn about the ways to minimize parental divorce and indicate different parenting skills and coping mechanisms of adolescents to the negative effect of parental divorce.

Risks of participating in the study

You may feel stressed while sharing your story to the researcher. However, the researcher will start the interview with friendly conversations and attempt to make the interview questions simple. Anytime you may feel overwhelmed during the interview session, you may stop or take a few minutes of break from the interview.

Discretion/ Secrecy of the information

The information you provide to the study will stay between us and no other person will get a hold of your personal information. To this effect, the researcher will hide away the information provided from you and keep it in a safe place. This study will be anonymous and pseudo names will be used in the study to enhance the confidentiality of the study. Nevertheless, this study may be published in the future but your real names won't be part of the study.

If you have decided to participate in the study, please sign the assent form

Name_____

Sign_____

Date_____

Appendix C: Consent Form with Key Informants

Hello, I am a second year master's student of Addis Ababa University, department of Social work. At present, I am conducting a study on the lived experiences of adolescents of divorced parents in Addis Ababa from cases presented in "*Lideta*" First Federal Instance court. The nature of this particular study is to understand the experience and meanings constructed by adolescents to divorce of their parents. I kindly request for your permission to share your knowledge expertise on the general court process of "*Lideta*" First Federal Instance court, activities of Social workers, encounters you had with adolescents and how cases are handled in the court. The interview will be open-ended questions and will take for a minimum of 35 minutes. Additionally, if you feel stressed or uncomfortable during the interview session, you may stop or have the rights to refuse to participate in the study. In addition, the information you provide about the adolescents coming from divorced parents will be kept confidential and anonymous. Hence, if you agree to participate in the study, please sign the consent form. Thank you.

Name_____

Date_____

Sign_____

Time of the interview_____

Place of the interview_____

Date of the interview _____

Appendix D Research Protocol (Interview Guide)

Addis Ababa University

School of Graduate Studies

Department of Social Work Master's Thesis Project

Topic of the Study: Understanding the lived experiences of adolescents of divorced parents

Part 1: Background information

1. Address 1. *Woreda* _____ 2. *Kebele* _____
2. Sex _____
3. Age _____
4. With whom are you living now?
 - a. Mother
 - b. Father
 - c. Grand parents
 - d. Father and mother in-law
 - e. Mother and father in-law
5. Based on your answer to question 4, tell me how you came to live with anyone of them?

Part two- Questions related to the experience and meanings of adolescents give to their divorce of their parents.

1. When did your parents' divorce take place?
2. What is the meaning of divorce of your parents to you?

3. Ask for a probing question about the experience before, during, and after their parent's divorce?
4. What was your reaction when you heard that your parents were getting divorced?
5. Ask for detailed descriptions about their feelings when their parents got divorced?
6. What matters to you most as a result of your parents' divorce?
7. Do you feel any confusion of roles and status as a result of your parents' divorce?
8. Do you feel mattered or considered seriously by your parents after their divorce?

Part three- Questions related to challenges adolescents face as a result of divorce of their parents

1. Do you have any deteriorated relationship with your parents after the divorce?
2. Do you have any concerns with your current living arrangements?
3. Have your mom or dad remarried another spouse. If yes, can you tell me the experience of living with a step dad or mom?
4. Do you have any problems because of your parents' divorce? Ask for detailed descriptions about their situation in relation to:
 - a. Emotional and psychological
 - b. Relational/social interaction
 - c. Educational
 - d. Health related...etc. these and other questions can come through probing such as:
 - e. Do you have social connection with the families of both parents?
 - f. Do you get along with your friends at school or your neighborhood?
 - g. Do you have any academic difficulties or performance after the divorce of their parents?

Part four- Question related with coping mechanisms of adolescents to their parents' divorce

1. How do you deal with the negative impact of divorce based on the challenges you mentioned in your life earlier?
2. Ask for probing questions about the ways of dealing with the current family transition?
3. Do you feel comfortable with the new life situation? If not, please explain how you deal or cop up with the uncomfortable situations in your life?

Appendix E Research Protocol (Interview Guide)

(Interview Guide with Key Informants)

1. Can you tell me how cases are handled in “*Lideta*” First Federal Instance court?
2. Can you tell me about the work or activities of Social workers at court?
3. How many adolescents coming from divorce parents visit *Lideta*” First Federal Instance court?
4. Can you please tell me the characteristics of adolescents coming from divorced parents in a custody case?

Appendix E- Observation Checklist of the study participants

- 1) Personal hygiene of the adolescents
- 2) Home setting of the adolescents
- 3) The nature of the relationship of adolescents with custodial parents and siblings at home
- 4) Kinds of emotions, tones of voices, laughter and facial gestures of the participants

