

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**MAJOR FACTORS THAT AFFECT MARITAL
STABILITY AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF
ADDIS ABABA**

BY
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April, 2007

Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

MAJOR FACTORS THAT AFFECT MARITAL STABILITY
AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF
ADDIS ABABA

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III. Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify the claimed factors that affect marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. To this end, 120 divorced individuals (60 males and 60 females) were selected using purposive sampling method. The data collected through structured questionnaire, interview, and focused group discussion was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The finding of the analysis revealed: communication problem, behavioral incompatibility, immaturity concerning marriage, lack of support and counseling, in-laws interference, insufficient preparation to the marriage, economic hardship, short period of acquaintance, etc., as the major factors that affect marital stability in the city of Addis Ababa. Suggestions are forwarded based on the findings of the study.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

We all desire to live a happy life. Most of us realizing our inadequacy to achieve this in our own efforts, seek happiness in life with a partner. We have our friends of course, but we need someone more than a friend, pleasant companion, partner and help met as well. Therefore, most of us seek a husband or a wife to share life with. Marriage! (Smith, 1954)

Marriage is a socially recognized and approved union between individuals, who commit to one another with the expectation of a stable and lasting intimate relationship. This relationship usually involves some kind of contract which defines the partners' rights and obligations to each other. The usual roles and responsibilities of the husband and wife include living together, having sexual relations with one another, sharing economic resources, and being recognized as the parents of their children (Encarta, 2007).

In addition to being a personal relationship between two people, marriage is one of society's most important and basic institutions. In the world today, the institution of marriage is in a serious trouble; and is declining in its significance to society (Olson & Defrain, 2000). Consequently, it has become obvious to see a number of marriages ending in divorce.

Divorce is the term we use to mean the legal ending of marriage. It represents the end of the hopes that two people had for each other (Pothen, 1987). Thus, divorce is the dissolution of the tie of marriage that occurs when the stresses and strains of living together become too difficult to bear (Olson & Defrain, 2000).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Marriage is meant to be a life long and sacred union between a man and a woman. In marriage contracts, couples vow to love and care each other as long as they live, and expect their marriage to last a lifetime. In spite of all these beliefs and slogans supporting the indissolubility of marriage, it has become obvious to see a number of marriages failing apart. Even many who stay together are said to have marriages that are tolerable but not happy (Collins, 1988).

Such a phenomenon affects the two people involved physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Its influence also extends to parents, children, other family members, friends, neighbors, and to the society (Collins, 1988). According to an anonymous counselor, as cited by Collins (1988) nobody wins in a divorce. Everybody loses the couple, their children, their parents, and the community at large. Derrett, (1972) confirmed this saying “divorce cases reflect a sick society, not a healthy one.”

Experience and available data shows that divorce is on the increase in Ethiopia. However, to the knowledge of the researcher little or inadequate research is carried out to investigate the problem in the Ethiopian context. Thus, it would be worthwhile to take a very good look at the sources of the problem.

The aim of this research is therefore to identify the major factors that affect marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. For this purpose, the study will attempt to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the background factors related to divorce?
2. What are the major factors that affect marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa?
3. What are the possible solutions to alleviate the problem?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective

The general objective of this research is to identify the major claimed factors that affect marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

1. To assess the background characteristics of the divorcees. i.e. to assess divorce proneness before marriage in relation to several factors such as age at the time of marriage, age difference between couples, length of engagement, educational achievement, premarital pregnancy, parental divorce etc.
2. To identify the major factors that affect marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.
3. To suggest possible solutions to alleviate the problem.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Experience and available data shows that divorce rate is on the increase in the present Ethiopian context. Thus, this study is very significant for the following reasons.

- There are very few studies on divorce in the whole of Ethiopia. Thus, this study is hoped to shade light on the problem being investigated and serve as a spring board for more refined studies on the area.
- This study can be used to minimize divorce and its consequences in Addis.

1.5. Delimitation of the Study

Due to time, finance, and other constraints, this research is delimited to the study of the major factors that affect marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.

1.6. Operational Definitions of Terms

Marriage is an emotional and legal commitment between two people to share emotional and physical intimacy, various tasks, and economic resources (Olson & Defrain, 2000).

Marital adjustment is accommodation of a husband and wife to each other at a given time (Delcampo, 1999).

Marital prediction is forecasting the likelihood of marital adjustment at a future time (Delcampo, 1999).

Divorce: Divorce is an act by which a valid marriage is dissolved legally or traditionally freeing the parties to remarry (Delcampo, 1999).

Divorce proneness: is the likelihood that a certain marriage is vulnerable to divorce (Delcampo, 1999).

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

a. Concepts and Theories Relating to the Problem

2.1. Factors Associated with Divorce

Various researchers and family therapists have explored many complex and interrelated factors that contribute for marital dissolution and; as long as these factors persist, divorce is expected to be a part of the social scene (Duvall & Miller, 1985).

According to Glick (1975), the factors behind the increase in divorce are the rise of individualism, increased education, employment of women, higher family incomes, social disruption, secularization of life, churches relaxation of their stand against divorce, general acceptance of divorce, increased equality of the sexes, and legal reforms.

Olson & Defrain (2000) on the other hand mentioned unrealistic expectations of marriage, marrying the wrong person for the wrong reasons, the difficult nature of marital relationship, and lack of effort to develop the relationship skills needed to maintain a strong marriage as the chief reasons for the increase in divorce and unhappy marriages.

Adams, (1986) grouped the causes of marital dissolution in to direct and indirect causes. The direct causes he suggested are - non-support, value divergence,

arbitrary authority, disagreement on consumption pattern, drinking, extramarital affairs, personality problems, combination of reasons and unsatisfactory home life. The indirect causes he suggested are low family income, high income for women, teenage marriage, generational transmission etc. As for Levinger, (1966) the reasons for divorce given by husband and wife are often different. According to him wives more often complain of physical and verbal abuse, financial problems, drinking alcohol, neglect of home and children, and lack of love, where as husbands' complaints run more to in law problems and sexual incompatibility.

According to Baber, as cited in Pothen, (1987) the real causes of divorce involve the same factors that cause marital unhappiness such as unfaithfulness, jealousy, mental illness, feeble mindedness, poverty, laziness, disagreement on financial matters, relatives, impotence, frigidity, excessive sex passion, drunkenness, nagging, religious differences, female independence, irritability, disease, and a host of other infinitum.

Although there are so many factors that are accountable for marriage break down as listed above, the major factor is the lack of care with which many marriages are put together (Collins 1988 & Smith 1954). According to Duvall & Lewis as cited in Pothen (1987) hasty & poor planning of marriages is one of the causes of divorce in modern society. I.e. most marriages are built on faulty foundations

such as sexual attraction, the desire to escape from a difficult home situation, a vague feeling of love, or some equally momentary motive (Collins 1988 & Smith 1954). Thus, many marriage relationships are too weak to survive the pressures, challenges, and storms of daily living.

Hence, readiness is necessary to undertake marriage's developmental tasks successfully (Rapport, 1963 as cited in Duval and Miller, 1985). Yet, in many societies couples tend to spend more time getting ready for the wedding than preparing for the marriage. The same people who may have spend hours planning vacations, careers, wedding receptions, and honeymoons in most instances are unprepared for this crucial step in life. As a result many beautiful wedding days are followed by years of misery or, at least, minimal happiness (Collins, 1988).

2.1.1. Factors Associated with Divorce as Presented by Different Scholars

Infidelity/Sexual Unfaithfulness: Most people enter in to marriage pledging fidelity and expecting it from their partner. However, each day more and more people break their marriage vows and bed some one other than their spouse. Thus, infidelity is the most common disruptive force in families, and the most universally accepted justification for divorce. It has been estimated that infidelity takes place in at least 70 percent of all marriages, although most unfaithfulness is brief and sometimes a one-time occurrence (Then, 1998). The faithfulness to each other of the husband and wife is one of the bulwarks of marriage but in these days infidelity is treated as a matter of no great consequence. However,

with out fidelity there can be no stability in marital or family relationship. Because, a love that is unfaithful to its object is not love (Smith, 1954).

Sexual Problems: Sex is a central strand, which is tied intimately with other aspects of relation ship. At times, most couples have sexual problems. These include lack of accurate knowledge, unrealistic expectations, fear of not being able to perform adequately, differences in sexual drive, inhibiting attitudes about sex, and insufficient opportunities for privacy. The three most common sex problems impotence, frigidity, and infidelity create more tension, and this further hinders smooth sexual functioning. Exceptional busyness, insensitivity in one or both of the partners, or non-sexual marital conflicts can also interfere with sexual functioning. When these problems are not resolved, marriage suffers (Collins, 1988).

According to Masters and Johnson as cited in Collins, (1988) at least 50% of marriages are flawed by some form of sexual maladjustment or dysfunction. Sometimes the sex problems come first and create marital discord. More often, it seems that marital conflict/drifting apart comes first and generates so much tension that mutually satisfying sex no longer occurs (Collins, 1988).

Economic Problems: Like sex, money is a primary source of tension in marriages. Besides, familial and economic phenomena are interdependent. With the increasing cost of living, economic problems are soaring high. Economic problems are experienced more when the husband is partially or fully unemployed, or, when he wastes his earnings for non-essential or harmful items like alcohol (Pothen, 1987). Reports claim that 54% of all couples fight about money and when cash is limited, the figures swell to 64 percent. Many divorced people still grimace when they think about the money factor in their marriages. Especially, if the husband was the only income generator (Jacqueline, 1982).

Kins Interference: Because of the present very acute shortage of houses many newly weds often have to share a home with either the wife's or the husband's parents. In such cases, domestic friction may crop up and if not resolved can lead to marital instability (Smith, 1954).

Faulty communication: When miscommunication is more common than clear communication, a marriage begins to have serious problems (Collins, 1988). Because, if a husband and wife do not communicate, their marriage is just two lonely people sharing a house; and their sex is nothing more than producing children and such a marriage will become cold and unexciting (Bruce & Carol, 1995).

Social Sanctions: Many people have become less inclined to accept the sanctity and permanence of marriage. Some people maintain the view that self-realization, career advancement, and personal fulfillment are such major goals in life that everything else-including a commitment to marriage-must take second place. These social attitudes combine to make divorce a more viable option when marital tensions arise (Collins, 1988).

The Need for Dominance: In most cultures, males are dominant in marriage relationship. However, now a days there is an increasing trend towards equalitarian marriage. The difficulty arises when the husband refuses to accept this new trend, or when the woman rejects her husband's domination (Cohen, 1971). According to Bruce & Carol (1999), such a phenomenon leads to a selfish kind of marriage, which the husband and wife both want to be in control. Therefore, the marriage becomes a daily competition ground in which the husband and wife are like two athletes from different schools ---each trying to win.

Alcohol abuse: Alcohol abuse is a serious social and health problem that disrupts families, ruins careers, destroys bodies, tears apart friendships, and leads to untold human misery. He further noted that one in four families is troubled by alcohol (Collins, 1988).

Persisting Stresses: when a stress is severe or lasts long, it puts sufficient pressure on a marriage and leads the couple in to thinking about divorce. Generally, there is less resistance to divorce when stresses build (Collins, 1988).

Temperamental Incompatibility: Life in marriage comprises the most intimate of all human associations. Thus, there must be this basic harmony in the approach to life of the partners i.e. they should be compatible or can get along with each other (Smith, 1954).

Cultural Incompatibility: Compatibility in this respect does not mean that they both share the same cultural interests, but that they both see nothing odd in the fact that the other follows a particular cultural activity (Smith, 1954).

Conflicting Values: When a couple has similar values, the marriage is often healthy and growing. When values are in conflict, however the relationship may be one of tension, power struggle and mutual criticism. Value conflicts are at the heart of many marital problems. In addition, values sometimes become the basis for intense conflict, especially if the cherished beliefs are attacked or challenged by one's mate (Collins, 1988).

Religious Difference: Counselors have observed tensions when a husband and wife differ from each other in their religious preferences, degree of devotion to spiritual things, interest in religion, or expectations about the religious education of children. Sometimes these differences create tension in other areas such as choice of friends, views of ethics, and whether and to whom donations will be

given, or the use of time on Sundays. Religion can be a binding force in marriage, but when a husband and wife have different viewpoints, religion can also cause destructive marital tension (Collins, 1988 and Delcampo, 1999).

Unplanned and Unthought-of Marriage: One of the causes of divorce is hasty and poorly planned marriage (Duvall and Lewis, 1950). Unplanned marriages may either be arranged ones or love ones. In either case, the relationship is established without giving sufficient forethought. Many people do not make rational enquiries about the other party and this can lead to unpleasant or even startling discoveries later on which will shatter the chances of happiness in marriage (Pothen, 1987).

Young age at Marriage: Martin and Bumpass (1989) conclude that age at first marriage is the strongest predictor of divorce in the first five years of marriage. According to them men and women who are under the age of 20 when they first marry are two to three times more likely to divorce than their counterparts who first marry in their 20s.

There are several reasons for this relationship between youth and marital instability. An obvious reason is that teenagers may lack the maturity to handle the responsibilities of marriage. Their youth and relative inexperience in relationships may lead them to make less sensible choices in marital partners. Besides couples who marry young have restricted opportunities for college education and to have financial difficulties, especially if they have children early. Generally, early marriages are more prone to divorce. What is an early marriage? The general trend across the studies is up to the late twenties at least; the older you are the better your chances (Booth and Edwards, 1985).

Wide Age Difference: Bumpass and Sweet (1972) reported higher than expected instability when age differences between spouses are large and when wives are older than their husbands. An analysis of the 1954 Australian census data as cited in Delcampo, 1999 yielded parallel finding: the lowest divorce rate occurred among couples whose ages fell within the same 5-year category; if the spouse's age differed by more than five years, the divorce rates were higher. In general, social similarity enhances interpersonal attraction. Such similarity also facilitates adherence to the same social norms-whether the partners are married or not-and helps avoid friction (Delcampo, 1999).

Short Period of Engagement/Acquaintance: Length of acquaintance before marriage has frequently been found to be a significant correlate of its durability (Goode, 1956). Partners who wait long before making a formal commitment probably take it more seriously and later feel more invested in it than those who wait little time. Quickie marriages of convenience or necessity, particularly those with a premarital adolescence pregnancy are divorce prone (Furstenberg, 1976). Generally, the longer you have known him, the longer you have gone together, the longer the engagement: the better your chances. How long is long enough? Date him for at least a year; but the longer the better (Delcampo 1999).

Previous Divorce: The probability of divorce is heightened by either spouse's experience of divorce in a previous marriage. Because, previously divorced persons are more prone than persons in their first marriages to consider divorce as a solution to conflict (Goode, 1956).

Parental Divorce: A history of divorce between the parents of either spouse appears to contribute to divorce proneness. Because, a person's tolerance for his or her own marital difficulty would lower if he or she previously experienced mutual tolerance in the parental family (Pope & Mueller, 1976).

Educational Status of the Spouses: Durable marriages have exceeded dissolved marriages in their mean level of husband's education (Levinger, 1966). A wife's attraction to her husband may be positively related to his education for reasons of social status, or perhaps high education encourages better marital communication and a higher value of marital companionship. Even more likely, the husband's education is positively related to his financial income and therefore to the couple's living standard. As a whole, the more years of schooling, the lower the divorce rate (Blood and Wolfe, 1960).

2.1.2. The Divorce Prone

Several studies have confirmed that there are certain people that are divorce prone. People who marry in their teens are twice as likely to divorce as those who marry in their twenties (Mott & Moore, 1979). Premarital pregnancy with its lack of responsible planning, inadequate preparation for marriage, hurried courtship, and inherent economic problems are correlated with divorce (Furstenberg, 1976). Children of divorced parents more often divorce in time, possibly because divorce openly recognizes parental dysfunction rather than ignoring its existence or possibly, because the personality problems of the parents produce similar patterns in their children (Greenberg & Nay, 1982). These researchers found that daughters of divorce are more likely to marry at younger ages to become premarital pregnant, and to marry men with low status occupations (Mueller & Pope, 1977).

Therefore, variables such as, marriage at very young age, short acquaintance before marriage, unhappy marriages of parents of the couples, non attendance at church or mixed faith, disapproval of the marriage by kin, general dissimilarity in background, and variations in mutual role obligations of husband and wife are related to divorce proneness (Goode, 1963).

Generally, as numerous marital prediction studies confirmed, there are certain marriages that will almost certainly fail. If very young, have not known the prospective partner very long, have been divorced already, subscribe to a different religion and have an academic background that is different from the prospective partner, and have parents who are divorced, chances are the marriage will not be successful. Yet couples marry every day regardless of these facts (Delcampo, 1999).

2.2 Effects of Divorce

A loving relationship or marriage can bring people enormous benefits. It can help them grow as friends and lovers; it can help them to have emotional and physical well-being. It can even help to heal wounds. Conversely, a marriage break up can thoroughly disrupt ones life, routines, feelings of self worth, and sense of security. In most instances, divorce is accompanied by a range of emotions such as anxiety, guilt, sadness, depression, anger, bitterness, frustration, and thoughts of suicide. Preoccupied with such behavioral problems, the divorcees work often suffers, and sometimes there is high accident proneness (Collins, 1988). Many people who experience such emotions try to escape the pain through chemicals or abusing drugs. Besides, the misery of a dissolving marriage and the continuing tension can weaken the body's resistance to disease. One physician has even called marital conflict "the number one killer" (Olson & Defrain, 2000).

Marital disruption has a negative economic effect that would plague divorced women and their children. During the years children live in a single parent household, financial resources are often limited due to the greater prevalence of divorce among low-income families, fewer opportunities for women heading the household to find employment and other reasons (Bane, 1979).

Divorce also contributes to the development of children's psychological disorganization and has had other ill effects including low academic achievement, juvenile delinquency, and other social and emotional adjustment problems (Longfellow, 1979). After reviewing various literature, Amato, (1994) as cited in Hutter (1998) takes a similar view that children who experience parental divorce, compared with children in continuously intact two parent families, exhibit more conduct problems, more symptom of psychological maladjustment, lower economic achievement, more social difficulties and poorer self concepts.

Several researches on the effects of marital discord demonstrate the impact of divorce on people's physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being (Collins, 1988).

In a longitudinal study of 131 children of divorced parents, Wallerstein and Blakeslee (1989) found divorce to have a long-term negative effect on children when they mature in to adulthood. Similarly, using a national survey research data, McLanhan and Bumpass (1988) also found out women whose parents had divorced more likely to marry young, bear children before marriage, and then eventually divorce. Researchers (Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1996) also found children of divorce to have higher rates of cohabitation and more unstable marriages than children from stable marriages do. In a later study, McLanhan and Sandefur (1994) analyzed four national surveys and found low income and declines in income as significant contributory factors for these undesirable outcomes.

2.3. Movements to Strengthen Marriage

Due to a growing concern over the rate of divorce (about 50%) in the United States, legislators are pushing for changes in the laws to impose more requirements on couples planning to marry. Florida was the first state to pass a comprehensive package of legislation designed to strengthen marriage and reduce divorce. Passed in the Florida State Legislation in 1998, the Marriage Preparation and Reservation Act became effective in January 1999. The bill had the following four key components:

- High school students are required to take a course in marriage and relationship skill-based education.
- Engaged couples are encouraged to take a premarital preparation course of at least four hours. Those who do so qualify for a reduction in their marriage license fee. Each courthouse is to keep a roster of religious and secular approved courses.
- Each couple applying for a marriage license will be given a handbook prepared by the Florida Bar Association informing them of their legal rights and responsibilities as married partners to each other and to their children, both during marriage and in the event of marital dissolution.
- Couples with children who file for divorce must take a parent-education and family-stabilization course (Ooms, 1998 as cited in Duval and Miller, 1985).

Another movement to improve marriage is called the Community Marriage Policy, which has been adopted by over 100 communities throughout the United States. The Community Marriage Policy is designed to bring clergy members,

judges, marital therapists, and others together to support a variety of premarital and marital enrichment programs to help improve marriages. One part of the initiative encourages premarital couples to enroll in a program that employs a premarital inventory; provides feedback on the inventory results through a therapist, clergy member, or mentor couple; and incorporates a group couple skill-based program. Following marriage, couples are encouraged to participate in a marriage enrichment programs to help them continue to build and strengthen their relationship (McManus & McManus, 1998 as cited in Duval and Miller, 1985).

Therefore, it can be said that the most obvious way to prevent divorce is to build stronger marriages (Collins 1988). To this end, premarital programs such as counseling play important roles in helping couples to be realistic about marriage and know that marriage takes a tremendous investment of time, effort and energy. Generally, premarital preparation can get the marriage off to a good start (Olson & Defrain, 2000). Thus, good education programs such as marriage enrichment seminars or workshops should be available as preventive maintenance to premarital and marital couples (Olson, 1992).

b. Related Past Research

In a national study of marital therapists who work with couples, Whisman, Dixon, & Johnson, 1997 as cited in Defrain, 2000 identified the most prominent problems reported by couples. The result of their study demonstrates poor communication, power struggles, unrealistic expectations about marriage, sexual relationship problems, and difficulties in decision-making were the five issues reported by couples.

The study also provided an overall ranking based on the frequency, difficulty of treating, and damaging impact of each problem. Based on the overall ranking, the top five issues were power struggles, lack of loving feelings, communication problems, extramarital affairs, and unrealistic expectations. The most difficult problems for therapists to treat were lack of loving feelings, alcoholism, and extramarital affairs. The issues with the most damaging impact on marriage were physical abuse, extramarital affairs, and alcoholism.

In a study conducted in Oklahoma, USA, by the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative (OMI, 2005) the causes of divorce were identified as lack of commitment, too much conflict, infidelity, early marriages, lack of premarital preparation, economic problems, domestic violence, lack of support from family members, and religious difference.

Grant Thornton, estimated the main causes of divorce in UK based on a survey of matrimonial lawyers (Wikipedia, 2005). The main causes identified were extramarital affairs, family strains, emotional or physical abuse, mid life crises, addictions, and work holism. According to this study, 75% of men and 25% of women are engaged in extra marital affairs. In cases of family tension, women' families were revealed to be the primary source of strain in 75% of cases

compared to 22% of men's families. 60% of men and 40% of women are affected by emotional and physical abuses. Besides men were the causes in 70% of work holism related divorces, and in 30% it was the women

Ileve Wolcott & Jody Hughes (1999) conducted a study in Australia to assess the reasons of divorce by drawing the data from the Australian Divorce Transition Project. The data was collected through a random national telephone survey of 650 divorced Australians. The respondents were asked to tell the chief reason for the dissolution of their marriage. The responses were then grouped in to affective reasons, abusive behavior, and external pressures.

The affective reasons were communication problems, incompatibility, drifting apart, sexual incompatibility, and infidelity. The abusive behaviors were alcoholism, drug abuse, and violence to self or children and under external pressures came health problems, economic problems, and in laws interference.

Tsehay, (2005) conducted a study to examine the relationship between the presence of children and marital satisfaction of parents in Addis Ababa. Her study on 200 married individuals shows that children have an effect on marital satisfaction. Her study also identified age at marriage and family income as significant predictors of marital satisfaction. However, her study indicates no relationship between marital satisfaction and educational status.

Tsegaye, (2006) conducted a study to identify the major factors that lead to divorce in Addis Ababa. The data was collected from 220 divorcees using structured questionnaire. According to the findings of his study extramarital affairs, infidelity, short period of acquaintance, mistrust between spouses, interference by relatives specially in laws, alcoholism, economic problem, sexual incompatibility of couples, premarital pregnancy, difference in religion, early

marriage, cruelty, and racial difference are the major divorcing factors in A.A. His study also revealed that there is no significant difference between male and female respondents in viewing the major factors of divorce.

CHAPTER-THREE

METHOD

3.1. Design of the Study

This study is intended to identify the major factors that affect marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. The dependent variable is divorce and the independent variables are the various factors that contribute to marital break down.

3.2. The Study Area

The study area is Addis Ababa, which is the capital city of Ethiopia. The city comprises of ten sub cities and a population of 3.5 million to 4 million. In addition to being the official diplomatic capital of Africa, Addis Ababa hosts a population of mixed origin (AACCA, 2006).

3.3. Research Participants

The targets of the study are divorced individuals who live in Addis Ababa. The total number of the participants is 120 among which half of them are women. (60 divorced men and 60 divorced women) Their age ranges from the early 20's to the late 60's with the majority between the age of 31 and 40. Their level of education ranges from illiterate to degree holders. When it comes to religion, Orthodox Christians are dominant and the majority of them earn between 500 to 2000 birr a month.

3.3.1. Sampling Technique

Because it was found hard to obtain list of divorcees and their addresses, systematic random sampling technique could not be used as originally intended.

Therefore, the researcher has resorted in using purposive sampling technique. The only criterion used was that the participants are accessible and had divorce whether remarried or not. Purposive sampling is also used to select individuals for the interview and focused group discussion.

3.4. Tools

A questionnaire, an intensive interview, and Focused group discussion were used to collect data from the participants of the study

3.4.1 Questionnaire

The main instrument used in this study was a questionnaire that was prepared in English and translated in Amharic with the help of two professional translators. Although the general purpose of the questionnaire is to figure out the factors that contribute for marital instability in Addis Ababa, the questionnaire is divided in to three sections based on the focus of the questions. The first part is meant to assess the characteristics of the respondents where as, the second part that comprises of 13 choice items is designed to assess the background factors that are related to divorce proneness. The third part which is designed as a kind of checklist is focused on identifying the claimed factors that affect marital stability in Addis Ababa. In this session, the participants had to put a check on the factors that they think are responsible for the failure of their marriage. The questionnaire is developed based on the review of related literature.

3.4.2. Interview

An interview is also carried out in order to cross check and enrich the information gathered through the questionnaire. The interview comprises of two questions and the interviewees were 20 divorcees from the city of Addis Ababa.

The first question has content similarity with the questionnaire. This is done in order to check the reliability of the information obtained through the questionnaire.

3.4.3 Focused Group Discussion

A total of six individuals comprising of a family judge, psychologist, sociologist, priest, pastor and a leader of a community based organization were participated in the focused group discussion. These individuals are chosen due to their accessibility and proximity to the problem being investigated.

3.4.4 Validity of the Instruments

Demonstrating the validity and reliability of self-reported behaviors is very essential. Thus, the validity and reliability of the instruments are assessed using content validity.

To assess content validity of the items, the instruments were given to five evaluators/judges, who were asked to determine the appropriateness of each item. The two judges were qualified instructors in higher institutions found in Addis Ababa and the other three are a counselor, sociologist and a language teacher who work in various organizations. The judges evaluated the items on a five point scale where by “5” is allotted to the most appropriate, “4” for appropriate, “3” for least appropriate, “2” for items that need improvement and “1” for items that need to be discarded. The judges also gave their suggestions on other aspects of the questionnaire. Finally, important improvements were made on the instruments based on suggestions, and comments forwarded by them. For instance, two difficult, one vague, and four very sensitive items and two items that have no or little relevance to the purpose of the study are discarded.

3.5. Procedure of Data Collection

The researcher together with his research assistants administered the questionnaire by going to the respondents' places. In all case, the divorcees were provided with a brief explanation about the study, and asked to fill out the questionnaire individually. Besides, they were assured that their responses would be kept in strict confidence, and would never be revealed to any third party. To get accurate and the best possible responses, illiterate participants were interviewed using the questionnaire as structured interview items.

3.6. Method of Data Analysis

The data was analyzed by tallying the responses given manually and by calculating percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

Results

The major objective of this study is to identify the major factors that contribute to marital dissolution. It also aims to determine the back ground characteristics of the divorcees as it could be related to their behavior pertaining to marital dissolution.

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of Sample

Table I: Participants 'Age and Sex'

Sex	Number	Percent
Male	60	50%
Female	60	50%
Total	120	100%
Age	Number	Percent
18-30	20	16.6%
31-40	52	43.3%
41-50	24	20%
51-60	16	13.3%
Above 60	8	6.6%
Total	120	100%

In the study, 60 males (50 %) and 60 females (50 %) are included. The majority of the participants (43.3 %) are between the age group of 31 and 40. Twenty percent of the respondents are between the age of 41 and 50 while 16.6 % are between the age of 18 and 30. A considerable number of respondents (13.3 %) are also between the age of 51 and 60. Only 6.6 % of the respondents are above the age of 60.

Table II: Participants 'Religion and Ethnicity'

Religion	Number	Percent
Orthodox	62	51.6%
Muslim	11	9.1%
Protestant	31	25.8%
Catholic	16	13.3%
Others	-	-
Total	120	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Amhara	49	40.8%
Oromo	31	25.8%
Gurage	13	10.8%
Tigrae	15	12.5%
Others	12	10%
Total	120	100%

As shown in the above table, Orthodox Christianity is the predominant religion (51.6 %) followed by Protestant (25.8 %) Catholic (13.3 %), and Muslim (9.1%). When it comes to their ethnic origin, most (40.8 %) of the participants are Amhara followed by Oromo (25.8 %), Tigrae (12.5%), Gurage (10.8 %) and others (10 %).

Table III: Participants ‘Academic Status and Income’

Monthly Income	Number	Percent
0-149 birr	-	-
150-500 birr	29	24.1%
501-1,000 birr	46	38.3%
1000-2000 birr	31	25.8%
Above 2000 birr	14	11.6%
Total	120	100%
Academic Status	Number	Percent
No formal education	4	3.3%
Primary level	7	5.8%
Junior secondary	7	5.8%
Secondary	42	35%
College diploma	41	34.1%
First degree and above	19	15.8%
Total	120	100%

As shown in table III, 38.3 % of the respondents earn between 501 and 1000 birr a month, while 25.8 % of them earn 1000 to 2000. Where as 24.1 % of the respondents earn between 150 and 500 a month. The remaining (11.6 %) Of the respondents earn birr 2000 and above a month.

Regarding their educational level, almost all (96.7 %) of the participants are literate. Of these (35 %) have attended secondary school, (34.1%) have college diploma, and, (15.8 %) are first degree holders and above. Where as, (11.6 %) of the respondents are in primary and junior secondary level. The remaining (3.3 %) have not attended any formal education.

4.2 Result of the Background of the Divorcees

Information concerning the background characteristics of the divorcees is important in as much as it could be related to their behavior pertaining to marital dissolution. In identifying the background, the following aspects of the life of the couples are significant: age of the divorcees at the time of marriage, age difference of spouses, length of engagement of the divorcees, educational status of the divorcees at marriage, parental divorce of the divorcees, premarital pregnancy, and presence of children born of the divorced couples.

Table IV: Age of the Divorcees at the Time of Marriage

Age at Marriage	Husband		Wife		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
19 and under	-	-	52	43.3	52	21.6%
20-24	40	33.3	32	26.6	72	30%
25-30	44	36.6	32	26.6	76	31.6%
Above 31	36	30	4	3.3	40	16.6%
Total	120	100	120	100	240	100%

As shown in the above table, the age-group (19 and under) had the highest incident in the case of wives (43.3 %) and the age-group 25-30 had the highest incidence (36.6%) in the case of husbands. About 70 per cent of the wives and 33.3 percent of the husbands were married before they attained the age of 25. 43.3 percent of the women got married before they completed the age of 20. The data also indicates that women get married earlier than men do. Except four women, all women were married before the age of 31 while 36 men married after the age of 31.

Table V: Age Difference between the Divorced Spouses

Age Difference	Number	Percent
Equal or not more than two years	12	10%
3 to 5 years	48	40%
5 years and more	60	50%
Total	120	100%

Five years and more age difference is observed in 50 percent of the divorced spouses while there is 3 to 5 years age difference in 40 percent of the divorced spouses. Only 10 percent of the respondents claimed to have equal or not more than two years age difference between them and their ex-spouses.

Table VI: Duration of Engagement of the Divorcees

Length of engagement	Number	Percentage
No period of engagement	7	5.8%
1 to 3 months	9	7.5%
3 to 6 months	29	24.1%
6 months to one year	35	29.1%
1 to 2 years	23	19.1%
2 years or longer	17	14.1%
Total	120	100%

The interval between engagement and marriage is important for marital stability. In this study, it was found that in 13.3 percent cases, the period was below three months, in 24.1 per cent cases between three and six months, in 29.1 percent cases between 6 months and one year, in 19.1 percent cases between one and two years, and in 14.1 percent cases between two years and/or more.

Table VII: Educational Status of Divorcees at Marriage

Level of education	Husband		Wife		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
No formal education	8	6.6	12	10	20	8.3
Primary level (1 to 6)	4	3.3	4	3.3	8	3.3
Junior secondary (7 to 8)	8	6.6	12	10	20	8.3
Secondary (9 to 12)	48	40	56	46.6	104	43.3
College diploma	36	30	36	30	72	30
First degree and above	16	13.3	-	-	16	6.6
Total	120	100	120	100	240	100

This table shows that the majority of the divorcees were literate at the time of their marriage. The highest frequency of males (40%) and females (46.6 %) fall in the secondary group. Further, 30 percent of the husbands and 30 percent wives had college diploma at the time of their marriage.

The table also indicates that the male are better educated than females at the time of marriage. 13.3 percent of husbands had first degree and/or above at the time of their marriage. Where as, none of the wives had first degree and/or above at the time of their marriage.

Table VIII: Duration of the Dissolved Marriage

Duration of Previous Marriage	Number	Percent
Less than 1 year	20	16.6%
1-2 years	24	20%
3-6 years	44	36.6%
7-10 years	12	10%
Above 10 years	20	16.6%
Total	120	100%

In the order of frequency, 44 respondents (36.6 %) were married for 3 to 6 years. Twenty percent of the respondents were in marriage between 1 and 2 years. Two groups of respondents (16.6 % each) had spent less than a year, and above ten years respectively. Only 10 % of the respondents spent 7 to 10 years in marriage.

Table IX: Parental Divorce of the Respondents

Parental Divorce	Respondent		Ex-spouse	
	No	%	No	%
Yes	56	46.6	52	43.3
No	64	53.3	68	56.6
Total	120	100	120	100

As indicated in the above table, there is parental divorce in the case of 46.6 percent of the respondents and in 43.3 percent cases of the ex-spouses.

Table X: Premarital Pregnancy

Premarital Pregnancy	No	%
Yes	38	31.6%
No	82	68.3%
Total	120	100%

The result of the study shows that 31.6% of the couples had premarital pregnancy while the remaining 68.3 % of the respondents did not have premarital pregnancy

Table XI: Presence of children

Presence of Children	No	%
Yes	84	70%
No	36	30%
Total	120	100%

As shown in the above table, the majority (70%) of the spouses in divorce have children. from the dissolved marriage while, only 30% Of the divorced spouses had no children. This indicates that “having children” is no longer a deterrent to preserve an incompatible marriage.

Table XII: Remarriage of the Respondents

Remarriage	Frequency	Percent
Remarried	64	53.3%
Not remarried	56	46.6%
Total	120	100%

As shown in the above table, 53.3 percent of the respondents are remarried where as, 46.6 percent of the respondents are not remarried.

4.3. Results of the Factors that are responsible for the Dissolution of Marriage among the Inhabitants of Addis Ababa

In this study the divorced respondents were asked to mark the factors responsible for the dissolution of their marriage. Accordingly, the major factors checked by the respondents were: communication problem (95 %), behavioral incompatibility (89.1 %), immaturity concerning marriage (75.8 %), lack of support and counseling (71.6 %), in-laws interference (69.1 %),insufficient preparation to the marriage (69.1%), Economic hardship (67.5 %), short period of acquaintance (63.3 %), mistrust (63.3 %), absence of love/affection (63.3%), infidelity (62.5 %), young age at marriage (62.5%), jealousy (60.8 %), alcoholism (56.6 %), and sexual maladjustment (47.5 %). This finding is congruent with Tsegaye Emanu, 2006.

4.4. Results of the Focused Group Discussion

A total of six individuals comprising of a family judge, psychologist, sociologist, priest, pastor and a leader of community based organization had discussed on the following two points:

1. What are the major factors that are responsible for marital break down in Addis Ababa?
2. What should be done to minimize the problem?

For issue number one the participants cited: poor communication, behavioral incompatibility, sexual unfaithfulness, sexual maladjustment, immaturity concerning marriage, lack of support and counseling, , insufficient preparation (mentally, psychologically, physically, and economically) to the marriage,

financial problem, loose attitude of society towards marriage, education and economic independence of women, insufficient premarital acquaintance, unhealthy habits like alcoholism, lack of trust, and jealousy as major factors that affect marital stability in the city of Addis Ababa.

Regarding issue number two all the participants of the FGD were of the firm opinion that premarital, post marital and familial counseling services should be made accessible to the community. They also forwarded the following suggestions

- There must be social education concerning marriage.
- Marriage should be entered in to after sufficient thought and planning.
- Better efforts for reconciliation must be made by courts and other concerned bodies.

4.5. Results of the Interview

In studying a delicate and intricate phenomenon like divorce, it is essential to interview some of the respondents. Thus, 20 divorcees were intensively interviewed using the following interview questions.

1. What would you say were the major reasons for the dissolution of your marriage?
2. What do you think should be done to minimize the problem?

Regarding question number 1, the interviewees mentioned poor communication, interference by others, behavioral incompatibility, immaturity concerning marriage, early marriage, lack of support, insufficient preparation (mentally, psychologically, physically, and economically) to the marriage, sexual unfaithfulness, financial problem, absence of love/ affection, insufficient

premarital acquaintance, alcoholism, verbal and physical abuse, lack of trust, and jealousy as major factors responsible for the failure of their marriage. Here it is important to note the similarity of the results obtained through focused group discussion, questionnaire and interview.

As for the ways of preventing divorce the interviewees forwarded the following suggestions.

- The sanctity of marriage should be accepted and respected.
- People should stop interfering on other peoples marital affairs
- People should be well acquainted before making formal commitment
- Marriage at young age should be discouraged
- Spouses should make all efforts to save their marriage

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

5.1 THE BACKGROUND OF THE DIVORCEES

Information concerning the background of the divorcees is important as it could be related to their behavior pertaining to marital dissolution. In identifying their background, the following aspects of the life of the couples are significant: age of the divorcees at the time of marriage, age difference of spouses, length of engagement of the divorcees, educational status of the divorcees at the time of marriage, parental divorce of the divorcees, premarital pregnancy, and presence of children born of the divorced couples.

5.1.1 Age at Marriage

It is generally agreed that the age at which a person enters into marital relationship affects his/her capacity for marital adjustment. According to Gibson, (1974) men and women who are under the age of 20 when they first marry are three times more likely to divorce than their counter parts who first marry in their twenties. Generally, early marriages are more prone to divorce (Martin and Bumpass, 1989).

An obvious reason for the relationship between youth and marital instability is that teenagers may lack the maturity to handle the responsibilities of marriage. Their youth and relative inexperience in relationships may lead them to make less sensible choices in marital partners. Besides, couples who marry young have restricted opportunities for education and economic security (Booth and Edwards, 1985).

The present analysis of the age at marriage revealed that the vast majority of the divorcees (70 per cent of the ex-wives and 33.3 percent of the ex-husbands) were married before they attained the age of twenty five; and 43.3 percent of the women got married before they completed the age of twenty. The majority (62.5 %) of the divorced respondents and a considerable number of the interviewees themselves have also reported "young age at marriage" as one of the factors that affected the stability of their marriage. Thus it is possible to label young age at marriage as one of the factors that lead to marital break down among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.

This finding is congruent with Bumpass and Sweet, (1972) and Mott & Moore, (1979) findings which identified young age at marriage as one of the strongest predictor of divorce. This might be due to lack of maturity and preparedness on the part of early marries to play their marital roles as effectively as they should. It may also be attributed to low education, premarital pregnancy, low economic background, and hurried courtship among the early marries (Bahr, 1983).

5.1.2 Differences in Age

Sociologists and social workers generally regard wide disparity in the age between spouses as a causative factor in the creation of family tensions and maladjustments (Pothen, 1987). In the present study it was observed that there were five years and more age difference in 50 percent of the divorced spouses while only 10 percent of the respondents claimed to have equal or not more than two years age difference between them and their ex-spouses. It is thus possible to suggest wide age disparity as one of the contributing factors for divorce. This finding is consistent with Bumpass and Sweet, (1972) who reported higher than expected instability when age differences between spouses are large. An analysis

of 1954 Australian census data also yielded parallel findings: the lowest divorce rate occurred among couples whose ages fell within the same 5-year category; if the spouse's age differed by

more than five years, the divorce rates were higher (Day as cited in Delcampo, 1999). In general, social similarity enhances interpersonal attraction. Such similarity also facilitates adherence to the same social norms and helps avoid friction (Delcampo, 1999).

5.1.3 Length of Engagement

Length of acquaintance before marriage has frequently been found to be a significant correlate of its durability (Goode, 1956). Quickie marriages of convenience or necessity, particularly those with a premarital adolescence pregnancy are divorce prone (Furstenberg, 1976). This might be due to the fact that partners who wait long before making a formal commitment take it more seriously and later feel more invested in it than those who wait little time (Jacobson, 1959). Generally, the longer the acquaintance and the engagement: the better the chances of a good marriage (Delcampo, 1999).

The present study revealed that the majority (66.5%) of the couples were engaged for a period of one month to a year. Further, with reference to acquaintance, a considerable number (63.3 %) of the divorced respondents reported short period of acquaintance as the major reason for the failure of their marriage. This might be one of the factors that contributed to the dissolution of their marriage. Added to these, almost all the interviewees and the participants of the FGD expressed lack of sufficient acquaintance before marriage as the major factor that affects marital stability. This finding is consistent with the findings of the research conducted by Oklahoma State University, (2005) which found very short

engagement as the very characteristic of divorced than of happily married couples.

5.1.4 Educational Status of the Spouses

Education of the husbands and wives is also important in the phenomenon of divorce. Therefore, the level of education of the divorcees at the time of marriage was inquired in the present study. The finding shows that the majority of the divorcees were literate at the time of their marriage. Among these the highest frequency of the divorced respondents (males, 40% and females, 46.6 %) fall in the secondary group. Further, 30 percent of the husbands and 30 percent wives had college diploma at the time of their marriage. It is however hard to say with certainty whether education hinders or promotes the incidence of divorce among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.

5.1.5 Parental Divorce of the Respondents

A history of divorce between the parents of either spouse appears to contribute to divorce proneness (Goode, 1956; Pope & Mueller, 1976). The current study shows that there is parental divorce in the case of 59 percent of the respondents and in 49 percent cases of the ex-spouses. This may have been one of the factors that contributed to the dissolution of the respondents' marriage. Because, a person's tolerance for his or her own marital difficulty would lower if he or she previously experienced mutual tolerance in the parental family (Landis, 1955).

5.1.6 Premarital Pregnancy

According to Bonham and Balswickz (1980) premarital pregnancy is consistently related to high marital dissolution. The result of the present study shows that 31.6% of the couples had premarital pregnancy while the remaining 68.3 % of

reason for the dissolution of their marriage. Moreover, the majority of the interviewees and all the participants of the FGD expressed 'extramarital affair' as the major factor that affects marital stability. Thus it may be concluded that extra marital relations of either spouse is a major factor for marital disruption among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. Although it is conducted in a different social context, this finding is consistent with the study conducted by Matrimonial Lawyers which reported extra marital affairs as the major reason for the divorces that took place in UK, 2004.

5.2.2 Sexual Maladjustment

Sexual relationship is considered to be one of the bulwarks of marriage and when ever the spouses fail to establish satisfying sexual relationship, the marriage suffers (Collins, 1988). 47.5 % of the respondents in the present study reported sexual maladjustment as a reason for the failure of their marriage. All the participants of the FGD also expressed problems related to sex as the major factor that affects marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. Thus, it may be concluded that sexual maladjustment is a major cause for the dissolution of marriage among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. This is in consistent with Masters and Johnson findings which declared at least 50% of marriages as flawed by some form of sexual maladjustment or dysfunction (Masters and Johnson as cited in Collins, 1988).

5.2.3 Economic Hardship

Economic Problems have a negative effect on family life. According to Wolcott and Hughes (1999) this is due to the fact that financial hard ship increases isolation, emotional stress, depression and lower esteem, which intern exacerbates marital tensions that could lead to desertion and/or divorce. The vast

majority (67.5 %) of the respondents in the present study reported insufficient income as one of the major reasons for the break down of their marriage. Added to these, almost all the interviewees and the participants of the FGD expressed economic insufficiency as the major factor that affects marital stability. This goes to prove that economic hardship is one of the factors that lead to divorce. This result is congruent with the findings of Jacqueline, (1982) which reported financial strain as the major cause of marital breakdown.

5.2.4 Communication Problems

When miscommunication is more common than clear communication, a marriage begins to have serious problems (Collins, 1988). Because, if a husband and wife do not communicate, their marriage is just two lonely people sharing a house; and their sex is nothing more than producing children; and such a marriage will become cold and unexciting (Bruce & Carol, 1995). In the present study, vast majority (95 %) of the divorced respondents reported communication problems as the major cause for the failure of their marriage. Added to this, all the interviewees and the participants of the FGD expressed poor communication as the major factor that affects marital stability. This proves that faulty communication is one of the major causes of divorce. This finding is consistent with research findings of Whisman, Dixon, and Johnson, 1997 which demonstrates communication problems as the major factor that affect marital instability (Whisman, Dixon, and Johnson, 1997 as cited in Olson & Defrain, 2000).

5.2.5 Unplanned and Unthought-of Marriage

One of the causes of divorce is hasty and poorly planned marriage (Duvall and Lewis, 1950). Vast majority (69.1%) of the respondents in the present study

reported lack of planning and insufficient preparation to marriage as the major reason for the dissolution of their marriage. The majority of the divorced interviewees also confessed that their marriage was not a well-thought-out or planned one. All the participants of the FGD have also mentioned insufficient preparation to marriage as the major cause for marital disruption among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. Therefore, it can be said that unplanned and unthought-of marriages are the major factors that lead to marital break down. Because in such cases, the relationship is established with out giving sufficient forethought. As a result many people do not make rational enquiries about the other party which intern leads to unpleasant or even startling discoveries which shatter the chances of happiness in marriage (Pothen, 1987).

5.2.6 In-laws Interference

69.1 % of the respondents in the present study reported in-laws interference as the major cause for the failure of their marriage. The majority of the divorced interviewees also feel that they were abandoned by their spouses mainly because of the in-laws persuasion. Thus it may be concluded that problems with in laws is one of the factors that contribute to divorce among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. This situation might have been facilitated by the present acute shortage of houses which forced many newly weds to share a home with either the wife's or the husband's parents (Smith, 1954).

5.2.7 Immaturity Concerning Marriage

Marriage is a continual process of adjustment which requires a lot of understanding and sacrifice on the part of both partners (Pothen, 1987). Thus, people should be matured enough for the stresses and determinations required to make marriage work. Otherwise, marriage which was meant to be meaningful

and fulfilling will become frustrating and devastating (Collins, 1988). 75.8 % of the divorcees in the present study mentioned immaturity concerning marriage as one of the factors that affected the stability of their marriage. The majority of the interviewees and the participants of the FGD have also mentioned immaturity as the major factor that affects marital stability. This might be related to the respondents' young age at marriage and the lack of counseling and support as mentioned elsewhere.

5.2.8 Lack of Support and Counseling

The building of better marriages is a life long process that demands a lot of effort and understanding. Thus, couples should be assisted to prepare for marriage and avoid potential marital trouble spots (Collins, 1988). The vast majority of the respondents (71.6 %) in the present study reported “lack of support and counseling” as the major factor that affected the stability of their marriage. A good number of the interviewees and all the participants of the FGD also mentioned it as the major factor for the instability of marriage among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. Therefore, it can be said that lack of support and counseling is one of the major factors that affect the stability of marriage in Addis Ababa. As one anonymous participant of the FGD said “when you are in need of divorce there are people to go to (lawyers), but when you are in need of fixing your broken marriage there is no one out there.

5.2.9 Behavioral Incompatibility

Life in marriage comprises the most intimate of all human relationships. Thus, there must be a basic harmony in the approach to life of the partners i.e. they should be compatible or can get along with each other (Smith, 1954). 89 % of the divorcees in the present study reported incompatible behavior as the major

factor that led them to divorce. All the interviewees and the participants of the FGD also expressed incompatible behavior as the major factor that affects marital stability. This result is congruent with the findings of Cleek and Pearsons,(19 85).

5.2.10 Repeated or Long Term Separation

33 % of the divorced respondents declared repeated or long term separation as a factor for the dissolution of their marriage. This goes to prove that long absence is one of the factors that contribute for marital break down.

5.2.11 Jealousy and Mistrust

60.8 % and 63 % of the respondents reported jealousy and suspiciousness respectively as the major factor that led them to divorce. This was also reflected by the interviewees and the participants of the FGD. It is thus possible to say that jealousy and mistrust are sources of marital tensions among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.

5.2.12 Alcohol abuse

Alcohol abuse is a serious social and health problem that disrupts families, ruins careers, destroys bodies, tears apart friendships, and leads to untold human misery (Collins, 1988). 56.6 % of the respondents indicated alcoholism as one of the factors that affected the stability of their marriage. The majority of the interviewees and all the participants of the FGD also reported unhealthy habits like alcoholism as the major factor that affects marital stability among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa. Thus, alcoholism can be labeled as one of the major factors that contribute to marital break down.

5.2.13 Verbal Abuse and Physical Abuse

Verbal abuse and physical abuse are reported by 63 % and 27% of the divorced respondents respectively as factors that brought about their divorce. The majority of the interviewees also mentioned them as factors that affected the stability of their marriage. It is thus possible to label verbal and physical abuse as one of the factors that trigger divorce among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.

5.2.14 Absence of Love and Affection

The value given to marital love is less in traditional families. But with the development of modern life, impact of western culture, modern education, and changing values; affect ional relationship between spouses has gained considerable importance. A large number (63%) of the respondents reported “absence of love/ affection” as the major factor responsible for the dissolution of their marriage. The majority of the interviewees also reported “absence of love or affection” as the major factor that affects marital stability. Thus, absence of love or affection can be labeled as one of the major factors that contribute to marital break down.

5.2.15 Lenient Attitude of Today’s Society

Many people in today’s world have become less inclined to accept the sanctity and permanence of marriage. These social attitudes combine to make divorce a more viable option when marital tensions arise (Collins, 1988). All the participants of the FGD mentioned loose attitude of society and the growing emphasis on personal freedom and identity in today’s society as the major factor responsible for the sky rocketing number of divorce in Addis Ababa (Pothen, 1987). Thus, the current loose attitude of society can be labeled as one of the factors that precipitate the failure of many marriages in Addis Ababa.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMENDATIONS

This chapter is devoted to the presentation of summary, conclusions and suggestions made on the basis of the findings presented in the previous chapter.

6.1. Summary

This is an exploratory study of 120 divorcees selected by a method of purposive sampling. The main findings of the study are:

- (i) Vast majority (70% of the ex-wives & 33.3% of the ex-husbands) of the divorcees were married before the age of 25.
- (ii) There is five years and more age difference between a good deal (50%) of the divorced spouses
- (iii) The majority (66.5%) of the divorcees were engaged for a period of one month to a year.
- (iv) Vast majority (96%) of the divorcees were literate at the time of their marriage among these the highest frequency (46% females & 40% males) falls in secondary.
- (v) The majority (36%) of the respondents were married for 3 to 6 years.
- (vi) The majority (59%) of the divorcees have experienced parental divorce.
- (vii) There was premarital pregnancy in a considerable number (31.6%) of the divorcees.
- (viii) The majority of the divorcees have had children from their dissolved marriage.

- (ix) The majority (53.3%) of the divorced respondents are remarried.
- (X) The factors that led to divorce as indicated by the divorcees are: communication problem, behavioural incompatibility, immaturity concerning marriage, lack of support and counselling, in-laws interference, insufficient preparation to the marriage, economic hardship, short period of acquaintance, mistrust, absence of love/affection, infidelity, young age at marriage, jealousy, alcoholism, loose attitude of society towards marriage, education and economic independence of women, and sexual maladjustment

6.2. Conclusions

The potential limitation of the study emanates from the sensitive nature of the subject itself. Because, matters concerning marriage and marital disruptions are quite personal and sentimental, outside inquiries in to such phenomenon are very much unwelcome in our society. Thus, the researcher is suspicious that some of the participants had reservations on revealing their painful memories.

Furthermore, human beings, their personality and the responses they make are highly complex and individualistic. Thus, the researcher is of the firm opinion that each divorce case is to be analyzed separately as every marriage and divorce

has its unique features. Therefore, it calls for care when making generalizations on matters such as this. Appreciating the afore mentioned potential limitations, the findings of the present study can be concluded as follows

- There are innumerable factors that are responsible for the failure of marriage. It may not even be an exaggeration to say that there are as many factors as there are so many divorcees. The major factors that are accountable for the dissolution of marriage in the city of Addis Ababa are: communication problem, behavioral incompatibility, immaturity concerning marriage, lack of support and counseling, in-laws interference, insufficient preparation to the marriage, economic hardship, short period of acquaintance, mistrust, absence of love/affection, infidelity, young age at marriage, jealousy, alcoholism, loose attitude of society towards marriage, education and economic independence of women, and sexual maladjustment
- Some background characteristics of the divorcees such as young age at marriage, wide age difference, short period of acquaintance, parental divorce, premarital pregnancy, meager income, lack of counseling and support are associated with greater proneness to divorce in the city of Addis Ababa. Hence they are responsible for the failure of many marriages.

6.3. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher has suggested the following to minimize or prevent divorce.

- There is immense need for marital and premarital counseling in the city of Addis Ababa. Thus, marriage and family bureaus should be made accessible to the inhabitants of Addis Ababa.
- The basic instruction regarding marriage as well as family living should be imparted to the youth in schools, colleges, and other institutions.
- There must be social education and awakening among the inhabitants of Addis Ababa for healthy married life.
- Marriage should be entered into after sufficient thought and planning.
- Unnecessary interference by parents and in-laws should be avoided. After marriage, the couple should be allowed freedom and privacy.
- Better and greater efforts for reconciliation must be made by courts as well as other concerned bodies.
- Further refined study should be conducted on the factors that affect marriage in Addis Ababa.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I

Table showing the top fifteen claimed factors that lead to divorce in order of their frequency

S. No.	Claimed Factors	Frequency
1	Communication problem	114
2	Behavioral incompatibility	107
3	immaturity concerning marriage	90
4	Lack of support and counseling	86
5	In-laws interference	83
6	Insufficient preparation to the marriage	83
7	Economic hardship	81
8	Short period of acquaintance	76
9	Mistrust	76
10	Absence of love/affection	76
11	Infidelity	75
12	Young age at marriage	75
13	Jealousy	73
14	Alcoholism	68
15	Sexual maladjustment	57

Appendix II

Instruments Used for Data Collection

(Original and Translated Version)

Dear Respondent

This questionnaire is prepared to identify the significant factors that contribute to marital instability in Addis Ababa. It is believed that the result of this study will help to strengthen marriage and prevent divorce. The responses you provide will not be disclosed to any third party. Besides, you are not required to write your name. We thus request you with great respect to fill out the questionnaire with all sincerity and care.

Thank you

PART I: PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Please respond to the following items in the space provided

1. Sex -----
2. Age -----
3. Religion-----
4. Ethnic origin-----
5. Monthly income in birr -----
6. Educational status -----

PART II: INFORMATION ON THE BACKGROUND FACTORS

Please, Read Carefully and Answer the Following Questions

1. How old were you at the time of your previous marriage?
 - A. 19 and under
 - B. 20 to 24
 - C. 25 to 30
 - D. 31 and over
2. How old was your ex-spouse at the time of previous marriage?
 - A. 19 and under
 - B. 20 to 24
 - C. 25 to 30
 - D. 31 and over
3. What was the difference in age between you and your ex-spouse?
 - A. equal or not more than two years
 - B. 3 to 5 years
 - C. 5 years and more
4. How long did you "keep company" with your mate before marriage?
 - A. No period of engagement
 - B. 1 to 3 months
 - C. 3 to 6 months
 - D. 6 months to one year
 - E. 1 to 2 years
 - F. 2 years or longer

5. What was the highest grade of schooling that you had completed at the time of your previous marriage?

- A. No formal education
- B. Primary level (grade 1 to 6)
- C. Junior secondary (grade 7 to 8)
- D. Grade 9 to 11
- E. High school complete
- F. Certificate
- G. College diploma
- H. First degree and above

6. What was the highest grade of schooling that your ex-spouse had completed at the time of marriage?

- A. No formal education
- B. Primary level (grade 1 to 6)
- C. Junior secondary (grade 7 to 8)
- D. Grade 9 to 11
- E. High school complete
- F. Certificate
- G. College diploma
- H. First degree and above

7. What was the duration of your previous marriage?

- A. Less than 1 year
- B. 1-2 years
- C. 3-6 years
- D. 7-10 years
- E. Above 10 years

8. Were your parents divorced?

Yes No

9. Were your ex-spouse's parents divorced?

Yes No

10. Was there premarital pregnancy?

Yes No

11. Did you have children from your ex-spouse?

Yes No

12. Are you remarried?

Yes No

13. Is your ex-spouse remarried?

Yes No

Interview Format

Name of the interviewer-----

Date-----

Total Time Taken-----

Interview Questions

1. What would you say were the major reasons for the dissolution of your marriage
2. What do you think should be done to minimize the problem?

Discussion Guide for Focused Group Discussion

Name of the moderator-----

Name of the rap-porter-----

Date-----

Total Time taken-----

Discussion Points

1. What do you think are the major causes of divorce in Addis Ababa?
2. What do you think should be done to minimize the problem?

የተከበሩ ተጠያቂ

የዚህ መጠይቅ ዋና ዓላማ በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ ነዋሪዎች ዘንድ ለትዳር መፍረስ መንስኤ የሚሆኑትን ምክንያቶች ለይቶ ለማወቅና የመፍትሔ ሃሳብ ለመጠቀም ነው። ለመጠይቆቹ የሚሰጡት መልስ ለማንም ሶስተኛ አካል ተላልፎ የማይሰጥ ሲሆን ስሞትንም መፃፍ አያስፈልገትም። በመሆኑም እያንዳንዱ ጥያቄ በጥሞና በማንበብ ተገቢውን መልስ እንዲሰጡ በትህትና እንጠይቃለን።

እናመሰግናለን

ክፍል አንድ: አጠቃላይ መረጃ

1. የታ-----
2. ዕድሜ-----
3. ሐይማኖት-----
4. ብሔር -----
5. የወርሃዊ ገቢ መጠን -----
6. የትምህርት ደረጃ-----

ክፍል ሁለት: የሚከተሉትን ጥያቄዎች በሚገባ በማንበብ ትክክለኛውን መልስ ያክብቡ።

1. በጋብቻዎ ወቅት ዕድሜዎ ስንት ነበር?
ሀ. 19 ዓመት እና በታች
ለ. ከ20 - 24
ሐ. ከ25 - 30
መ. 31 ዓመት እና በላይ
2. በምታገቡበት ጊዜ የእራዎ/ሽ ዕድሜ ምን ያህል ነበር?
ሀ. 19 ዓመትና ከዛ በታች
ለ. ከ20 - 24 ዓመት
ሐ. ከ25 - 30 ዓመት
መ. ከ31 ዓመት እና በላይ
3. በእርስዎና በቀድሞ ባለቤትዎ መካከል ምን ያህል የዕድሜ ልዩነት ነበር?
ሀ. እኩያ ወይም ከሁለት ዓመት ያልበለጠ ልዩነት
ለ. ከ3-5 ዓመት
ሐ. 5 ዓመት እና በላይ
4. ከቀድሞ ባለቤትዎ ጋር በእራዎነት ለምን ያህል ጊዜ ቆይተዎት?
ሀ. የእራዎነት ጊዜ አልነበረም
ለ. ከ1 - 3 ወር
ሐ. ከ3 - 6 ወር
መ. ከ6 ወር - 1 ዓመት
ሠ. ከ1 ዓመት - 2 ዓመት
ረ. 2 ዓመትና በላይ
5. በቀድሞ ጋብቻዎ ወቅት እርስዎ የነበረዎት የት/ደረጃ ምን ነበር?
ሀ. ምንም መደበኛ ትምህርት ያልተማረ
ለ. አንደኛ ደረጃ (ከ1ኛ - 6ኛ ክፍል)
ሐ. መለስተኛ ሁለተኛ ደረጃ (ከ7ኛ - 8ኛ ክፍል)
መ. ከ9ኛ እስከ 11ኛ ክፍል
ሠ. ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ያጠናቀቀ
ረ. የኮሌጅ ሠርተፊኬት
ሰ. የኮሌጅ ዲፕሎማ
ሸ. የመጀመሪያ ዲግሪ እና ከዛ በላይ

6. በቀድሞ ጋብቻ ወቅት የቀድሞ ባለቤትዎ የትምህርት ደረጃ ምን ነበር?

- ሀ. ምንም መደበኛ ትምህርት ያልተማረ
- ለ. አንደኛ ደረጃ (ከ1ኛ - 6ኛ ክፍል)
- ሐ. መለስተኛ ሁለተኛ ደረጃ (ከ7ኛ - 8ኛ ክፍል)
- መ. ከ9ኛ እስከ 11ኛ ክፍል
- ሠ. ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ያጠናቀቀ
- ረ. የኮሌጅ ሠርተፊኬት
- ሰ. የኮሌጅ ዲፕሎማ
- ሸ. የመጀመሪያ ዲግሪ እና ከዛ በላይ

7. የቀድሞ ትዳርዎ ለምን ያህል ጊዜ ቆየ?

- ሀ. ከአንድ ዓመት ላካሠ ጊዜ
- ለ. ከአንድ እስከ ሁለት ዓመት
- ሐ. ከ3 - 6 ዓመት
- መ. ከ7 - 10 ዓመት
- ሠ. ከ10 ዓመት በላይ

8. የእርስዎ ወላጆች ፍቺ ፈፀመው ነበር?

- አዎ
- አልፈፀሙም

9. የቀድሞ ባለቤትዎ ቤተሰቦች ፍቺ ፈፀመው ነበር?

- አዎ
- አልፈፀሙም
- አላውቅም

10. ከቀድሞ ጋብቻዎ በፊት ቅድመ ጋብቻ እርግዝና ነበር?

- አዎ
- አይደለም

11. ከቀድሞ ባለቤትዎ/ትዳርዎ ልጅ አለዎት?

- አዎ
- የለኝም

12. ካለፈው ፍቺ በኋላ ጋብቻ ፈፀመዎል?

- አዎ
- አልፈፀሙም

13. ከፍቺ በኋላ የቀድሞ ባለቤትዎ ጋብቻ ፈፀመዎል?

- አዎ
- አልፈፀሙም

ክፍል ሦስት፡ ከዚህ በታች የተዘረዘሩት በተለያዩ ጥናቶች ለፍቺ ምክንያት ናቸው ተብለው የተጠቀሙ ናቸው፡፡ የተጠቀሰው ምክንያት ለትዳርዎ መፍረስ አስተዋጽኦ ነበረው ብለው ካመኑ ከፊት ለፊት ባለው ክፍት ቦታ ይህንን $\sqrt{\text{ምልክት}}$ ያኑሩ ፡፡ ከአንድ በላይ የሆኑ ምክንያቶችን ምልክት ማድረግ ይቻላል

- ከባል ዘመዶች ጋር የሚፈጠር አለመግባባት/የዘመድ ጣልቃ ገብነት
- ከጋብቻ ውጭ የሚደረግ ያታዊ/የፍቅር ግንኙነት
- የገንዘብ ችግር
- የአልኮል ሰብኝነት
- ቁማርተኝነት
- በግብረሰጋ ግንኙነት አለመጣጣም
- መክዳት ወይም መጥፋት
- ለረጅም ጊዜ ወይም በተደጋጋሚ ተለያይቶ መኖር
- ድብደባ ማድረስ
- በቃል የሚደረግ ጥቃት ወይም ስድብ
- ትዳር ውስጥ በሚገባ አስቦ እና አቅዶ አለመግባት
- ከመጠን ያለፈ ስራን መውደድና ለቤተሰብ ጊዜ ማጣት
- የተግባራት ችግር ወይም በበቂ ሁኔታ ተነጋግሮ አለመግባባት
- ትዳርን በተመለከተ በእውቀት አለመብሰል
- በልጅነት የሚደረግ ጋብቻ
- ከጋብቻ በፊት በበቂ ሁኔታ አለመተዋወቅ
- የባህሪ አለመጣጣም ወይም አለመግባባት
- የሐይማኖት ልዩነት
- የዘር ልዩነት
- በትዳር ውስጥ ያሉ ችግሮችን ለመፍታት የሚረዳ በቂ ድጋፍና ተገቢ ምክር ማጣት
- መካኘት
- ሰፊ የዕድሜ ልዩነት
- ራስ ወዳድነት/ስስት
- ትዳርን እንደጠበቁት ሆኖ አለመግኘት
- ጥርጣሬና ቅናት
- ልጆችን በተመለከተ አለመግባባት
- ፍቅር ማጣት
- አባካኝነት
- የጤና ችግር
- ቤትን ባግባቡ አለማስተዳደር

ከላይ ያልተጠቀሱ ምክንያቶች ካሉ በሚቀጥለው ክፍት ቦታ ላይ ይጠቀሙ፡፡

Declaration

I the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work, and all sources of materials are dully acknowledged.

Name: Asalefew Teshome

Signature At

Date June 2007

This thesis has been submitted for examination by my approval as university advisor.

Name: Prof. S. A. Anwar

Signature Min

Date _____