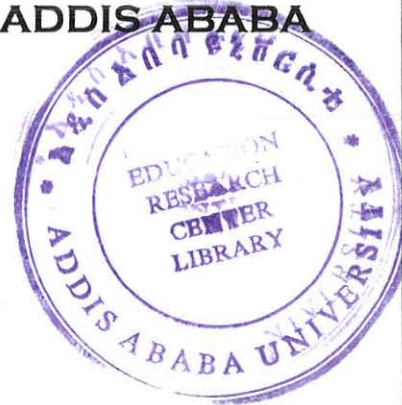


**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF
GRADUATE STUDIES**

**MAJOR FACTORS LEADING TO DIVORCE:
THE CASE OF DIVORCEES IN ADDIS ABABA**



BY:

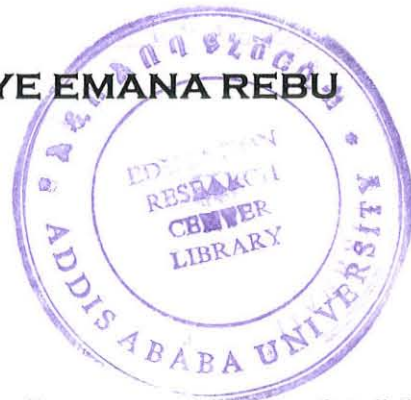
TSEGAYE EMANA REBU

JULY, 2006

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THE CASE OF DIVORCEES IN ADDIS ABABA**

BY:

TSEGAYE EMANA REBU



**A Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis
Ababa University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Education
in Counseling Psychology**

**JULY, 2006
ADDIS ABABA**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

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CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Marriage the sole way to establish the family, the origin of societal institution, has attained high global value and is world wide acceptable phenomenon. And it is widely used as well. Marriage contains within itself many advantages and enjoyable practices that benefits the family in particular and the society at large. On the other hand, many marriages are full of challenges some of which strengthen more close ties of the family members and some, however, shake the harmonious bond of the family and lead to breakup. Few of the many critical challenges to marriage are divorce, desertion and miserable marriage life. These hazards ultimately change the normal, settled, happy and integrated life of family and put to conflict, friction, tension and then lead to difficult life or family disintegration. The problem inturn, thus, has impact on the existence and identity of the family as the fundamental source of society.

Most people marry not with the intension that they will divorce. Marriage has the characteristic or is the setting that brings the partners together. Therefore it tends to be attractive and seems enjoyable all through life. In reality, however, completely opposite event takes places in which certain proportion of marriage gets into problems, of which some end up in divorce.

country. Everybody at the virtue of his merit contributes in an attempt to build up a developed country. The origin of scientists and other professionals is the society, the source of society is family and finally the origin of family is marriage. This reality clearly indicates that marriage in any society, and at any time is very valuable and needs great protection. Any harm to marriage may equally mean harm to the identity of the country.

If the society seeks to maintain and establish healthy and a well integrated marriage, then what are the major factors hindering this vision and missions? To what extent do these factors affect marriage settings? What measures should be taken to deal with the factors, so that the objectives set can be achieved? Who are responsible and accountable to take measures related to the issue? When and how, etc are basic questions to be answered to cope effectively with the problem.

More specifically divorce is common phenomenon in Addis Ababa city, the capital of the country and seat of Africa Union. The intension of this study is, thus, to determine the major factors leading to divorce in Addis Ababa and to suggest possible recommendations to tackle the problem before it becomes more critical than now to the extent of causing serious social atrocities.

According to the statistics found from Federal First Instance Court the current trend of divorce in Addis Ababa shows the increment from year to year following population growth in general and marriage growth in particular. This is indicated in the following table.

time. The liberalization of divorce laws, the tendency to divorce when things go wrong in a marriage, and society's grater tolerance of divorce and divorcing individuals have all inflated divorce rate in recent years. Thus a marriage which might have remained intact but un happy many years ago would be more likely to end in divorce to day.”

The increment of divorce rate is not only the phenomenon of outer world but also the reality of Ethiopia particularly the capital city (see the statistical data in the introductory part). Despite this fact there are very few studies made thus far to find out the nature and intensity of this problem and to show the way out. Had sufficient research been conducted and measures taken, it could have been possible to save many marriages from danger or damage and to minimize the consequences. Divorce cases couldn't have inflated to the present figure as well.

Based on this truth, therefore, the study of the major factors causing divorce in Addis Ababa and recommending possible solutions will be helpful to keep the problem in control and see healthy and peacefully, sustaining family. In addition it will contribute knowledge to the previous studies and serve as initiative ground for the others to conduct further study regarding the issue.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The objective of this study is to identify major reasons of divorce in Addis. It is not the conviction of the researcher that the problem is only limited to this city and to

the conditions treated in this study. There can be numerous areas in the country and many other factors both real and potential that are responsible for the problem. The focus of the study at hand is only on the city of Addis and on reasons of marital dissolution for the sake of manageability, time and financial factors. Further, possible solutions of the problem are not left unmentioned.

This study is conducted in the context of Addis Ababa based on previous justification that is to see how the problem is threatening the society in it. Furthermore, deep discussion of the issue is made in chapter two in the review of the related literature. This helps to have the view of other research findings on the area under concern.

1.6. Operational Definition of Important Terms

Divorce- refers to the legal termination of marriage. It is usually granted by a court or governmental agency to a couple who have been legally married but no longer wish to be so.

Separation- in the most general sense, separation refers to a situation where the marital partners are living apart by their choice.

Desertion- refers to the abandonment of one spouse by the other.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

Marriage, the union of the partners in the decree of martial vos to assume responsibility and enjoy life together, is one of the very important human practices in all generation throughout the world. In the dynamic characteristics of the society there are marriages that succeed and there are marriages that fail depending on various factors of their context. Regarding this view Bowman & Spanier (1978:411) pointed out that “marriage is a human endeavor, and humans are fallible. We may surely say that throughout history there have always been some marriages that failed. It is unrealistic to assume that all marriages will or should succeed. But it is important to realize that it is individual marriages that fail, the institution of marriage does not fail.” This idea clearly indicates that though some marriages due to various reasons may actually fail, the phenomenon of marriage continues to exist as part and parcel of human life.

Failed marriages are consequently symptomized by different conditions such as divorce, desertion otherwise miserable marriage life. The irreconcilable issues which would be grounds for intense conflict between the marriage couples would lead some marriages to divorce at different times, and some to desertion and others to difficult marital life. Each of these conditions are effected based on their

own situation. For instance divorce occurs when there is no reconciliation and life in the same home is responsible for more damage. Esjleman (1988:607) interestingly elaborates this idea as “divorce may simply provide an indication of the greater willingness or acceptance to acknowledge a legal ending of a previously ended meaningful marital relationship”. Similarly miserable marriage life is maintained when divorce seems to be more costly than the actual hardship tolerance in home.

Furthermore, current generations is more prone to divorce more than any other time before. Bowman & Spanier (1978: 418) says that “modern marriage is like a tent which has had its stakes pulled out one by one, each time making it more vulnerable to wind and storm.” This view shows that the modern generation is more likely derived by an outlook that marriage should be established in simple way when desired and be disintegrated in similar way during problem. A high absence of insurance is observed in marriage because it is founded on shallow basis likely to be shaken.

In states where easy divorce is not possible the potential divorcees will travel to other countries and acquire provisional citizenship where they can divorce on very soft grounds. Martinson (1971: 333) explains the idea stating.

not all couples seeking divorces do so in their own community or even in their own state or residence. The states with more lenient grounds for divorce-states recognizing emotional or psychic grounds- receive temporary citizens seeking divorces and seeking relief from the legal restrictions of the conservative states- states emphasizing physical infidelity or physical abuses as the bases for dissolving marriage.

It is easy to understand, therefore, that some couples pay more cost to divorce than to tolerate marriage hardships for the sake of the assumed responsibilities. These people consider divorce as the way to relief from the present tensions and grievances. This idea is more elaborated by Rao and Sekhar: It is viewed that divorce is a possible but disapproved solution for marital conflict in many societies and an index of social change. As a social phenomenon divorce is not only one of the parameters of interpersonal strain in the marital relationship but also reflects on the inadequacies and deficiencies in the functional aspects of the institution of marriage. Divorce does not represent societal decay; instead it is seen as an escape value- a way of dysfunctional marriage.

This view is furthermore supported as:

although divorce is never easy or desirable, it is some times the only solution and solutions that can release the individuals involved in some painful circumstances. At the same time, divorce should never be used as a way for avoiding personal issues or problems, or because one person feels the "grass will be greener" (<http://www.divorcelawfirms.com>.1996-2005)

For some marriages however, divorce is not the way to scape life difficulties, but the route to sever trap to experience more pain and life crises.

2.2. Types of Divorce

There are two types of divorce: fault and no-fault divorce. In fault divorce at least one of the spouses are accused for wrong doing which has legal ground. In no

fault divorce, however, neither spouse is considered for wrong doing but marriage relationship ends simply because it is needed. Kurder and Kennedy (2001:242) more clarified this idea suggesting that “presently couples can legally and a marriage by petitioning for a decree of dissolution or a decree of divorce. In a decree of dissolution, neither spouse is regarded as being at fault for any wrong doing, and both spouses agree to the terms of the separation agreement, and both spouses appear in court. In a decree of divorce, at least one of the spouses is accused of being at fault (i.e. grounds for seeking the divorce are stipulated), and both spouses not agree to the terms of the separation agreement. To say it in more specific way, a divorce is granted only if the plaintiff is found quality of behavior that is considered to be sufficient grounds for ending the marriage (e.g. Adultery, willful absence for 1 year, habitual drunkenness, or extreme cruelty), and the court makes decisions regarding property settlement, alimony, child custody, and child support. Under newer-fault procedures, neither spouse has to be found quality of any wrongdoing (e.g. The court recognizing that a marriage may end because of incompatibility), and both spouses are equally responsible for property settlement, alimony, child custody, and child support. Thus these are the two ways of legal separation when the spouses feel the maximum stage for staying together is reached and ultimately decide to end their marriage.

2.3. Growth Rate of Divorce

Because of the lenient social attitude toward divorce in modern time, the divorce rate is increasing in high speed leading to the extent to which the modern

community losses the actual meaning of the ethical identity of marriage-the source of descent society. Bowman & Spanier (1978:412) suggested by indicating the reasons saying that

the divorce rate is increasing from time to time the liberalization of divorce laws, the tendency to divorce when things go wrong in a marriage, and society's greater tolerance of divorce and divorcing individuals have all inflated divorce rate in recent years. Thus, a marriage which might have remained intact but unhappy many years ago would be more likely to end in divorce today.

So that these factors are responsible for the growth rate of divorce. In many countries marriage laws play a very important role for life partners to stay together for a long period of time despite many conflicts in the setting. Some marriage unlike the others undoubtedly benefited from the strong marriage laws by resolving their issue through interaction process in course of time. Another factor indicated as a ground for inflated divorce is the tendency to divorce when problem arise. Some couples in marriage are unable to realize significantly that non area of life including marriage is free from challenges. And again they are unable to recognize that some challenges are important to strengthen instead of disintegrating their marriage. Rationalization of the causes and magnitude of the problem and carefully designing intervention strategies other than tending to divorce seem to be good approach to maintain happy and successful marriage life. Tending simply to divorce is just a flee from assuming responsibility that an integrated marital life ever demands.

become neurotic, hysteric or psychotic and normal life setting it is denied. When this kind of cases is wide spread it is easy to understand that the society is found at the midst of serious difficulty. Furthermore, the effect of divorced couples emotional strain is observed in other dimensions of life. It affects the occupational, educational, social relationship aspect of the individual hindering the regular normal activities and interactions. In addition, the children of divorced couples are not exceptional to become victim of dissolved marriages. Bowman & Spanier (1978:422) puts the side effect of divorce on children as follows: "The child of divorced parents will get in some hardships. He is torn between conflicting loyalties. It is difficult to cooperate with and understand two persons who are at odds and do not understand each other... The child may feel insecure and exhibit compensatory behavior." By nature children need love and attention to proceed in normal development. Whereas children of conflicting parents experience opposite situation of what is needed in their life so that they suffer from problems they don't deserve. According to psychoanalysis theory this also may contribute to later life problems which means that the problems may not be shortly resolved but continue to leave life long impact.

2.5. Major Factors Leading to Divorce

a) The Beginning, Development and Process of Divorce

In most cases, the condition that leads to marriage dissolution is conflict. The conflict has its own starting point based on interacting issues. The issues could

not be resolved in peaceful way or has not been approached in constructive way because of some difficult reasons. Bowman & Spanier (1978:414) forwarded more explanation on the idea saying that:

couples having problems in some part of their relationship may be unable to confine conflict about those matters to the issues at hand. Such conflict will often carry over into marginally related or unrelated areas of the marriage. As marital conflict and unhappiness increase, couples look for ways to justify their position. They become adversaries to each other and try to "prove their point" or "win the argument"... Much counseling time is spent listening to angry couples telling the counselor in very precise detail the "wrong" committed by their spouse. As the marital relationship accelerates in to a conflict situation, the couples look for more faults in their spouse to justify their growing disenchantment. If unchecked, such accelerating conflict and bitterness makes the couple good candidates for divorce.

This statement boldly indicates that unresolved problems as starting to contaminate the good relationship, would lead to conflict that, when more subjectively justified, instead of being positively treated, rather worsens the conflict which lays ground to pave way to divorce.

The starting point of the conflicting issue may be marital complaint that arise from different marriage areas. Eshleman (1988) tried to indicate some elements of complains both by husband and wife. He suggests that "woman were more likely to make complaints about personality, authority, drinking, "being out with boys," sex problems, non-support, the husband infidelity and money management. Men were more likely to mention the wife's infidelity and complaints concerning relatives. Men were more likely than women to be unsure about what caused

about the marriage.” These are the major areas of complaint between spouses that are common to many marriages. Being common to many martial settings, however, the degree of importance and severity varies from marriage to marriage and from one factor to another. As indicated earlier usually what causes a problem is not the underlying issue, but the way it is approached and treated. Specially if there is no mutual love and common understanding every one of compliant partner tends to threaten the normal socio psychological makeup of the other.

When conflicting situations tend to sustain between the couples, they try to resolve the problem using different coping mechanisms to prevent the occurrence of separation. This is further elaborated by Saposnek (2004) as follows:

during pre divorce or deliberation stage, which takes place before separation is even contemplated, one of the spouses (more often the wife) typically is experiencing feelings of dissatisfaction, alienation, loneliness, and despair. She engages in a long period (up to several years) of deliberation regarding how to resolve the uncomfortable feelings about her marital relationship. Typically, she attempts a variety of ways to cope with these feelings before the decision to separate and /or divorce is reached. These coping attempts may include getting angry at, confronting, and quarreling with her spouse in hopes provoking him to change, sulking and crying withdrawing from her spouse, as a way to avoid experiencing the pain of non communication, escaping into work or in to excessive time with friends, extra-martial affairs; drug or alcohol; or in extreme cases, physical abuse. If none of these tactics works... she may decide to divorce.

The spousal conflict develops to the stage of separation based on two conditions. First, when as indicated above, the coping strategies to resolve the conflict fail to work. Second, when the couples can't get access to counseling in time of trouble.

In other cases adultery is not the cause of divorce. Bowman and Spanier, (1978:413) forward:

adultery is the secondary causes of the marital failure and does not indicate why divorce occurred. It is interesting to note that a great number of both married and divorced persons report that they have had an adulterous relationship. Among divorcing couples where the incidence of adultery is higher, few individuals report that the third person was a factor in the main breakup.

Why adultery becomes a common problem of the married and sexually involved individual rather than unmarried one needs further study, however this factor is seen to be a popular causes for dissolved marriage.

Adultery is developed in the practices of extramarital affairs in which sexual relation can be established and maintained for long period of time without affecting the relationship with marriage partner. Martinson (1971:330) gives briefing as "there are females who had been able to carry on extramarital affairs-even experiencing emotional satisfaction in the extramarital relationships while maintaining reasonably good relations with their husbands; but few of their sex had been able to carry on satisfactory emotional relationships with two or more partners simultaneously."

It can be easily noticed, however, when the extramarital activity is aware of in any way, it causes damage to marital life sometimes very immediately. Martinson (1971:331) again gives suggestion on this point that "it appeared to be the knowledge of extramarital coitus rather than the behavior itself that caused

by Goode, (1964: 204): "Sexual problems are usually an index, rather than a cause, of interpersonal conflicts. Thus when a wife complains that she finds no pleasure in her sexual relations with her husband, one begins to probe for deeper conflicts between the two individuals, with the expectation that these conflicts actually cause the sexual incompatibility."

The sexual complaints are not without ground but they are related to important areas of sexual relationship. These are mentioned by Martinson (1971:337) as follows:

in those cases in which the husband was plaintiff, the chief sexual cause of complaint centered around the failure of the wife to show sufficient interest in sexual relations. In cases where wife was plaintiff the usual complaint was either that the husband wanted sexual relations too often or that he wanted to engage in sexual practices which the wife disapproved of, such as oral-genital contacts.

So that lack of sexual desire, the frequent sexual intercourse and the kind of intercourse are said to be major factors causing sexual incompatibility.

In conclusion it is pointed out that for immediate divorce sexual incompatibility is the cause and for latter divorce adultery is the reason. The statement of Martinson, (1971:337) supports this view saying that "in marriages terminating after short duration, sexual maladjustment appears frequently as a complaint. However, in marriages ending in the middle or later years, adultery appeared to be a major disorganizing element."

c) Short Period Partnership Acquaintance

The other major factor that leads to divorce is short period acquaintance before marriage. There is nothing more valued than life. Marriage is a very significant part of this human endeavor. Successful life needs successful decision making based on different alternatives. For marriage life to succeed in all its way, what kind of matter should deserve great caution other than selection of life partner? The decision in this area has high impact to determine the success or failure of marital setup.

In the process of an attempt to select life partner the period of acquaintance plays a very significant role to gain knowledge of each other with respect of physical, psychological, social, economical and personality etc aspects of the individual. The acquaintance, related to these factors is not a single day duty but needs long time to achieve.

The need for proper acquaintance and the danger of the lack of known properly to each other are suggested by different researchers as follows:

“Length of acquaintance of the marriage pair prior to marriage is related to success in marriage. It is found that a very short engagement was much more characteristic of divorced than of happily married couples, with the differences more significant for women than men.” (Martinson, 1971:336).

“Some other findings are more novel but make good sense. It seems reasonable that a woman who marries a man after a brief acquaintance would be more likely to make a mistake and to find herself in a high –conflicts and perhaps abusive or violent situation” (Burns, 1984:560).

“One of the casual factor of divorce is unwise mate selection primarily due to inadequate sex education and lack of preparation for the assumption of marriage” (Adams).

“It is suggested that one reason that young marriages are more likely to end in divorce is that they follow a shorter search process” (White, 1990:910)

“Very early age at marriage may mean that the bride and groom have not spent enough time searching for the right mate, whereas people of older than normative ages of marriage may be pressed in to marriage” (Ju. Lee, 2005:3.).

“Oftentimes I get the distinct impression that most of generation X simply isn’t prepared for the rigors of marriage. Too many of us are operating under a false fantasy of marriage, and severely lacking a grounded knowledge of partnership” (Why? Divorce. Internet.HTML Document, 2005).

All of the suggestions indicated above clearly show that long termed partnership acquaintances play a significant role in well versed and secured marital life.

d) Relatives Interference

Relative, especially in-laws, interference play its own major role in threatening marital life to the extent of dissolution. Marital relationship mainly is the affairs of the couples unless they willingly need support from others. Most of the time marital affairs are sensitive to others interferences, specially relatives, the close attendants, and sever problems may be created that would ultimately lead to familiar splits. Burns (1984:560) says about this point that “the further link to conflict with relatives is a logical since the housing problems described by sample members include arrangements like moving is with in -laws, living in a caravant (trailer) in the parents’ background and borrowing money from relatives for rental bonds and payments.”

e) Alcoholism

Alcoholism is also another major factor to cause divorce. Its effects doesn’t take place all of sudden, however, through the course of time indicating its development and strength. Martinson, (1971:338) elaborating this view says that “the results of a number of studies indicate a direct relationship between excessive drinking and the incidence of divorce. In Locke’s study about one-half of the divorced women cited drunkenness as a contributing factor in the divorces. About a fourth of the divorced men indicated that drunkenness of their wives was a factor in their marital difficulties.”

Stack and Bankowski (1994:806) also attempted to indicate the relationship between drinking and divorce. They suggest that:

according to the study conducted on the relationship of divorce and drinking a positive correlation would indicate that as the divorce rate increased, alcohol consumption also rose overtime. From the finding of this research, however, it is not clear if the persons, who have divorced have, in fact a higher incidence of drinking than other persons... A national study determined that divorced and single persons are among the groups most likely to be drinkers; this is true for both genders.

Stack and Bankowski (1994:810-811) further elaborate the relationship of drinking and divorce and state that “for some married persons who drink, drinking could conceivably contribute to their ultimate divorce. However, these persons might be even more likely to drink after their divorces. This would enhance the casual path from divorce to drinking.”

Alcoholism is the effect of developed drinking habit. How does the habit develop? What are the processes? How does it lead to marital relationship disruptions? Again Martinson (1971:339) responds to this questions in the statement: “the drinking habit appeared to have been acquired gradually and to have started disrupting smooth – running family relationships “before its full seriousness” was recognized...By the time the seriousness of the drinking factor was realized, the drinking partner was enmeshed in such a web of relationships at home, on the job, and socially that it became impossible for him to break the habit. Frequently, she deteriorated as a person, and the marriage relationship deteriorated with the result that the husband’s propensity to drink was increased.”

settled marriage life, in the case of husband's income. This is reported in researches as "independence effect" and income effect.

Ju Lee (2005:2) elaborates this views as follows:

as to the effect of socioeconomic factor on marriage it is said that generally, husband's income stabilizes the marriage whereas wife's income has a potential to destabilize the marriage. The higher the husband's income the less likely the marriage is to breakup, probably because greater resources available to the family increase the standard of living and thus family members' satisfaction with life. Researchers call this stabilizing effect of husband's income, "income effect." Although wife's income may have the same income effect, it is also suggested that wife's income allows her to walk away from her unhappy marriage, which researchers call, "independence effect". It is also implied that marriage benefits husbands more than it benefits wives. Thus, husbands invest their incomes in the marriage and strengthen the family, which promises gains for them. Earnings of wives, on the other hand, may be used to escape from an unhappy marriage.

Thus it is possible to understand from this finding that the cause for divorce is not only lack but also gains. The advantage and disadvantage of gains or income is also gender sensitive i.e. it more benefits the male and affect the female.

The general trend is that economic dependence results in unhappy marriage dependence, stay with the marriage, and economic independence results in unhappy marriage independence or free from the scene. Alex & Nowak (1998:691) cited that:

employed married women are presumed to have the option of divorce, whereas unemployed women or women with few economic resources are more likely to stay in unhappy marriages. Such women are dependent on the marital relationship to maintain a reasonable standard of living or,

attitude of the couples concerning the partner's religion. Regarding this issue Jorgensen and Johnson (1980:620) suggested that:

those individuals who marry outside their own religion may be less committed to its beliefs, may be characterized by an orientation toward risk-taking, and consequently may perceive fewer barriers encompassing the relationship. Thus, their liberal minded approach to marriage would suggest a comparable inclination toward high divorce liberality.

What Jorgensen and Johnson try to justify is that one network of relationship between husband and wife is cut if there is no regard and value for each other's religion. The final outcome of the journey of this kind of approach would be divorce.

Martinson (1971:339-340) also indicated that "marriages in which both partners claim a religious identity, and the same religious identity, have a low rate of divorce." In the same manner Bonham and Blaswick (1980:961) said that "protestant- Catholic marriage were less stable than homogamous marriages." Hurlock (1980:324) has general view on this issue and states that "divorce is much more common among couples who have different cultural, racial, religious or socio-economic backgrounds than among those whose background are more similar. This is specially true of couples with different religious backgrounds."

Generally, thus, religion doesn't in some cases as it should have been, tighten the bond of marriage rather in some cases it more loosens and exposes it to divorce.

h) Early Marriage

Early marriage is found among major factors leading to divorce. The central point for the problem is poor performance of early married couples. White (1990:906) forwards his idea on this point saying that “early marriage increases the chances of divorce. It is concluded that age at marriage is the strongest predictor of divorce in the 1st five years of marriage. For this poor role performance of young couples is a factor.” Booth & Edwards (1985:85) also add to this view as follows: “It is suggested that people who marry early experience lower marital satisfaction because they lack preparation of marital role performance. Poor role performance decreases satisfaction which in turn leads to marital instability.”

Moore and Waite support this in their statement saying “ the childhood that a first marriage will end in divorce is strongly linked to the age of the partners, with especially young and specially old couples facing higher risks of breakup than those who marry for the first time when they are in their twenties.”

Two possibilities can be proposed for inadequate preparation of early married. First, those who marry early may have less than adequate role models, thereby contributing to the latter inadequacy in their own performances as a spouse. Second, early married have not had sufficient time and exposure to the family for orientation to learn how to properly fulfill the role of a spouse.

black man, rather than a black woman to marry a white man. Among these types, divorce is more likely to occur among those interracial couples who do not follow the typical pattern of a white woman married to a black men.

According to this view divorce is the matter of difference in color. In case of Ethiopia divorce may happen because of difference in ethnic group; for example Amhara /Oromo, Oromo/ Tigire, Gurage /Amhara soon so forth.

j) Lawful Reasons

There are many factors that threaten healthy marital relationships ranging from major to minor ones based on the degree of their impact they induce. These are divided in to two parts namely lawful and unlawful factors. The lawful factors are those determinants that lead to divorce, and the unlawful factors are those determinants that lead to separation /desertion otherwise miserable marriage life. In this section we try to see the lawful grounds of divorce.

Why do people divorce? This is the question asked by many people. And it is difficult to find a comprehensive answer because people tend to divorce for their own reason. A sufficient reason for one individual may not be sufficient for the other. Anyhow people decide to divorce in order to get relief from the miserable marriage life. The decision to divorce precedes the actual occurrences. As to the reason for people to divorce Brining and Allen (1998-2000) cited that:

it will always be that party in a marriage who files for divorce who has reached a point at which a weighing of all considerations means that it is better to be divorced than to remain married. It is assumed that divorce is a legal remedy. The "cause" of this legal remedy is that a human being consciously choose to seek it. The availability of divorce as a remedy is the immediate and approximate "cause" of person's considering it as an option, and so human choice is the immediate and approximate "cause" of a person's filing for divorce

The filing for divorce are effected based only on lawful grounds of divorce. The document, causes of divorce, law, amendment (1972), as cited from internet, outlined twelve lawful grounds of divorce as follows:

"1) Natural impotency.

- 1) Adultery, unless it should appear that was committed by collusion of the parties for the purpose of producing a divorce, or unless the parties cohabited after a knowledge by complaints of the adultery.
- 2) Being sentenced to any penitentiary and not pardoned before being sent there.
- 3) Willful, continued and obstinate desertion for the space of one year.
- 4) Habitual drunkenness.
- 5) Habitual and excessive use of opium, morphine or other like drug.
- 6) Habitual cruel and inhuman treatment.
- 7) Insanity or idiocy at the time of marriage if the part complaining did not know of such infirmity.
- 8) Marriage to some other person at the time of the pretended marriage between the parties.

- 10) Pregnancy of wife by another person at the time of the marriage, if the husband did not know of such pregnancy.
- 11) Either party may have a divorce if they be related to each other within the degrees of kindred between whom marriage is prohibited by law.
- 12) Incurable insanity.”

Though these are lawful grounds for divorce, the degree of strictness in their implementation varies from one socio cultural context to the other being determined by different situations. They can also be limited by time variation as well.

k) Multiple Factors of Divorce

Only few divorces are the result of one event, such as an act of adultery or cruelty, or one set of problems, such as religion or in-laws. Most marriages which fail do so because of a multiple causes which influence the entire marital relationship. These problems tend to range from matters of great importance to the individuals to “tremendous trifles.”

Various studies have tried to find out multiple factors leading to divorce. Duvall (1977:441) indicated that “each state has its own grounds for divorce. Desertion for varying lengths of time, non-support, adultery, habitual drunkenness, drug addiction, impotence, conviction of a crime, insanity.

As reported by Wolcott, and Hughes (1999), though mostly similar with others, the cited marital problems or grounds include “poor communication basic, unhappiness, loss of love, and incompatibility, in-fidelity, mental illness or emotional problems, conflict over men’s and women role, and spouses personality traits.” These lists are supported by Dalman, Rep., and Ager, Susan (internet material on Abolish No-Fault Divorce).

According to the material released on internet (2005) under the little “The 3CS to prevent divorce,” the usual explanation as causes of divorce are “communication, compromise and commitment. If both spouses were consistently able to communicate with each other, able and willing to compromise with each other, and 100% committed to their marriage it’s hard to see how it could fail.”

These diversified causative factors of divorce clearly show that human relationship are fragile and prone to disease. And it has great number of enemies to be threatened with. Furthermore, there is no divorce, if there is no marriage. Consequently, it can be said that marriage is the chief cause of divorce being accompanied by single or multiple etiologies of marital dissolution.

2.6. Specific Effects of Divorce

Though the purpose of this study is particularly to find out the major factors leading to divorce, it is also important to deal shortly with the effect of these problems because the causes are not fully understandable without taking a precise look at the consequences. In other words, the consequences are likely to

indicate the extent of the problem so that the effort to identify the underlying causes and then to recommend possible solutions would be important.

The consequences of divorce starts with the emotional split of the couples. Olson and Defrain (2000:498) elaborate the emotional effect of divorce stating that:

when two people decide to marry, they feel so good because of the love they share. Divorce feels so awful because that love has been lost. Divorce involves a vast spectrum of emotions, and no two individuals react to it the same way. Anger and violence are very common with divorced couples. Many people who feel anger over the loss of a mate try to escape this pain or range through chemicals. Other people may fall in to total emotional despair and depression, finding it impossible to function. They may sleep a lot and possibly think about suicide. The crises of divorce like many other crises in life often adds to the common human feelings of loneliness.

Divorce has such power to affect the entire life of the divorced individuals to the extent of suicidal intent. Legal divorce is one time event occurring when a judge signs a marital dissolution decree, however emotional divorce is best viewed as a process that takes place over several years.

Another consequence of divorce may be teaching one of all, is its effect on children. This consequence is far reaching because of its relation with the nature and entire live of children. Eagan (2004) puts this idea in a very interesting statement saying that “research on divorce and separation of attachment figures reported that children of divorced have trouble adapting to different stages of their lives because of their experiences with broken or detached attachment bonds.

CHAPTER THREE

3. DESIGN OF THE STUDY

3.1. Variables of the Study

A) Major Divorcing Factors (Independent Variables)

In this study special focus was made to identify major factors that affect marital life and lead to divorce. These can be grouped into social, economic, psychosocial, socio-cultural, physical health and wellbeing, personal, educational, sexual and marital law related factors. For the sake of having complete picture around the problem, determinant factors of divorce are also touched. Hence the independent variables of the study can be seen into three categories namely determinant factors, major factors and ranked major factors. All items of the questionnaire on the three categories are prepared based on literature review and seen and approved with some amendments by professional person who is a professor in the area. This is done because the readily designed standardized questions for the present purpose are not available.

The determinant factors category includes fifty four questions of which 23 items measure social factors, 5 economic, 6 psychosocial, 4 socio-cultural, 3 physical well being, 6 personal, 4 educational, 1 religious, 1 sexual affairs, and 1 marriage law related factors.

The respondents chose between yes or no to show their agreement or disagreement with the statement.

The major factors category includes fourteen close-ended items that are concerned with measuring the most outstanding issues that ultimately have high capacity to result in divorce. Of course, 8 statements are concerned with the social, 2 with socio –cultural, 1 statement with economic, 1 with personal, 1 with sexual relationship and 1 with religious difference. The respondents were asked to indicate the major factors of divorce as per their assumption by selecting between 'Yes' and 'No'. In addition the respondents are requested to give their own suggestion freely regarding major factors of divorce.

The ranked major factors category is directed toward measuring the intensity of the factors according to their influencing order. In simple word, the major factors in the second category were ordered based on their ranks. This category includes fourteen statements composed of social, economic, socio-cultural, personal, sexual-relationship and religion issues.

B. Divorce (Dependent Variable)

The effect of divorcing factors is divorce. Seven items were designed and used to determine the divorce situation. The focus of the items was centered on time, frequency and effect of divorce. All items are open ended as the nature of the investigation needs drawing information from the respondents.

3.2. Respondents of the Study

Participants of the study were the divorcees from the city of Addis Ababa.

The target population was selected from general area of Addis Ababa because the intensity of the problem is said to be seen in the city more than other areas in the country. In addition the researcher is residing and working in this study place that creates more convenience for carrying out the study. This inturn contributes to make future follow up study.

3.3. Sampling Technique

The current population and addresses of divorced individuals in Addis Ababa is not clear. There is no organization that is responsible for following-up divorce case and record data in general so there is no where to find comprehensive information about divorce as a phenomenon and divorced people as subjects. It is difficult too to find respondents at specific time and place. The challenge is more serious when some of the divorced individuals accessed with difficulty are not willing to give information about the problem.

Similarly there is no update statistics concerning Addis Ababa population. Population census has not been conducted since 1995 i.e. for the last 11 years. The currently available data from Central Statistical Agency (A.A) is only a condition of a projected population estimate. So these made for the researcher difficult to select study subjects following scientific sampling technique of probability sampling. Based on the nature and purpose of the study, the

researcher rather used non-probability sampling technique particularly quota sampling to select 250 study subjects from the city. Since there is no document about the address of the divorced people, the selection was based on snow ball method (select the one you get), until the required sample is full. In spite of these hardships, however, great caution was made in order that the distribution of the subjects be from all over the city and to consider main demographic data. In other words, respondents were selected in the same ratio as they are found in the general population i.e, the total of 250 subjects 125 male and 125 female i.e. 25 each from 10 sub-cities entered into study sample. However 28 respondents did not return the questionnaire for unknown reasons and hence, only the responses of 222 subjects were processed as bases for the result of the study.

3.4. Data Gathering Instruments

The main instrument of data gathering for the study is structured questionnaire. The questionnaire prepared in a well planned way and having three categories was distributed to the subjects using six research assistants. So far as the study area or title is a little bit sensitive in our culture, empty posts were distributed with each questionnaire for enclosure purpose on the return of the data, so that freely elicited information can be effected.

The items included in the questionnaire direct themselves toward drawing information about major factors causing divorce with peripheral touching other determinant factors for the purpose of gaining further comprehensive information

the amendments of the professionals the instrument was improved to measure the major factors directing to divorce.

To test the reliability of the questionnaire, twenty divorced individuals (10 male, 10 female) were selected and the instrument was administered to them to react with it. The responses were tested using chi-square formula by spearman-brown and the reliability coefficient for the 54 items was recorded to be 0.84, and for the 14 items to be 0.75.

3.6. Data Gathering Procedure

Primarily the respondents were stratified according to the sex and age level. Then the instrument was properly designed first in English language then translated into Amharic assuming that all subjects would respond in Amharic. The translation, was made with great care to avoid conceptual lay-off or missing and linguistic hardship and then submitted to professionals for approval. After amendment including professional comments, the questionnaire was distributed to the target study group through research assistants. Most of the respondents took the questionnaire home with them and filled properly taking time so that mistakes that could be committed due to hurried response were done away.

3.7. Method of Data Analysis

The data of the study was analyzed using different statistical method. After the required data was collected, it was tallied, and coded for statistical analysis

convenience. Consequently quantitative analysis were performed using SPSS twelve window.

The univariate analysis was carried out to find frequency distributions for and percentage of the variables and to check internal consistency. The statistical significances of the associations between different categorical variables of the study were processed and analyzed computing the chi-square test. Specially, two way chi-square test was used to investigate the correlations between the major divorcing factors and the resulted divorce. The same statistical method was used to determine the associations between socio demographic characteristics namely age, sex, education, ethnicity, religion, family situation, occupation, income or SES of the respondents and divorce incidence. Finally the result was computed out.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. RESULTS

The main objective of this study was to identify the major factors leading to divorce in Addis Ababa and also to determine the impact of (if any) socio-demographic characteristics of the subjects on the emergence of the problem.

This chapter is concerned with the analysis and interpretation of the data relevant to the present study.

4.1. Socio- Demographic Background of the Sample

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Socio-demographic Background of the sample

Socio demographic characteristics	Response	N	%
Sex	Male	111	50
	Female	111	50
	Total	222	100
Age	18-35	67	30.2
	36-45	76	34.2
	46-55	55	24.8
	56 and above	24	10.8
	Total	222	100.0
Education	- illiterate	7	3.2
	- basic -6	45	20.3
	- 7-12	96	43.2
	- 12+1,12+2, 12+3	59	26.6
	- 1 st deg, 2 nd deg, M.D	15	6.8
	- Total	222	100.0
Ethnic Group	No response	7	3.2
	Amhara	114	51.4
	Oromo	40	18.0
	Tigrae	25	11.3
	Guragae	24	10.8
	Others	12	5.4
	Total	222	100.0
Religion	No response	2	9
	Orthodox	157	70.7
	Islam	40	18.0
	Protestant	18	8.1
	Others	5	2.3
	Total	222	100.0
Occupation	No response	5	2.3
	On job	180	81.1
	Without job	37	16.7
	Total	222	100.0
Job type	No response	35	15.8
	Civil service	158	71.2
	Business	29	13.0
	Total	222	100.0
Income (in birr)	No response	18	8.0
	1-500	144	64.9
	501-1000	35	15.8
	1001-1500	17	7.7
	1501 and above	8	3.6
	Total	222	100.0

4.2. Major Factors Leading to Divorce

Respondents were asked to mention the major factors responsible for divorce in Addis Ababa.

Table 2: Major Factors of Divorce Indicated by Participants

S. No	Major factors Leading to Divorce	Response								No Response	Total R+ No R	Test Statistics			Correlation		
		Yes				No						Chi-square	Df	Asymp. Sign.			
		Male		Fem		Mal		Fem		Total		Male	and				value
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				
1	Extra martial affairs	103	92	104	93.69	5	4.50	8	7.21	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.478
2	Infidelity mainly adultery	102	91.89	103	92.79	6	5.41	9	8.11	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	0.59	0.519
3	Short period of acquaintance before marriage.	96	86.49	88	79.28	12	10.81	24	21.62	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.055
4	Mistrust between husband and wife	104	93.69	103	92.79	4	3.60	9	8.11	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.203
5	Marital interference by relatives specially in-laws.	100	90.1	96	86.49	8	7.21	16	14.41	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.130
6	Alcoholism or drug addiction	97	87.39	94	84.68	11	9.91	18	16.22	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.125
7	Lack of means of living (financial problem)	75	97.57	56	50.45	33	29.73	56	50.45	2	1.8	222	100	1.286	1	.257	0.003
8	Sexual incompatibility	101	90.99	95	85.59	7	6.31	17	15.32	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.020
9	Lenient attitude of society toward marriage	84	75.68	58	52.25	24	21.62	54	48.65	2	1.8	222	100	1.286	1	.257	0.001
10	Premarital pregnancy	78	70.27	43	38.74	30	27.03	69	62.16	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.001
11	Couples' difference in religion	60	54.05	31	27.93	48	43.24	81	72.97	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.001
12	Early marriage	84	75.68	75	97.57	24	21.62	37	33.33	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.060
13	Cruelty specially by husband	98	88.29	96	86.49	10	9.0	16	14.41	2	1.8	222	100	0.143	1	.705	0.154
14	Racial difference of husband and wife	79	71.17	60	54.05	29	26.13	52	46.85	2	1.8	222	100	3.571	1	.059	0.002
T- Test = t-value		Df-2								Sig.value-.000							

The data result in Table 2 points out that there are many major factors leading to divorce in Addis Ababa. Thus:

1. Extramarital affairs (92% M and 93.69%F)
2. Infidelity particularly adultery (91.89% M and 92.79% F)
3. Short period of acquaintance prior to marriage (86.49% M and 79.28%F)
4. Mistrust between husband and wife. (93.69% M and 92.79% F)
5. Marital interference by relatives specially in- laws (90.1% M and 86.49%F)
6. Alcoholism or drug addiction (87.39% M and 84.68% F)
7. Economic problem, (97.57% M and 50.45%F)
8. Sexual incompatibility (90.99% M and 85.59%F)
9. Lenient attitude of society toward marriage (75.68% M and 52.25%F)
10. Premarital pregnancy (70.27% M and 38.74%F)
11. Couples' difference in religion (54.05% M and 27.93% F)
12. Early marriage (75.68% M and 97.57%F)
13. Cruelty specially by husband (88.29% M and 86.49% F)
14. Racial difference between husband and wife (71.17% M and 54.05% F)

were reported by male and female respondents to be the major causes of martial dissolution. Of these mistrust between husband and wife (93.69% for male and 92.79% for female), extramarital affairs (92% for male and 93.69% for female), in fidelity (91.89% for male and 92.79% for female), sexual incompatibility (90.99% for male and 85.59% for female) were indicated to be the leading factors for marriage breakup.

However though premarital pregnancy and couples' difference in religion were mentioned among major factors that cause divorce, they were considered as the least major factors by both sexes. Regarding these two factors again a significant difference is reflected in the responses of male and female that the majority of female respondents reported that these factors have least impact on marital dissolution (38.74% and 27.930%) respectively. Similarly half of the female respondents (50.45%) believe that economic problem is a major cause for divorce and equally half female respondents (50.45%) do not believe that economic problem is a major cause for divorce.

The correlation statistics points out that there is positive association ranging from .001-0.519 telling us that the respondents are in agreement by sex in indicating the major factors causing divorce.

Similarly the T-test shows that there is no significant difference between the means of male and female respondents ($t-.000$) reacting to the major factors resulting marital dissolution. Thus the variables are equally applicable to both sexes.

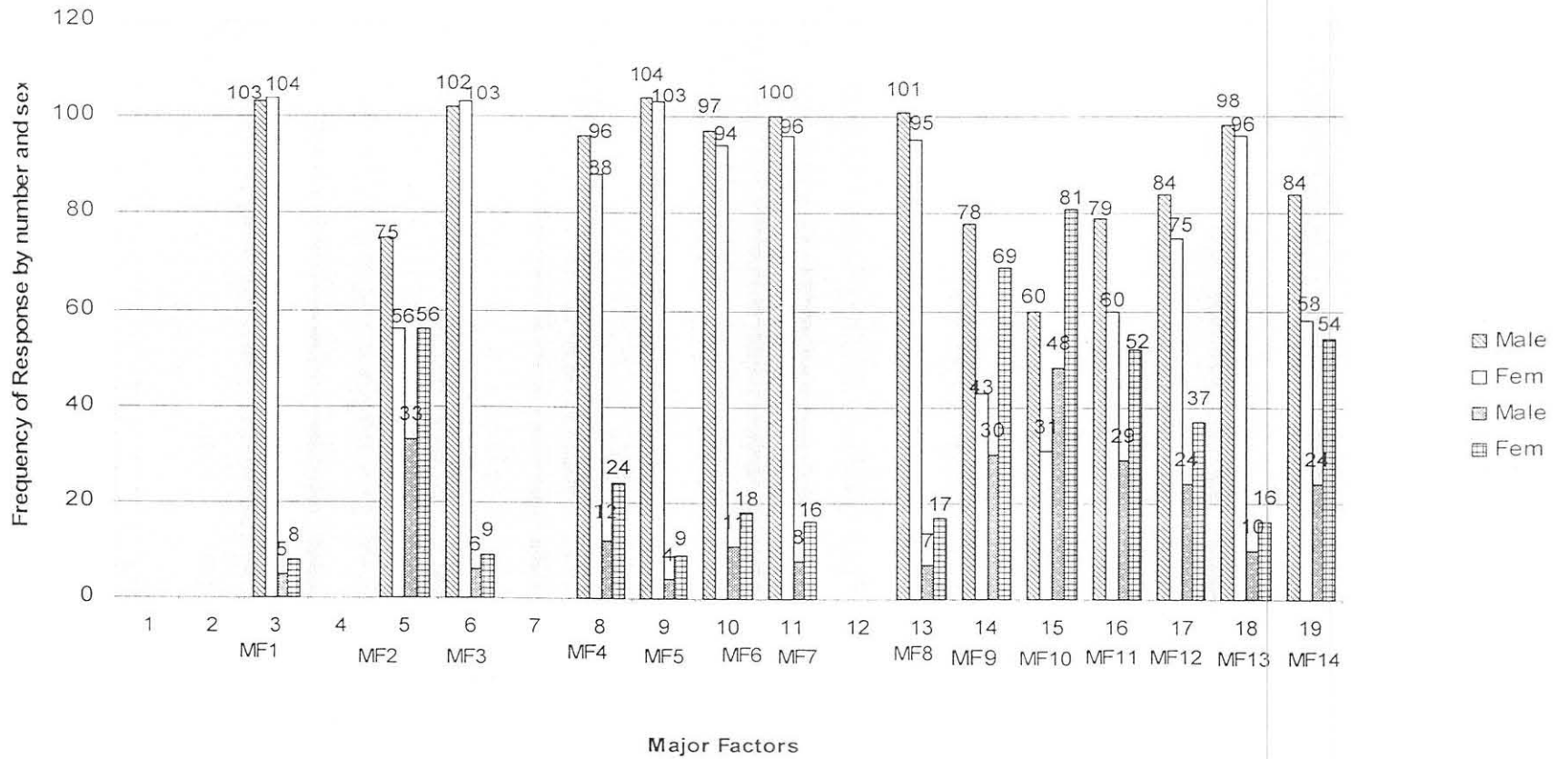


Figure 1: Major Divorcing Factors

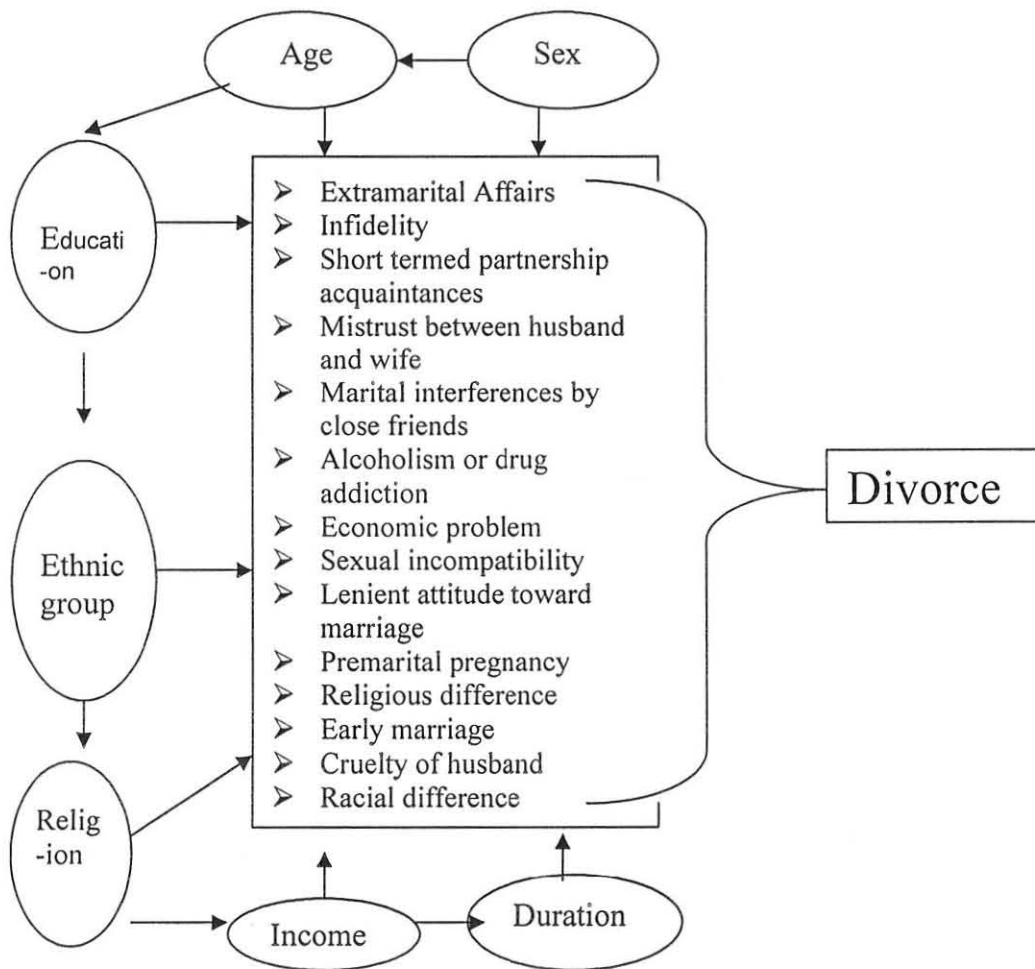


Diagram 2: Major Divorcing Factors and Socio-demographic Variables

The above diagram shows the major factors causing divorce and their relation with the significant socio-demographic variables.

4.3 Age and Divorce

The age of the respondents as related to the information they provided was determined to investigate the age committed to divorce.

Table 3: Age of Respondents by Sex as Related to their Response

Age range	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
18-35	35	31.53	34	30.63
36-45	32	28.83	40	36.04
46-55	31	27.93	27	24.32
56 & above	13	11.71	10	9.01
Total	111	100.0	111	100.0

Table 3 clearly shows that the problem of divorce is almost equally the challenge of each age groups and of both sexes except the age of 56 and above. However a higher divorce problem is observed (31.53%) in age range from 18-35 for male and age range from 36-45 for female.

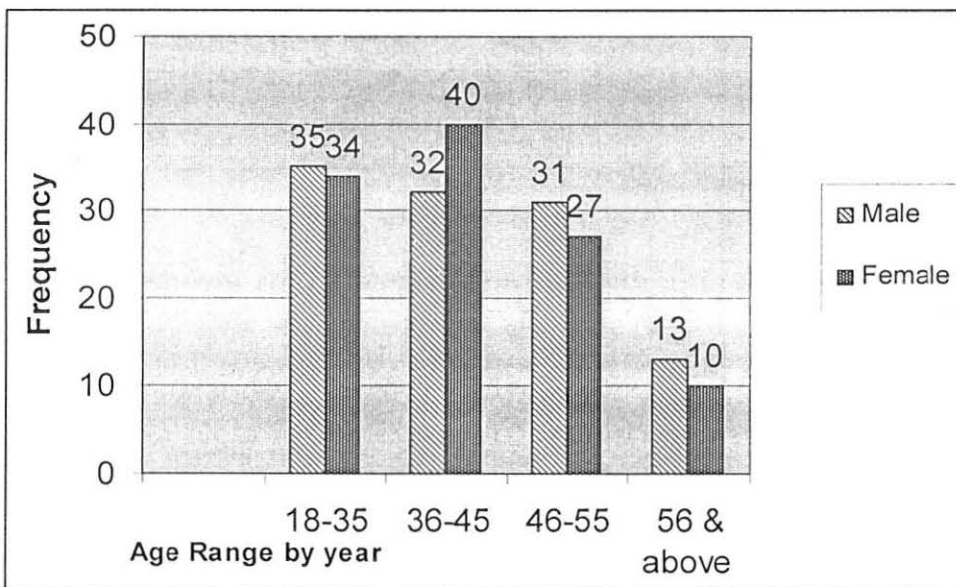


Figure 2: Age Range of Respondents by sex

4.4. Educational Level and Divorce

An attempt was made to identify the educational background of the participants with its implication on their responses

Table 4 : Educational Background of Respondents with its Relation to their Responses

Major factors	Illiterate				Basic -6gr				7-12gr				12+1,12+2,12+3				1 st deg, 2 nd deg, M.D				Total		Person chi-square		
	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No						
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Value	Df	Assymp. Sig. (2-sided)
MF1	7	3.15	0	0	43	19.36	2	0.90	88	39.64	8	3.60	57	25.68	2	0.90	14	6.31	1	0.45	222	100	2.336	4	.674
MF2	7	3.15	0	0	41	18.47	4	1.80	90	40.54	6	2.70	56	25.23	3	1.35	13	5.86	2	0.90	222	100	2.163	4	.706
MF3	6	2.70	1	0.45	37	16.67	8	3.60	79	35.59	17	7.66	51	22.97	8	3.60	13	5.86	2	0.90	222	100	.656	4	.957
MF4	7	3.15	0	0	42	18.92	3	1.35	88	39.64	8	3.60	57	25.68	2	0.90	15	6.76	0	0	222	100	3.142	4	.534
MF5	7	3.15	0	0	39	17.57	6	2.70	86	38.74	10	4.50	52	23.42	7	3.15	14	6.31	1	0.45	222	100	1.496	4	.827
MF6	7	3.15	0	0	37	16.67	8	3.60	83	37.39	13	5.86	54	24.33	5	2.25	11	4.95	4	1.80	222	100	5.296	4	.258
MF7	4	1.80	3	1.35	25	11.26	20	9.0	57	25.68	39	17.57	36	16.22	23	10.36	10	4.50	5	2.25	222	100	.684	4	.953
MF8	7	3.15	0	0	39	17.57	6	2.70	86	38.74	10	4.50	54	24.33	5	2.25	11	4.95	4	1.80	222	100	5.171	4	.270
MF9	4	1.80	3	1.35	31	13.96	14	6.31	66	29.73	30	13.51	34	15.32	25	11.26	8	3.60	7	3.15	222	100	3.331	4	.504
MF10	3	1.35	4	1.80	26	11.71	19	8.56	56	25.23	40	18.02	30	13.51	29	13.06	7	3.15	8	3.60	222	100	1.820	4	.769
MF11	2	0.90	5	2.25	19	8.56	26	11.71	47	21.17	49	22.07	21	9.46	38	17.12	3	1.35	12	5.41	222	100	6.398	4	.171
MF12	5	2.25	2	0.90	31	13.96	14	6.31	72	32.43	24	10.81	44	19.81	15	6.76	8	3.60	7	3.15	222	100	3.437	4	.487
MF13	6	2.70	1	0.45	41	18.47	4	1.80	84	37.84	12	5.41	53	23.87	6	2.70	11	4.95	4	1.80	222	100	3.664	4	.453
MF14	4	1.80	3	1.35	27	12.16	18	8.11	67	30.18	29	13.06	34	15.32	25	11.26	8	3.60	7	3.15	222	100	3.511	4	.476

From Table 4 we see that the response related to the major factors leading to divorce in Addis is treated against the educational level of the respondents. As mentioned previously on the analysis of the demographic background of the subjects, the educational level of great number (43.24%) of the subjects is 7-12 grade, the 2nd group (25.23%) is from 12+1, 12+2, and 12+3 educational level and the 3rd group (22.52%) is from basic to 6 grade. Based on this data large number of the subjects are from grade 7-12 grade i.e. 90 (40.54%), 88 (39.64%) and again 88 (39-64%), 86 (38.74%) and still 86 (38.74%) said that adultery, extramarital affairs, mistrust between husband and wife, sexual incompatibility, and premarital pregnancy are the leading factors among the others to cause divorce respectively. Generally this table shows the subjects in this group reacted with the questions to identify the grounds of divorce satisfactorily as the high victims of the problem. The second majority groups (12+1,12+2 and 12+3) and the third (basic -6 grade) also tried to treat the factors in good way and agreed with the 1st group concerning the most important factors leading to martial breakup.

The data of Chi-square in general shows a significant difference between groups at different educational levels as they respond to major reasons of divorce. The advancement in education didn't minimize divorce. It is indicated that divorce is the problem of educated part rather than the uneducated or non-schooled ones.

Table 5: Educational Background of Respondents by Sex

Educational level	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
Illiterate	0	0	4	3.60
Basic-6 grade	18	16.22	25	22.52
7-12 grade	54	48.65	48	43.24
12+1, 12+2,12+3	27	24.32	28	25.23
1 st deg. 2 nd deg, MD.	12	10.81	6	5.41
Total	111	100.0	111	100.0

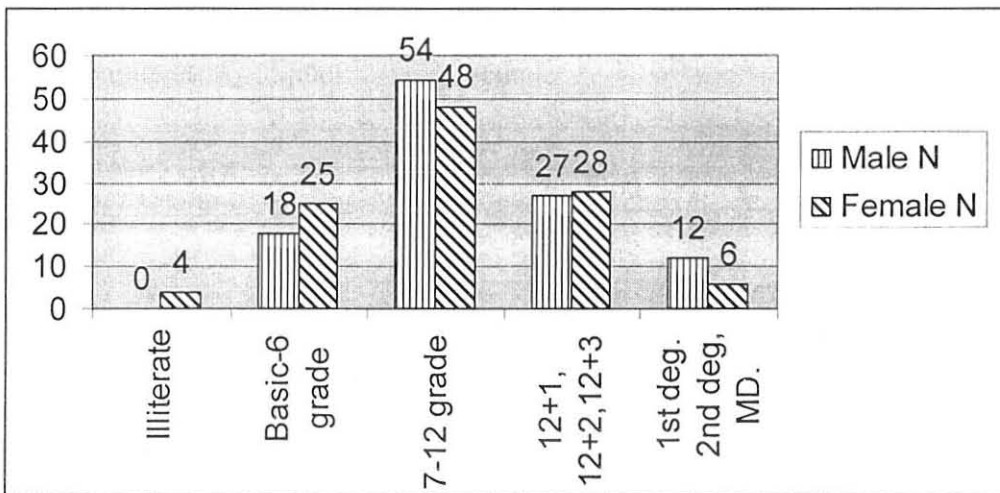


Figure 3: Educational Level of Respondents by Sex

There is no different result between the earlier table and this table except summarizing the data in percentage based on the sex of the respondents. This data confirms that divorce is mainly the problem of people found at educational level of grade 7-12. Other educational level are not exceptional but are also the victims of the problem with varying degree.

4.5. Ethnic Group and Divorce

The situation of divorce among different ethnic group in the city was treated.

Table 6: Ethnic Group of Respondents and Divorce

Major factors	Amhara				Oromo				Tigire				Gurage				Others				Total		Parson chi-square			
	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No							
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Value	Df
MF1	112	50.45	9	4.05	39	17.57	1	0.45	24	10.81	1	0.45	22	9.91	2	0.90	12	5.41	0	0	222	100	3.282	5	.657	
MF2	110	49.55	11	4.95	39	17.57	1	0.45	24	10.81	1	0.45	22	9.91	2	0.90	12	5.41	0	0	222	100	4.437	5	.488	
MF3	105	47.30	18	8.11	32	14.41	8	3.60	23	10.36	2	0.90	19	8.56	5	2.25	9	4.05	3	1.35	222	100	2.884	5	.718	
MF4	116	52.25	5	2.25	36	16.22	4	1.80	24	10.81	1	0.45	22	9.91	2	0.90	11	4.95	1	0.45	222	100	3.845	5	.572	
MF5	108	48.65	13	5.86	34	15.32	6	2.70	22	9.91	3	1.35	23	10.36	1	0.45	11	4.95	1	0.45	222	100	2.037	5	.844	
MF6	101	45.50	20	9.0	38	17.12	2	0.90	23	10.36	2	0.90	20	9.0	4	1.80	10	4.50	2	0.90	222	100	4.410	5	.492	
MF7	74	33.33	47	21.17	25	11.26	15	6.76	18	8.11	7	3.15	13	5.86	11	4.95	2	0.90	10	4.50	222	100	11.649	5	.040	
MF8	105	47.30	16	7.21	36	16.22	4	1.80	24	10.80	1	0.45	20	9.0	4	1.80	12	5.41	0	0	222	100	5.373	5	.372	
MF9	75	33.78	46	20.72	30	13.51	10	4.50	18	8.11	7	3.15	15	6.76	9	4.05	5	2.25	7	3.15	222	100	5.718	5	.335	
MF10	64	28.83	57	25.68	26	11.71	14	6.31	17	7.66	8	3.60	11	4.95	13	5.86	4	1.80	8	3.60	222	100	6.684	5	.245	
MF11	47	21.17	74	33.33	16	7.21	24	10.81	15	6.76	10	4.50	9	4.05	15	6.76	5	2.25	7	3.15	222	100	5.098	5	.404	
MF12	84	37.84	37	16.67	32	14.41	8	3.60	19	8.56	6	2.70	18	8.11	6	2.70	7	3.15	5	2.25	222	100	3.105	5	.684	
MF13	106	47.75	15	6.76	37	16.67	3	1.35	22	9.91	3	1.35	20	9.0	4	1.80	10	4.50	2	0.90	222	100	2.573	5	.765	
MF14	67	30.18	54	24.32	29	13.06	11	4.95	22	9.91	3	1.35	14	6.31	10	4.50	8	3.60	4	1.80	222	100	17.926	5	.003	

The data in the above table (Table 6) shows that the majority of the respondents are from Amhara people (e.g. 52.25%, 50.45%,49.55%. 48.65% etc). This may be due to the large population of Amhara in the city of Addis. The significant major factors leading to divorce among this ethnic group go in line with the previous analysis namely mistrust between husband and wife (52.25%), extramarital affairs (50.45%), infidelity (49.55%), and etc.

Oromo takes the second position to be challenged with the problem of divorce and the factors are almost equally influential all through.

The figures of the data indicate that the situation of divorce among Tigire and Gurage people takes similar phenomenon. And the factors more or less have equal power to result in marital dissolution.

The result of the X^2 shows that there is no significant difference between the responses of ethnic groups with respect to economic problem (.040), infidelity (.488), alcoholism (.492), sexual incompatibility (.372), premarital pregnancy (.245), religion difference (.404) racial difference (.003), lenient attitude toward marriage (.335) except Amhara group in all cases. The rest showed significant difference in their responses. This may be due to the problem being reflected more in a particular ethnic group.

4.6. Religion and Divorce

An attempt has also been made to investigate the religion of the respondents in connection with the major factors causing divorce

Table 7: Religion of Respondents and Divorce

Major factors	Orthodox				Islam				Protestant				others				Total		Pearson chi-square		
	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No						
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Value	Df	Assymp. Sig. (2-sided)
MF1	150	67.57	9	4.05	36	16.22	4	1.8	18	8.11	0	0	5	2.25	0	0	222	100	2.805	4	.591
MF2	149	67.12	10	4.50	35	15.77	5	2.25	18	8.11	0	0	5	2.25	0	0	222	100	3.943	4	.414
MF3	135	60.81	24	10.81	31	13.96	9	4.05	16	7.21	2	0.9	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	2.047	4	.727
MF4	152	68.47	7	3.15	38	17.12	2	0.9	14	6.31	4	1.80	5	2.25	0	0	222	100	9.790	4	.044
MF5	140	63.06	19	8.56	37	16.67	3	1.35	16	7.21	2	0.9	5	2.25	0	0	222	100	1.576	4	.813
MF6	139	62.61	20	9.0	33	14.86	7	3.15	15	6.76	3	1.35	5	2.25	0	0	222	100	1.871	4	.759
MF7	93	41.89	66	29.73	24	10.81	16	7.21	11	4.95	7	3.15	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	2.410	4	.661
MF8	144	64.86	15	6.76	33	14.86	7	3.15	16	7.21	2	0.9	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	2.652	4	.618
MF9	104	46.85	55	24.77	23	10.36	17	7.66	12	5.41	6	2.70	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	2.530	4	.639
MF10	89	40.09	70	31.53	20	9.0	20	9.0	10	4.50	8	3.60	3	1.35	2	0.9	222	100	2.103	4	.717
MF11	63	28.38	96	43.24	18	8.11	22	9.91	7	3.15	11	4.95	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	3.627	4	.459
MF12	111	50	48	21.62	29	13.06	11	4.95	16	7.21	2	0.9	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	4.101	4	.405
MF13	142	63.96	17	7.66	33	14.86	7	3.15	16	7.21	2	0.9	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	1.911	4	.752
MF14	98	44.14	61	27.48	25	11.26	15	6.76	13	5.86	5	2.25	4	1.80	1	0.45	222	100	1.526	4	.822

As it can be understood from Table 7, most of the people involved in divorce are from Orthodox religion. The respondents in this religion reported the overwhelming factors for their marital dissolution to be mistrust between them and their partner 152 (68.47%), extramarital affairs by their partner 150 (67.57%), infidelity specially adultery by their spouse 149 (67.12%) and sexual incompatibility between them and their partners (144 (64.86%). Premarital pregnancy and couples' difference in religion are the two least influencing or divorcing factors among the followers of this religion 70.27% and 54.05% respectively.

The second threatened religion part with the problem of divorce in Addis Ababa is Islam. According to the information of the respondents sequentially mistrust between them and their partner 38 (17.12%), marital interference by relatives specially the in-laws 37 (16.67%), extramarital affairs by the partner 36 (16.22%) and infidelity particularly adultery by the partner 35 (15.77%) are the for running causative factors for their marital breakup. In contrary they responded that difference in religion with their partner is the least affecting factor in divorce situation (8.11%).

The third religion part reported to be prone to the problem of divorce is protestant religion. Though it is clear from the above table that all factors are more or less equally influential in marital dissolution, extramarital affairs 18 (8.11%) and also infidelity particularly 18 (8.11%) are the most prominent factors to cause divorce.

Similar to the other religions indicated, religious difference is reported to be the least affecting factor to result in divorce (3.15%).

The data in the X^2 reflects that most of the respondents in Orthodox religion were highly reacted with the responses about major factors differently from others. This shows that the religion was touched more by the problem.

4.7. Income and Divorce

The study also explored whether the income of the respondents exerted impact on their divorce

Table 8: Income of Respondents and Divorce

Major Factors	No income				1-500 birr				501-1000 birr				1001-1500 birr				1501 birr and above				Total		Pearson chi-square			Correlation
	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No				Value	Df	Assymp Sig. (2-sided)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%				
MF1	101	45.50	6	2.70	49	22.07	6	2.70	35	15.77	0	0	16	7.21	1	0.45	8	3.60	0	0	222	100	5.234	4	.264	.602
MF2	102	45.95	5	2.25	48	21.62	7	3.15	33	14.86	2	0.90	16	7.21	1	0.45	8	3.60	0	0	222	100	4.510	4	.341	.629
MF3	85	38.29	22	9.91	49	22.07	6	2.70	31	13.96	4	1.80	13	5.86	4	1.80	8	3.60	0	0	222	100	5.435	4	.246	.151
MF4	100	45.05	7	3.15	54	24.32	1	0.45	31	13.96	4	1.80	16	7.21	1	0.45	8	3.60	0	0	222	100	4.187	4	.381	.960
MF5	96	43.24	11	4.95	47	21.17	8	3.60	33	14.86	2	0.90	15	6.76	2	0.90	7	3.15	1	0.45	222	100	1.809	4	.771	.967
MF6	95	42.79	12	5.41	46	20.72	9	4.05	31	13.96	4	1.80	15	6.76	2	0.90	5	2.25	3	1.35	222	100	4.979	4	.289	.317
MF7	63	8.38	44	19.82	36	16.22	19	8.56	18	8.11	17	7.66	9	4.05	8	3.60	6	2.70	2	0.90	222	100	2.873	4	.579	.908
MF8	96	43.24	11	4.95	48	21.62	7	3.15	33	14.86	2	0.90	14	6.31	3	1.35	6	2.70	2	0.90	222	100	3.504	4	.477	.556
MF9	66	29.73	41	18.47	43	19.37	12	5.41	22	9.91	13	5.86	9	4.05	8	3.60	3	1.35	5	2.25	222	100	8.438	4	.077	.805
MF10	58	26.13	49	22.07	36	16.22	19	8.56	18	8.11	17	7.66	7	3.15	10	4.50	3	1.35	5	2.25	222	100	4.938	4	.294	.539
MF11	41	18.47	66	29.73	35	15.77	20	9.0	10	4.50	25	11.26	3	1.35	14	6.31	3	1.35	5	2.25	222	100	18.001	4	.001	.577
MF12	77	34.68	30	13.51	41	18.47	14	6.31	26	11.71	9	4.05	12	5.41	5	2.25	4	1.80	4	1.80	222	100	2.208	4	.698	.763
MF13	94	42.34	13	5.86	50	22.52	5	2.25	32	14.41	3	1.35	12	5.41	5	2.25	7	3.15	1	0.45	222	100	5.644	4	.227	.596
MF14	68	30.63	39	17.57	38	17.12	17	7.66	21	9.46	14	6.31	9	4.05	8	3.60	4	1.80	4	1.80	222	100	2.344	4	.673	.487

Table 8 of clearly shows that divorce is widely practiced among individuals having no income and continuously decreases as the rate of income increases. Particularly divorce is highly observed among people who do not have income. Secondly among people earning between 1-500 birr and thirdly among people earning 501-1000 birr per month. Marital breakup, is a problem but not serious issue among people earning 1001 birr and above per month. This result clearly indicates that poverty is one of the leading factors to cause marital dissolution in Addis Ababa.

Thus there is a high correlation (.602, .908, .629, .960, .967, .556, .763 etc) between income and divorce i.e., where there is low income, divorce is high and when income increases divorce decreases. Divorce is thus, the phenomenon of poverty. Similarly the X² generally indicates that there is no significant difference among the respondents at different income level in pointing out to the major factors causing divorce. (.264, .341, .246, .381, .289, .477, .294, .001, .227, .077)

4.8. Duration of Divorce

The study has also attempted to assess the time when divorce took place following marriage.

Table 9. Duration of Divorce

Duration of Divorce	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
1-5 Years	14	6.31	16	7.21	30	13.51
6-10 years	35	15.77	18	8.11	53	23.87
11-15 years	23	10.36	12	5.41	35	15.77
16 years and above	18	8.11	20	9.0	38	17.12
No response	21	9.46	45	20.27	66	29.73
Total	111	50.0	111	50.0	222	100

Table 10. Marriage Partner who first Raised the Question of Divorce.

The partner who 1 st initiated the question of divorce	Response		No Response		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Husband	94	84.68	17	15.32	111	100.0
Wife	50	45.05	61	54.95	111	100.0
Total	144	129.73	78	70.27	222	200

It is easy to understand from Table 10 the fact that the majority of male respondents, 94(84.68%), reported that the question of divorce was first initiated by them. Limited number of male respondents 17(15.32%) were not volunteer to provide information concerning this issue.

On the contrary, the majority of female respondents 61(54.95%) didn't feel at home to respond to the question. Only 50 (45.05%) of them reported that the question was raised by them. Though most of the female respondents decided to keep silent rather than reacting to the question, the present result gives an indication that husbands are the first actors to raise the question of divorce in Addis Ababa.

4.10. Status of Factors Leading to Divorce

The number of factors, i.e. single or many that lead to divorce was assessed.

Table 11: Single or More Factors? that Lead to Divorce

Power of the divorcing Factors	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Single factor	11	9.91	15	13.51	26	23.42
Two factors	21	18.92	32	28.82	53	47.75
Three or more factors	79	71.17	64	57.66	143	12.82
Total	111	100.0	111	100.0	222	200.00

According Table 11 the majority of both male 79(71.17%) and female 64(57.66%) agree that three or more factors come together and interact to cause divorce. The less number of both male 21(18.92%) and female 32(28.82%) respondents suggested that two factors work together generate divorce. Thus constellation of factors rather than single ones are more responsible for the problem of divorce in Addis Ababa.

To find further information about major factors leading to divorce, an interview was made to the head of women affairs of Gulale Sub city, Keble 03/04/05. Similarly an archive of divorce documented by Federal 1st Instance Court was assessed. From these data sources the following factors are indicated as major causes of marital dissolution in the city of Addis.

1. Extramarital affairs.
2. Adultery.
3. Cruelty by husband.
4. Sexual incompatibility.
5. Short period of partnership acquaintance.
6. Economic problem
7. Husband and wife following different religion
8. Interference in marital affairs by relatives specially in-laws.
9. Mistrust between husband and wife
10. Early marriage

4.11. Rank Order of Major Factors Causing Divorce

The respondents were asked to put in rank order the major factors leading to divorce based on their influencing power

Table 12: Rank Order of Major Factors of Divorce

Rank order	Major Factors leading to divorce	Response		No Response		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1 st	Extra-marital affairs	81	36.3	141	63.51	222	100
2 nd	Infidelity specially adultery	72	32.3	150	67.57	222	100
3 rd	Short period of acquaintance before marriage.	57	25.6	165	74.32	222	100
4 th	Mistrust between husband and wife	44	19.7	178	80.18	222	100
5 th	Marital interference by relatives specially in-laws	43	19.3	179	80.63	222	100
6 th	Alcoholism or drug addiction	42	18.8	180	81.08	222	100
7 th	Lack or shortage of means of livelihood (Economic problem)	39	17.5	183	82.43	222	100
8 th	Sexual incompatibility	33	14.8	189	85.14	222	100
9 th	Lenient attitude toward marriage	24	10.8	198	89.19	222	100
10 th	Premarital pregnancy	19	8.5	203	91.44	222	100
11 th	Husband and wife following different religions	17	7.6	205	92.34	222	100
12 th	Early marriage (premature age)	16	7.2	206	92.72	222	100
13 th	Cruelty by husband	16	7.2	206	92.79	222	100
14 th	Racial difference between husband and wife	14	6.3	208	93.69	222	100

Table 12 shows that the rank order of the major factors responsible for marital dissolution extends from extramarital affairs 81(36.3%) to racial difference between husband and wife 14(6.3%). Infact beginning from the top extreme of the rank order to the bottom, the majority and even the greater majority of respondents refrained from ranking the factors. This may be due to the time consuming nature of responding the questions. Never the less, however, for the better rather than the best information the response of those who reacted to the question was ranked as expressed earlier.

4.12. Other Causative Factors of Divorce

Basically it is not the objective of this study to identify other factors leading to divorce other than the major ones. The researcher, however, was convinced to touch them at information level fundamentally because it is useful to get the comprehensive picture of causative situations, to prevent the problem whether the cause is major or minor and to provide ground for potential researchers who are interested in the area to conduct further study. Thus the respondents were asked to give information concerning other factors leading to marital break up in addition to the major ones. The results are listed out in the following table

Observation to Table 13 shows that there are many potentially dangerous factors to cause divorce in Addis Ababa. Though the major factors are seriously treated in this study, other factors indicated by respondents are important to deserve due consideration. Particularly lack of compassion between husband and wife 193(86.9%), absence of tolerance during conflict 190(85.59%), regular misunderstanding between husband and wife 187 (82.9%), and absence of regard and respect between couples 186(83.8%) seem very close to the major factors listed out. And many figures of the table show that further and detail research need to be conducted and equivalent measures should be taken before the problem gets worse and affects family life in Addis Ababa.

4.13. Effects of Divorce

For the purpose of gaining further information in this study, the respondents were asked about the consequences of their divorce incidence. Though all didn't respond, some gave adequate information as given here under.

The effects of Divorce:

1. Economic problem.
2. Family disintegration.
3. Psychological crises of adults.
4. Loneliness.

5. Taking care of children alone.
6. Loosing family love.
7. Developing marriage hatred.
8. Developing neurotic behavior.
9. Missing children's love.
10. Loss of confidence over life partner and hatred.
11. Lack of mental peace and adjustment.
12. Missing life partner.
13. Single hood based life.
14. Homelessness (difficulty of loosing own house and living in rented house).
15. General health problem.
16. Loss of life confidence.
17. Retaliation intention.
18. Disorganized personal life.
19. Imprisonment.
20. Psychological crises of Children.
21. Crises in Social life.
22. Frustration to remarry.
23. Becoming commercial sex worker.
24. Development of juvenile delinquency in children due to lack of united parental control.
25. Loss of property.
26. Alcoholism and drug addiction.

27. Psychotic symptom.
28. Stigma and discrimination by society due to being divorced.
29. Injustice over divorce issue by court.
30. Expense for processing divorce.
31. Development of cruelty by divorced individuals.
32. General life goal frustration and crises.

Of 176 respondents reacted with the question, 52 underlined economic problems, 19 caring for children alone, 17 loneliness, 15 psychological crises and 9 family disintegration. Thus divorce again contributes to poverty and affects significantly the life of children.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. DISCUSSION

The objective of this study is to identify major factors leading to divorce in Addis Ababa. An attempt has also been made to explore the demographic variables of the subjects to see if these variables contributed to the power of the factors to come up with the problem at hand.

Thus the following major factors leading to divorce are identified in this study.

1. Extra Marital Affairs. Out of the total sample (222 subjects), 92% male and 93.69% female reported that extramarital affairs both by male and female is the top factor to cause divorce. This result is highly consistent with the news broadcasted by BBC on 23 January 2005 that states extramarital affairs are still the number one reason for divorces, a new survey has revealed. Though the figure of this study is highly surpassing, again it is in agreement with the study conducted in UK by Matrimonial Lawyers. The study suggests that extramarital affairs continue to be the main reason, in almost 27% of all cases, for UK divorces taking place in 2004.

2. Infidelity Specially Adultery. Adultery most of the time is practiced for the purpose of sexual satisfaction, where as extramarital affairs may lead to

marriage. It is more than the purpose of sexual satisfaction only. Since both mostly share common characteristics i.e., sexual relationship the result recorded in the case of adultery is very identical with that of extramarital affairs. According to the data 91.89% of male and 92.79% of female respondents suggested that infidelity particularly adultery is one and leading reason of divorce. This finding is supported by previous study conducted by Wolcott and Hughes, (1999) which states that “infidelity was perceived as the main provocation for divorce by 20% of both men and women. For the majority, it was a spouse’s infidelity that was the precipitating factor 11% of the respondents claimed their own infidelity as a reason.”

3. Short Period of Partnership Acquaintance Prior to Marriage. Short period of partnership acquaintance before marriage was also reported as another main reason of divorce. This shows that partners are likely to involve in marriage setting without consistent and adequate knowledge of each other. This ultimately leads to marital conflict and then to divorce as indicated by this study (86.49% male and 79.28% female). This outcome of the study is positively supported by the research conducted by OMI and Oklahoma State University. The study revealed that according to 42% of the respondents one serious cause of divorce was little or no helpful premarital preparation. The figure is very much higher in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) than in USA (Oklahoma) may probably be due to undeveloped transparent culture in Ethiopia which some how doesn’t allow the partners to study each other freely.

4. Mistrust Between Husband and Wife. The finding of the study showed that 93.69% of male and 92.79% of female respondents reported that mistrust between husband and wife is recorded among the main reasons of marital dissolution in the city of Addis.

5. Marital Interference by Relatives Specially In-laws

This study investigated further that marital interference by relatives specially in-laws is additional dangerous cause of marital dissolutions according to 90.1% of male and 86.49% of female. When the relatives negatively interfere the conflict between husband and wife rather than working on the resolution of the problem then the marriage begins its trip toward divorce. Previous study on this issue also states Saposnek (2004) suggested “in the process of developing a position during a conflictual divorce a spouse typically is surrounded by an increased cadre of supporters. These are friends, relatives, and professionals who, after hearing only one side of the dispute in vivid, distorted, and compelling detail, rally to that spouse’s side.” The figure indicated above is so high means the problem is so serious. This may be attributed to the close socio cultural ties in our country which allows that social problems receive high social attention or concern.

6. Alcoholism or Drug Addiction

In similar way to others, alcoholism or drug addiction in general is reported to be found among the major factors taking to marital facility specially divorce. The figure reported was 87.39% male and 84.68% female. Alcoholism or drug

to saving for retirement". Therefore, this part of life area is potentially dangerous unless great caution is taken.

8. Sexual Incompatibility

Sexual incompatibility of husband and wife is mentioned by respondents to be another root cause of marital breakup (90.99% male and 85.59% female). The subjects were asked in the questionnaire to identify general factors leading to divorce, to indicate the dimensions of sexual incompatibility. Many of them replied mismatched sexual desire between husband and wife, impotency by the husband and frigidity by the wife, and again both impotency by the husband and frigidity by the wife i.e. sexual incapability of both are central to sexual incompatibility problem. This result is confirmed by study conducted in Australia which points out that small proportion of men and women (less than 2% of study subjects) specifically mentioned sexual incompatibility as a main reason of divorce (Wolcott and Hughes, 1999). The figures show high variance pinpointing that the problem is more serious in the present study and one reason for the problem may be lack of adequate know-how in activating the partner during sexual intercourse. Any how this needs further study.

9. Lenient Attitude of Society towards Marriage.

The finding of this research indicates that previously strong attitude of the society towards marriage is challenged through the course of time and now lenient attitude became one of the outstanding reasons for the winding up of marital relationship by divorce. The subjects of the study tried to indicate the problem though slight difference was observed between the view of male and female

respondents almost half (47.75%) of female respondents being disagreed with the variable as a cause of the problem. Still, however, the problem is listed in the row of serious factors to affect the marital life of the society in Addis.

10. Premarital Pregnancy

Premarital pregnancy is also one of the main reasons of divorce in the capital city of the country. 70.27% male and 38.74% of female respondents indicated the problem to be so. Similar to the problem of racial difference mentioned earlier, premarital pregnancy as a major factor leading to divorce can in some cases be considered by some people as a sign of fertility after marriage rather than as a problem and serves as a criterion for marital VOS. Or it may be because a sort of tolerance has been prevailed by male partner if the pregnancy has happened within certain mutual understanding.

In any condition the finding of the study is supported by studies conducted in other countries. Gibson (1974) reported stating that “One of the most sticking demographic features associated with divorce is the increased possibility that the divorcing wife was pregnant at the time of marriage. Sociologists in the USA have found disproportionately high divorce rates associated with the condition of premarital pregnancy.” According to this view premarital pregnancy is currently playing high role in the incidences of divorce.

11. Couples' Difference in Religion

In this study couples' difference in religion is also found to be among the major reasons (54.05% male and 27.93%) for spouses to end up divorced in Addis

Ababa. Any how it can be mentioned as the last least major factor of all. Specially three-fourth of the female respondents didn't consider it as a major factor for the problem to prevail. The reason may be that the city is the land of multiple religions and one is tolerated by the other to exist respectfully together.

On the other hand religious differences cause divorce in other countries as well. Study made by OMI and Oklahoma clearly pointed out that 21% of the study subjects suggested that religious differences are among the influential reasons for husband and wife legally break their marital relationship.

12. Early Marriage. The study further revealed that early marriage or marriage lacking maturity is found to be the main reason of divorce in Addis (75.68% male and 97.57% female). This may be due to lack of maturity to shoulder home responsibility which is unquestionably the task of marriage partners. Consequently, therefore, the challenge becomes beyond the capacity to bear which finally comes up with the end of marital institution. This fact was also recorded by Gibson (1974) as "not only are marriage more prone to divorce where the bride is under twenty, but such failures occur within a shorter period of marriage than is found in older age groups. It is indicated that 30% of divorcing wives who were married before twenty had marriages lasting less than 7 years compared with 17% for wives who were aged at least twenty-five at marriage." Other findings also agree with the result of the present study. Research has recorded highest incidence of divorce among persons who marry young. It is an established fact that women who marry young are most likely to

divorce than those who marry later (Glick and Norton, 1977, Teachman, 1982, Booth, 1986 & Pthen, 1986).

13. Cruelty Specially by Husband

Cruelty specially by husband, according to the finding of the present assessment (88.24% male and 86.49% female), is one of the leading factors responsible for divorce in Addis. It is plain truth that successful marriage partly is the result of good mutual understanding of husband and wife. Cruelty in any way is the enemy of strong marriage life. It threatens the smoothly sustaining social relationship including marital setting which finally leads to familiarity and disintegration.

14. Racial Difference Between Husband and Wife

Coming from different race of husband and wife is reported to be one of the forerunning reasons of marital failurity by divorce (71.1% male and 54.05% female). Compared to the figures of other factors listed out previously, the figure for the factor at hand is slightly low so that it can be mentioned among the least major factors. Nevertheless the implication could be attributed to the fact that there is multi racial settlement within the city and mutual coexistence based on tolerance. Despite this 'reasoning', the problem of racial difference between couples can not be exempted from being considered as serious challenge of marriage in Addis.

How the major factors operate in relation with socio-demographic characteristics of the subjects was treated in this study.

The problem of divorce is almost the challenge of all age groups from 18-56 years and above in Addis except slightly higher divorce incidence observed in age group from 19-35 years for male and 36-45 years for female

The study included both illiterate and literate subjects, the literate specially having educational background from basic education level to M.D. (Medical doctor). And the finding shows that though the illiterate and people at all educational level with various degree are affected with the problem of divorce, those who are at 7-12 grade educational level are more threatened by divorce problem. The leading reasons behind the high divorce rate at this educational level are adultery (40.54%), extramarital affairs (39.64%), mistrust (39.64%), and sexual incompatibility (38.74%). Other reasons are also following to contribute their part to the problem. All the people at the rest high educational levels are also challenged by these leading divorce reasons. In general speaking, thus, there is high association between major factors of divorce and every educational level in Addis Ababa.

Viewing the study with respect to the ethnic group the majority of the divorced people are from Amhara. Oromo being the second and Tigire and Gurage equally the third. Though up date data (sensus) report concerning the population of the ethnic groups in the city is not available, the reason why high figure of divorce is observed among Amhara people might not be because the group is peculiarly prone to the problem but may be because there is high population of the group

more than others in the city. Or may be the problem is the phenomenon of this group. Which reality is true, needs further study.

It has been also identified that the problem of divorce affected more people in Orthodox religion. The divorced individuals are characterized basically by the previously mentioned leading major factors namely extramarital affairs, adultery, mistrust between husband and wife, marital interference by close relatives such as in-laws, sexual incompatibility between couples, etc. Though the inherent teaching of this religion is against these situations, the occurred divorcing variables, they worked widely to the extent that family life is affected and the problem of divorce is effected.

Similarly it is revealed that of the many religions in the city Islam and Protestant took the second and the third positions to be threatened by the problem of divorce respectively. The major factors are all the same with the previous religion i.e, Orthodox. The teachings of these religions do not encourage rather discourage divorce as well. Why the teachings and the practical life couldn't go inconsistent with each other, should be the topic of further study. For the present purpose, however, the justification might be religious devotion or commitment is declined and liberalism is inclined subsequently. Generally the study identified that despite the religious teachings, divorce is seriously affecting the adherent of the religions.

High number of female respondents (20.27%) refrained from indicating their divorce time.

This finding is slightly in contrary with previous findings. Tilson and Larsen (2000) conducted a study on divorce in rural Ethiopia and indicated that 45% of first marriage in Ethiopia end in divorce with in 30 years, and two-third of women who divorced do so within the first 5 years of marriage.

Jacobson in his study of duration of marriage pointed out that “it is evident that the recent upswing of the divorce rate was sharpest among those married less than five years---.” In general, the divorce frequency is highest in the early period married life.

The present study revealed that high divorce rate is evident at 6 years and above of marriage. However other previous findings including the one conducted in rural Ethiopia, indicated that the maximum population of divorce falls under 5 years of marriage. The variance may be due to lack of tolerance in foreign culture effected from advancing in modernity, and relatively high tolerance in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) as a result of traditional culture. But the reason for high divorce rate under 5 years of marriage in rural Ethiopia may be low maturity to run home responsibility.

This study also showed that most of the time it is male than female who first initiate the question of divorce, (84.68% and 45.05% respectively). This again is in contrary with the BBC News broadcasted 23 Jan,2005 which reported “the survey found that, 93% of the time, it was women who had petition for divorce”. As a reason for the difference it may be suggested that women in the developed nations may be more transparent to end their marital relationship in divorce, differently from women in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa) who may be not yet achieved the state of transparency to petition for divorce, despite the problem might be very serious.

Finally, it has also been reported in this study that there are many other factors leading to divorce in Addis Ababa. Since these factors other than the major ones, are not the concern of these study, they can be treated through further study of interest in the future.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1. Summary

The purpose of this study is to determine major factors leading to divorce in Addis Ababa. Additionally demographic variables of the respondents and their relation to major divorcing factors are treated to see whether they contributed to the occurrence of the problem. To this end, the following research questions were posed:

1. What are the major factors cited as causes for marital dissolution in Addis Ababa ?
2. What are the main demographic variables related to marital dissolution?
3. How the major factors are associated with socio-demographic variables to lead to marital break up?
4. What are the rank order of the major factors in generating the problem?
5. Are there other factors potentially harmful for marital life?

To answer these questions, the total of 222 respondents (111 male and 111 female) were selected and a questionnaire constructed for the purpose were administered to them. Additionally an interview was made to two people (Judge of

Federal 1st instance court and head of women affairs of Gulale sub city kebele 03/04/05) as data source and information was collected from documented archive of Federal 1st Instance Court. Results were statistically analyzed and finally the following findings were arrived:

1. Variables such as:

- Extramarital affairs by marriage partners;
- Infidelity specially adulterous act by couples;
- Short period of partnership acquaintances prior to marriage;
- Mistrust between husband and wife;
- Marital interference by close friends of the spouses specially in-laws;
- Alcoholism or general drug addiction by one or both of the marriage partners.
- Economic problem particularly lack or low means of living;
- Sexual incompatibility of husband and wife;
- Lenient attitude of society to wards marriage;
- Premarital pregnancy;
- Couples' being from different religion;
- Early marriage;
- Cruelty specially of husband;
- Racial difference between husband and wife;

were reported to be the major factors leading to divorce in Addis Ababa

9. In Addis Ababa males not females are mentioned to be the first to initiate the question of divorce and to petition to court.

10. The rank order of the major factors to cause divorce were mentioned as:

- 1st. Extramarital affairs,
- 2nd. Infidelity specially adultery,
- 3rd. Short period of partnership acquaintance,
- 4th. Mistrust between husband and wife,
- 5th. Marital interference by close friends specially in-laws,
- 6th. Alcoholism or drug addiction,
- 7th. Lack or shortage of means of living,
- 8th. Sexual incompatibility between husband and wife,
- 9th. Lenient attitude toward marriage,
- 10th. Premarital pregnancy,
- 11th. Difference in religion of husband and wife,
- 12th. Cruelty of husband,
- 13th. Early marriage,
- 14th. Racial difference between spouses.

11. There are many other potentially harmful factors to cause marital dissolution in Addis Ababa that need further study.

6.2. Conclusion

This study has made a due effort to determine the major factors leading to marriage break up in the city of Addis. It has also tried to identify the important

socio-demographic variables as they relate to the major divorcing factors and marital dissolution.

Results revealed that there are many major factors responsible for the problem of divorce in Addis Ababa. Divorce has variously reacted with different socio-demographic variables such as sex, age, education, ethnic group, religion and income of the target group.

Though most of the major factors identified in this study have similar influencing capacity, they do not induce completely the same impact so that they are listed out in terms their rank order of threatening power.

Finally, for the sake of providing comprehensive information of the problem, it is reported that there are other potentially frightening factors leading to marital break up unless attention is given and prevention measures are taken.

6.3. Recommendation

Divorce caused by multi – directional factors was found to be a social problem in Addis Ababa. This study indicated divorce could have even brought more consequence in this city. So that it should not be overlooked as ordinary challenge as if it will provide its own solution sometimes in the future. Rather it should call due attention since it seriously threatens the family which is the nucleus of the

society. The society is central to any country and agent of development. The existence of society is fundamental for the existence of any nation. The source of society is nothing but family which in turn is formed and sustains through marriage. Thus the strongly formed and harmoniously sustains marriage is the only absolute reality for the emergence, existence and development of society. This tells us that divorce the enemy of good family life, should be tackled timely and adequately. In light of this fact, therefore, the following recommendations are proposed to deal with divorce problem of Addis Ababa revealed in the present study.

1. Divorce in Addis is found to be multiple factors based challenge. Hence, intervention programs need to be designed by concerned government body specially the Labor and Social Affairs Bureau, Addis Ababa Department of Family Affairs. The programs may be delivered to the society through seminars, workshops, conferences, and mass media and include:
 - a). Continued awareness building about HIV/ AIDS to prevent extramarital affairs and adultery,
 - b). Sex education to deal with premarital pregnancy,
 - c). Guidance and counseling to deal with the problems of short-termed premarital partnership acquaintances, early marriage, alcoholism, sexual incompatibility.

- d). Family life education to handle the problems of lack of tolerance in the family, specially by husband, mistrust between husband and wife, marital interference by close friends, religious and racial differences.
- e) Entrepreneurship teaching to resolve the problem of unemployment and lack of means of living. Another concerned body of government should strategically design strategies regarding how to provide job to the capable but jobless part of the residents.
- f) strong awareness building work about the general and undenied value of marriage and family life, to put the lenient attitude the society is developing toward marriages under control. The responsible non-governmental organizations should work being hand-in hand with the government in implementing these programs so that the effort then more practical achievements can be recorded.
- 2) The religious institutions should provide sound teaching coupled with counseling programs that would lead the adherents to sound practical life and protect them from such serious problem as extra marital affairs premarital pregnancy, mistrust between husband and wife, etc indicated in this study.
- 3) The capacity of such social institutions as Idir, and government structures as kebele should be maximized by GO and NGOS to deal with marital conflict effectively than being tied up only to regular routine woks because they have daily interaction with the society at grassroot level which suffers from diversified problems including divorce.

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14. Decline of love after marriage Yes No
15. Lack of willing by the couples to take mutual
Responsibility of home Yes No
16. Lack of compassionate feeling for each other
between couples Yes No
17. Interference by in marriage relatives
specially in-laws Yes No
18. Husband and wife being from different nationality Yes No
19. Difference in religions of the husband and wife Yes No
20. Significant difference in age between
husband and wife Yes No
21. Significant difference in education level between
husband and wife Yes No
22. Advanced in education of wife than the husband Yes No
23. Husband and wife being from different race Yes No
24. Early marriage Yes No
25. Decision about marriage by the parents not
by the parties Yes No
26. More attention to business than marriage Yes No
27. Frequent divorce Yes No
28. Husband being the only child in his family Yes No
29. Lack of counseling during marriage conflict Yes No
30. Misconception about martial goals Yes No
31. Desire to live beyond economic capacity and the
Conflict created with this respect Yes No
32. Sexual incompatibility
1. Mismatched sexual desire Yes No
2. Impotence by the husband Yes No
- *3. Frigidity by the wife Yes No
- *4. Both impotency by the husband and frigidity

- by the wife Yes No
33. Jealousy by one of the couples Yes No
34. Infertility Yes No
35. Sever illness of one of the couples Yes No
36. Disability of one of the spouses Yes No
37. Long time separation of husband and wife
due to some reasons Yes No
38. Lack of teaching about marital life before and
after marriage Yes No
39. Marriage based not on true love but temporary
attraction Yes No
40. Cheating by one of the couples Yes No
41. Less number of children and being prone to divorce
due to this Yes No
42. Wrong advice by close friends Yes No
43. Falling in love with another man or woman and
starting extrametrical affairs Yes No
44. Wicked personality and avoidance of responsibility Yes No
45. Loose divorce law Yes No
46. Lenient attitude of the society toward marriage Yes No
47. Frequent occurrence of the death of children Yes No
48. Poverty of the family of one of the couples and
richness of other Yes No
49. Advance in education by one of the couples after
marriage and inferiority feeling of the educationally
unadvanced Yes No
50. Lack of transparency between the spouses Yes No
51. Lack of martial commitment and conflict as
a result Yes No
52. Regular misunderstanding between the husband

Specific Occupation of Respondents

Type of Occupation	Frequency
Teacher	37
Business	33
Working in GO	18
Pensioned	11
Driver	9
Guard	9
Private Work	9
Office Secretary	5
Accountant	6
Daily laborer	6
Cleaner	6
Mechanic	4
Mason	4
Electrician	3
Carpenter	3
Cook	2
Grinding mill operator	2
Waiter	2
Health assistant	2
House maid	2
Police	2
Nurse	1
Doctor	1
House wife	1
Engineer	1
Archivist	1
Commercial sex worker	1
Administrator	1
Laboratory technician	1
Working in bank	1
Lawyer	1
Soldier	1
Tailor	1
No response	3
Cashier	1