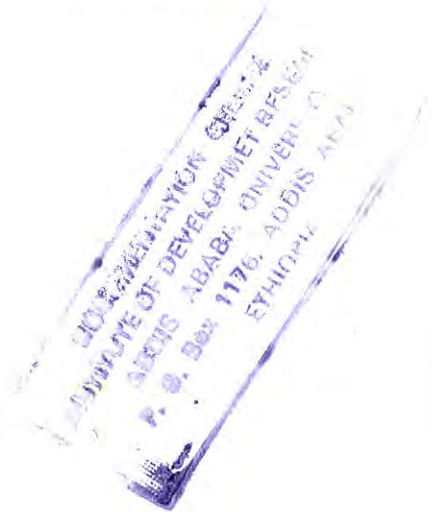


**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

***Demographic and Socio-economic Determinants of First Marital
Dissolution in Rural Dembecha Woreda, Amhara Regional State***

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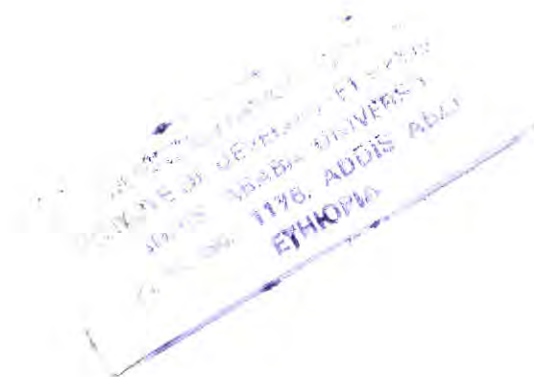


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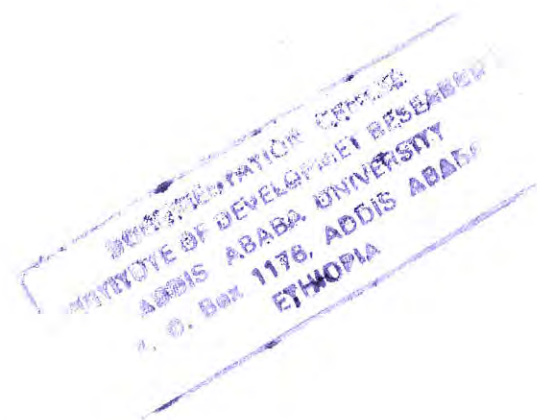
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ACRONYMS

CSA	Central Statistical Authority
DEFF	Design Effect Factor
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCTPE	National Committee on Traditional Practices of Ethiopia
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN	United Nations
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science

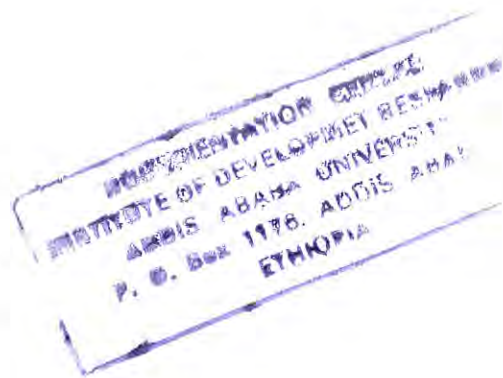


Abstract

Marital dissolution in Amhara Region is among the highest in Ethiopia and stem from a range of demographic and socio-economic factors. This study aimed at analyzing demographic and socio-economic factors that influence marital dissolution in rural parts of the Amhara Region by taking one of the woredas in the Region. The sampling technique followed a multistage sampling; in the first step six kebeles were selected randomly and in the second stage twelve gots (two from each kebele) were selected again randomly and household listing in the selected gots were undertaken in order to identify the target population. Women who were eligible for the study were systematically selected from the household listing. A structured questionnaire was administered by trained interviewers. A total of 731 ever married women who were aged less than 55 years excluding those who were widowed of their first husband were interviewed using structured questionnaire. If more than one respondent was identified in a household, lottery method was used to select one eligible respondent. FGD was also undertaken to collect some qualitative information on marital dissolution. The analysis is made at individual level on the basis of univariate, bivariate and multivariate methods. The result of bivariate analysis showed that most of the demographic and socio-economic factors had relationship with marital dissolution. Moreover, large proportion of the respondents (56 percent) had dissolved their first marriages. The multivariate analysis also showed that age at first marriage, duration of marriage, number of children born in the marriage, decision making power in economic issues in the household and contraceptive use, land ownership and domestic violence were found to be significantly related to marital dissolution. However, types of household women were living, ownership of cattle and literacy status were found to be insignificant. Based on the findings, the following points of recommendations were stated: efforts should be made to increase age at first marriage in the study area, educating the community to empower women in decision making on household economic issues and family planning, preventing domestic violence by the husband against women.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION



1.1. Background of the Study

Marriage is an event of great social and economic significance in most societies. It is a rite of passage that marks the beginning of an individual's separation from the parental unit. Hence, in Africa as well as in many parts of the world, getting married remains the largely predominant social norm for women as well as for men (Dominique and Bruno, 2002). In many developing countries, marriage represents the union not only of two individuals, but also of two families or kinship groups. In many societies, it also entails a substantial transfer of assets from parents to children (Agnes and Kelly, 2003). Marriage provides more than just material security. More and more importance is attached to matters such as understanding and communicating with each other and being sensitive to each other's needs and feelings in a relationship.

The type and functions of marriage vary from culture to culture. In the western bloc, most legally sanctioned marriages are monogamous, while divorce is relatively simple and socially sanctioned (Olabisi and Joshua, 2006). Marriage in this regard is essentially based on the view that it is legal covenant recognizing emotional attachment between the partners and entered into voluntarily. In the Eastern bloc, most societies permit polygamy but in such societies however, most men have only one because having multiple wives is generally considered a sign of wealth and power. In the Muslim world, marriage is sanctioned between a man and a woman, although a man, under certain conditions, is allowed up to four wives (ibid). In such occasions, the different wives are considered equal and must be treated as such.

Marriage in sub-Saharan Africa has been commonly described as early and universal and this situation has partly been blamed for the persistence of high fertility in the region, however, the region is far from homogeneity (Lesthaeghe, 1989). Marriage is a difficult concept in African societies because it is a process rather than a discrete event and

involves rituals, negotiations and transactions that can stretch over years, making it difficult to say at what point a couple becomes married (Arnaldo, 2001).

Marriage in Ethiopia can be divided into six types. These are “*serg*” (ceremonial marriage), religious marriage, civil marriage (a civil contract commonly known as contract of equals), “*k`ot`assir*” (marriage produced by provision of labor in which a young boy comes to work and lives in the household of the girl), “*demos*” (paid labor marriage which involves payment by the husband to the wife either monthly or annual salary) and “*tilf*” (marriage by abduction) (Pankhurst, 1992).

Northern Ethiopian Christian people (mainly the Amhara and Tigray) profess to marry outside seven degrees of consanguinity and work hard to live up to this rule (Crummey, 1983). The Ethiopian Orthodox Church professes norms common to those of other churches: the sanctity and indissolubility of marriage, an institution ordained for the procreation of children (Pankhurst, 1992). But it has succeeded in imposing these norms only on its priests, whom it expects to marry, to practice sexual fidelity, and to whom it forbids divorce (Crummey, 1983).

In many countries throughout the world, marriage is seen primarily as an agreement between two families. An alliance through marriage between two successful families can enhance the power, prestige and wellbeing of all the members of both families (Olson and Defrain, 2000). In this sense, one marriage not just as individual but also that person's family.

Although in principle marriage is an endeavor entered into by two individuals, the institution of marriage itself is a social construction resulting from the intersection of structural and interactional constraints. The disruption of a marriage is constructed socially as a negative event in the lives of the individuals involved (Shannon and Theodore, 2004).

Although many studies have been done on the instability of marriages in the developed world, little attempt has been made to assess marital instability in Africa. Most of the literatures on marriage in Africa are focused on early marriages. Statistics on divorce,

domestic violence, alcohol and other drug abuse, as well as stories of families in crises, paint a negative picture of marriage and family life today (Olson and Defrain, 2000).

The nuptiality revolution common to all western countries involves not just falling marriage rates, but also rising rates of marriage dissolution. However, the timing of increase in dissolution and the actual rate of dissolution differ in different countries (Michael, 1993).

Marital instability in any community has social welfare implications, especially for the children and divorced wives. Available evidences suggest that divorce and widowhood may have adverse consequences on the lives of children and their mothers. Several researchers have attempted to theorize about cause and effects of divorce. Holly et al (1999) found that marital dissolution increases the risk for mental and physical health problems. Paul and Frank (1989) suggest that marital dissolution has pervasive and long-lasting effects in problem behavior, psychological distress, and academic performance of children and the effects are serious for children who are very young at the time of the dissolution.

Many literatures suggest that husband's and wife's socioeconomic and demographic characteristics have distinctive effects on the probability of divorce. The determinants affect marital dissolution either positively (increases the probability of dissolution) or negatively (decreases the rate of marital dissolution), moreover the effect varies from society to society and from country to county (Baffour and Stephen, 2007). Therefore, interpretation of the determinants for marital stability is not an easy task.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Couples marriage could be expected to remain until death. However, separation and divorce are now becoming a common source of marital dissolution in most countries throughout the world (Gottman1993).

African nuptiality regimes is generally characterized by very early entry into a union for women and at a much later age for men and by frequent remarriage due to high divorce rate (Agnes and Kelly, 2003). However, frequency and timing of divorce, widowhood

and remarriage are among the least well documented facts in African demography, as they require the full marital history of men and women (Dominique and Bruno, 2002).

Confined to domestic duties from an early age, young women in rural Ethiopia often experience significant psychosocial problems related to their lost mobility (have no chance to move any where since they are confined to domestic duties) and inability to pursue educational or vocational opportunities. As a result, almost half of all early marriages end in divorce or separation, with the newly separated woman often migrating to urban areas in search of work (MOH, 2006). There, many end up as commercial sex workers or hired domestic workers (maids), significantly increasing their reproductive and sexual health risks. Moreover, divorced persons are looked down upon in the society with an obvious gender difference. Divorce of a woman damages her as well as her family's prestige. Chances of remarriage after divorce are usually lower for women than for men.

Despite the fact that nuptiality has important demographic, economic and social implications, it has received relatively little attention compared to natality and mortality. The demographic study of nuptiality in Ethiopia is not very developed and often of secondary interest in a discussion of the proximate determinants of fertility. Very little is, therefore, known in Ethiopia about the instability of marriages, its causes and consequences. The effect of marital instability is not only the concern for the two spouses. Its effect goes beyond the individuals who dissolve their marital union. Children and other relatives of couples are the immediate victims who share the potential consequences.

The Amhara Region is characterized by a very high incidence of divorce (Pathfinder international, 2006). It also seems to be the major origin of the commercial sex workers throughout the country (Shungu, 2007). A research conducted in Addis Ababa on commercial sex workers by Shungu (2007) showed that more than 72 percent of them were not born in Addis Ababa and the most common place of birth (42.5 percent) were the Amhara Region. Besides increasing the number of prostitutes by promoting rural to urban migration, marital instability also contributes for streetism of children as they are

exposed to many socio-economic and psychological problems. However, neither the causes of divorce, nor the impact of divorce on the divorcees, their children and the community are not fully understood in the Amhara Region as not much research has been conducted on this subject.

Identifying the causes of marriage breakdown through divorce/separation may help to plan remedial actions to reduce divorce and its adverse consequences for divorced persons and their children.

1.3. Significance of the Study

Attempts that have been made to study marital instability in Ethiopia are not enough, especially in Amhara Region where the problem is very high. According to the 1990 family and fertility survey report first marital dissolution of Amhara is very high (52%) as compared with the country figure (33%). Dissolution is very high in rural areas for the Amhara (53.7 %) compared with urban (46.3 %).

Marital dissolution has now become a common phenomenon in Ethiopia. For example, during the five years period (2000-2005) the proportion of divorced among both women and men has nearly doubled. Among the survey respondents in 2000, 2.5 percent of women and 1 percent of men were divorced (CSA& ORC Macro, 2001). The figure had developed to 4.8 percent for women and 1.8 percent to men in the five years period (CSA& ORC Macro, 2006). The dissolution of first marriages is believed to be very high for women who got married at younger ages (Tilson and Larsen, 2000). The Amhara Region is the lowest among other regions in median age at first marriage which is 14.2 years.

Dembecha woreda is among one of the places where early marriage is highly practiced in the region (Abatyihun, 2009). Therefore, it is likely that marital dissolution will also be high in the woreda. Estimating the level and identifying the causes and consequences of marital dissolution can assist in suggesting future policies in the study area.



1.4. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is organized to five chapters. Chapter one covers background, problem of the statement and significance of the study. Chapter two reviews findings of other studies and researches relevant to this research topic, the review mainly covers demographic and socio-economic determinants leading to marital dissolution. Conceptual frame-work, objectives, hypotheses and operational definitions of key concepts and terms and limitation of the study are also included in this chapter. Chapter three presents data and methodology used, which is organized as: brief description of the study area, study design, data source, sample size determination, sampling procedures, data collection procedures, the field work, method of data analysis and ethics of the research considered. Chapter four presents results and discussion of the study which is subdivided into: descriptive analysis of the data set which comprises description of demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the sampled respondents, results on demographic and socio-economic determinants of marital dissolution which incorporates results of the bivariate and multivariate analysis and discussion of major findings. Chapter five summarizes the findings, conclusions and policy implications of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES

Marriage itself and its dissolution is a complex phenomenon that is influenced by a multitude of variables. Marriage is part of the natural progression into adulthood, a means of achieving independence and an identity distinct from one's parents and kin. Many studies have been undertaken to identify the factors that cause, predict, or contribute to dissatisfaction and instability in marriages and relationships (Bhuiya et al, 2005, Gottman, 1993). Early age at marriage, the level of education, religious affiliation, individual age and duration of marriage, fertility history of the union, violence in the family of origin and particular patterns of negative interaction and attribution are among the factors that are repeatedly shown to be important to marriage and relationship outcomes. But the marital dissolution is a complex phenomenon that incorporates also the influence of previous life stages, the development of an individual in childhood, the conditions of growing up and first steps of independent living after reaching maturity. In the case of second and further unions, the experience of previous partnership/s has also its influence on marital behavior.

2.1. Demographic Factors Leading to Marital Dissolution

2.1.1. Age at First Marriage

Many societies throughout the world, primarily in Africa and South Asia, support the idea that girls should marry at or soon after puberty. Their spouses are likely to be older than them, and may some times be more than twice their ages (UNICEF, 2005). Parents and heads of families make marital choices for them with little regard for personal implications (UNICEF, 2001). Many scholars pointed that age at marriage has great effect on marital stability. Higher ages at marriage are typically thought of as an indicator of female autonomy or female empowerment. With increasing age at marriage, the probability of choosing one's own spouse also increases, which may result in stable marriage (ibid).

In many research findings increasing age at marriage is often found to have a considerable positive effect on marital stability (Bhuiya et al, 2005, Reniers, 2003, Tilson and Larsen, 2000). A research conducted by Nurul et al (2000) among Muslim communities in Bangladesh found that the bride's age at marriage is inversely related to the risk of divorce. The older the age, at which a woman gets married, the more stable the marriage is likely to be. It has been argued that age at first marriage is a proxy for a woman's preparedness for marriage. Women who marry early may be less prepared for married life than women who wait to marry. They have had a shorter search for a marital partner and they may also be more likely to romanticize marriage. This could lead them to choose the wrong partner (Hafferman, 2007). Women who marry at a later age are more realistic about what married life can provide for them and what they want from a marital union.

Shannon and Theodore (2004) suggested that age at first marriage affects women's likelihood of marital disruption contingent upon gender ideology. And they also found that very young women (below 17) who marry are 57% more likely to experience marital disruption than women who marry at the ages of 22 to 24. A more similar argument is found in Ghana where women who married at younger ages (less than 17 years) are associated with a higher risk of divorce than their counterparts who married when they were 22 years or older (Baffour and Stephen, 2007).

Women are often married at very young ages in Ethiopia. Among women age 25-49, 66 percent married by age 18 and 79 percent married by age 20. The median age at first marriage among women age 25-49 is 16.1 years. The median age at marriage is highest in Addis Ababa (21.9 years) and lowest in Amhara (14.2 years) (CSA and ORC Macro, 2006). In most parts of the country especially in rural areas, tradition dictates that a girl marries as soon as she reaches puberty. This is to insure that she is a virgin at marriage, as well as to guarantee that the best possible match is found for her (Haile Gabriel, 1994). In most cases, parents do not have as good a chance of finding a 'suitable' husband for their daughter if they wait until after puberty to look for a husband (Pankhurst, 1992). Among the negative consequences of early marriage in Ethiopia divorce is one of them. There are many reasons posed to explain why a young age at marriage would contribute

to an increased risk of divorce by Pankhurst; among them are immaturity and women's lack of choice in whom they marry.

2.1.2. Duration of Marriage

Knowledge of the interactions between the duration of marriage and the socioeconomic position of spouses might help understand the processes by which the socioeconomic factors exert their effects on the risk of divorce. There are theoretical reasons to expect that the actual propensity to divorce declines as spouse's age and marriages last longer. Social-psychological explanations suggest that older people are socially and emotionally more mature and personally stable and therefore more able to avoid or solve serious marital conflicts than younger people (Jalovaara, 2002); older people put a higher value on stability than young people because older spouses have fewer alternatives to their current relationship, and because they have less time to enjoy any benefits that might follow from divorce, the expected future benefits compare less favorably with the costs of divorce.

The lower incidence of divorce in longer marriages and among older spouses is likely to be a result of several factors. One potentially important reason is selective attrition, meaning that marriages with the highest probability of divorce are ended first, and therefore, the proportion of divorce-prone marriages is smaller among marriages of longer duration (Schoen, 1992).

Many studies revealed that the duration of the union has an effect on the risk marital dissolution. Sometimes the effect is very small and does not show regular pattern (Lucia and Mariachiara, 2008). Another research in Russia indicated that the risk of disruption is the highest in the first months after union formation and decreases with union duration (Magdalena and Hill, 2007). It was also true in Bangladesh that the divorce rate is found to be inversely related to duration of marriage (Nurul et al, 2000). There are reasons to expect that socioeconomic differentials in the risk of divorce diminish with time in the marriage (Magdalena and Hill, 2007). Firstly, it could be expected that having few economic resources is less predictive of divorce at longer durations of marriage, because the couples tend to have built up various kinds of barriers to leaving the relationship. For

instance, they have a long shared history, and they often have shared children and social networks, and such barriers may help maintain the marital bond through times of economic difficulties (Baffour and Stephen, 2007).

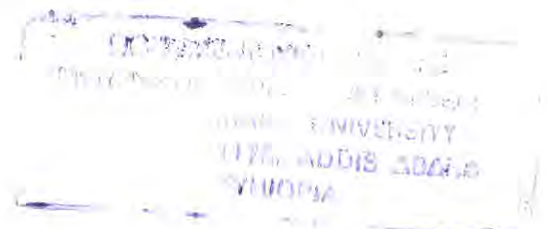
2.1.3. Number of Living Children in the Marriage

Marriages are more stable if couples have children than when they do not have children. Years ago, sociologists and psychologists thought that the presence of children could strengthen a faltering marriage (Cherlin, 1977). Many researchers supported this idea that the presence of children reduces the divorce rate (Frank and Graham, 1984, Yoram and Robert, 1997, Belinda, 2009). Although the notion of marital capital is a plausible interpretation of the relationship between divorce and number of children, it is not the only one. Some have argued that couples stay together not because they, themselves, have more to lose, but because they think a divorce would hurt their children (Beets, 2009).

It is possible that risk of divorce is high in the early years of marriage where couples have not yet got children but when children are born, couples may wait until the children have grownup or left home before undergoing marital dissolution (Belinda, 2009). This can be due to a number of reasons including parents remaining together for the sake of the children (Hafferman, 2007).

Evidence from Dutch life-history survey by Paul and Matthijs (2006) showed that divorce is less common if there are children living at home, but if it does occur, there is more wrong with the marriage. It is possible that happily married couples are more likely to have children because they are more compatible, are more willing to commit to a joint investment (children), and offer a superior environment in which to raise children compared to unhappily married couples (ibid). On the other hand, unhappily married couples may perceive the addition of a child as a way to strengthen their marriage.

A research in Ethiopia by Tilson and Larsen (2000) using data from the National Family Fertility Survey found that whether or not the couple had a child within first marriage is an important factor in the risk for divorce. Almost all women (95%) who did not have a



child within their first marriage got divorced within 20 years. Eighty-five per cent of these women got divorced within the first 5 years. Significantly fewer women who did have a child within first marriage got divorced (23% within 20 years).

2.1.4. Migration

Family migration is expected to increase the propensity of union dissolution due to the following reasons: women's economic well-being and employment suffer from family migration, which is usually stimulated by the man's professional career; women's employment careers are frequently disrupted after the move (Boyle et al. 2006). This non-symmetrical gain and loss from family migration possibly exerts a negative influence on the quality of the relationship between the partners.

Couples who move frequently over long distances have a significantly higher risk of union dissolution than couples who do not move or move only once (Magdalena and Hill, 2007). A research conducted in Malawi by Reniers (2003) showed indications that point to the role of labor migration in marriage instability. Magdalena (2008) also added that settlement area has a significant effect on union stability. The risk is found to be higher in urban settings than in rural areas.

2.1.5. Age Difference between Couples

A couple's age difference is believed to affect the level of their communication, mutual understanding, and agreement on various familial issues. Just as young age at marriage, a greater age difference between spouses is sometimes considered characteristic of a subordinate position of women within the household (UNICEF, 2001). The age difference between the marriage partners is negatively associated with marriage stability. Marriages are stable if partners are close to the same age (Koen et al, 2008, Januario et al, 1994). However, Yoram and Robert (1997) found that couples in which the wife is older tend to have more stable marriages and more unstable if the husband is much older than the wife.

2.1.6. Marital order of the Husband

Spouses who already experienced a divorce in their earlier marriage probably faced substantial adjustment problems with which they were unable to cope. Bridegroom who had already divorced or been widowed once before their marriage are, more likely to divorce than those marrying for the first time (Koen et al, 2008).

The difference in divorce propensity between brides who married to previously divorced grooms and married to those who were not married before may have several explanations. But the most important are being the large age difference and another possibility is that the presence of children from a previous marriage may make her stay more problematic than that of her peers who had married for the first time (Nurul et al 2000).

Generally, there is a large age difference between a husband and wife if women are married to a man who had been married before. According to available literatures, women who married younger are more likely to be beaten or threatened, and more likely to believe that a husband might sometimes be justified in beating his wife (UNICEF, 2001, UNICEF, 2005). Moreover age differences between husband and wife can affect the power, status and autonomy of the woman within the household. Older men, or their mothers and families, may be able to manipulate or exert control over the younger woman to a greater extent than in marriages with no such age difference, because of this the woman may be unhappy in her marriage and will divorce the marriage (Jensen and Thornton, 2003).

2.2. Socio-economic Determinants of Marital Dissolution

2.2.1. Education

Education is often used as a proxy for female empowerment. Results for the effect of education on marital stability in Africa are, however, not always easy to interpret because it is associated with a multitude of variables like religion, culture and place of residence (Reniers, 2003). It is clear that education of women in particular plays an important role in transforming attitudes towards marriage and childbearing. Delayed marriage, stability of unions and better communication between couples are particularly associated with

better education achievement (Bhuiya et al, 2005). Consistent with the argument that structural changes affect marital outcomes, Baffour et al (2000) found that the effect of female education is significant (affects marital stability negatively) with primary education than those with no education.

Although some studies have shown that higher educational attainment increases the likelihood of divorce (Shannon and Theodore, 2004), others have reported the opposite results (Lucia, 1997, Maureen and Sara, 2005, Jay and Lucky, 2008).

Couples with similar levels of schooling at the time of marriage are less likely to divorce, and individuals are more likely to marry if they have similar amounts of schooling (Yoram and Robert, 1997). Tilson and Larsen (2000) revealed that the rate of first divorce in Ethiopia decline when the level of formal education of women increased, that is women with higher education have lower risks of divorce.

2.2.2. Religion

Religious compatibility between spouses at the time of marriage has a large influence on marital stability. Similarity in the religious beliefs and practices of husband and wife implies that the spouses can participate jointly in religious observances both at home and in place of worship. Religion also influences many activities beyond the purely religious sphere, including the education and upbringing of children, the allocation of time and money (Evelyn and Carmel, 1993).

Differences in religion or education between couples may be related to differences in productivity growth or savings rates, hence increases marital instability. Couples with different religion, but who believe that religion is important to them are at a higher risk of marital disruption (Jay, 2003). Couples of the same religion are less likely to divorce (Yoram and Robert, 1997). However (Paul and Frank, 1995) revealed that dissolution differentials do not appear to differ by religion. People who are not religious are probably more open to the psychologization of society (not governed by religious rules) and will cite relational divorce motives more frequently (Paul and Matthijs, 2006).

A research in Malawi showed that Christianity reduces the likelihood of divorce as compared with Africanized religions (traditional religions which are native for Africa). The effect of being Muslim tends to operate in the same direction, as Christianity (reduces the likelihood of divorce) but is less consistent (Reniers, 2003). Another research in Ghana on religion and marital stability by Baffour and Stephen (2007) results suggest that although Akan women who are identified as traditionalists tend to be associated with a significantly higher risk of divorce compared with other Christian women, the reverse is the case for non-Akan women. Among the Yoruba in Nigeria Christian towns have lower divorce rates than the Muslim towns (Peter, 1968).

Therefore, it is very difficult to make generalizations of the impact of various religions on marital stability, because most of the time it is associated to other factors like women's empowerment.

2.2.3. Income and Work Status

Higher income means greater resources available to the family and higher standard of living, which may be translated into greater life satisfaction and hence a lower probability of marital breakup. However, having a private income makes a woman who works outside the home more economically and socially independent. Higher income in the family lead to less conflict in the home over financial matters; women who earn income would not blame their husband for not fulfilling financial matters (Shannon and Theodore, 2004). Couples with low family income have the greatest probability of marital disruption (Graham and Paul, 1981, Shannon and Theodore, 2004).

Couples where both partners enjoy high income face a lower risk of divorce than the low-earners which suggests that the income effect of women's work reduces divorce; however those women who are in occupational groups with higher average salaries have an elevated risk of union dissolution (Magdalena, 2008). A different result is found in Malawi by Reniers (2003) that income has no significant effect on marriage stability.

The effect of increases in family income on the dissolution rate is slight at low income levels and for the higher social groups, the reverse applies: thanks in part to their high

income, they are attractive partners on the remarriage market, and this influenced their chance of divorce (Koen et al. 2008).

A comparative study among Spain and Italy showed that in both countries employed women have a higher risk of union disruption compared to unemployed women and housewives (Lucia and Mariachiara, 2008). However, another research in Russia showed that within two periods (1967-1991 and 1992-2004) the risk of union dissolution was similar among women who worked and those who did not work (Magdalena, 2008). Some researchers tried to attach work with the number of hours and to the work shift. The number of hours the wife works per week is positively associated with the probability of divorce (Scott and Glenna, 1986). Spouses working in the night shift are more likely to be at risk of marital instability than those working in the day time (Harriet, 2000).

2.2.4. Parents' Marital History

Family structure of the young adult while growing up relies on information about parental relationship histories. The experience of growing up in a household in which parents were married may affect children's expectations for marriage. It is also possible that the experience of parental separation affects the value and the meaning individuals attribute to partnership.

Couples who model their relationships on those of their parents may form their expectations about marriage and make decisions about union transitions that are consistent with their parents' relationships. Parents' perceptions of conflict is negatively associated with marriage expectations and marriage, and positively associated with union dissolution (Maureen and Sara, 2005).

Paul and Stacy (1997) found that if the wife's parents are divorced, then the probability of divorce is marginally higher than the non-divorced, but if both the husband's and the wife's parents are divorced; the probability of divorce is considerably higher. Many studies showed that parental divorce increases the likelihood of divorce for their children (Charles and Hallowell, 1977, Lynn, 1990, Lucia and Mariachiara, 2008, Magdalena, 2008).

practices with their husbands. Additionally, they are subjected to both emotional and physical violence and controlling behaviors by their husbands (UNICEF, 2001).

According to the finding by Pathfinder International (2006) close to 13.1 percent of respondents who divorced their first marriages in the rural parts of Amhara region ended due to domestic violence. Marital discord can lead to domestic violence, which may force the bride to flee from the husband's home and accept divorce. Indeed, for women divorce or separation is the only solution to an unsatisfactory marriage. Divorce can, therefore, be seen as a marker of extreme mental and physical insults, particularly to women in rural parts of Ethiopia.

2.2.7. Decision Making

The African family structure typically places reproductive decisions in the hands of the husband and the economic burden mainly on the shoulders of the wife. Thus, when family planning decisions are made, they are likely to be surreptitious decisions by the wife alone or unilateral ones by the husband (Magnani et al, 1995). Couples who have higher levels of joint decision making in economic activities and number of children born can have higher levels of marital satisfaction.

Ethiopian women are less educated than men and have a lower level of literacy and exposure to mass media than their male counterparts (CSA & ORC Macro, 2006). Educational attainment, literacy, exposure to mass media, and employment are critical contributors to women's empowerment and exert considerable influence on the development of their personality and on solidifying their position in the household and in society in general. It is expected that employment and earnings are more likely to empower women if women themselves control their own earnings and perceive them as significant relative to those of their husband or partner.

In Ethiopia, as a result of early marriage, large spousal age differences are common, which usually limits married girls' autonomy and decision-making ability (CSA and ORC Macro, 2006). The younger a bride is, the greater the age difference between her and her spouse, promising disparate roles in decision making (UNICEF, 2001). Couples

may face many challenges together, including disagreements over money, difficulties in communicating whether to have children and decisions about how to use household economic activities (Olson and Defrain, 2000). If couples make decisions together they can lead a healthy marriage.

2.2.8. Type of Household the Woman is Living

Traditionally, young brides married at early ages often stay with the husband's parents for a certain number of years until she reaches puberty and is able to manage her own household. In rural Ethiopia of the Amhara Region, husband and wife may grow up playing together in the house of his parents. In this case, the mother-in-law must protect the girl from any advances by her son (UNICEF, 2001).

Pathfinder (2006) revealed that in rural areas of the Amhara Region, about 62 percent of the couples stayed for two years in places other than their own home. It is assumed that living in husband's parents household is disadvantageous to women because it implies that they come under the direct control of their husband and his kin. However if residence after marriage is in the women's household, women's position is more securely embedded in the social relationships with her own kin and therefore likely to be to her advantage (Reniers, 2003). If the woman is unhappy in the husband's family she will divorce her marriage.

If a woman is living with the husband's parent household she may be blamed for every trivial fault; for such faults her husband is less likely to be blamed. Too much blame expressed too frequently puts her marriage in discord leading towards divorce as a solution to marital unhappiness (Nurul et al, 2000).

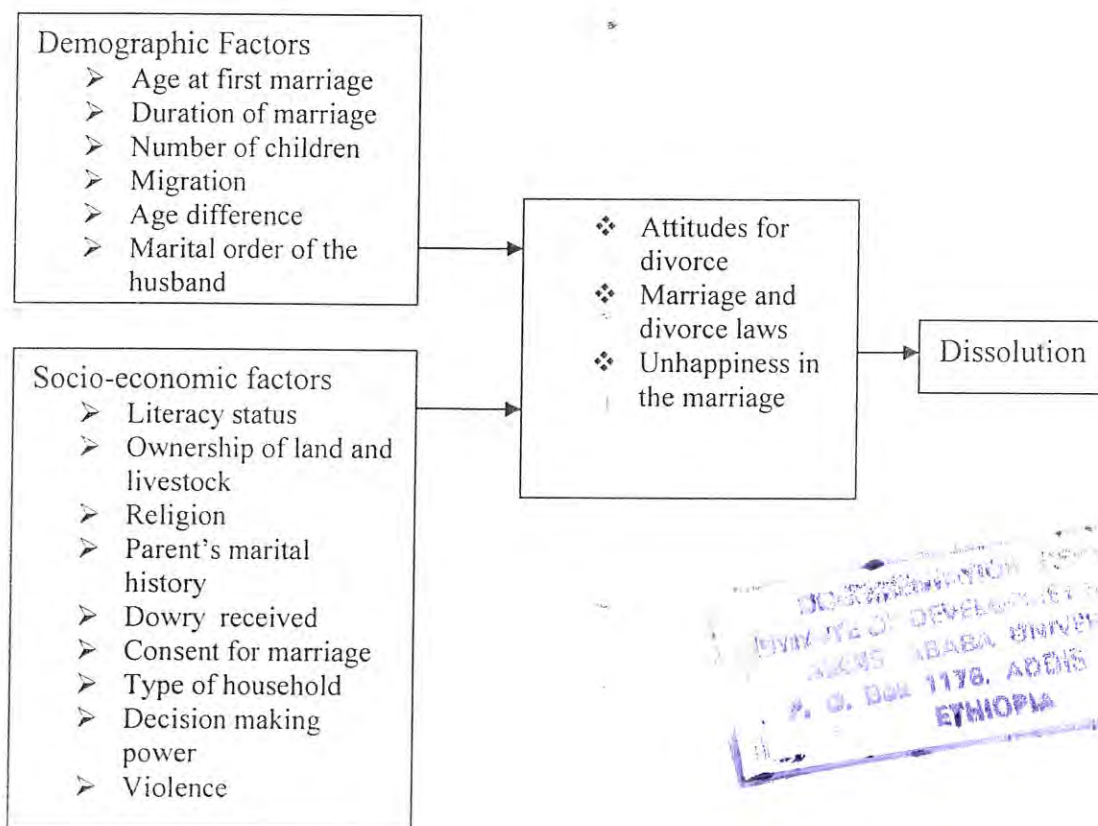
As indicated in the literatures above marital dissolution is affected by demographic and socio-economic factors in most areas of the world. Among these, early marriage has a great influence on the marital stability of many young couples. This practice is common in developing countries like Ethiopia, and it is very common in Amhara Regional State. As it has been reported by many works, high marital instability has been prevailing for centuries in the region. However, most of the factors especially violence, decision making power of the woman and ownership of land and cattle are not yet studied in

relation with marital dissolution. And, knowing the factors that affect marital instability would help to find the possible solutions to alleviate this problem.

2.3. Conceptual Framework

For the purpose of this study, in examining the determinants of marital dissolution, socio-economic variables such as educational status, religion, income and work status, living arrangement, violence, decision making power and parents marital history as well as demographic factors such as age at first marriage, duration of marriage, number of children, migration status, age difference between couples and husband's marriage order were treated as independent variable whereas, marital dissolution was taken as the dependent variable.

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework



Source: Developed by the researcher from the existing literatures

2.4. Objective of the Study

General objective of the study: The general objective of the study is to assess the demographic and socio-economic determinants of first marital dissolution.

Specific objectives of the study: The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To measure the level of first marital dissolution in the study area.
2. To investigate the socio-economic differentials of first marital dissolution.
3. To investigate the demographic differentials of first marital dissolution.
4. To examine demographic determinants of first marital dissolution in the area.
5. To examine the socio-economic determinants of first marital dissolution in the study area.

2.5. Hypotheses of the Study

On the bases of the objectives of the study and literature reviewed, the following hypotheses are tested.

1. Age at first marriage is negatively associated with first marital dissolution.
2. The number of children born in the marriage is negatively associated with marital dissolution.
3. The longer the duration of marriage, the lower the chance for marriage dissolution.
4. Illiterate women are less likely to dissolve their marriage.
5. Women's decision making power in economic issues for the household and contraceptive use reduces the chance of first marital dissolution.
6. Marriage with consent reduces the chance for first marital dissolution.

2.6. Operational Definitions

Marriage: An act, ceremony or process by which the legal union of persons of opposite sex is constituted. The legality of the union may be established by civil, religion, culture or other means as recognized by the law of a country (UN, 2001).

Marital Instability: characteristics of marital relationship such as the level of disagreement as well as dissatisfaction with the relationships that may or may not result an ultimate ending of the marriage itself (Sanchez and Gager 2000).

Marital Dissolution: a condition in which partners of a marital union cease living together as husband and wife, specially due to divorce or separation (Sanchez and Gager 2000).

Divorce: A final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, the separation of a husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to remarriage (UN, 2001).

Separation: a decision that husband and wife make not to live together while they are still legally married (UN, 2001).

Marital Status: Personal status of each individual with respect to the marriage law or custom of the country (UN, 2001).

Household: Consists of person or group of persons, irrespective of whether related or not, who normally live together in the same housing units and have common cooking and eating arrangements (CSA, 2006).

2.7. Limitation

Before considering the broader implications of the findings, several limitations of this study should be noted. One of the main limitations of this study is that it relies on self-reported retrospective survey that may be subject to a variety of biases including recall error, problems in reporting dates with accuracy, the selective omission of certain events (such as violence, death of children and remarriage), and social desirability bias when reporting on certain variables (like age, age at first marriage and ownership of land and livestock) that may result in misreporting and under estimation of information. The other

limitation of this study is that because of the limited finance and time, the study was confined to a sample of only females, and the results may not be generalizable to the whole population as a whole. The third limitation is that the sample comes from only rural parts of one woreda in the Amhara Region. We do not as yet know if results similar to this would be found in other parts of the country. And also the major challenge in analyses concerning temporal determinants of marital dissolution (such as duration, age at marriage and number of children born in the marriage) is that the various dimensions of historical time and individual time are highly related and therefore, it is difficult to disentangle the independent effect of each of them in a meaningful way.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1. Description of the Study Area

The research was conducted in Dembecha woreda which is one of the 14 woredas of West Gojjam administrative zone in Amhara Regional State. It is 350km North West of Addis Ababa and 225km South East of the region's capital, Bahir Dar.

The woreda has 25 rural and 4 urban kebeles. According to the 2007 population and housing census, the woreda had a total population of 129,228; of which 64,666 were male and 64,562 are female. From the total population 14% live in urban areas and 86% in rural areas. Economically, most of the woreda's population livelihood is based on cereal farming which is practiced by plough agriculture. Animal husbandry has also its own share.

3.2. Study Design

The major concern of this study was to explore the determinants of first marital dissolution. A cross-sectional study design was used for collecting and analyzing the data.

3.3. Data Source

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used for this study. Primary data was collected through household survey using structured questionnaire and focus group discussions. Secondary sources include published and unpublished materials. The eligible people for the study were women aged below 55 years who had been ever married and not widowed of their first husband.

3.4. Sample Size

In this study, the researcher used the formula proposed by Kothler (1986) to determine the sample size required for the study.

To ensure this, a three-stage random sampling design was used. The kebeles constituted the primary sampling units. The Gots or villages, constituted the secondary sampling units. Finally, households were selected as the ultimate sampling units in the third stage.

At first stage, from 29 kebeles of study area 6 kebeles (all from rural) were selected randomly. At the second stage 12 Gots (two from each kebele) were selected again randomly. In all the Gots selected households listing was undertaken. A total of 3083 households with eligible respondents (women who were ever married below age 55 excluding those who were widowed) were listed for the study (see Table 3.1). This list of residents served as the sampling frame from which respondents were systematically selected for the study. If a selected household has had more than one eligible respondent, one of them was selected randomly (using lottery method).

Table 3.1 Distribution of Sampled Kebeles, Number of Gots Sampled, Total Number of Eligible Households and Number of Women Sampled by Got.

Kebele	Got	Eligible Households	Sample
Godiber	Tsion	194	48
	Gosh Amba	176	44
Sensel	Gebreal	167	42
	Michael Sefer	173	43
Lejet	Seregela	292	73
	Mariam	312	78
Yemehel	Sholit	317	79
	Yebuna	321	80
Yetsed	Kirsris	291	73
	Gantina	343	86
Anjene	Asakshign	218	54
	Janhala	279	70
Total		3083	770

3.6. Data Collection Procedures

The questionnaire, which consists mostly of structured questions, was prepared to collect information on socio-economic and demographic variables of the respondents. The survey instrument was largely close-ended, with a few open-ended questions aimed at obtaining more detailed information on issues for which prior knowledge is limited.

The questionnaire was originally prepared in the English language but later translated in to Amharic, for ease of understanding by the data collectors and respondents. The Amharic translated version was tested in the field in a pilot survey for the study areas, to assess the content, clarity, and logical flow of the questions and the time needed on average to fill out a single questionnaire. Depending on the results of the pilot survey the instrument was finalized after corrections and reorganizations were made.

The qualitative information was collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The FGDs were administered with women (who have ever married). The FGD was carried out to gather information from individuals who were believed to be responsive and could provide the information that supports or substantiates findings obtained through other data collection instruments. Two FGDs were conducted, the number of participants ranges from 8 to 10. Besides the researcher, a note taker and a moderator were assigned for each FGDs. The note takers and the moderators were informed how to take notes and how to manage the discussion. The contents of the discussions include the causal factors for marital dissolution, and the consequences of marital dissolution on the family and society and finally the possible solutions forwarded by the participants.

3.7. The Field Work

Local interviewers were recruited from the study areas to administer the surveys. All interviewers were female health extension workers, so as to make respondents more comfortable and responsive. Interviewers received a one day training prior to the initial household listing and additional one day training before conducting the survey. The content of the training included explaining the purpose and objective of the study, procedure of data collection, how to approach the participants and respecting the consent

and ethical values of the respondents. For open-ended questions, they were trained to probe respondents and record responses verbatim.

To assess the content, clarity, and logical flow of the translated Amharic questions and the time needed on average to fill out a single questionnaire, pilot survey was conducted in the study area outside the sampled kebeles. Based on the results of the pilot survey, the questionnaire was corrected for the actual data collection.

During the actual field data collection, to ensure the quality of data collection, field supervisors regularly supervised and monitored the fieldwork, field edited the completed questionnaires, carried out spot checks of interviews and assisted investigators as required.

Refusal rates were low; however, the data collection team was not able to reach some proportion of identified respondents mainly because they were not at home at the time of the interview. From the total of 770 eligible sampled women 731 of them were covered during the actual data collection.

After both the qualitative and quantitative data have been collected by using the local language, Amharic once again, which is spoken in the study area, the qualitative information was transcribed and translated in to English and made it ready for further analysis.

3.8. Method of Data Analysis

The quantitative data were entered into the computer for analysis by SPSS program. The method of data analysis included simple as well as complex statistical models mainly based on the type and nature of the variables included in the study. Some internal consistencies of the data were checked before the actual analysis work started.

Descriptive statistics like simple frequency distribution and cross tabulations were used to give an overview of the data. Bivariate analysis was used in order to look the degree of association of each independent variable with the dependent variable.

In addition, logistic regression model was employed since this technique is the most appropriate tool of analyzing the degree of strength of the relationship between dependent

variables and independent variables when dependent variable is dichotomous taking value between 0 and 1. The general model of the logistic regression equation used in the analysis is of the form:

$$\ln [p/1-p] = \beta_0 + \beta_1x_1 + \beta_2x_2 + \dots + \beta_kx_k$$

Where p is the probability of being dissolved at the time of survey, the β 's are the regression coefficients and the x 's are the set of independent (explanatory) variables. The quantity to the left of the equal sign is called a logit. It's the log of the odds that an event (dissolution) occurs. The odds that an event occurs is the ratio of the probability of experiencing the event (dissolution) to the probability of it not occurring (intact). The coefficients (β 's) in the logistic regression model tell us how much the logit changes based on the values of the predictor variables.

3.9. Ethics of the Research Considered

In conducting a research following the research ethics is indispensable. I exerted maximum effort to respect it and made to be respected. First, a letter was written from the Institute of Population Studies, College of Development Studies that made me communicate easily with the administration of the selected Kebeles and gots. Then after, permission letters were obtained from those leaders of the sampled Kebeles, objective of the study was clearly explained for the respondents to get verbal consent. The respondents were also informed that the whole process of questionnaire administration will be kept confidential and the study is only for an academic purpose.

Therefore, attempts were made to avoid the names of the respondents from the collected data by coding it. These concepts were carefully explained to the data enumerators. For example, it was unethical to collect information without the knowledge of the participants, their informed willingness, and expressed consent. Therefore, this study has been changed in to reality only through permitted research ethics.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Background Characteristics of the Respondents

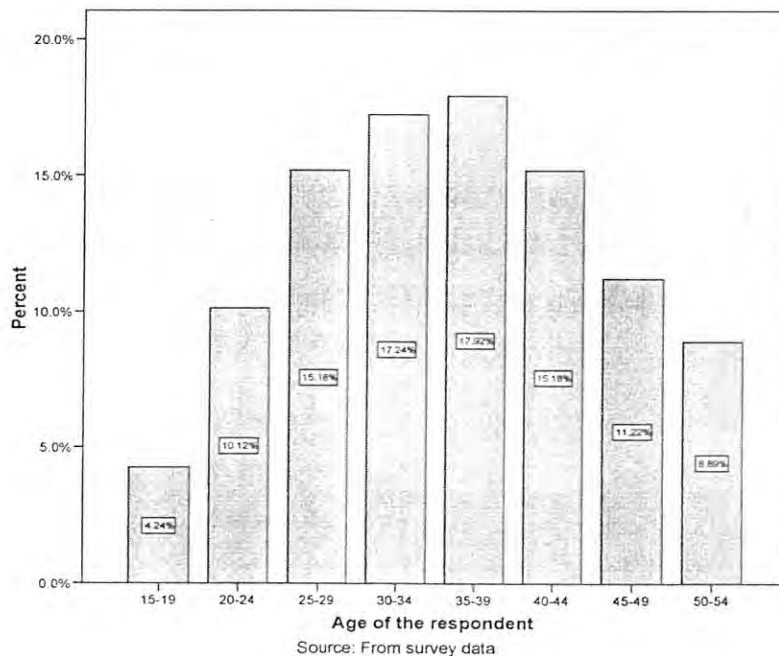
This section provides a demographic and socioeconomic profile of respondents interviewed in the study area. Such background information is essential to the interpretation of findings and for understanding the results presented later in the study.

4.1.1. Demographic Characteristics

4.1.1.1. Age of the Respondents

Nearly one in two women (47 percent) of the survey respondents were below age 35. In general, the proportion of women in each age group increased with age up to the age group 35-39, and then decreases as age increases, reflecting the comparatively high women population in the middle age groups of the survey respondents (see Figure 4.1). The first age group (15-19) constitutes only 4.2 percent of the respondents; this may be mainly because young females are sent to school and are not married earlier as compared with the other age groups.

Figure 4.1. Percentage distribution of survey respondents by age

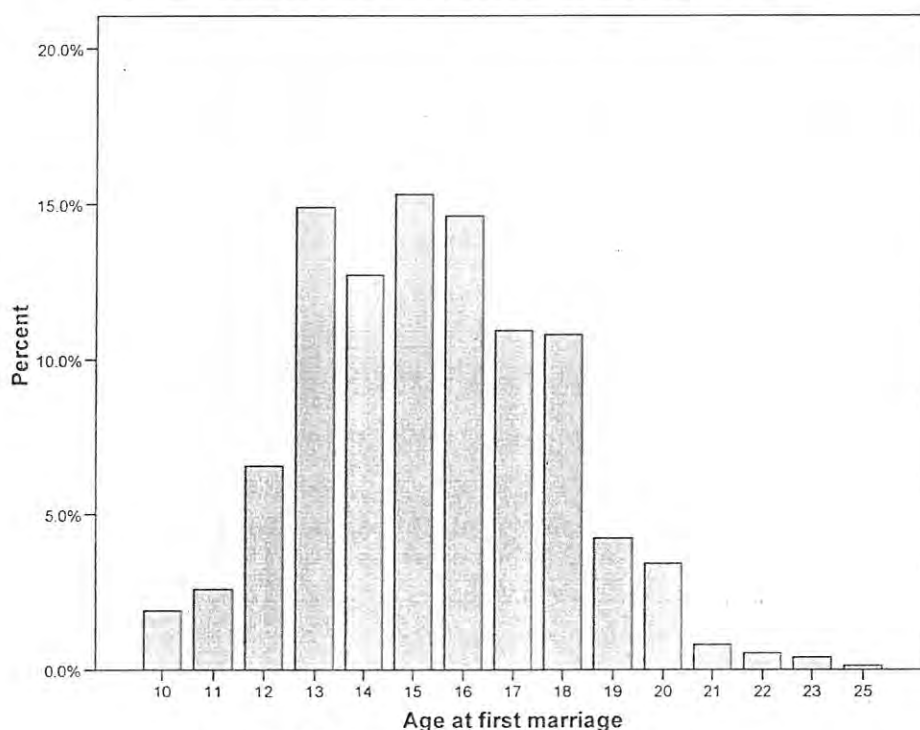


4.1.1.2. Age at first Marriage

Information on age at first marriage was obtained by asking respondents the month and year, or age, at which they married for the first time. Generally, women in Ethiopia marry at early ages. Girls married young suffer major disadvantages physically, emotionally, economically, and socially. Girls married early are at greater risk of for reproductive health complications and gender-based violence, including marital rape, sexually transmitted infections and HIV, obstructed labor, and obstetric fistula (UNICEF, 2001).

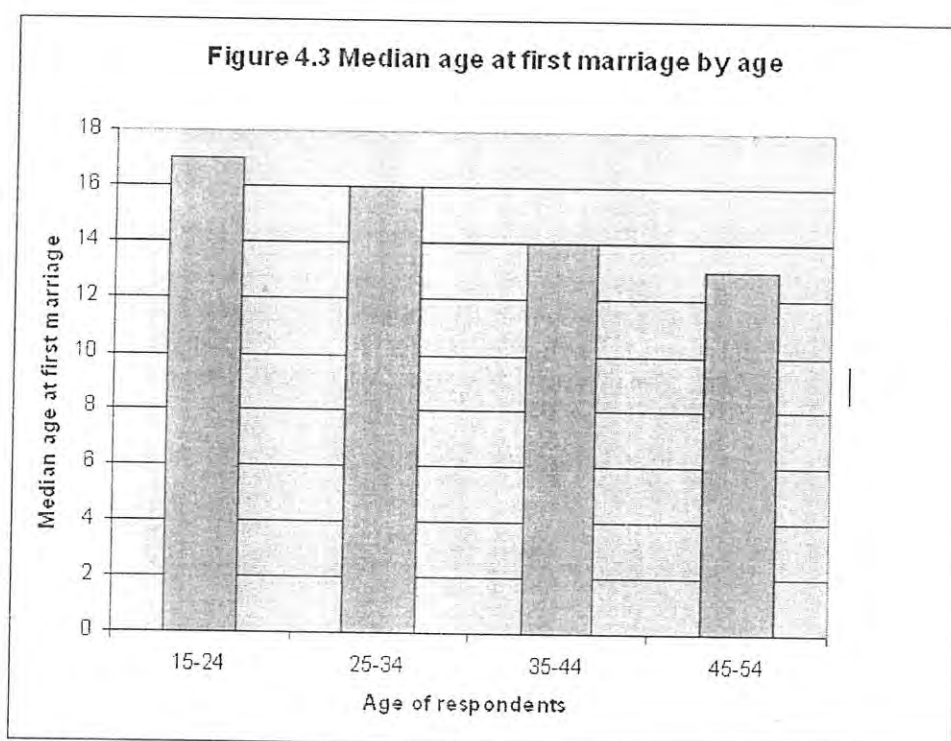
The median age at first marriage of the survey respondents were 15 years. Four-fifth (80 percent) of the respondents had married before the age of 18 (see Figure 4.2). The minimum age at first marriage was 10 years and the maximum was 25. A substantial proportion of respondents (38.7 percent) had married before age 15. Only one in five women had married after age 17. The proportion of respondents who had married after age 18 was less than 10 percent.

Figure 4.2. Percentage distribution of age at first marriage



Source: From survey data by the researcher

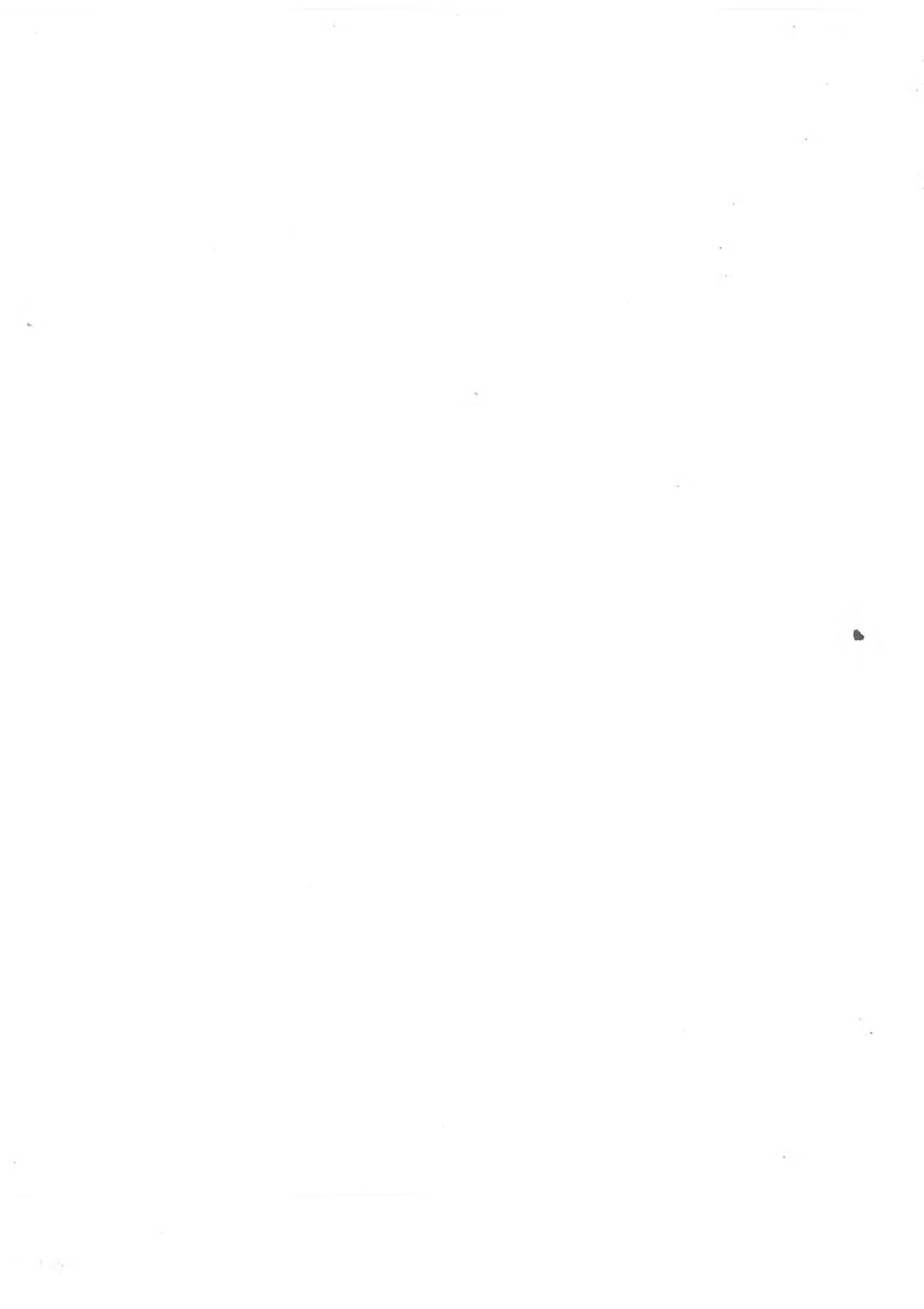
Significant differences were evident with regard to median age at first marriage by age. As expected, the median age at first marriage decreased as age increases (see Figure 4.3). The median age at first marriage for the age group 15-24 was 17 years and 16 years for the age group 25-34 while it was 14 and 13 for the age groups 35-44 and 45-54 respectively. Women in the age group 15-24 married 4 years later than women in the age group 45-54. The recent increase in age at first marriage may be attributed to the various measures that are being taken by different administrations, legal bodies, religious and other community leaders.



Source: Own survey data

4.1.1.3. Status of First Marriage

Survey respondents were asked about their first marriage, whether their first marriage was intact or dissolved. The results are presented in Table 4.1. For about 44% of the respondents, first marriage was intact while for 56%, it was dissolved, either by divorce or separation. About 53 percent of first marriages ended in divorce and less than 3



percent of the first marriages were separated. As compared with divorce separation was a rare event in the study population.

Table 4.1 Status of First Marriage

First Marriage	Frequency	Percent
Intact	324	44.3
Divorced	387	52.9
Separated	20	2.7
Total	731	100.0

Source: own survey data

4.1.1.4. Frequency of Remarriage

To assess the frequency of remarriage in the study area, respondents whose first marriage had dissolved during the time of the survey were asked whether they married or not after their first marriage had dissolved. Those who had married after the dissolution of their first marriage were further asked about the number of times they had been remarried in their life time. Table 4.2 represents the frequency of remarriage for the survey respondents. More than half (53.9 percent) of those whose first marriage was dissolved had been married once after their first marriage was dissolved. More than a quarter (28.5 percent) of these women had married twice after their first marriage had dissolved and about one in six (17.6 percent) of these women had married at least three times after the dissolution of their first marriage.

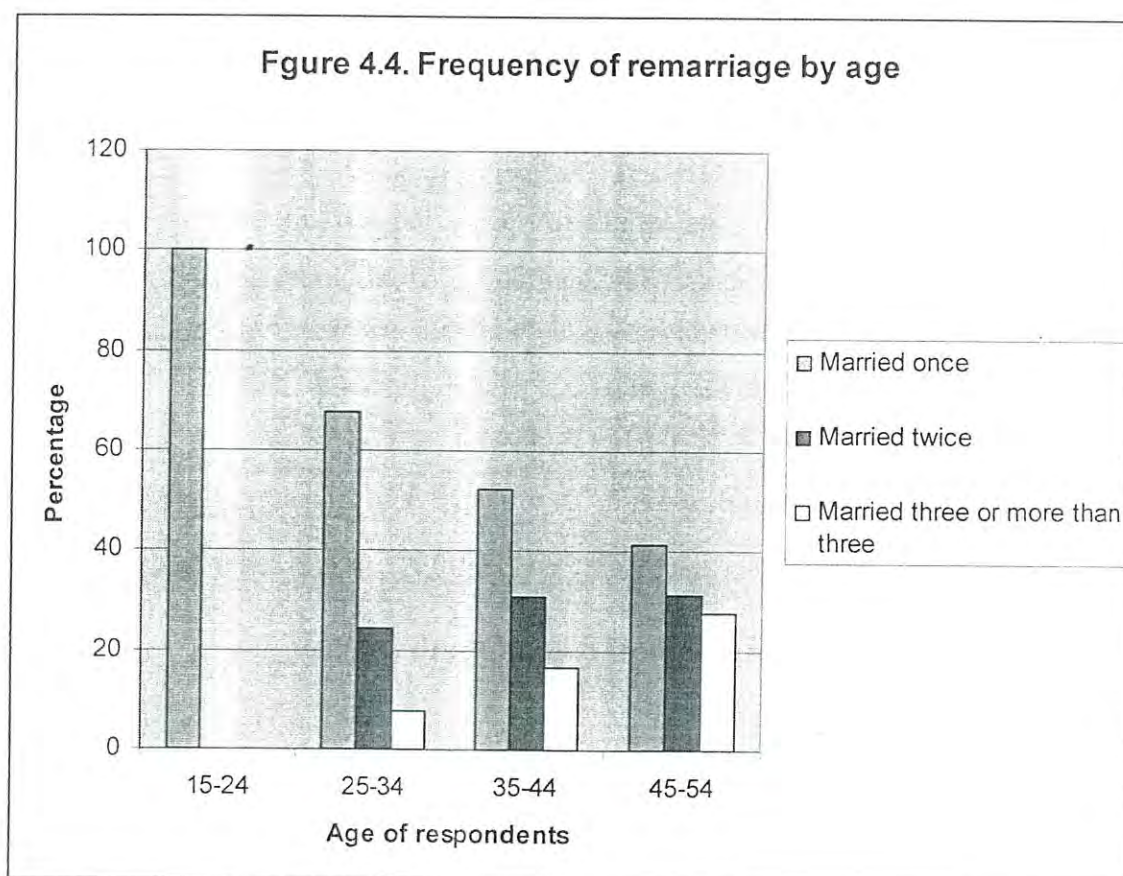
Table 4.2 Frequency of Remarriage

Frequency of remarriage	Frequency	Percent
Married once	187	53.9
Married twice	99	28.5
Married three or more times	61	17.6
Total	347	100.0

Source: Own survey data

Figure 4.4 represents frequency of remarriage by age of respondents. As expected, the frequency of remarriage increased with age of the respondents. Among the age group 15-

24 all of them were remarried only once. Among the age group 25-34 about 68 percent of them remarried once while nearly a quarter (24.4 percent) of them remarried twice and only 7.7 percent of them remarried three or more times. When we see the age group 35-44, more than half (52.3 percent) of them were remarried once while 30.9 percent of them remarried twice and 16.8 percent of them had remarried at least three times. Among the last age group (45-54) more than a quarter (27.5 percent) of them were remarried at least three times, 31.2 percent had remarried twice and 41.3 once only.



Source: own survey data

As it is shown in Table 4.3, literacy status affects remarriage negatively. Among the illiterate respondents, over 30 percent of remarried women had been married twice. This dropped to 15 percent among those who were literate. The proportion who had remarried three or more than three dropped from 19.9 percent (one in five women) among women who are illiterate, to 6.7 percent among those who are literate.

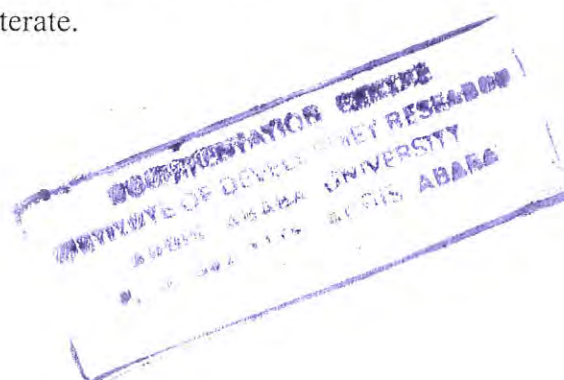


Table 4.3. Frequency of Remarriage by Literacy Status

Literacy status of the respondents	Frequency and percent	Frequency of remarriage			Total
		Married once	Married twice	Married three or more times	
Illiterate	Frequency	140	90	57	287
	Percent	48.8	31.4	19.9	100.0
Literate	Frequency	47	9	4	60
	Percent	78.3	15.0	6.7	100.0
Total	Frequency	187	99	61	347
	Percent	53.9	28.5	17.6	100.0

Source: own survey data

4.1.2. Socio-Economic Characteristics

4.1.2.1. Literacy Status of Respondents

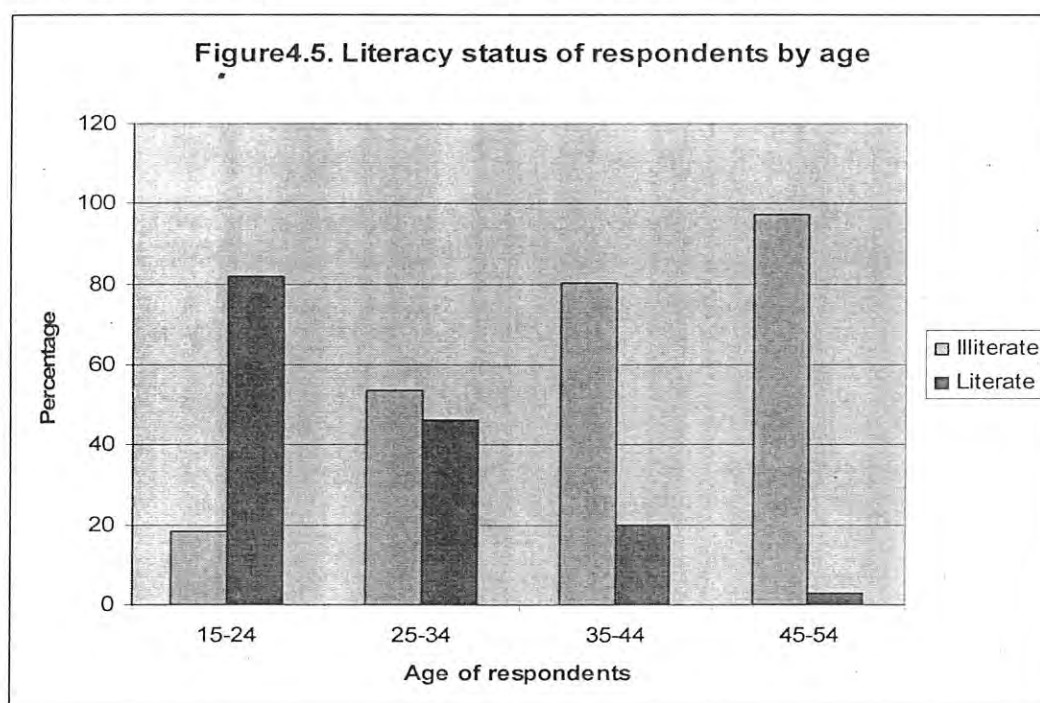
Education is an important factor influencing an individual's attitude and outlook on various aspects of life. Generally, educational attainment in Ethiopia is very low among both men and women, with women much more disadvantaged than men. Two-thirds of women compared with two-fifths of men do not have any formal education (CSA & ORC Macro, 2006). In line with this fact, respondents in the study were asked whether or not they were able to read and write in the language they are most likely to use (Amharic). The results are shown in Table 4.4. As can be seen in the table, two in three women (66.1 percent) of the survey respondents were illiterate.

Table 4.4. Literacy Status of Survey Respondents

Literacy Status of respondents	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	483	66.1
Literate	248	33.9
Total	731	100.0

Source: Own survey data

Literacy is widely acknowledged as benefiting the individual and the society and is associated with a number of positive outcomes for health and nutrition. In this study, as indicated earlier, literacy status was determined based on the respondents' ability to read and write in any language. Figure 4.5 indicates literacy status of respondents by age. About four-fifth (81.9 percent) of the respondents in the younger age group (15-24) were literate compared with only 46.4 percent of survey respondents in the age group 25-34 and 19.8 percent (about one in five respondents) in the age group 35-44. The level of literacy by age exhibits a consistent decrease with increasing age, suggesting that the younger generation has better opportunity for learning than the older generation. Surprisingly, only 2.7 percent was literate in the age group 50-54.



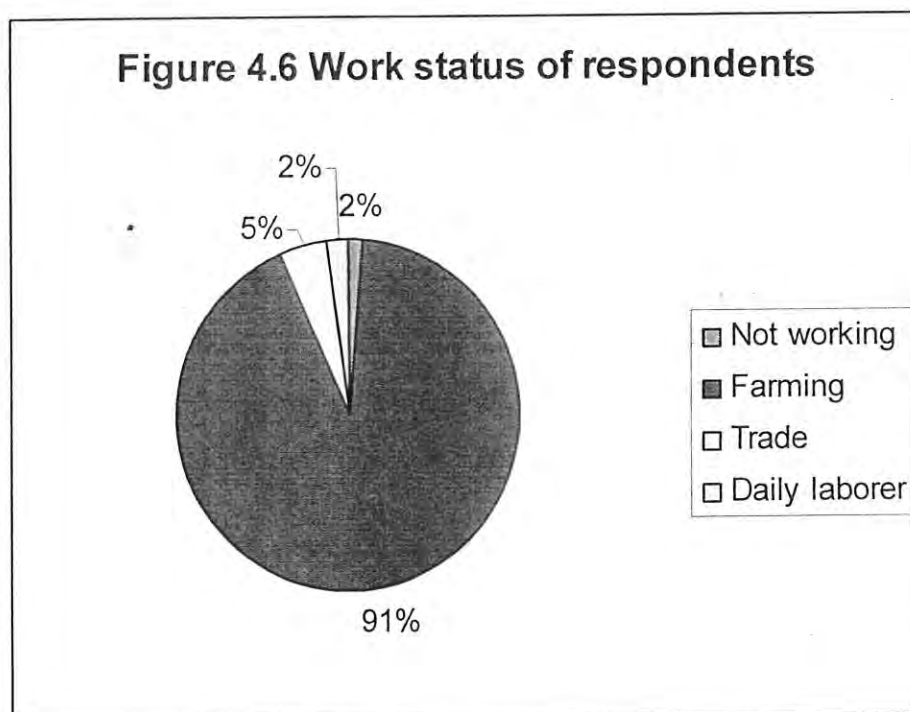
Source: own survey data

4.1.2.2. Occupational Status of Respondents

In the study, respondents were asked questions regarding their employment status, including whether they had worked in the 12 months before the survey. Respondents who had worked in the 12 months preceding the survey were further asked to specify their occupation. The result for the survey is presented in Figure 4.6. At the time of the survey,

only 1.5 percent of the respondents had not worked sometime during the preceding 12 months.

As expected, most employed respondents from the total survey respondents were engaged in farming. Specifically, about nine in ten respondents (more than 90 percent) had employed in agricultural jobs. About five percent of the respondents had engaged in petty trade and less than 2 percent were daily laborers



Source: Own survey data

4.1.2.3. Educational Status of Respondents before and after First Marriage

Several studies recognize that early marriage limits girls' rights to education. The essence of the rights to education and to health is that they facilitate and ensure the effective enjoyment of other human rights. Their denial results in the denial of other rights such as the right to work, the right to life and so on. Many girls in the Amhara region are withdrawn from school before they have the opportunity to acquire the relevant skills, abilities and self-confidence that will enable them to enjoy or exercise these other key

marriages), dissolved first thereby reducing the proportion of the dissolution among the surviving unions.

Data on number of living children from the first marriage were collected to assess the impact on marital stability. The results show significant difference in marital dissolution by the number of living children from the marriage (see Table 4.6). Among those respondents who had no children from their first marriages, only 8.8 percent of the marriages were intact compared to 60.4 percent for those who had one or two children and 94.2 percent for those who had three or more children. A similar result is found by Tilson and Larsen (2000) that women who had no children are more likely to divorce their marriages than those who had children.

Respondents were asked about the marital history of their first husbands; whether their husband had married before or not. The result showed that among all the survey respondents only 63 women (8.6 percent) reported that either their husband was married before or they did not know. This implies that most of the times, first marriage of a woman in the study area is with a man who was never married before. Among those respondents who reported that their husband was married before or they did not know, twenty three of them (36.5 percent) had their marriage intact and 63.5 percent of them had their first marriage dissolved. When we see those respondents who reported that their first husbands were not married before, for 45.1 percent, the marriage was intact. However, the chi-square value was not significant.

In order to assess the extent of marital dissolution in relation with age difference between couples, respondents were asked questions relating to their age differences. The questions were: what was the age of your first husband relative to you? How much was he older (younger) than you (for those who answered, older or younger)? As can be seen from Table 4.6 no significant differences by age difference were evident with respect to the overall prevalence of marital dissolution in the survey respondents.

Table 4.6. Cross Tabulation by Chi-square Significant test of First Marital Status by Demographic Characteristics.

Variable	Status of first marriage		Total	Pearson's X^2 value	X^2 sign.
	Intact	Dissolved			
Age at first marriage					
Less than 15 years	11.7(33)	88.3(250)	100.0(283)	216.276	.000
15-17 years	58.2(174)	41.8(125)	100.0(299)		
More than 17 years	78.5(117)	21.5(32)	100.0(149)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Duration of first marriage				356.893	.000
0-1 year	9.1(25)	90.9(249)	100.0(274)		
2-10 years	38.9(91)	61.1(143)	100.0(234)		
More than 10 years	93.3(208)	6.7(15)	100.0(223)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Number of living children				371.567	.000
No children	8.8(30)	91.2(311)	100.0(341)		
1-2 children	60.4(131)	39.6(86)	100.0(217)		
3 or more than 3 Children	94.2(163)	5.8(10)	100.0(173)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Marital history of husband				1.706	.191
Not married before	45.1(301)	54.9(367)	100.0(668)		
Married before/Don't Know	36.5(23)	63.5(40)	100.0(63)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Age difference				0.310	.578
Less than 4 years	50.3(172)	49.7(170)	100.0(342)		
4 years or more than 4 years	48.1(136)	51.9(147)	100.0(283)		
Total	Na	Na	Na		

Na = not applicable

NB. Figures in parentheses show number of observations.

Source: computed from own survey data

4.2.1.2. Differentials by Socio-economic Characteristics

The differential in marital dissolution by socio-economic status of the respondents is presented in Table 4.7. The chi-square significance test revealed that all socio-economic variables except parent's marital history (see Table 4.7) were found to have statistically significant relationship with the predictors and the outcome variable i.e. marital dissolution.

Literacy status affects marital dissolution negatively. Among those respondents who were illiterate 310(64.2 percent) of them had their first marriage dissolved and only for 173 (35.8 percent) of them, it was intact. However, among the literate respondents only two in five marriages (39.1 percent) were dissolved while 60.9 percent (151) of them were intact.

Among the total respondents, only 8.8 percent of them had received dowry (have got dowry from their first husband) for their first marriage. This shows that dowry is not common in the study area. As it is indicated in Table 4.7 dowry stabilizes marriage. Among those who have got dowry in their first marriage only 8(12.5 percent) of them had their first marriage dissolved and 56 (87.5 percent) of them were intact.

Respondents were asked whether they faced any kind of violence (verbal or physical violence) from their first husband. They were asked whether they encountered any verbal, physical or sexual violence from their husband. And they were further asked how often they encountered (always, usually, occasionally or rarely). Those who answered always and usually are categorized as violated the others as not violated. However, nearly all of them refused to answer sexual violence. 172 (23.5 percent) of the respondents reported that they had experienced violence from their first husband. As expected, those respondents who encountered violence had dissolved their marriage 146(84.9 percent) than those who didn't encounter violence 261(46.7 percent).

When we see the effect of parent's marital history, 54.7 percent of those whose parents are living together dissolved their first marriages and 45.3 percent of them were intact. Among those whose parents were not living together 59.3 percent dissolved their first

marriages while 40.7 percent were intact. As it can be seen from Table 4.7 the chi-square value is not significant.

Among all the respondents in the survey only 84 (11.5 percent) of them had married with their consent (either informed or arranged by themselves). The remaining respondents had married without consent (either pressured to marry or not informed for their marriage). In many literatures it is indicated that the choice of own partner negatively affects marital instability. In Amhara region, it is customary for parents to arrange the marriage of their daughters, often at a very early age. Among those respondents who had married with consent only one in twelve marriages (8.3 percent) were dissolved while 91.7 percent of the marriages were intact. 61.8 percent of the respondents who had married without their consent had dissolved their marriages; while only 38.2 percent of these respondents were in their first marriage during the survey.

Agricultural land and farm animals are indicative of a household's social and economic well-being in rural Ethiopia (CSA and ORC Macro, 2006). Information on ownership of agricultural land and livestock (ownership of livestock is computed by tropical conversion unit, see annex V) is presented in Table 4.7. Regarding marital stability and ownership of property (land and livestock), first marriage was intact for only about one-fifth (21 percent) of the respondents who had no farm land compared with 80 percent for those who had farm land. Among those respondents who had more than one livestock, 303 (58.8 percent) of them were in their first marriage and 212 (41.2 percent) had dissolved their first marriages. When we consider those who had one or had no livestock, less than one-tenth (9.7 percent) of the first marriages were intact and more than 90 percent of the marriages had dissolved.

Respondents were asked about their living arrangement (type of family they lived) after their first marriages. The result is presented in Table 4.7 with their first marital status. Traditionally, young girls married at an early age often stay with the husband's parents for a certain number of years until she reaches puberty and is able to manage her own household (UNICEF, 2001). During this period, young girls are exposed to long hours of work by their in-laws; moreover, they are usually given inadequate food that does not

meet their nutritional needs (Pathfinder International, 2006). These problems may lead them to end the marriage. Among those who lived in their own households, more than three-fourth (77.5 percent) of the marriages was intact and only 22.5 percent had dissolved. However, among those who had lived in other households (either husband's parent's household or the wife's parent's household), only 12.8 percent were intact and 87.2 had dissolved their first marriages.

Two indicators were used to assess respondents' role in decision-making related to family finances and contraceptive use. Respondents were asked whether they were involved in decisions relating to economic issues in the household and contraceptive use. Decision making can be a complex process and the ability of women to make decisions that affect the circumstances of their own lives is essential for marital stability. Among those respondents involved in decision making (had a say) for economic issues in the household and contraceptive use, only 6.8 percent of them had dissolved their first marriage compared to 97.7 percent of respondents who had no decision making role relating to household economic issues and contraceptive use.

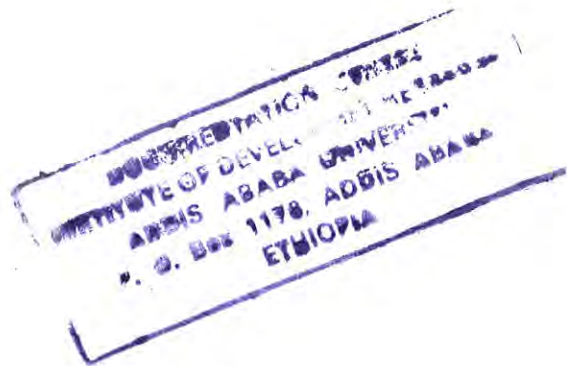


Table 4.7 Cross Tabulation by Chi-square Significant test of First Marital Status by Socio-economic Characteristics.

Variable	Status of first marriage		Total	Pearson's X^2 value	X^2 sign.
	Intact	Dissolved			
Literacy status of the respondents					
Illiterate	35.8(173)	64.2(310)	100.0(483)	41.731	.020
Literate	60.9(151)	39.1(97)	100.0(248)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Dowry given				52.988	.013
Yes	87.5 (56)	12.5(8)	100.0(64)		
Not	40.2(268)	59.8(399)	100.0(667)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Violence faced				77.748	.004
Not faced	53.3(298)	46.7(261)	100.0(559)		
Faced violence	15.1(26)	84.9(146)	100.0(172)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Parent's marital history				1.022	.312
Living together	45.3(263)	54.7(318)	100.0(581)		
Not living together	40.7(61)	59.3(89)	100.0(150)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Arrangement of marriage				86.201	.003
Consent	91.7(77)	8.3(7)	100.0(84)		
Not consent	38.2(247)	61.8(400)	100.0(647)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Ownership of land				191.130	.000
Not have	21.0(83)	79.0(313)	100.0(396)		
Have land	71.9(241)	28.1(94)	100.0(335)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Ownership of livestock				148.740	.000
0-1 livestock	9.7(21)	90.3(195)	100.0(216)		
More than one livestock	58.8(303)	41.2(212)	100.0(515)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Type of household				310.059	.000
Own household	77.5(276)	22.5(80)	100.0(356)		
Other household	12.8(48)	87.2(327)	100.0(375)		
Total	44.3 (324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		
Decision making in economic issues and contraceptive use				611.075	.000
Yes	93.2(315)	6.8(23)	100.0(338)		
No	2.3(9)	97.7(384)	100.0(393)		
Total	44.3(324)	55.7(407)	100.0(731)		

NB. Figures in parentheses show number of cases.

Source: Computed from survey data

4.2.2. Determinants of Marital Dissolution

Besides the bivariate analysis to identify associations, logistic regression analysis was used to explore the predictive power of the independent variables in explaining the likelihood of the occurrence of the dependent variable. Binary logistic regression model was the multivariate statistical tool that was used for further analysis of the relationship between the dependent variable, marriage dissolution and the socio-economic and demographic variables. A number of variables indicating first marital status of respondents were used in model fitting.

Before estimating the correlates of status of marriage using the model, the goodness of fit of the model and multi-collinearity diagnosis was made (see annex IV). Age at first marriage, duration of marriage, number of living children, type of family, decision-making power both in household economic issues and contraceptive use, violence encountered, ownership of land and cattle and literacy status were taken as predictors to fit the model. The other variables are not included in the model either they have little observations or not significant during the bivariate analysis. The predictor variables that are used in the model (independent variables) are believed to have the power to predict the probability of occurrence of outcome variable. This is to mean that, the probability or likelihood to which a respondent has dissolved her first marriage is explained by these independent variables.

In this study, classification table and Hosmer and Lemeshow test were used to assess whether the model fits the data or not. The Classification Table shows that among women whose first marriage is dissolved, 93.4% were correctly classified; and among those whose first marriage was intact, 94.1% of them were correctly classified. Overall, 93.7% of the respondents were correctly classified by the model.

odd ratio of less than one indicates lower probability of dissolution in relation to the reference category.

Age at First Marriage

Age at first marriage was found to be significantly related to marital dissolution. Age at marriage is often found to have a considerable positive effect on marriage stability. Those who married 15-17 years had lower probability of dissolving their marriages compared with the reference category (less than 15 years). The likelihood that their first marriage is dissolved is 0.120 times lower than those who married before 15 age of years ($p < 0.01$). That means, increasing age at first marriage from less than 15 years to 15-17 years reduces the chance of dissolution rate by about 88 percent $((1 - 0.120) \times 100\%)$. Similarly, respondents who married at age 18 or more than 18 years had lower likelihood of dissolving their marriages compared with those who married before age 15 ($p < 0.05$). Those who married at 18 or above 18 have a lower chance of dissolution of first marriage by 91 percent compared with those who married before age 15. This confirms the hypothesis that age at first marriage is negatively related to marital dissolution.

Number of Living Children in the Marriage

Number of children shows a strong negative relationship with marital breakup. The result shows that the odds of dissolving first marriage for women who had 1-3 children was 0.075 times lower compared to women who had no children ($p < 0.05$). Among women having more than 3 children, the odds of dissolution first marriage was 0.001 times lower ($p < 0.01$), compared to women with no children.

Duration of Marriage

Duration of marriage was inversely related to the odds of divorce. The odds were 0.747 times lower if women were 4-10 years of marriage duration than if they were of less than four years of marriage duration. This implies that, an increases in the predictor variable (duration) from less than four years to 4-10 years decreases the odds of marriage dissolution by 25 percent. The odds were 0.048 times lower if women were more than 10 years duration than if they were less than four years duration ($p < 0.05$).

Type of Household

Women living in their own household are actually less likely to divorce or separate than women living in other households, but this effect is not significant. According to the result, the risk of having first marriage dissolved for those living in their own household was about 38 percent lower compared with those living in other households.

Decision Making Power in Economic Issues in the Household and Contraceptive Use

As far as the power of decision making is concerned, those who participate in decision making in economic issues in the household and contraceptive use were less likely to dissolve their first marriage as compared with those who didn't participate in decision making ($p < 0.001$). The likelihood of having first marriage dissolved is 0.013 times lower than those who didn't participate in decision making in household economic issues and contraceptive use.

Violence Encountered

Husband initiated violence is found to be strongly associated with increased risk of marital dissolution ($p < 0.001$). It indicates that when a woman faced violence from her husband, the probability of dissolving her marriage increases. The likelihood of dissolving first marriage was 8 times higher for those respondents who faced violence from their husband compared to those who didn't face any violence from their husband.

Ownership of Land and Livestock

Family financial/wealth status, such as land and livestock ownership, have strong influence on marital breakup. Land ownership decreases the probability of divorce or separation ($p < 0.05$). The result shows that those respondents who had farm land had a 60 percent lower chance of marital dissolution compared with those who had no farm land. Respondents who had one or no livestock at all are 2.8 times more likely to have their first marriage dissolved compared with respondents who had more than one livestock. However, this is not statistically significant.

Table 4.10 Logistic Regression Result of the Effect of Predictor Variables on Marital Dissolution

Variables	Categories	B	S.E.	Sig.	Exp(B)
Age at first marriage	Less than 15 years(RC)				
	15-17 years*	-2.118	.259	.004	.120
	More than 17 years*	-2.402	.308	.021	.091
Duration of marriage	0-3 years(RC)				
	4-10 years*	-0.292	.230	.045	.747
	More than 10 years*	-3.045	.277	.027	.048
Number of living children	No children(RC)				
	1-3 children**	-2.585	.404	.004	.075
	More than three**	-6.838	.491	.001	.001
Type of household	Other households(RC)				
	Own household	-0.470	.422	.567	.625
Decision making power in economic issues in the household and contraceptive use	Not participate(RC)				
	Participate***	-4.320	.312	.000	.013
Violence encountered	Not encountered(RC)				
	Encountered***	2.079	.376	.000	7.996
Ownership of land	Have no land(RC)				
	Have land*	-0.906	.603	.045	0.404
Ownership of Livestock	Have more than 1 livestock(RC)				
	Have less than 1 livestock	1.027	.441	.222	2.794
Literacy status	Illiterate(RC)				
	Literate	-0.167	.392	.141	0.846

RC = reference category

* Significant $p < 0.05$, ** Significant $p < 0.01$, *** Significant $p < 0.001$, -2Loglikelihood= 287.965.

Source: Computed from Survey data

4.3. Discussion of Major Findings

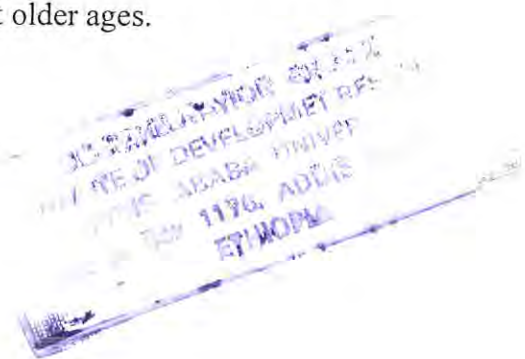
Age at first marriage is negatively associated with marital dissolution

According to this study, the finding indicates that there is an inverse relationship between age at first marriage and risk of divorce or separation. This analysis documents that early marriage is an important and significant factor that influences the risk of divorce or separation in the study population. For the main effects, the older the respondents are at the time of their first marriage, the less likely they are to separate or divorce.

In many families of the Amhara societies, it is customary for parents to arrange the marriage of their daughters, often at a very early age (UNICEF, 2001). This practice is intended to prevent unwanted pregnancy and to prevent marriage proposals from undesirable partners. Therefore, divorce is the only option for the unhappy marriage to young daughters. This was frequently mentioned by the participants during the FGD. For example, one of the 38 years old participants during the discussion stated:

“I got married at the age of 13, arranged by my parents. I tried to refuse the marriage but I had no chance. My father angrily told me that as it is his responsibility to arrange the marriage for his daughter to prevent from unwanted pregnancy and partner. After three months my marriage ended by separation. After a year I had legally got divorced.”

This finding is consistent with Tilson and Larsen (2000) which revealed that the younger the age at first marriage (less than 15 years), the more likely to divorce the marriage than the older age at first marriage. A study in rural Bangladesh also shows that those who married before 16 years of age had the highest risk of divorce as compared with those who married at the ages of 16-17 years (Bhuiya et al, 2005). A study by Reniers (2003) in rural Malawi also found that age at marriage is often found to have a considerable positive effect on marriage stability; women who married younger were more likely to dissolve their marriages as compared with those who married at older ages.



Number of living children from the marriage stabilizes marriage

Children have traditionally been expected to deter marital dissolution, although there are suggestions that such an effect may be declining as attitudes towards children change (Kalmijn, 1999). Marital instability in any community has social welfare implications, especially for the children and divorced wives.

There was stronger support for Hypothesis 2 that number of children born in the marriage decreases the probability of divorce or separation. One possible explanation for this is that, divorce implies not only separating from the husband but also a separation of the children from the mother or father, because of the values attached to children making divorce a less attractive option from unhappy marriage. This idea was also supported by discussants from the FGD who said *“most of the times couples are happy if they have children from their marriages.”* Moreover, a 41 years old FGD participant said:

“Though I am not happy in my married life due to my husband’s violent behavior, I am unable to end my marriage because I don’t want to separate from my 4 children even for a single day.”

Another woman from the second FGD participants added that: *“Whatever has happened, happening and will happen in my marriage, I don’t take it serious in my side. I am always concerned about my 6 children.”*

Children are important for better understanding of each other between couples, which significantly reduces the likelihood of divorce even during times of unhappiness (Baffour and Stephen, 2007). One of the factors in African families that attenuate the risk of divorce once a union is blessed with children is that, in case of a divorce, women may lose custody over their children; this involves not only the rupture of emotional ties but possibly also a source of support at older age (Reniers, 2003).

Having a child to inherit the family properties and to carry on the family name is a very important part of Ethiopian culture. In addition, a woman’s status is, to a certain extent, measured by the number of children she has (Pankhurst, 2000). During the FGD one of

the discussant said *"Since now, I had married four times, and all of the marriages ended in divorce because I am not a fecund woman."*

As duration of marriage increases, the likelihood of marriage dissolution decreases

As the duration of marriage increases, the instability of marriage drops markedly. The likelihood of marriage dissolution showed an inverse relationship with duration of marriage; the likelihood of dissolution was especially high during the first three years of marriage as compared with greater than three years. This finding is supported by many works. For example, Schoen (1992) revealed that the likelihood of marriage dissolution tends to decline over time at all durations of marital life time.

One possible explanation for this is that marriages which are not satisfactory for couples end in divorce first thereby reducing the proportion of the high risk marriages among the surviving unions. When newly wed partners discover that they are incompatible whatever the cause is, they choose for divorce rather early in the marriage (Nural et al, 2000).

The other possible explanation may be, as couples live together for a longer time they understand each other well and will negotiate whenever disagreements arise between them. This idea was supported by the participants of the FGDs. Among the discussants one woman said that:

"If a husband and a wife lived together for a long time, the husband is able to know his wife's behavior and also the wife is able to know her husband's behavior well so that they can avoid conflicts between them. Moreover, as the duration of marriage increases they will possess children and accumulated property/wealth in common; hence they don't want to lose their children and properties by disrupting their marriage."

Clearly age increases with duration of marriage, so that older couples are less likely to divorce their marriage. Older people put a higher value on stability than young people because older spouses have fewer alternatives to their current relationship, and because they have less time to enjoy any benefits that might follow from divorce, the expected future benefits compare less favorably with the costs of divorce (Jalovaara, 2002).

Ownership of land stabilizes marriage but ownership of livestock doesn't have an effect

Those who have land are less likely to dissolve their marriages as compared with those who didn't have. Ownership of land is the major form of wealth in rural Ethiopia (Agnes and Kelly, 2003). Therefore, the possible explanation for this may be having land may increase income for the family and reduces the probability of divorce. This finding is consistent with Shannon and Theodore (2004). Couples with low family income are more likely to disrupt their marriage. The discussants of the FGDs said that the main means of income for their family is ownership of cultivable land and livestock. Moreover one of the FGD participants said:

"As the income of a family increases (getting high) couples will develop good relationship between them. As a result, the marriage will be stable."

However, as it is shown in the multivariate analysis the effect of livestock on marital dissolution is not significant.

Facing violence in the marriage has a great influence on marital stability

According to the present finding, violence significantly increases the likelihood of marital dissolution. A more promising explanation is that violence results in lowered relationship quality for both partners. Lower quality relationships (Couples who are unhappy in their relationship) are, of course, more likely to dissolve. Child brides are often more likely to experience domestic violence and least likely to take action against this abuse other than divorce (UNICEF, 2005).

FGD participants also emphasized this idea that violence highly reduces relationship quality between couples. One of the discussants revealed that:

"There was a woman who married a man who was violent. Through time, she became disinterested in her marriage. As a result, she had nothing to do and decided to separate from the man."

This finding is also documented in many of the works regarding violence and union dissolution. A study by DeMaris (2000) revealed that Couples in which men were violent are at greater risk of marriage disruption and are ready to disrupt if they were not

disrupted. Another research by Bradbury et al (2000) showed that women whose partners are violent are unhappy in their marriage and are ready to dissolve their marriages.

Decision-making in economic issues in the household and contraceptive use stabilizes marriage

Women who have the power of decision making in economic issues in the household and contraceptive use are less likely to dissolve their marriages than those who has no power for decision making in economic issues and contraceptive use. This confirms the hypothesis that women's participation in decision making in economic issues in the household and contraceptive use are negatively associated with marital dissolution. The implication of this finding may be that women who have involvement in decision-making may have more of an emotional commitment binding the marriage compared with women who do not have the power of decision making. During the focus group discussion, a 38 years old woman said:

"A woman who is empowered in decision making on economic issues in the household and contraceptive use is always happy with her husband; hence she doesn't want to divorce her marriage."

A 48 years old lady also added that: *"Deciding what should be bought for the household properties, budgeting for the family income should be practiced by the woman in order to have a peaceful relation in the family."*

Couples who reached consensus on the decision to have children and financial issues in the household are more likely to be happy in their marriages as compared with those who didn't have consensus (Tzeng, 2005).

Type of family seem not to have effect on marital dissolution

The bivariate analysis shows that women who were living in a household other than their own household (either with the wife's family or the husband's family) after their marriage are more likely to dissolve than those who were living in their own household. However, as it is shown in the multivariate analysis the effect of household type in which the women were living is insignificant. A study by Wondimye (2007) in Addis Ababa is

consistent with the present finding. During the focus group discussion, the participants forwarded different ideas on this. For example one of the discussants said:

“Mostly there is disagreement between a girl and her mother-in-law, so divorce is common if they are living together.”

On the other hand a 46 years old woman revealed that:

“Whenever a girl is living with her mother-in-law she most probably gets respect and learns a lot of things in managing household issues so that she will be happy in her marriage.”

But most of the discussants agreed that what matters is not the type of the household it is rather the relation between the husband and the wife.

rate of divorce among first marriages could decline if efforts are made to increase the age at first marriage.

If women's decision-making role on household issues is increased, marital dissolution is likely to decrease. In general, raising the status of women in the society and ensuring their role in decision-making in the household in economic issues and contraceptive use is important to reduce the rate of marital dissolution. Therefore, educating the community to empower women in decision making on household economic and family planning issues is important to reduce the problem.

Efforts should be made to prevent domestic violence against women. The finding regarding the pervasiveness of marital dissolution is highly associated with violence. Therefore, preventing domestic violence by the husband against women could decrease marital dissolution.

This study is focused only on the effect of women's demographic and socio-economic characteristics on marital dissolution. Future research should also examine how demographic and socio-economic characteristics of husband affect marital dissolution.

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Annex II

Addis Ababa University

College of Development Studies

Institute of Population Studies

This questionnaire is prepared to collect information on demographic and socio-economic determinants of first marital dissolution in rural parts of Dembecha woreda. Answers given to all questions are strictly confidential and will not be shown to other persons. The data generated through this survey will only be used for academic purpose. Thus, your contribution in responding to the questions is highly appreciated. Will you participate in the survey? Yes No

INTERVIEWER: If the answer is yes, continue the interview. Otherwise, say thank you and go to the next interviewee.

Part I. Questionnaire Identification

No.	Category	Response	Skip
101	Household identification number		
102	Kebele and got		
103	Name of interviewer		
104	Date of interview		
105	Time of interview	Start:	
		Finish:	
106	Checked by the supervisor	Name:	
		Sign:	
		Date:	

Part II. Back Ground Questions

No.	Category	Response	Skip
201	How old are you?	-----years old	
202	In what month and year were you born?	year ----- and month -----	
203	Have you attending/attended any formal/informal education?	1. Yes, formal 2. Yes, informal 3. Not at all	If your answer is not at all skip to question 6
204	Can you read and write in any language?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no go to question 6
205	What is the highest level of education you have completed?	1. Primary 2. Secondary 3. Tertiary	
206	Aside from housework, have you done any work in the last 12 months?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 9
207	What was your occupation/work?	1. Farming 2. Petty trade 3. Government employee 4. Private employee 5. Daily laborer 6. Other(specify)----- ---	
208	Do you usually work throughout the year, or do you work only part of the year?	1. throughout the year 2. seasonally/part of the year 3. Once in a while	
209	What is your religion?	1. Orthodox 2. Muslim 3. Protestant 4. Other(specify)-----	

Part III. Marital History Questions

No.	Category	Response	Skip
301	How old were you when you got married for the first time?	-----years old	
302	In what month and year did you marry for the first time?	Year-----and month ----	
203	Were you attending/attended any formal/informal education before you got married for the first time?	1. Yes, formal 2. Yes, informal 3. Not at all	If your answer is not at all skip to question 6
304	Were you able to read and write in any language before you got married for the first time?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 6
305	What was the highest level of education you have completed before you got married for the first time?	1. Primary education 2. Secondary education 3. Tertiary education	
306	Were you a student before you got married for the first time?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 8
307	Have you continued your education after your marriage?	1. Yes 2. No	
308	How old was your first husband when you got married him?	1. -----years old 2. Don't know	
309	When you got married him, what was his age relative to you?	1. Older 2. About the same age 3. Younger 4. Don't known	If your answer is older answer question 10 and if your answer is younger skip to question 11
310	How many years was he older than you?	-----years	

311	How many years younger was he than you?	-----years	
312	Was your first husband married to any one else before you got married to him?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't known	If your answer is not yes skip to question 14
313	How many times had he been married before getting married to you?	-----times	
314	What was the household you lived in after marring your first husband?	1. Husband's family household 2. My family's household 3. Own household 4. Other(specify)----	
315	When you married for the first time were your parents living together?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is yes skip to question 17
316	What was the reason for their not living together?	1. Death of one of the spouse 2. Divorce 3. Separation 4. Other(specify)----	
317	Was your first marriage arranged by somebody else or by yourself?	1. By somebody 2. Myself	If your answer is myself skip to question 21
318	Who arranged your first marriage?	1. Parents 2. Relatives 3. Other(specify)----	
319	Were you informed for your marriage?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 321
320	Were you pressured to marry?	1. Yes 2. No	

321	Was there any dowry given to you during your marriage?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 23
322	What was the dowry given?	Please specify-----	
323	Was your first marriage dissolved?	1. Yes 2. No	If yes, skip to section IV; if no skip to section V

Part IV. For those whose First Marriage was Dissolved

No.	Category	Response	Skip
401	What was the reason for the breakdown of your first marriage?	1. Divorce 2. Separation	
402	Have you been remarried to after the breakdown of your first marriage?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 4
403	For how many times have you been remarried after the breakdown of your first marriage?	----- times	
404	Have you encountered any kind of violence (physical or verbal) from your first husband?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 10
405	What kind of violence you encountered from your first husband?	1. Physical violence 2. Verbal violence 3. Both	If your answer is number verbal skip to question 8
406	Which type of physical violence did you encountered from your first husband?	1. hitting or beating 2. pushing or shoving 3. both 4. Other(specify)-----	

415	How many livestock did you have?	1.----oxen/ cows/bulls 2.----heifer 3.----calves 4.----sheep/goats 5.----horse and mule 6.---- donkey	
416	Were you able to read and write in any language in the years of your marital dissolution?	1. Yes 2. No	
417	What was your highest level of education in the year of your first marriage dissolution? *	1. No education 2. Primary education 3. Secondary education 4. Tertiary education	
418	For how long did you stay in marriage with the man you married first?	--years and----months	
419	When did your first marriage end?	Month----- Year-----	
420	What was the household you lived before your marriage dissolve?	1. Husband's family household 2. My family's household 3. My own household 4. Other(specify)----- ----	
421	Did you have a share in making decisions to use contraceptives with your first husband?	1. Yes 2. No	
422	Did you have a share on making decisions in economic aspects in the house like what to be bought for the family and family budget with your first husband?	1. Yes 2. No	
423	Did you have any live birth from your first husband?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no stop here.
424	How many children did you have from your first husband?	-----number of children	

509	How many of them are living with you now?	----- of them	
510	What is the household you are living?	1. Husband's family household 2. My family's household 3. My own household 4. Other(specify)-----	
511	Have you ever encountered any kind of violence (physical or verbal) from your husband?	1. Yes 2. No	If your answer is no skip to question 19
412	What kind of violence you encountered from your husband?	1. Physical violence 2. Verbal violence 3. Both	If your answer is number 2 skip to question 15
513	Which type of physical violence you encounter from your first husband?	1. hitting or beating 2. pushing or shoving 3. both 4. Other(specify)-----	
514	How often do you face such physical violence?	1. Usually 2. Always 3. Rarely 4. Occasionally	
515	Which type of verbal violence you encounter from your first husband?	1. Threatening to hit 2. Grapping to you 3. Both 4. Other(specify)-----	
516	How often do you often face such verbal violence?	1. Usually 2. Always 3. Rarely 4. Occasionally	
517	Did your first husband force you to have sex?	1. Yes 2. No	If no skip to question 19

518	How often did he force you to have sex?	1. Usually 2. Always 3. Rarely 4. Occasionally	
519	Do you have an authority to use contraceptives?	1. Yes 2. No	
520	Do you have a share on making decisions in economic aspects in the house like what to be bought for the family and family budget?	1. Yes 2. No	

Annex III

Guide Line Questions for FGD

1. What are the main causes of first marital dissolution in this community?
2. Based on the above discussion rank the causes in relation to their effect on first marital dissolution.
3. Do you think that first marital dissolution is a problem for the society? Why/ How?
4. What are the main negative impacts of first marital disruption on women, children, parents and the society?
5. In your opinion, what are the most common and important contextual protective factors to mitigate the dissolution of first marriage?
6. How could victims of marriage disruption do solve the problem today for a better future tomorrow with the integration of the society?
7. Do you think the government/community should have a share to reduce the first marital dissolution?
8. What measures should the government/community take in order to avoid/reduce marital disruption?

Annex IV

Table A2 Coefficient of Contingency Table

	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉
X ₁	1								
X ₂	.314	1							
X ₃	.324	.407	1						
X ₄	-.315	-.429	-.388	1					
X ₅	-.328	-.366	-.364	.342	1				
X ₆	-.028	.031	-.054	.031	.307	1			
X ₇	.296	.413	.371	-.309	-.398	.046	1		
X ₈	.273	.400	.392	-.305	-.341	.091	.357	1	
X ₉	.410	.085	.050	-.111	-.258	-.036	.014	.173	1

X_i's refers to variables defined in the analysis

Annex V

Table A1 Conversion Scales to Compute Tropical Livestock Unit

Animal Type	Unit
Cow, ox and bull	1.0
Heifer	0.5
Calves	0.2
Sheep and goat	0.1
Horse and mule,	0.8
Donkey	0.4

Source: Strock et al (1991)

Declaration

The thesis is my original work, has not been presented for a degree in any other university and that all sources of material used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Aderaw Anteneh Alemu

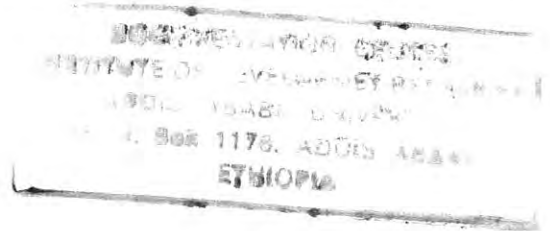
Student



Signature

June 15, 2020

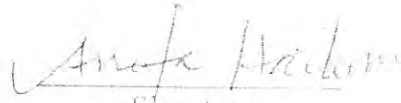
Date



I confirm that this thesis has been submitted with my approval as the supervisor of the same.

Assefa Hailmariam

Advisor



Signature

June 15, 2020

Date