

**CAUSES OF DIVORCE AND ITS EFFECTS ON CHILDREN'S  
WELLBEING IN YEKA SUB-CITY, ADDIS ABABA**

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**CAUSES OF DIVORCE AND ITS EFFECTS ON CHILDREN'S  
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This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Aster Shibeshi entitled: causes of divorce and its consequences on children wellbeing in Yeka sub-city, Addis Ababa. Submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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## **Abstract**

*The main objective of this study was to assess the major causes of divorce and its effects on children's wellbeing at Wereda 1 and Wereda 8, in Yeka sub-city. The negative impacts of divorce on children wellbeing in terms of economic, social, psychological and emotional were investigated through children questionnaire and interviewing their custodial parents. In the process of selection of sampling sites and target population different sampling methods were employed. Random sampling was used to select sampling weredas and sub-city because all sub-cities and weredas are assumed to be having similar attribute in the case of divorce experience. Wereda 1 & wereda 8 were taken randomly among 13 weredas of Yeka sub-city. The target population (parental divorced children including their custodies) was selected purposively and snowballing sampling methods. To get the relevant data for this study the data obtained from both primary and secondary sources and employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative approach enabled to deeply explore the topic and present the findings from participant experiences and their perception. This approach hold in-depth interview (IDI), focus group discussion (FGD), case history and key informant interview (KII) to collect the necessary data from target population. To explore the actual experiences and perceptions of parental divorced children the data was collected through quantitatively based on structured questionnaire. The result showed as many different and complex causes and reasons for divorce. Generally, economic, social, psychological and emotional problems were taken as major causes of divorce. Failure of husbands' giving money for household expenditure and the interest of a marriage partners to access and control over the other couple's property could be mentioned among economic causes of divorce. On regards to social cause of divorce, post-marriage living arrangement and relative interference, family marital background, cultural and religious differences are the major one. From the psychological cause of divorce, high expectation about socio-economic success and spouse's behavior before entering in to marriage was mentioned as a cause of divorce. Some marriage partner had a rosy dream before marriage but they faced a hard reality after marriage Economic, social, psychological and emotional effects of divorce have a great impact on children's wellbeing. Economically children are suffered from unable to get basic needs like adequate food, clothing and educational support. Because some of the children unable to get alimony from non-custodial parents to cover basic expenses. The primary social effect of divorce is included a decline of child-parent relationship, when children received less attention and emotional support from parents. Academic performances and schooling quality also affected because of parents' divorce. Parental divorced children suffered from different psychological problems like: depress, upset, anger, frustration, loss of confidence, and generally they were not happy and dissatisfied with both parents' support and care. Regardless of its wide range occurrence, divorce has not given attention by the nation and other concerned bodies. Therefore the society should prevent the prevalence of divorce and ensuring its proper adjustment through changing the social environment in connection to marriage stability.*

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## Acronym

CSA.....	Central statistics Authority
ECC.....	Education and Child Communities
FGD .....	Focus group discussion
GNP .....	Grosses National Product
IDI.....	in-depth interview
IGH.....	International Gospel Hour
KII.....	key informant interview
NGO.....	No n Governmental Organization
OECD.....	Overseas Economy for Child Development
RFC.....	Revised Family Code
SNNP .....	Southern Nation Nationality People
USA .....	United State of America

### **Operational definition of terms**

**Divorce:** refers to dissolution of marriage or termination of marital relationship.

**Divorcee:** persons whose marriage had been cancelled legally or customarily.

**Children:** according to national law; the researcher used under 18years old for this study.

**Custodial parent:** one of the parents who takes the responsibilities of caring her/his children after divorce.

**Children well-being:** depending on countries' economy and writers concern, there is no unique and universally accepted way of actually measuring of child well-being. According to OECD (2009) Child well-being measures the quality of children's lives in terms of mental/psychological, physical and social dimensions across dimensions of material well-being, housing environment, educational well-being, health, risk behaviors. In this study the writer used to measure children's wellbeing based on self-reported happiness, life satisfaction in terms of food, cloth, shelter and leisure time, self-rated health, and quality of school life.

# **Chapter One**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Family is the first social unit of organization that has to give emphasis starting from formation of the household. It is built up through marriage; beginning from a couple. According to Serkalem (2006) family formation is based on the society life, which differs according to their socio-economic and cultural situation. Family as built up through marriage. It is important for reproduction, production and socializing function.

Marriage is the way through which society enters basic institution of family formation (Makara, 2009). It is a social institution that unites people in a special form of mutual dependence for the purpose of finding and maintaining a family. Marriage is arranged through public or civil, religious and/or traditional ceremony. While the Revised Family Code (RFC) (2008) makes it clear that “marriage is into which the free and full consent of the intending spouses” entered through one of the three way of marriage; i.e. civil, customary or religious marriages.

Marriage reflects the purposes, character, and customs of the society in which it is found. Marriage is important for a transition of socio-economic values from old to young generation. Marriage in Ethiopia has its own historical background; “Decades of feudalism in the country contributed significantly to the institutionalization of the practice. In this period, elites used marriage as a means to establish or strengthen relationships with the bride’s or bridegroom’s family to ensure social, economic or political benefits”. Yisak & Camfield (2009) pointed out that in Ethiopia; marriage often makes primarily an economic (in terms of family wealth and property) transition through the influence of family members. Marriage is important to share

feelings, responsibilities, and childbearing. Elders say that singles are incomplete without their better halves; better halves, by design, are members of the opposite sex. Thus marriage fulfills many gaps of human needs and wants which leads to successful life. Therefore, marriage helps to gain in productive (for consumption and saving) and or reproductive (human capital accumulation) activities. Individuals decide to form a household and living together yields higher personal welfare than living alone (Fafchamps & Quisumbing, 2006).

Marriage remains a deep-rooted culture among the societies (Claiborne, 2012). This implies that the cultures and values keep marriage for long time. However, norms and cultures are not static rather it changes with the change of global condition. Makara (2009) agreed that global changes are affecting the world where we live in; these are technological, communicative and political situations. Through these changes; the values of marriage becomes decline with increasing divorce practices. According to Ambert (2009), the number of marriage goes down in reverse with the flourishing of most western economies; which resulting in the flourishing of the welfare state that has coincided with a decline of the role of the family. Ciardi and Mammini (2008) confirmed that divorce has been introduced, and the value of marriages has been declined. This is also revealed by Fagan and Churchill (2012) on the impacts of cultural revolution which has great role for divorce in the society. As a result divorce rate is keeping increases, particularly in industrialized western countries at its all time high.

Divorce is much more complex than it appears on the surface. Ending a marriage relationship is not a one-time event; it is a process that it might be occurred in a court house. Usually, a series of events and behaviors on the part of one or both spouses erodes the positive feelings toward one or the other or both. Over a period of time, one or both of the marital partners becomes

convinced that the relationship is intolerable, or at least it is not working then as a solution the marriage becomes end up (Fagan, 2012).

Societies have always varies views on marriage and divorce that they live in different parts of the world, and are influenced by the culture that one belongs to, among other. As many research works indicated that there are many different and complex causes and reasons for divorce, each of them specific to that particular marital couple (Buzzle, 2013). In general, Gersem (2006) concluded as all the divorce experience in the world today is as a result of one of the following: Immaturity, Infidelity, Abandonment, Lack of Communication, Physical Abuse, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Ego Problem, Sexual Abuse, Joblessness, Lust, Cultural and Religious Differences, Crime, Incompatibility, Family Background, Failed Expectations and the like. Other researchers like Cathy (2013) categorized into three major causes of divorce based on her experience:

1. Laziness: here is a misguided belief that marriage will make us happy.
2. Lack of Communication Skills: expressing their feelings and openly listening to their spouse.
3. High Expectations: Expectations and laziness can go hand in hand when it comes to predicting whether a marriage will end in divorce. Men and women both make a lot of assumptions when it comes to marriage and what to expect from a marriage. These assumptions are based on many variables and problems arise when the outcome of marriage doesn't meet the assumptions or expectations. Communication before marriage can keep down any unrealistic expectations. Therefore where communication and expectations are interrelated each other, they play a role in the outcomes of marriage.

Divorce is a serious experience that affects the whole family system particularly its impact on children is critical. Seblewongel (2009) pointed that divorce is not an event happen at a single point in time; it represents an extended transition in lines of parents and children. Specifically children whose parents divorced are being at a great risk for psychological and social adjustment than from intact families (Sisay, 1997). Children of a divorced family are exposed for various problems and risks. Claiborne (2012) revealed that children of divorcee are more likely to be engaged in promiscuous (having many sexual partners), violence, crimes other related anti-social and criminal activities.

The negative impact of divorce, continue to the adulthood where adults from divorced family found to have problem in intimate relationship and work than those adults from non-divorced family (Walsh, 1993). Divorce damages the society and consumes social and human capital (Fagan and Churchill, 2012). Divorce also permanently weakens the family and the relationship between children and parents. There are different causes and reasons for divorce and its consequences on children are not easy. Therefore, this study is focused on the causes of divorce and its effects on parental divorced children's well being.

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

As many research works like Makara (2009) indicated that the causes and reasons for divorce are enormous, each of them specific to that particular couple's of marital relationship; their individual experiences and personal problems. Generally, in the same study stated that the most divorcing experience in the world today is similar even different writers viewed in different angles. Those are revolving around some common reasons which related to social, economic, psychological and emotional, political and cultural conditions of the couples. Women's changing roles, infidelity, financial problems and immaturity are mentioned as important causes of divorce, in contrast high-income, well-educated women are more prone to divorce (Balestrino et al., 2008). If women become a professional in modern times, it can be a problem while they neglect their family.

Most of the time divorce has negative impact on divorcee families as well as on the society. According to Fagan & Churchill (2012) the effects of divorce is irreversible harm to all who involved in, but critical to the children. The problems often are affecting the children even before parents' divorce, starting from the conflict between parents and painful divorce process (Wallerstein, 2012). When children have got less attention, receive less emotional support, financial assistance, and practical help for academic support and encouragement. They may lose stimulation of socialization; resulting decrease of pride, affection and social maturity of the children.

Zinn & Etzin (1999) stated that following parental divorce, children are encountered psychological problems like depression, trauma, anxiety and unhappiness. According to Markham (2013) divorce has both short and long term effects: if the parental divorced children are too young to understand the situation fully they might feel guilty or responsible for the

divorce. In the short term effect they become increasingly aggressive, violent, uncooperative, and emotionally become needy. Markham (2013) agreed that effects of divorce on children seem to be short term, once they fade; it takes time to adjust their living situation. According to Markham (2013) result parental divorced children are suffered with multi dimensional effect; those children are more likely to be less educated, experience poverty or socio-economic disadvantage, and develop anti-social behavior. And may including other behavioral problems like drug and/or alcoholic addictions, get married or cohabit at earlier age, resulting to expose highly for separation or divorce.

They may not easily recover from the effects of divorce; even it may happen in their future live. Wallerstein (2012) agreed that some children are not as resilient as others; those may be affected negatively by the divorce in their future life. Thus the effects carry into adulthood; they have much lower trust in their girlfriends and tend to love their partners less altruistically.

Amato (2005) education is negatively associated with divorce; those parental divorced children scored lower in their academic performance than children in intact families. This explained more in Wallerstein (2012) study in USA that divorce affects the grade level in which children attain: the number of girls who drop out of high school is increased by 33 percent because of parents' divorce. Children living with two biological parents complete total years of education and have higher earnings than children from other family structures (Wallerstein, 2012). Divorce also reduces the likelihood of attaining a college education because of lower financial support from divorced parents.

There is no statistical report that can show the trend about the actual divorce rate at regional or national level. But according Tilson and Larsen (2000) also agreed with this idea that “forty-five per cent of first marriages in Ethiopia end divorce within 30 years, and two-thirds of women

who divorce within the first 5 years of marriage”. In the same study stated that divorce has been a common and largely accepted practice in Ethiopia.

In Indrias (2006) report the number of street children total 600,000 in the country and more than 100,000 in the capital (Addis Ababa). According to Woldekidan (2003) in Ethiopia around 4,042,357 children are estimated to live under difficult condition because of families' inability to support children due to family dissolution (Woldekidan, 2003).

Therefore, this study is focused on causes of divorce and its consequences on children wellbeing with specific emphases on economic, social and psychological/emotional impacts of divorce on children’s life. In spite of the seriousness of the problem, there is no sufficient available study on the subject area to create awareness on the minds of individuals and to address problems to the concerned bodies and /or organizations to alleviate the problems. Because of this reason the researcher is motivated to assess the causes of divorce and its impacts on children wellbeing in particular and divorcee’s family in general.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to identify the major causes of divorce and its effects on children’s wellbeing at Yeka sub-city, in Addis Ababa.

In line with this, the specific objectives included the followings:

1. To assess economic constraints having contribution for divorce.
2. To assess social problems influencing marriage stability.
3. To find the psychological and emotional problems used as causes of divorce.
4. To investigate economic effects of divorce on children’s life.
5. To assess the effects of divorce on parental divorced children in terms of social aspects; and

6. To examine psychological and emotional effects of divorce on parental divorced children

#### **1.4. Research Questions**

The research answered the following main questions.

1. What are the economic, social, psychological and cultural causes of divorce?
2. How children's wellbeing is affected by parents' divorce?
3. What are the economic, social and psychological effects of divorce on parental divorced children's wellbeing?

#### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

Addis Ababa is composed of multi-ethnic and religious groups of Ethiopia, as many research works indicated divorce is higher in urban than rural, and also its rate become increasing through time. This social ill should be getting a reliable solution, for this reason the researcher believes on research works which is providing relevant information for policy makers, individuals and other researchers. This helps them for taking appropriate measures to minimize the prevalence of divorce, while enables to maximize children's wellbeing.

#### **1.6. Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study is limited to present major causes of divorce and its negative effects on parental divorced children, with a specific focus on children's wellbeing in Addis Ababa referring Yeka sub-city. The study specifically limited with two weredas (Wereda 1 & 8) of the sub-city, in Addis Ababa.

#### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

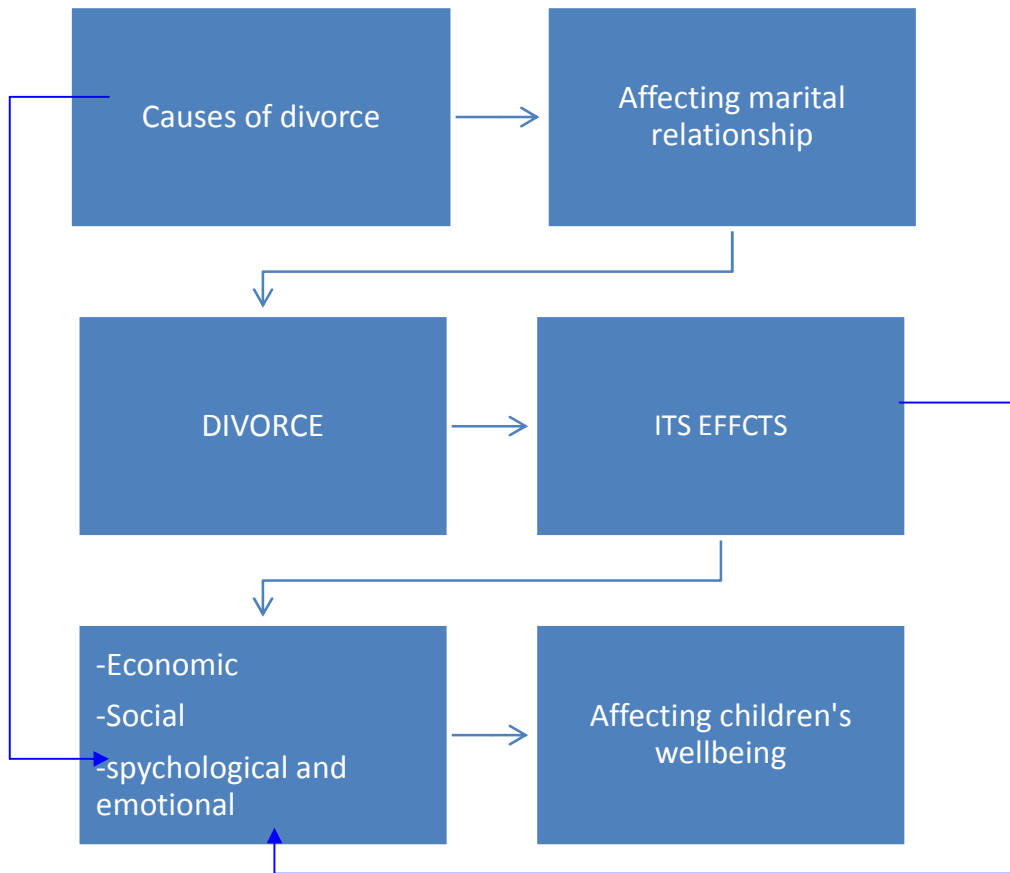
Like any other studies, to investigate the causes of divorce and its effects on children wellbeing so there need to generate data on the basis of divorcee family. There were a number of

limitations and hence, this study has faced the following major limitations. First, it was difficult to get the targeted population within the research sites. Thus each divorce case was not recorded at Kebele, Woreda and sub-city levels, where it is expected to be filed. Even it was not possible to find the data that shows the number of divorce at court level.

It was extremely difficult to get the targeted total population to use actual sample size from that population within the targeted sites. That was taken time and difficult to take proportional sample size from targeted population. Secondly, custodial parents were not happy and difficult to get their consent to interview their children; even they did not want to be interviewed as the issue is sensitive to them. That was time taken and difficult to get proportional sample of target population.

### **1.8. Conceptual Framework**

The following frame work indicates the major causes of divorce and its effects on children's life in terms of economic constraints, social, psychological and emotional problems.



**Figure 1: The conceptual framework of causes of divorce and its effects on children’s wellbeing.**

**Source:** *Developed by researcher based on the study objectives and reviewed literature.*

Hence just following divorce children are mostly exposed to complex and interrelated effects of divorce mainly influenced by psychological, economic and social problems.

### **1.9. Organization of the Study**

The paper is organized as the following chapters. The first chapter provides a brief background of the study, statement of the problem, objective, research questions, significance and scope of the study, limitation and conceptual framework of the study. The second chapter is offered as

review of related literature. The third chapter comprises of methods for collecting relevant data and analyzing of field data. These are study area and design, selection procedures and sampling techniques, data collection methods including primary and secondary data, quality assurance and data analysis and interpretation sections. The fourth chapter presents the study result while the last chapter (chapter five) gives the discussions and recommendations of the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2. Review of Related Literature**

#### **2.1. Historical Background of Divorce**

This chapter deals with literature review of the study and tried to provide theoretical explanation of causes of divorce and its effects on parental divorced children's wellbeing. The explanations include from other countries' experience and few local studies are relevant to the issues understudy. Research works and materials review are contributing to build a foundation for the current study and help to identify gaps.

As the story of divorce indicated by many writers most of the western hemisphere and some countries in the eastern hemisphere allow divorce under certain circumstance (Kalafut, 2008). Balestrino, et al. (2008) stated that western societies in the last forty years have favored both the introduction of divorce and the reduction of marriages. While in the past the family was the sole provider of many services like basic education, health-care, insurance, old-age support. When the states transfer from traditional to industrial, gradually both the state and the market offer important alternatives of public and private services. Therefore, the values of marriage becomes decline as means of social protection substituted by welfare state, while divorce had made possible, first by making it socially acceptable, and then legally permissible.

Tilson and Larson (2000, pp. 355) result indicates divorce had been practiced early in Ethiopia; "divorce has been a common and largely accepted practice in Ethiopia for centuries. As early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century divorce was referred as to custom of the country". This implies that Ethiopia has started exercising divorce similar to as that of western countries.

## **2.2. Causes of Divorce**

Following the flourishing of country's economy in relation with women's access to higher education and higher salaries, this put them less willing in traditional roles and expectations (Buzzle, 2013). Until the last century, women practiced a more traditional role; most women were married by their early twenties. They were then destined to a life of having children, taking care of their husbands, and involving on domestic chores (Price & McKenry, 1988). According to Balestrino et al. (2008. PP.3) "...the main determinants of divorce is couple's earning differentials; that high-earning women gain relatively little from marriage, since the small differential implies that there is less possibility for an efficient sexual division of labor, and have a stronger contribution in case of divorce".

According to Claiborne (2012) one of the major causes of divorce is inadequate preparation for marriage. Many young people are able to get married with no preparation, no human skills (less knowledge of the responsibilities of the marital relationship) and no reasonable and moral values. Parents are more interested on their children's marriage rather than advising them to enable to stay in marriage. This idea conformed in other research works like International Gospel Hour (IGH) (2006), most parents want their children to have good marriages, but they do not provide the information and inspiration for those young people to have to be succeeding in their marriages.

### **2.3. Effects of Divorce on Children Wellbeing**

As many writers indicated that divorce has negative impact on social, cultural, economic, psychological and political effects. Findings from several research studies, all agree that divorce affects all the children in the family at some time and in some degree. Some effects of divorce emerge rapidly following separation and some of them take long time to back to normal situation and some others still emerge later (Fagan 2012).

Generally Matthews (2012) categorize the effects of divorce on children in to short and long term effects. According to the author, short-term effects may include: anger, sadness, depression, opposition, impulsivity, aggression, non-compliance, perceived parental loss, interpersonal conflict, economic hardship, life stress, less parental supervision, less consistent discipline, more negative sanctions, lower academic achievement, acting out, lower self-concept and social adjustment difficulty. Findings from several research studies (Matthews, 2012) indicate that certain effects of divorce are quite persistent when a wide range of pre-divorce conditions is considered. Thus the inter-parental conflict has powerful and has direct effects on children's life.

Braver, et al (2008) stated that divorce is never a good thing that a couple always gets in a tug of war over property, children's wellbeing and assets. Almost all of young people dream of having their own family with two or more children and a happy partnership forever (Jackel, 2001). Small children also wish to be successful in their education. But children and adolescents become disappointed because of the dissolution of their origin family.

Serkalem (2006) also stated that divorce has negative impact on the divorced parents and their children socially, economically and psychologically. Therefore the divorced families are greatly affected with the effects of divorce in socially, culturally, economically, psychological and

emotionally, and other related problems. These and other effects of divorce are tried to be mapped as follows.

### **2.3.1 Economical Problem**

The economic problem of a country has a circular relationships with divorce and all the problems are interrelated and interwoven (Serkalem, 2006). Divorce has destructive impacts on individuals and society in economic situation. Fagan and Churchill (2012) divorce reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity. Wallerstein (2012) conformed that divorce is the main determinant factor in family income. There had been great depression on American economy between 1929 and 1933 when it contracted by 30.5 percent, and GNP went from \$203 million to \$141 million. Hence in USA because of a disruption of marriage, almost 50 percent of households with children moved into poverty following divorce. Consequently the proportion of disadvantaged children, unemployed youth and adults has been increasing.

From the theory bounded rationally parental divorced children face difficulty to get medical care that the child's medical expenses not covered by insurance as difficult to be divided and how childcare expenses are allocated (Brave, et. al, 2012). There are many parents during divorce process do experience threats to their financial circumstances. According to Brave et al. (2012) the costs of divorce can vary widely depending on the state, the complexity of the case, the degree of contentiousness and disagreements, and modes of dispute resolution.

Amato (1994, pp. 153) "economic hardship increases the risk of psychological and behavioral problems among children and may negatively affect their nutrition and

health". Ross and Mirowsky (1999) agreed that education and economic security which have strong relationship with parents' marital happiness and marital stability those promote mental health and a sense of well-being.

Economic hardship also makes it difficult for custodial parents to provide educational materials, adequate food, home environment, and other resources to facilitate children's academic attainment (Serkalem, 2006).

### **2.3.2. Social Problems**

Divorce is often very complicated and includes everything from maintenance and child support until the divorced women recover to her original situation. In the meantime children suffered with existing situation. If the situation is not handled properly, they may develop a negative attitude towards parents and marriage (Balestrino, et al. 2008).

As has been shown by Fagan and Churchill (2012) the effect of divorce on children's hearts, minds, and souls ranges from mild to severe, from seemingly small to observably significant, and from short-term to long-term. Fagan (1999) argued that divorce also permanently weakens the family and the relationship between children and parents. Amato and Cheadle (2005) found that disagreement in marriage erodes children's ties with both parents, irrespective of whether the marriage eventually ends in divorce. Fagan (1999) pointed out the effects of divorce frequently leads to destructive conflict management methods, diminished social competence for children.

Amato (1994) has provided evidence that children in divorced families, on average, experience more problems and have a lower level of well-being than do children in continuously intact two-parent families. These problems include lower academic

achievement, more behavioral problems, poorer psychological adjustment, more negative self-concepts, more social difficulties, and more problematic relationships with both mothers and fathers. Lanahan and Sandefur (1994, pp. 192) stated that “offspring with divorced parents are more likely to drop out of high school, less likely to attend college, more likely to be unemployed, and more likely to experience economic hardship as adults”.

Besides to these divorce also influences the life span of people; as stated by (<http://voices.yahoo.com/>) life expectancies for divorced men and women are significantly lower than married people (who have the longest life expectancies).

### **2.3.2 Psychological Problem**

With related to divorce so many problems come out; the emotional trauma of divorce has a long-term impact on the psychological health of the body. According to Fagan and Churchill (2012) immediately divorce increases psychological distress and has long-term negative consequences for the physical health of divorced people. Amato and Cheadle (2005) stated out children with divorced parents have an elevated risk of experiencing emotional distress in adulthood.

Amato (2005, pp. 76) concluded on his study children more than one-third of the sample were clinically depressed, were doing poorly in school, had difficulty maintaining friend-ships, experienced chronic problems such as sleep disturbances, and continued to hope that their parents would reconcile. The psychological ill effects of divorce faced by parents and children during and after the process of divorce are unavoidable. Thus effects are: anxiety, anger, sadness, weariness, guilty, feeling of isolation, low self-esteem,

worry, disappointment and frustration. The parents and their children are not concerned the only persons affected and others close to them may affected too.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3. Research Methods**

#### **3.1. The Study Area**

Addis Ababa is situated at 9.03<sup>0</sup>North of latitude and 38.74<sup>0</sup> East of longitude. The area of the city is about 527 sq km (203 sq mi) (<http://wikimapia.org>. 2012). The city lies at the foot of Mount Entoto that rises to over 3,000 meters and drops to 2,326 meters above sea level. The city has a complex mix of highland climatic zones, with temperature differences of up to 10°C, depending on elevation and prevailing wind patterns (<http://wikimapia.org>. 2012).

Based on the 2007 Census of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa has a total population of 2,739,551, of which 1,305,387 (47.6%) were men and 1,434,164 (52.4%) women. The city represents a heterogeneous population in many ethnic groups and religions origin from different regions of Ethiopia. The major ethnic groups found in the city are: Amhara (47%), Oromo (19.5%), Gurage (16.3%), and Tigrie (6.2%), while others contribute 11% of the population (CSA, 2008). With regard to religious composition, about 74.6% of the population is Orthodox Christian, 16.2% are Muslims, 7.8% are Protestants Christian 0.48% are Catholic Christian, 0.05% of population is traditional followers and the remaining 0.8% are categorized under other religions (CSA, 2008).

Addis Ababa has diverse economic activities. According to official statistics from the federal government (CSA, 2008), the total employed people whose age 10 and above years is about 1,248,273 (45.6%). Some other population 119,197 (9.5%) in the city are engaged in trade and commerce; 113,977 (9.1%) in manufacturing and industry, 80,391 (6.4%) homemakers of

different variety; 71,186 (5.7%) in civil administration; 50,538 (4%) in transport and communication; 42,514 (3.4%) in education, health and social services; 32,685 (2.6%) in hotel and catering services; and 16,602 (1.3%) in agriculture. In addition to the residents of rural parts of Addis Ababa, few of the city dwellers also participate in animal husbandry and cultivation of gardens.

Yeka sub-city is the second largest next to Kolfe-keraniyo among the ten sub-cities of Addis Ababa in terms of population size and also it takes third rank in terms of area coverage following Bole and Akaki sub-cities, respectively. It encompasses an area of 85.98 Sq.km with a population of 346,664 (27.2%); of this total population with 161,592 (46.6%) males and 185,072 (53.4%) females population (<http://www.geohive.com>. 2012). Yeka sub-city has 13 weredas/kebeles; of these two weredas (Wereda 1 & 8) were selected for research sites.

### **3.2. Study Design**

The researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods to collect relevant data for this study. This is based on the issue under investigation. The qualitative approach enabled the researcher to deeply explore the topic and present the findings from participants experience and their perception. In order to get a comprehensive data; qualitative data is used as supplementary of the quantitative data. The collection of quantitative data is based on structured questionnaires to explore the actual experiences and perceptions of parental divorced children.

Qualitative method also included in-depth interview (IDI), focus group discussion (FGD), recording case histories, key informant interview (KII), document analysis and observations. For this it is important to undertake descriptive research where the real life experiences and their

perceptions figure out in the form of narration and describing in detail the life situation of parental divorced children through confidential interviewees. When the researcher uses voice recorder to capture the whole information comes from respondents during discussion. This information is transcribed for descriptive and narrative analyses. According to Serkalem (2006) this approach is necessary to explore and describe people's experience and perception, and also provides deeper understanding of social phenomena.

### **3.3. Selection Procedures and Sampling Techniques**

In selection of sampling site and targeting population random, purposive and snowball sampling methods were employed. Random sampling is used to select sampling weredas and sub-city because all sub-cities and weredas are assumed to be having similar attribute in case of divorce experience. Wereda 1 & 8 were selected randomly among 13 weredas of Yeka sub-city. In this process, target population of a sample could be chosen from the general site of two weredas were taken purposively. The targeted populations are parental divorced children including their custodial parent; while they were selected purposively and snowballing based on their experience on divorce. At wereda 1, through kebele officials three custodial mothers were identified, and then through them other informants and their children were identified. Secondly at wereda 8 primary schools (Tesfa-Birhan primary school, Wetatoch genet primary school and Brih-Tesfa primary school) were used to identify respondent. Where students were listed based on living arrangement (whether they live with both biological parents or not), by using these lists the selection was carefully done with the assistance of homeroom teachers; then through them could able to reach their custodies.

### **3.4. Methods of Data Collection**

The data used for this study was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Wide ranges of data collection instruments are used to make the study complete and comprehensive.

The following source of data collection methods was employed. `

#### **3.4.1. Primary Data Collection**

In order to get the primary data, different tools were applied to gather the field data. This study employed both qualitative and quantitative research method to collect relevant data for the study. Under quantitative research method structured questionnaire was employed to gather the relevant and different sets of data from each sample wordas of the target population. Qualitative research approach hold in-depth interview (IDI), focus group discussion (FGD), case history and key informant interview (KII) to collect the necessary data from target population.

In-depth interview (IDI) was conducted with custodial parents who take the responsibilities of caring those children. In-depth interview (IDI) enables the researcher to collect more data which may not have been possible through any other means (ECC, 2010). This interview provided an opportunity for the researcher to get detail information about the causes of divorce and the effects on children's wellbeing. The questionnaire was conducted with parental divorced children to investigate the major effects of divorce. The questionnaire was developed to explore the effects of divorce on children's life in relation to economic, social and psychological values. This questionnaire has three sections where it begins with introducing the objective of the study and consent of the interviewee. The second section followed by a standard form of personal and demographic background information and then questions focused to assess the major consequences of divorce on children wellbeing was followed. In the child questionnaire, the

second and third sections of the questionnaire focused on economic, social and psychological effects of divorce on children's wellbeing. Hence many of the variables used to measure the negative impacts of divorce on their life. And also this sections in custodial parent's interview which focused on causes of divorce and its effects on their children wellbeing.

Focus group discussions (FGD) was the second types of research tools to obtained detail information about the negative impacts of divorce on parental divorced children. According to (ECC, 2010) FGD is very important tools to collect qualitative information that could not easily capture through structured interviews. FGD was hold in each sample weredas to get wider views from different segment of the community. Focus group discussion made with two FGD groups of parental divorced children. The group category based on the age range of 6-12 and 13-18 years old. Having similar age group that helps them free to talk and avoiding dominancy and or silence. The purpose of this method helps to gain different knowledge about the effects of divorce and experiences of participants. For each category of respondents used the same guiding checklist to facilitate the discussion. Depending on the responses during the discussion, on the subject of interest, the researcher selected more than two respondents for further information which will capture through case study. Some studies, Seblewongel (2009) explained that this approach is necessary to explore and describe people's experience and through deeper understanding of social phenomenon. Thus the real life experiences figure out in the form of narration by using nameless interviewees for ethical consideration.

Second types of questions were addressed to custodial parents to assess the main causes of divorce and its effects on their children's wellbeing. To collect appropriate data from those participants the researcher used both open-ended and open response option questions. Some questions of divorced women/men have a relation with questions of their children in connection

with impacts of divorce. Another important source of qualitative information was obtained through key informant interview (KII).

### **3.4.2. Secondary Data Collection**

The main sources of secondary data for this study were: books, articles, family code, and other divorce related documents from court, women, child and youth affairs' office and Ethiopian women lawyer association office and child right have been included to get further information.

### **3.5. Description of Variables**

In this study the outcome/dependent variable is the children's wellbeing and the independent variable is parental divorce. It is assumed that children's wellbeing is determined by parents' marital status; thus parental divorced children are exposed to social, economic and psychological problems.

### **3.6 Data Quality Assurance**

Data quality assurance measured with pre-testing the questionnaire by distributing outside the targeting sample population. Cross-checking those ideas by parental divorced children and their custody. A pilot survey was made before the actual survey, which is used to know how the issue is sensitive to participants and their willingness to answer the question. Therefore, the researcher adjusted some questions which are more sensitive to them and also adjusting herself on the way to asking questions to get appropriate information for the success of the objectives of the study.

### **3.7 . Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The data gathered through both qualitative and quantitative methods were subject to interpretations with the help of appropriate methods. Primarily, information from both open-ended and open response option including secondary sources was used to briefly analyze the causes of divorce and its effects on children wellbeing by discussing and using simple statistical tools such as frequency, percentage and average. Case histories were narrated and inserted in the appropriate sections of the finding.

The data entry and analysis made using SPSS data processing program. Then the data was cleaned with cross tabulated and summarized in the form of tables and graphs which was used to provide general description about the effects of divorce on children's wellbeing on regards to social, economical and psychological aspects.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

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

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of collected data from parental divorced children and their custodial parents. The main finding was thematically interpreted through discussion and narrating by triangulating the data gathered through qualitative method and secondary sources. Moreover, the data gathered through quantitative method was analyzed by using simple descriptive statistical techniques.

The first part of this chapter introduces the demographic background and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. The second part discussed the major causes of divorce and the third part focused on economic, social, and psychological impacts of divorce on children's wellbeing.

#### **4.1. Demographic Background and Socio-economic Characteristics of Custodial Parents**

This chapter provides the demographic background and socio-economic profiles of respondents interviewed in the qualitative and quantitative methods. The background information of informants is essential for the interpretation of findings and understanding of research result in the report. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics are respondents' age, sex, educational level, and household size, source of household income and place of birth. In addition, data related to causes and consequences of divorce are summarized in the next sub-sections.

#### **4.1.1. Sex and Age of Respondents' Custodial Parents**

The in-depth interview was conducted with a total of 15 custodial parents. This helped to know the main causes of divorce and its effect on their children's wellbeing. Most of the (11) participants were women, whose age above 19 years old. This result indicates that women are more responsible for caring their children than men after divorce. Obviously, there are factors inherent with fathers obstruct them to be being custodial parent. Culturally, fathers less ability to involve on domestic activities like catering and serving their children which mean they contribute less in caring well and control over their children after divorce. For this reason fathers are forced to remarry or having sexual partner as compared to mothers. On the other hand, practically, fathers are less feeling in taking of responsibility to be custodial parents. This finding is similar with the report of Ambert (2009) where mothers prefer sole custody as they are better off for caring their children than fathers.

The majority of younger people at marriage divorced because of different reasons and problems. As the figure indicated in table 1, the age distribution of the informants was mostly confined in the age between 20 - 30 years old, thus most of the divorced men and women were found in this age range. This result agreed with the one reported by Serkalem (2006) within the age of 30 most marriage ends up with divorce.

**Table: 1. Age and sex distribution of informants (custodial parents)**

Age of respondent	Sex of respondent		Sites		Total
	Female	Male	Wereda 1	Wereda 8	
	Frequency	Frequency			
19	1	0	-	1	1
20-30	6	2	4	4	8
31-40	3	2	3	2	5
≥41	1	0	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: from field data, 2015

#### 4.1.2. Educational Level and Occupational Status

Educational level is another important personal characteristic because education is essential for people to have better life. Education determines people's life that with their capacity and opportunity to work in some employment to generate income. In line with this fact, informants were asked about their level of education which could help them for their livelihood.

**Table: 2. Frequency distribution of custodial parents by their educational level and occupational status**

Educational level	Frequencies of occupational status of custodial parents				
	Daily work	Petty trading	Employed work	Others	Total
No education				1	1
Primary		2	3	0	5
Secondary and G-10 completed	1	1	3	0	5
Certificate			1	0	1
Diploma			1	0	1
Degree			1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: from field data, 2015

According to the above table, out of 15 total interviewed custodial parents, 5 of them completed primary education; of these 3 of them are engaged on employed work and the rest 2 informants participated in petty trading. In the same way 5 of them completed secondary education; 3 of them engaged on employed work and other two involved on petty trading and daily work. The other 4 informants are categorized in different educational level, such as 2 of them have B.A degree, the rest 2 have certificate and diploma; 3 of those who engaged on employed work and one of them participated on NGO organization. Only a woman has no education/illiterate and engaged on begging because of sickness and she is a victim of HIV/AIDS.

#### 4.1.3. Place of Origin and Household Size of the Custodial Parents

As the table 4 indicated the majority (4) interviewed informants were from Addis Ababa. The next most mentioned place come from Amhara (3) and the same proportion (3) of southern nation nationality people (SNNP). The other origins of the informants include Oromia (2), Tigray (2) and others (1). This figure indicates as Addis Ababa is the place where heterogeneous populations are found with many ethnic groups of Ethiopia. The average household size of the informants was three.

**Table: 4. household size and birth place of the informants**

Household size	Birth Place						Frequency of HH size
	Addis Ababa	Amhara	Oromia	SNNP	Tigray	Others	
2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
3	0	1	2	1	1	1	6
4	2	0	0	1	1	0	4
5	1	2	0	1	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>

**Source:** from field data, 2015

## **4.2. Demographic Background and Socio-economic Characteristics of Parental Divorced Children**

### **4.2.1. Age and sex of parental divorced children**

The structured (for survey) and semi-structured questionnaire (for FGD) were addressed for a total of 33 parental divorced children; of these respondents 18 (54.5%) were female and the rest 15 (45.5%) were male. On the same way 18 respondents involved on responding of structured questionnaire and the rest 15 parental divorced children were FGD participants. The participants were categorized into two age groups of 6-12 and 13 – 18 years old. Having similar age helped to make respondents free to talk among themselves to explain their feelings and real experiences. As it is indicated in table 5&6, one FGD was conducted at each weredas in addressing the questionnaire for one of the age groups. At age range of 6-12 was conducted at wereda 1 and at wereda 8, 13 -18 of the age group was conducted (Appendix C &D: Table 6 & 7, respectively).

The first question posed to the respondents was about their age. Accordingly about 54.5% of respondents were found in the age range of 6 - 12 years and the rest 45.5% were included within 13 - 18 age groups. At the first age group (0-5) or under five no respondents were included. At this age group children are not considered that could to able to explain the effects of divorce in wording (Appendix C: Table 6).

The second questions followed by socio-economic background questionnaire, which forwarded about school attending, dropout and never enrolled at school. From the data, the figure indicated in table 6; 54.17% of respondents and FGD participants were attended at primary first cycle, 41.67% were at primary full cycle school and 4.16% of respondents were dropout of school. Thus most of the participants and respondents were student while that might be the researcher

used schools to get targeted population. However some children have school dropout experience and there are also school dropout children who are siblings' of those targeted group.

With regards to economic activities, the majority of the respondents was dependent on their custodies' source of income and also involve in helping their families. About 4.2% of the children were involving on daily laborer. These daily laborer children were school dropout because they are the main source of income for their families while they need to involve on such activities with their full time (Appendix D: Table 7).

#### **4.2.2. Place of Birth and Living Arrangement of Children after Family Dissolution**

The other issue posed in the question was place of birth and living arrangement following parents' divorce. To this end, the research finding indicated that the majority of respondents (63.6%) was not changed their place of birth rather adjusting living pattern within the same site. On contrary to this, there is a tendency to shift place of residence following parents' divorce. Based the field data, about 21.2% of children came from out of Addis and the other 15.2% have changed their place of residence within the site in Addis. From the figure, it is easy to observe that the place is less expensive for custodial parents after divorce while they could get support from relatives and relations within the same place.

**Table 8:** Percentage distribution of child respondents by their place of residence following parents' divorce

Place of residence after divorce	Number of respondent	Percentage
Came from other wereda within Addis	5	15
Came from out of Addis	7	21
Stay same place within sites	21	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** from field data, 2015

### 4.3. Major Causes of Divorce

The result of this study shows that there are many different and complex causes and reasons for divorce. However, each of them may not seem common to the people who could pass through divorce. Some factors simply make a person or couple to be dissatisfied in their marriage, while most of the informants couldn't disclose their specific causes for divorce. However, all divorce causes are interwoven whether the marriage ends up with divorce or causes of conflict. Here is an exemplary case from field data, a father of two who is 38 years old, he is the guard for private organization and completed primary education; the causes of divorce was explained as follow:

*Before 15 years ago I had married my ex-wife and had got two children a daughter and a son. Both I and she were from very poor economical background family. We had passed through in difficult situation when I was very sick because of accidentally hurt, she involved on daily work (working for other household) to raise our children. But, she couldn't afford the households' expense, then she went to Arabian country through mutual decision and I stayed with my children to take care them. Two years later she came back to here when she couldn't be satisfied*

*with what happen in the home. She disrespected me, upsetting and even she didn't want share bed with me; refused sexual relationships. After three months later she had ready to back to there but I didn't allow while she told me that she doesn't want to live with and needs to divorce. Then the marriage ceased up with the assistance of community elders and then she went back to Arabian country. The children left with me and she involves on financial contribution.*

This report is similar with the results of Buzzle (2013) following the flourishing of country's economy in relation with women's access to higher education and higher salaries, which put them less willing in traditional roles and expectations. Here the solution of economical problem brought personal incompatibility; many of the reasons are interrelated and recur enough to warrant. This means single factor could not able to influence marriage relationships rather several and complex factors can influence marriage and leads to divorce.

#### **4.3.1. Economic Cause of Divorce**

During the interview, economic problem was reported as one of the causes of divorce among others. The majority of the informants described as economic problem is considered as the main factor account for divorce. In this study, some women faced financial shortage either due to lack of income or unable to get enough money from husbands for the household expenditure. Thus most of their husbands were the breadwinner and raise the major source of income in marriage. Then, after some months or few years later men refuse to give enough money for wives. Consequently women have become alone with all responsibilities to fulfill families' economic demand of the household as compared with increasing household size and inflation. Finally, women are exhausted with always arguing about financial issues. This is cause for continuous disagreement between them.

Such kind of conflict leads them to hate each other couple and then one or both of the parties decided to divorce. According to data from the office of Child, Youth and Women's affairs (2013), about 355 cases (75%) were complained by women that husbands' failed to give household expenditure. This leads to major conflict and sometimes women are leaving away from home. Some informants believed that when men have starting to fail of giving money for household expenditure, their attention was taken by others or they might have sexual relationship with other women. This notion of believe aggravated the extent of conflict and it leads the marriage to end up with divorce.

Control over resource is another important cause of divorce in this study that one of the parties seeking to access and control over other couple's property. But a marriage partner may be unwilling to accept the interest of his/her marriage partner. As a result one of the couples upset and dissatisfied with their marriage and decided to end their marital relationships. About 2 of the informants were terminating their marital relationship with similar factor. Here is a story telling how economic issues influence marriage.

One of the divorcee informants who have diploma and aged 32 illicit how economic issue contributes for divorce as follows:

*I had lived with my ex-husband about 12 years before entered into marriage (as boy friend). During cohabitation he was very good in all his approach, he was supportive socially, economically and psychologically; cared well but after marriage he didn't do the same as before. I married him after I had got my daughter, since then we have started to live together in my mother's house. He wished that the house (my mother's house) to be in the name of him after her death. I understand his interest that focused more on property than me. So I was not willing*

*to do so, since then his behavior becomes changed. Thus he started refusing to give me money, didn't tell me what he did, where he went, even he passed the night without my knowledge. He told me that I have no right over him and or need not to know about him. However, I tried to treat him to sustain the marriage but he continued in the situation. After some months, I told the situation for his friends to solve the problem but instead things become worse. Finally, I decided to divorce him and it was settled before three years ago. But still I didn't get financial support for the child. Because I couldn't dare to ask him alimony at court if my daughter may prefer him for her custody as she loves him more. I never want to miss her. So I prefer to keep silent as fearing the outcomes of the court.*

#### **4.3.2. Social Causes of Divorce**

In this study the result indicted that Post-marriage living arrangement and relative interference have contribution for causes of divorce. Family background is the most important factors that greatly affect the couples behavior and quality of their marital relationships (Wondimye, 2007). Some of the informants have divorce experience associated with the interference of other people rather than individual entities. All interviewees confirmed that relative or extended family's attitudes, values and believe determined couples' marital stability and quality. Adegoke (2010) agreed that if there is a difference in attitudes, values and believes among young couples and their parents there may be a marital difficulties because couples appraise their relationship from incompatible range.

During the interview the majority of the informants perceived that the post-marital living arrangement is essential for marriage stability. From this result about three of the informants have faced marriage dissolution because of this reason. Because most of the time new couples are economically dependent on their parents so there is a tendency to share houses with

spouse's parent. Conflict may arise in marital relationships if the son/daughter-in-law role or behavior does not agree with the expected role by parents-in-law or vice versa.

One of the case stories indicated that marriage relationship influenced because of the interference of parents-in-law. A divorcee woman, 23 years old, completed grade 10 and she is waiter at kebele club, reported that as follows:

*I was 17 years old when I married my ex-husband and I passed the happiest year in marriage. Just a year later I have got a baby girl. Since marriage, I have started to live in parents'-in-law house. I was busy with the domestic work; my mother-in-law looked me as housemaid/servant. Finally, I wanted to separate from the household to establish my own household. But my husband couldn't accept this idea and unwilling to understand my interest. Then after painful conflict, the marriage was ceased.*

#### **4.3.2.1. Family Marital Background**

The finding from key informant interview indicated that family marital background is another important social factor for children's marriage stability. This meant that parents' poor marital adjustment have significant effect on their children's marital relationships. One of the informants, who work for kebele as cleaner, she completed grade 10 and aged 28 years old; described her marriage experience with heartfelt sadness as follows:

*Divorce was never an option for me until my ex-husband refused me. He told me that I was not deserved for him as his wife and he regretted with the time and his money which spent on me. Although I took this treatment for two years because I didn't want the same too happen on my daughter. I had been grown by single parents because of divorce I couldn't have gotten father's love and support. In the same way, he had grown up by his grandmother just after his parents'*

*divorce. I struggled to sustain the marriage, but he started to live with other woman and took me as second wife. Finally, the marriage ended up with divorce. He didn't worry about his daughter and even unwilling to visit her.*

#### **4.3.2.2. Cultural Factors**

Regarding with cultural factor, religious has little contribution for divorce; few reports from the data indicated that due to religious difference the marital relationship was terminated. For many, marriage has become an individual choice rather than considering religious difference. However sometimes this situation has contributed to have poor marital relationship and leads to divorce. One of the informants, who is a father of two a boy and a girl, aged 35 years, has B.A degree, and work for private company and he shared his marital experience as follow:

*I was 20 years old when married to my ex-wife. I felt very happy when I could able to be a father of two a son and a daughter, whose age 13 and 7 years, respectively. I am Orthodox Christian and she follows Islamic religion. Before and after marriage we never thought our religious difference but after some years later she becomes strict on her religious believe. Then she had attempted to urge me to convert my religion and to follow Islamic religion. But I was not interested to convert my religion. Repeatedly she insisted me to accompany her religion but I refused, instead I begging her to live with difference as before. Through time we couldn't agree in whole things even concerning on marital issues. Finally a big conflict rose, then after painful process the marriage ended up with divorce. Before three years ago I moved from Harar to Addis with my son and my daughter is living with mother there. She didn't allow to the daughter to visit me and her brother and then I started to do the same.*

### **4.3.3. Psychological Causes of Divorce**

The result of this study indicated that all informants reported that they faced psychological and related problems in their marriage. Those divorcees had a rosy dream before marriage but they faced a hard reality after marriage. The expectation of those men and women about socio-economic success and spouse's behavior was larger before entering into marriage than what was happened in marriage. Thus, after few years later a party had got bored with their wives/husbands routine and changes their behavior. Eventually following spouse's behavioral change poor relationship among couples was developed. Consequently the spouses could not have an effective relationship as before; they didn't discuss their feelings, couldn't talk about their mutual or personal issues and were kept their resentment. Then this created a wide gap between them, even they failed and unable to know what partners need and expect guessing what they need.

From the data report most of the informants mentioned from their experience, during cohabitation as boy/girl friends were very good in all their approaches and were supportive socially, economically and psychologically but after marriage they didn't do the same as before. When one of the parties started to change his/her behavior (decreasing caring and protecting well), the other one feels that there are some thing in secret. Wife/husband thought that their spouses are abandoning them or their attention might be taken by another person. This leads them in high conflict situation and finally the marriage ceased up with divorce.

#### **4.4. Major Effects of Divorce on Children Wellbeing**

The findings of this study indicated that divorce has a multidimensional and interdependent effect on children's wellbeing. From the study it is visible that the majority of parental divorced children suffered with economical, social, psychological and emotional problems starting from parents' disagreement and the process of divorce. This agreed with Wallerstein (2013) research work that generally divorce puts children at greater risk for many kinds of problems. This finding indicates that children of divorced family are affected with all or some of its effect (economic, social, psychological and emotional problems).

From the data (table 9) is clearly shown that divorce effect is complex and overlapping thus: 67% of respondents have suffered with economic problems; in terms of food shortage (30%), clothing (37%), and 27% financial constraint for educational expense and 6% for entertainment. About 55% suffered with social problems like unable to get support for education/tutor (30%) and unable to get parents' love and moral support (24%). And all (100%) of the respondents reported that they were affected with psychological problems. These figures indicate that children who are affected by economic problems become a victim of social and psychological problems.

The child respondents reported that they are affected with many and interrelated effects of divorce. Accordingly, here is a story telling which revealed parental divorced children are affecting with complex effects of divorce. One of the respondent's life histories, aged 14 years, attending grade 2, had school dropout and migration experience and busy on daily work. He stated the situation how he was suffering with complex and interrelated impacts of divorce as follows:

*When I was a child, my parents have got divorce. I migrated with my mother from my birth place (Weliso) to Gambela. My mother remarried to get financial support for our livelihood; she gave birth to twins of daughter, unfortunately her husband left away. When we faced serious financial/economic problems, consequently I dropped out of education from grade 3. While my mother couldn't cope up with the problems then we moved to Addis Ababa where previously my older sister and brother were migrated to there. Here at the beginning of the year I enrolled at grade one because I didn't come with school certificate. Here also life is not easy because mother couldn't engage on income generating activities as she is a victim of HIV/AIDS. Therefore my oldest sister is the main source of income for all household members. My older brother is dropped his education from grade 4 because of financial shortage. I and my older brother are partially engage on the livelihood activity that is caring a load for individuals at market place (shola market). He is also very busy with caring the small twin of girls. Most of the time my mother was suffering with illness and sometimes involving on making money by begging on the road side and around the church (Yeka Michael church).*

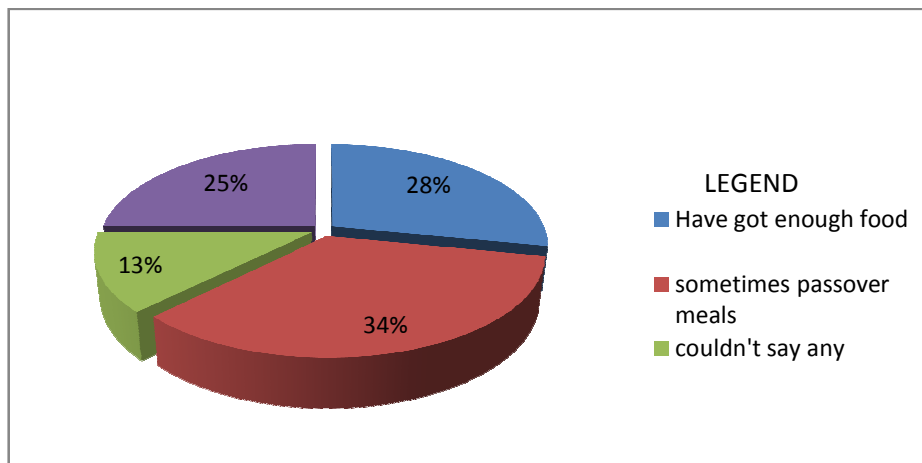
*My older sister dropped out her education from grade 7 before four years ago, but in this year she rejoined school at the evening program. She is struggling to continue her education even if she attends school irregularly.*

*I go to school without meal box. Even in the morning I may not have breakfast. Sometimes my friends give me some food to eat at lunch time.*

He is not the only child who suffered by the effects of parents' divorce. There are many other cases that have similar reason for affecting children's wellbeing because of parents' divorce.

#### 4.4.1. Economic Effects of Divorce on Children

Below the diagram indicates economic impacts of divorce on children in terms of food shortage following parents' divorce: 34% of parental divorced children reported that they pass over their meal (either lunch or dinner). Whereas 28% have got enough food on time, 24% of respondents have got the same amount of food as before and the rest (12%) of the children have no comment on this. This result confirmed through custodial parents' interview, that they have faced serious financial constraints following divorce. Furthermore they couldn't have got economic support from outside for the family and also only few or no alimony from ex-husband.



**Figure 2:** Economic effect in terms of food shortage

**Source:** from field data, 2015

##### 4.4.1.1. Economic Effects of Divorce on Children in terms Lack of Financial Support

The other issue posed in the question was in relation to receiving financial support from non-custodial parents for food, clothing, health service, educational materials (uniform, exercise books, pens and pencils) and, tutor and luxury. In relation to this, both (children and custodial parents) were asked, to this end more than half (52%) of the children have got alimony from

their non-custodial parent and the rest (49%) of them did not receive. However the alimony is not enough to cover their major expenses thus: 24% of respondents reported that the amount of money is very low and the rest of them (27%) also explained, it is low to cover the major expenses.

**Table 10: Frequency and percentage distribution of children in terms of accessibility of alimony.**

<b>Amount of money from non-custodial parent</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No alimony	16	49
Enough to cover the major expense	0	0
Low to cover major expense	9	27
Very low	8	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** from field data, 2015

All focus group participants have the same view on the economic effects of divorce which is a very terrible and painful experience that hurts children by disturbing their wellbeing. This result is supported by other findings Fagan, et al. (2012) the disposition of spouse may create economic instability through splitting of parents' properties. It reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity. In this way the lower financial support from divorced parents has its impact on education, health service and other consumptions. All (100%) of the child respondents were attending at government school because of financial constraints. Some (6%) of them shift from private to government school following parent's divorce.

From FGD participants two of them dropped out of school to involve on income generating activities for the livelihood of household. This is explicitly stated in the following narration through a life history of one of the FGD participants, who is 17 years old, school dropout.

*I was 12 years old when my parents have got divorce and I have three siblings; a brother and two sisters. During divorce my parents share their children; I and my younger brother left with my mother and the two older sisters have started living with father. I dropped out of education from grade 7 because of lack of financial support. My mother engages on daily work for some government office as a cleaner. So far her income couldn't support the household. So I decided to drop my education to involve in wage labor at private organization. The income is used as a complementary for the household consumption. I was thinking to attend my education at night but the income is not adequately enough for educational expenditure. I give a priority for food consumption to support my mother and younger brother. I am dedicated to help my younger brother on his education because he is a clever student.*

#### **4.4.2.Social Effects of Divorce on Parental Divorced Children**

As this research result indicates, social problem is one of the major effects that children have encountered following parents' divorce. Through child questionnaire the social problems on children wellbeing were deeply elaborated. Among the questions; social relationships (parent-child and peers relationship), schooling, physical health and entertainment were included. Some children reported that there was a deep silence in the house during the process of divorce. They felt as they are guilty and fear to ask something from either mother or father. This effect damages their relationships with parents for short period of time or may take longer time to recover.

Custodial parents reported that due to lack of enough time for their children, they have difficulty to share opinions, feelings to their children and vice versa. It also makes difficult to follow on the daily activities of their children in and outside home.

**Table 11: Frequency and percentage distribution of child-parent relationship after parents' divorce**

<b>Child-parent relationship</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Close relation with mother	13	40
Close relation with father	3	9
having close relation with both	15	45
No as such close relation with both	2	6
If any please specify	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** from field data, 2015

From the above table, it is easy to observe that about 45% of children have close relations with their parents, 40% have close relations with mothers' only, and 9% with father only and the rest 6% was reported as they have no relation with both of their parents.

Custodial parent informants of this study reported that their children were unhappy and dissatisfied with their support and care; they get upset easily, angry and feel sad. Then they have developed weaker emotional bonds than ever either with mothers or fathers or both of them.

One of the women informants, she is a mother of two daughters, reported that how child-parent relation is affecting because of divorce:

*From my marriage I have got two daughters, before three years ago the marriage was dissolved. I have had close relation with my daughters. But our relationship has become reversed after divorced that the older daughter becomes silent. She prefers to talk with friends than me. Sometimes I heard about her from her friends; she becomes unwilling to express her interest directly. Always she replies me nothing when I asked her what she wants. In contrast, my younger daughter developed intimacy with me than before. She doesn't want me to be away from her because she fears and worries that she may be left alone. She always asks me to confirm*

*that I never go to anywhere leaving them alone. She becomes very sensitive that she thinks and worries about me.*

The key informants also confirmed that the primary effect of divorce is making to decline the relationship between parent and child; then through time their social competences have become diminished. Since a marriage in high-conflicting situation and during the process of divorce, children of those family experience many and complex impacts. Unfortunately, children received less attention from parents when they might face school dropout, faced hunger, shortage of clothing, feeling guilty and depart from peers.

FGD participants agreed with this idea through their response and one of the participants explicitly reported the negative impacts of divorce on her life through case study as follows: she was a grade 7 student; aged 15 years, she is the first child for the family and she remembered the conflict between parents which was painful to her.

*I didn't know the causes of conflict explicitly rather guessing something from my observation. My father is originally from SNNP and hasn't relatives here but my mother is from here (Addis Ababa) and lived with families. Thus I think he was imposed by her family members. Most of the time, she was overacting on him in controlling, over talking, and also blamed and refused him. Finally, the marriage ended up with divorce. Then after I don't know where my father went. Even my mother has got relief in the outcome of divorce but still it is painful for me because I lost an important person in my life that is my father. He loved us (me and my sister) more but I lost such love from my father. Unconsciously, my relation with my mother declines. We have not had as such close relation as before. Because she didn't want to listening questions in relation to my father and absolutely she becomes upset and felt anger.*

This result agreed with the report of Matthews (2013) who stated that if pre-divorce relationships with parent-child were positive and nurturing, the risk for post-divorce problems, that parent-child relationships couldn't able to continue as existed before and those problems will likely become worse following the divorce.

Divorce has a negative impact on child education, according to table 12, more than half (55%) of parental divorced children reported that their academic performance is the same as before, 24% of children were enrolled in school after parents' divorce, 21% of children recorded lower academic performance than before and none of the children had recorded better academic result than before.

**Table 12: Academic performance of children after parents' divorce**

<b>Academic performance of children</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Better than before	0	0
the same as before	18	55
Lower than before	7	21
School enrolment after divorce	8	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** from field data, 2015

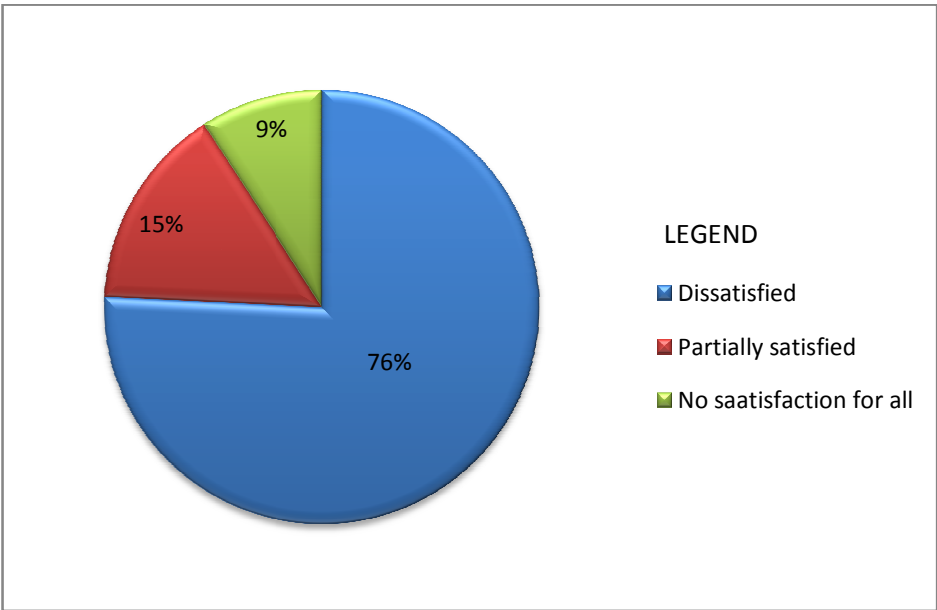
Custodial parents were asked on educational condition of their children after divorce. The majority of them reported that their children recorded the same result in their academic performance. According to them, even before divorce, children were not in convenience condition because of conflict and divorce processing.

#### **4.4.3. Psychological Effects of Divorce on Children**

The research finding indicates that the psychological problem on parental divorced children is severe (table12). This problem was captured through the parental divorced child questionnaire and supported by using in-depth interview of their custodial parents. Based on the subjective

judgment of custodial mothers, 60% of the children are affected with all major (social, economic and psychological) effects of divorce and the rest 40% of the children suffered from some of its effect. The effect is beginning with psychological impact and added more effects (economic and social) of divorce. This result agreed with Amato (1994) finding that some consequences are general and befall on parental divorced children and some other effects are variable, depending on various factors.

In the child questionnaire includes a set of statement that are asked to express level of their satisfaction following parents' divorce. The result indicates that 76% of the children were not satisfied, 15% felt partial satisfaction and 9% of them reported that they never satisfied with what they have got from their parents after divorce.



**Figure 3: Percentage distribution of children in level of satisfaction**  
Source: from field data, 2015

Moreover, the psychological impact of divorce on children was assessed through child questionnaire in comparing the living condition of the children before and after parents' divorce. This included checking the feeling of isolation, and perception of losing an important person in their lives. Most children (76%) were strongly believe that they might have better life if divorce of parents had not occurred, whereas 18% of the children thought as they have better life, and 6% of them were unable to guess what happen on their life if parents didn't divorce. In addition, the report also indicated that 70% of parental divorced children badly felt because of losing their father, 21% a little bit felt and 9% didn't feel at all. Therefore the life condition of children has direct relation with parents' marital status.

With regards to psychological impact, custodial parents were better in explaining the effects of divorce on their children. Accordingly, all of the informants reported that their children were suffering from different psychological problems like depression, upset, anger, frustration and loss of confidence.

One of the divorcee women reported that the psychological impacts of divorce on her daughter in the following narration.

*Before two years ago my marriage was dissolved and I have an 8 years daughter from that marriage. During divorce process, she dropped out from private school because of shifting place of residence. In the following year, she enrolled at government school because of financial shortage that the alimony (financial support from father) is not adequate for school fee. She was waiting the weekend eagerly to go to her father. She loves him deeply. At the beginning she preferred to live with father, without the interference of the court, I allowed her to live with him. But after a week she backed to me because she didn't want to miss me; she was in dilemma. On schooling days she passed through depression, nastiness and often crying without any reason.*

*Even unconsciously, she started to urine on bed at night just after divorce. I feel heart felt sorry and worry about the radical change of my daughter's behavior.*

Even though tried to investigate more the psychological impacts of divorce on the child through case history, the respondent couldn't explain her experience, which is seemed to personally painful for her. During the interview she didn't want to say anything, all response is supported by body language only shaking her head either to agree or disagree. As many researchers like Wallerstein (2012) stated that some children are not resilient and strong than others and those are psychologically more affected negatively by the divorce effects. She was not the only psychologically affected child but all other parental divorced children were experiencing the psychological ill effects of divorce.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5. Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **5.1. Conclusions**

In this study, major causes of divorce and its effects on children's life was included. From the study result marriage was affected with many different and complex causes of divorce. Social, economic, psychological and emotional problems are taken as major causes of divorce in this finding. In some cases, few years later, mostly husbands have started to refuse giving money for the household expenditure. And another economic cause of divorce was some of the marriage partners seeking to access and control over other properties. On regards to social causes of divorce were post-marriage living arrangement, and relative interference, family marital background and religious difference have big contribution for divorce. And also poor parents' marital adjustment has significant effect on children's marital relationships. Furthermore a large expectation of a party about socio-economic success and spouse's behavior before marriage has negative impact on marriage stability. Some people have a rosy dream before marriage but they may face a hard reality after marriage.

The study tried to assess the major effects of divorce on children's life. From the data report children were affected with many and interrelated divorce effect. Manly the effects mapped from the data are economic, social, psychological and emotional problems. Even effect was starting from parents' disagreement. The effect is beginning with psychological impact and added more effects of divorce. Based on the subjective judgment of custodial mothers, 60% of the children were affected with all effects of divorce and 40% of them were suffered with some of its effects.

The economic problem is serious and has negative impacts on children's wellbeing; secured in economy is essential to be well socially, psychologically and emotionally. Then majority (37%) of parental divorced children have clothing problem, 30% suffered with food shortage and 33% financial constraint for educational expense and entertainment.

The primary social effect of divorce is declining parent - child relationship; then through time the social competences of those children have become diminished. More than half (54%) of parental children have only single parent (39% with mother only, 9% with father only and about 6% have no close relation with both) and only 46% have close relation with two parents. After divorce children fear to ask, and share their opinions when they received less attention from their parents. Divorce also affected academic performance of the children. Following divorce 76% of the children were not satisfied, 15 % partially satisfied and 9% of them never satisfied with what they have got from parents. And more than half of (76%) the respondents have strongly believed that they might have better life if parents' divorce didn't occurred.

Divorce is a serious experience that affects the whole family system through its effect particularly children are the sole victim of it. Divorce damages economy, social relationships, and has irreversible negative impact on child psychology. However this big social issues has never been getting attention either to reduce divorcing rate or to find a solution for children who suffered by its effect. During the time of study, there was no an institution, organization, NGO or any other body which are involved to work for preventing divorce or to help divorcees family. Even it was difficult to get the target population because there was no recorded data on divorce cases.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

Divorce is the big social issues however it has never been gotten attention by the nation and other concerned bodies either to reduce rate of divorcing or to find a solution for children who suffered by its effect.

During the time of study, there was nobody involved on divorce issues; even it was difficult to get the target population because there was no recorded data on divorce cases at any place.

From these points of view, the followings are recommended.

1. Maximize the role of the mass Medias, other institutions and organizations should be teaching the need for strong family, including gender equality concept in the minds of the young as opposed to the gender biases conduct.
2. Making the approach to the problems preventive in nature by trying to understand the root causes of the conflict to look for lasting solution.
3. The society should prevent the prevalence of divorce and ensuring its proper adjustment through changing the social environment in connection to marriage stability.
4. To help the divorcees particularly children after divorce, an institutions (state, organizations, NGOs and individuals) have to be concerned with its problems and mitigate all divorce related problems.

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## **Appendix 1: Questionnaire**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**STUDIES**

**In-depth interview to be asked by custodial parents of Yeka sub-city**  
**at Wereda 1 and 8**

**Dear parents**

The objective of this question is for partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Art in geography and environmental studies, specialization in population resources and development. These questions are designed to collect data about the major causes of divorce and its consequences on children's life.

The data collected from these questions will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

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

### **PART I - Background information**

Name..... Sub-city.....  
Age..... Wereda.....  
Sex..... Date of interview.....  
Place of birth.....  
Educational level.....  
Occupational status.....  
Household number.....

## **PART II. Causes of divorce and its impact on their children**

1. How many children do you have from ex-husband/wife?
2. Do you have children who live with your ex-husband/wife?
3. How the divorce settled and what was happened during the process? Explain the situations of your children and yourself.
4. What are the main causes of divorce?
5. What are the social, economic, psychological causes of divorce?
6. Before marriage, did you expect to face, economic, social and psychological problem?
7. Do you think family marital background has an effect on children's future life in relation to marriage?
8. Do you think living arrangement in post-marriage is used as cause for divorce? How?
9. Do you believe expectations before marriage has a negative impact on marriage?
10. Do you think relatives or extended family's attitudes, values and believes are determined couples' marital stability and quality?
11. What is the main source of income for the household?
12. Apart from your means of income, is there any economic support from outside for the family?
13. Did you get financial support (alimony) from your ex-husband/wife? If so, is it enough for those child expenses? (education, health, clothing, food, and others)
14. All of your school age children attend school? If no, why not?
15. Did any of your children dropouts from school? If yes, why?
16. What problems that your children have encountered because of divorce?
17. How is the academic performance of your school attending children after divorce?
  - A. better than before
  - B. same as before
  - C. lower than before
  - D. school enrolment after divorce
18. What do you say about the following if the life style of your children has been changed after divorce?
  1. They could get what they want
  2. They move from private school to gov't
  3. Sometimes they face food shortage
  4. They haven't enough cloth as before

5. They couldn't visit entertainment places      7. They haven't leisure time as before  
8. They are not happy since divorce      9. They couldn't get tutor/support on their  
education      10. They have started to score low result since then
19. Do you think your children are happy and satisfy with your support and care? If yes,  
how? If no, why not?
20. What they feel about their father/mother? Are they free to talk to you about him/her?
21. Have you ever observed any particular pressure on your children that are emotionally and  
psychologically difficult? (Probe: easily upset, angry, feel sad, inferiority, stress,  
depression, loss of confidence, etc.)

**THANK YOU!**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**STUDIES**

**Questionnaire to be completed by parental divorced children of Yeka**  
**sub-city at Wereda 1 and 8**

**Dear children**

The objective of this questionnaire is for partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Art in geography and environmental studies (specialization in Population Resources and Development). The following questionnaire is prepared to measure the economic, social and psychological impacts of divorce on children wellbeing. Some of the statements may refer to the experiences of your daily life (real experience) and some others asking your perception concerning your wellbeing. Therefore please to choose the appropriate phrases by encircling the number contains your answer that closely indicate your feelings.

The data collected from this questionnaire will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

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

**PART I. Background Information**

Name.....	Current address
Age.....	Sub-city.....
Sex.....	Wereda.....
Place of birth/origin.....	Educational level.....
Region/Zone.....	Occupational status.....
Sub city/Wereda.....	Date of interview.....

1. When your parents have got divorce?

- A. Recently                      B. before a year                      C. before two years  
D. before three years                      E. before four years                      F. before five/above years

2. What is your living arrangement after your parents divorced?

- A. Came from other place with mother                      B. Stay same place with mother  
C. Came from other place with father                      D. Stay same place with father  
E. If any please specify\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are your main activities in the household both inside and outside home?

- A. Household chores including child care                      B. Engage on petty trading inside home  
C. Engage on petty trading outside home                      D. Involve on daily work including  
working on others home                      E. If any please specify\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have access of the necessary things for your life after parents' divorce?

1. School                      A. better than before                      B. same as before                      C. worse than before  
2. Friends                      A. better than before                      B. same as before                      C. worse than before  
3. Food                      A. better than before                      B. same as before                      C. worse than before  
4. Clothing                      A. better than before                      B. same as before                      C. worse than before  
5. Housing                      A. better than before                      B. same as before                      C. worse than before

5. Among the major domains of life which one is more affecting your life after your parents' divorce?

1. Economic (probe: shortage of food, clothing, financial constraint for education and health)

2. Social (probe: weak relationships with parents and friends, weak academic and social competency)

3. Psychological (probe: stress, depression, loss of confidence/ low self-esteem, upset/anger, anxiety, feeling of isolation, disappointment, etc)

4. Not affected

6. Did you get financial support (alimony) from your father/mother? If so, is it enough for your expenses? (probe: education, health, clothing, food, and others)

1. No      2. Enough to cover the major expenses      3. A little bit low to cover major expenses      4. Very low

12. How do you explain your relation with your family members?

- A. I have close relation with my mother than father because she loves me more  
B. I have close relation with my father than mother because he loves me more  
C. I have close relation with both parents.  
D. I haven't as such relation with both parents.  
E. If any please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think you have better life if your parents didn't get divorce?

1. Yes, absolutely I have      2. Yes, I think      3. I couldn't say any  
4. No, I may not have      5. Never think

8. Are you prefer working alone rather than with others?

1. Yes, absolutely I prefer      2. Yes, sometimes      3. . I couldn't say any  
4. No, I didn't      5. Never

9. Do you feel that you lost the most important person/s in your life?

1. Yes, I feel strongly      2. Yes, I feel      3. I couldn't say any  
4. No, I don't feel      5. Never

10. Do you get enough financial support (alimony) from your father/mother?

1. No alimony      2. Yes, it is enough  
3. Low to cover the major expense      4. Very little to cover the expense

10. How do you explain the effects of parents' divorce?

1. It is more severe for me    2. It is a little bit affecting my life    3. I couldn't say any  
4. No effect on my life    5. Strongly disagree

11. Have you got enough meal on time after parents' divorce?

1. Yes, I have got enough    2. Sometimes I Passover either my lunch or dinner.  
3. I couldn't say any    4. The same as before

14. Are you satisfied with all that you have got?

1. Yes, absolutely I am satisfied    2. Yes, partially I am satisfied  
3. I couldn't say any    4. No, I am not    5. Never

**THANK YOU!**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**STUDIES**

**The following questions to be asked by FGD participants (children of divorced) in Yeka sub-city at Wereda 1 and 8**

**Dear FGD participants**

The objective of this question is for partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Art in geography and environmental studies, specialization in population resources and development. These questions are designed to collect data about the major negative impacts of divorce on children's life.

The data collected from these questions will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

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

**PART I. General Information**

Wereda.....

Place of birth.....

Educational level.....

Occupational status.....

Date of interview.....

1. What are the major consequences of divorce on children's life?
2. How children's wellbeing is affected by parents' divorce?
3. What are the economic, social and psychological impacts of divorce on children wellbeing?
4. Do you think parental divorced children have got quality food after family dissolution? If not why?
5. What kind of risks could be happened on children during and after parents got divorce?
6. Do you think those children have got all services (health, education, etc) adequately as children's of intact family?
7. Are they active in social interaction (playing with friends, working with others, etc.)?
8. Do you think parental divorced children involve more on work both inside and outside home than before parents have got divorce? If yes, how and why?
9. What do you think about their academic performance? Are they better, same as or lower than after parents have got divorce? Why?
10. Have you ever seen children of divorced parents who in particular pressures of emotional and psychological difficulty? (probe: depress, stress, anxiety, disappointment, low confidence, etc)
11. Do you think those children have strong relation with their parents after divorce? Why?
12. Do you think those children are happy after the family's dissolution?

**THANK YOU!**

**ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**STUDIES**

**This question to be asked by key informants in Yeka sub-city at**  
**Wereda 1 and 8**

**Dear key informants**

The objective of this question is for partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Art in geography and environmental studies, specialization in population resources and development. These questions are designed to collect data about the major causes of divorce and its consequences on children's life.

The data collected from these questions will all be used for the research purpose only. And also all the collected data will be kept only in the hands of the researcher. I hereby request you to be open and honest while responding so that the research could succeed and achieve the intended goal.

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

**PART I. General information**

Sub-city.....

Wereda.....

Sector/responsibility.....

Educational level.....

Tel.No.....

Date of interview.....

1. What are the major causes of divorce in this community?
2. What are the social, economic, cultural causes of divorce?
3. Do you think family marital background has an effect on children's future life in relation to marriage?
4. Do you think living arrangement in post-marriage are used for cause of divorce?
5. How do you explain the impacts of divorce on children's live in this community?
6. How psychological, social and economic conditions affect children's wellbeing because of parents divorce?
7. How parents divorce affect children's life in their childhood and future life? Brief explanation in terms of social, economic and psychological aspects.
8. When and how children of divorced family are more likely to exposed at risk?
9. Among the major domains of capacity (economic, social and psychological), which one of them more affects children's life?

Key respondents were:

**THANK YOU!**

## **Case History questions**

### **Semi-structured questions for case study informants (parental divorced children).**

1. Please tell me about your life, by comparing the situation with before and after parents' divorce?
2. How do you explain the effects of your parents' divorce on your life?
3. Among domain of life (economic, social, psychological), which one is more severe to you?
4. How do you remember the process of your parents' divorce?
5. Do you have brothers and sisters? If yes, are they living together with you? If not where they live and with whom?
6. How do you differ from your peers who live with their two parents?

**THANK YOU!**

## Appendix A

**Table 3: Frequency distribution of divorced men and women by their educational level and occupational status**

Educational level	Frequencies of occupational status of women				
	Daily work	Petty trading	Employed work	Others	Total
No education				1	1
Primary		2	1	0	3
Secondary and G-10 completed	1	1	2	0	4
Certificate			1	0	1
Diploma			1	0	1
Degree			1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
Educational level	Frequencies of occupational status of men				
	Daily work	Petty trading	Employed work	Others	Total
No education					
Primary			2		2
Secondary and G-10 completed			1		1
Certificate					
Diploma					
Degree				1	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>

## Appendix B

**Table 5: Shows the percentage distribution of age and sex of parental divorced children**

Sex of respondent	Age group of the children	Number of respondent	Percentage
Female	6 - 12	10	30
	13 – 18	8	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>54</b>
Male	6 - 12	8	24
	13 – 18	7	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

## Appendix C

**Table 6: Frequency distribution of FGD participants in sex and age category**

Research Sites	No of participants in age group		Sex		Total
	6 -12	13 – 18	male	Female	
Wereda 1	7	-	3	4	7
Wereda 8	-	8	4	4	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

## Appendix D

**Table 7: Indicates the list of FGD participants**

<b>No</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Level of education</b>	<b>Research site</b>
1	7	F	G-1	Wereda 1
2	9	F	G-3	Wereda 1
3	10	F	G- 3	Wereda 1
4	11	F	G-4	Wereda 1
5	8	M	G-2	Wereda 1
6	9	M	G-3	Wereda 1
7	12	M	G-4	Wereda 1
8	13	F	G-5	Wereda 8
9	14	F	G-5	Wereda 8
10	14	F	G-6	Wereda 8
11	16	F	G-8	Wereda 8
12	13	M	G-6	Wereda 8
13	14	M	G-2	Wereda 8
14	17	M	Dropout	Wereda 8
15	16	M	Dropout	Wereda 8

## Appendix E

**Table 9: Indicates the types of negative impacts on children's wellbeing following parents' divorce**

<b>Domain of wellbeing</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>cumulative Percent</b>
Food shortage	10	30	30
Shortage of clothing	12	37	67
Financial constraint for education and entertainment	9	27	94
Unable to get support for education/tutor	10	30	125
Unable to get parents love and moral support	8	24	149
Psychological problem	33	100	249
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>249</b>

## Appendix H

**Table 14: Shows economic, social and psychological impacts of divorce on children wellbeing following parent's divorce.**

<b>Do you feel that you lost the most important person/s in your life?</b>		
	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, I feel strongly	23	70
Yes, a little bit	7	21
I couldn't say any	0	0
No, I don't feel	3	9
Never	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>How do you explain the effects of parents' divorce?</b>		
	Frequency	Percentage
It is more severe for me	21	64
It is a little bit affecting my life	10	30
I couldn't say any	0	0
No effect on my life	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Children explain their relation with family members</b>		
Items	Frequency	Percentage
Close relation with mother	13	39.
Close relation with father	3	9
Having close relation with both	15	46
No as such close relation with both	2	6
If any please specify_____	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Have you got enough meal on time after parents' divorce?</b>		
	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, I have got enough	10	27
Sometimespassover either my lunch or dinner.	11	34
I couldn't say any	4	12
The same as before	8	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Do you get enough financial support (alimony) from your father/mother?</b>		
	Frequency	Percentage
Enough to cover the major expense	0	0
Low to cover major expense	9	27
Very low	8	24
No, alimony	16	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Are you satisfied with all that you have got?</b>		
Item	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, absolutely I am satisfied	0	0
Yes, partially I am satisfied	5	15
I couldn't say any	0	0
No I am not	25	76
Never	3	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Do you think you have better life if your parents didn't get divorce?</b>		
	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, absolutely I have	25	76
Yes, I think	6	18
I couldn't say any	2	6
No, I may not have	0	0
Never	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Are you preferred working alone rather than with others?</b>		
	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, absolutely I prefer	0	0
Yes, sometimes	2	6
I couldn't say any	0	3
No, I didn't	30	91
Never	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>

**Declaration**

I declare that this thesis is my original work, has not been presented for a degree in any other university and all source materials used for the thesis has been duly acknowledged.

By

Name-----

Signature-----

Date-----

PLACE AND DATE OF SUBMISSION:

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,  
ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY JUNE, 2014

**Approval**

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

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**Advisor**

**Signature**

**Date**