

Causes of Divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government Area Adamawa State

Valada Alex, Tabitha M. Vandima

Department of Science Education Faculty of Education Adamawa State University Mubi, Adamawa State Nigeria

Abstract: This study find out the causes of divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government Area Adamawa State. simple random sampling and purposive sampling was used to sample divorcee, married men and women 25 each as respondents in the entire area where mean, standard deviation and t-test was used to analysed the result obtained. Based on the findings of the study, the results shows that numerous factors account as a cause of divorce in the area and no significant differences was found among the opinion of divorced, divorcee, married men and women in the district. It is further recommended among others that; Couples should go for long courtship for them to understand each other, religion bodies should endeavour to provide marriage counseling to all intended couples and establish a bench mark for bride price, married couples should avoid all unnecessary advices from third parties that at times may lead to divorce and Government should organise seminar programmes on marriage that will booster strong understanding on marriage among youth.

Keywords: Divorce, Causes, Problems

I. INTRODUCTION

Divorce is an endemic that affects African society especially in Gaya District in Hong Local Government Area. It is an unhealthy way of terminating the everlasting planned happiness between couples or an unexpected occurrence that brings about the death of marriage between couples. As a concept, divorce has been looked upon by researchers in different ways. Grath (2001) in Aragu (2014) refer divorce as a legal or customary decree that a marriage is dissolved, Olaniyi, (2015) refer it as a legal dissolution of a marriage, Clark and Brauner-Otto (2015) as a main drivers of family instability, David, Ebri, and Linda (2013) as a painful process, on the other hand, Abanyam, Lumun, Sambe, Ngutor, Avanger, Yandev, (2014) refer it as a irresolvable problems for a growing number of disillusioned couples.

This concept 'Divorce' appears to be a threat or unrest to peaceful family living and the rate is very high especially in sub-saharan Africa (Yusof and Mashi, 2015) caused by different factors. Due to its complex nature, the concept attracts the attention of researchers both at local and international level. To Olaniyi, (2015), the increasing rate of divorce in African homes is an intricate incident happening among African couples and in the world at large of which it has been caused by a lot of factors. To him, the main causes of divorce are; the influence of westernization, movies, poverty, Age at marriage, conjugal closure, level of education especially women, barrenness, Couple's role obligation,

Couple's ethnic/cultural background. Amato and Previti, (2003) carried out a research on peoples reason for divorcing and found out that, gender, socio-economic status, life course variables (age at marriage, duration of marriage, and presence of children) appears to be the reasons of divorce. Yusof and Mashi (2015) carried out research on an assessment of "Zawarawa" mass marriage programme in Kano Nigeria and found out that, the major factor leading to the breakdown of marriage include; lack of Islamic knowledge governing rules of marriage, lack of patience, misunderstanding/communication gap between couples and abandonment of marriage responsibilities. Aragu (2014) stated that childlessness, adultery, quarrelling, alcoholism, socialization and technological advancement, financial difficulties, immaturity, mixed marriage, adverse affect of in-laws, religious affiliation, and educational attainment are the causes of marriage divorce in Africa. Amadi and Amadi (2014) carried out a research on marital crisis in Nigerian society and found out that, Social Incompatibility of Marriage Partners, Sexual Incompatibility, Extreme Sexual Orientation, Extended Family Affairs/Issues, Lack of Mutual Respect between Partners, Dishonesty and Moral Decadence, Negligent Behaviour of Spouses, Poor Marital Communication, and Unwholesome Social Behaviour Some other causes of divorce as noted by Abanyam et.al (2014) are associated with social factors such as population, age, education, religious beliefs and intergenerational patterns. Serkalem (2006) in Mehari, (2013) in her study of the causes and impacts of divorce has found among the causes of divorce, husband's addiction to chat, alcohol and smoking and economic problems contributed the large share. She further found out that, sexual incompatibility, fertility problems of both couples, pressure from friends and families on the couples and difference in religious and ethnic background are some the factors that cause divorce among married couples. It is evident that man and woman who are happily married are faced with challenges of which it brings about dissolution or divorce but be as it may, those factors differs with location, religion, tradition, customs etc.

Mbiti (2000) argued that divorce is a delicate accident in marital relationships. It also appears to be a serious problem affecting an exponentially increasing number of people, Mehari, (2013). The major concern here is that, the marriage of now a day doesn't stay long, a good number of such marriages end up in divorce. Tilson and Larsen (2000) in Mehari (2013) state that, in Ethiopia approximately 45% of all

first marriages end up in divorce within 30 years; 28% of first marriages end in divorce within the first 5 years, 34% within 10 years, and 40% within 20 years. Based on the words used to describe divorce by different researcher, divorce is nothing but termination of marriage between married couples. This study therefore will find the causes of divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

Statement of the Problem

Divorce is viewed to be separation, termination of marriage, dissolution of marriage, unexpected happening in happy marriage or threats to happy family living and its origin will be traced back before 1857 in Europe, Olaniyi, (2015). Divorce does not just happened like that but there are some root causes to that problems as it was identified by, (Olaniyi, 2015., Serkalem 2006 in Mehari, 2013., Abanyam et.al 2014., Amadi and Amadi 2014., Aragu 2014., Yusof and Mashii 2015., Amato and Previti, 2003). Years of research and good number of researchers on divorce came up with suggestion and recommendation on how to reduce the rate of divorce in our local communities but yet it still remain a nightmare especially in Gaya District where the rate is high both among youth and old. This problem was imminent as such it arouses the interest of the researcher to find out the root cause of the action in the area of the study.

Purpose of the Study

This study majorly focuses on the causes of divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government area. The specific objectives are to;

- a) Examine the opinion of divorced, divorcee, men and women about the causes of divorce in Gaya District.
- b) To find out other causes of divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government.

Research Questions

The research questions raised to guide the study are;

- a) What are the causes of divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government in relation to other African communities?
- b) What are the other causes of divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government?

Research Hypothesis

The research hypotheses raised is as follows.

- a) There is no significant difference between the opinions of divorced and divorcee about the causes of divorce in Gaya District.
- b) There is no significant difference between the opinions of men and women about the causes of divorce in Gaya District.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study was undertaken in Gaya District of Hong Local Government of Adamawa State. The research design adopted for the study was the descriptive survey method where the entire divorced, divorcees, men and women who know about marriage and divorce in Gaya district of Hong local Government were used as population of the study. Simple random and purposive sampling was employed to select 25 divorced, 25 divorcees, 25 men, and 25 women from (20) twenty villages were sampled in the area with (5) respondents from each village. Structured types of questionnaire was used with two sections. Section A covers the respondent Bio data while section B comprises of series of question on the causes of divorce with space provided to respondents to mention other causes of divorce other than the ones specified and the respondents were asked to answer the questions based on four likert-scale of strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, and strongly disagreed validated both in terms of content and face validity with 0.84 on the Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient. The data obtained was analyzed using mean, standard deviation, and t-test.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 Showing the Opinion of Married Men

S/no	Causes	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Influence by mother in-law	3.40	0.15	Accepted
2	Influence by father in-law	2.52	0.24	Accepted
3	Influence by brother in-law	2.40	0.37	Not accepted
4	Influence by sister in-law	2.92	0.00	Accepted
5	Starvation	3.64	0.40	Accepted
6	Inability to provide delicious meal	2.32	0.48	Not accepted
7	Inability to provide required clothing, jewelries, and cosmetics	2.48	0.28	Not accepted
8	Lack of contribution by the woman economically	2.12	0.79	Not accepted
9	Difference in libido	3.40	0.15	Accepted
10	Barrenness	3.56	0.30	Accepted
11	Adultery	3.60	0.35	Accepted
12	Infertility	3.36	0.12	Accepted
13	Educational attainment	2.08	0.86	Not accepted
14	Childishness	3.08	0.00	Accepted
15	Tolerance	3.24	0.05	Accepted
16	Indispline	3.16	0.02	Accepted
17	Alcoholism	3.48	0.22	Accepted
18	Early marriage/force marriage	3.52	0.26	Accepted
19	Short relationship before marriage	2.80	0.04	Accepted
20	Beliefs	3.04	0.00	Accepted

From table 1, married men agreed with item numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 as causes of divorce and disagree with numbers 3, 6, 7, 8 and 13.

Table 2 Showing the Opinion of Married Women

S/no	Causes	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Influence by mother in-law	3.16	0.07	Accepted
2	Influence by father in-law	2.60	0.09	Accepted
3	Influence by brother in-law	2.36	0.29	Not accepted
4	Influence by sister in-law	2.92	0.00	Accepted
5	Starvation	3.64	0.55	Accepted
6	Inability to provide delicious meal	2.40	0.25	Not accepted
7	Inability to provide required clothing, jewelries, and cosmetics	2.16	0.55	Not accepted
8	Lack of contribution by the woman economically	2.00	0.81	Not accepted
9	Difference in libido	3.68	0.61	Accepted
10	Barrenness	3.48	0.34	Accepted
11	Adultery	3.60	0.49	Accepted
12	Infertility	3.12	0.05	Accepted
13	Educational attainment	2.12	0.61	Not accepted
14	Childishness	2.52	0.14	Accepted
15	Tolerance	2.16	0.55	Not accepted
16	Indispline	2.24	0.12	Accepted
17	Alcoholism	3.40	0.25	Accepted
18	Early marriage/force marriage	3.72	0.67	Accepted
19	Short relationship before marriage	2.72	0.03	Accepted
20	Beliefs	3.08	0.03	Accepted

From the table 2, married women agreed with item numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 as the causes of divorce and disagree with number 3, 6, 7, 8, 13, and 15.

Table 3 Showing the Opinion of Divorced Men

S/no	Causes	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Influence by mother in-law	3.52	0.25	Accepted
2	Influence by father in-law	2.88	0.02	Accepted
3	Influence by brother in-law	2.48	0.29	Not accepted
4	Influence by sister in-law	2.84	0.03	Accepted
5	Starvation	3.40	0.14	Accepted
6	Inability to provide delicious meal	2.48	0.29	Not accepted
7	Inability to provide required clothing, jewelries, and cosmetics	2.56	0.21	Accepted
8	Lack of contribution by the woman economically	1.96	1.12	Not accepted
9	Difference in libido	3.28	0.07	Accepted
10	Barrenness	3.20	0.03	Accepted
11	Adultery	3.60	0.34	Accepted
12	Infertility	3.36	0.12	Accepted
13	Educational attainment	2.32	0.49	Not accepted

14	Childishness	2.84	0.03	Accepted
15	Tolerance	3.00	0.00	Accepted
16	Indispline	3.20	0.03	Accepted
17	Alcoholism	3.76	0.55	Accepted
18	Early marriage/force marriage	3.48	0.21	Accepted
19	Short relationship before marriage	3.16	0.02	Accepted
20	Beliefs	3.04	0.00	Accepted

From table 3, divorced men agreed with item numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 as causes of divorce and disagree with numbers 3, 6, 8, 13.

Table 4 Showing the Opinion of Divorced Women

S/no	Causes	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Influence by mother in-law	3.64	0.58	Accepted
2	Influence by father in-law	2.60	0.08	Accepted
3	Influence by brother in-law	2.08	0.64	Not accepted
4	Influence by sister in-law	2.72	0.03	Accepted
5	Starvation	2.88	0.00	Accepted
6	Inability to provide delicious meal	2.32	0.31	Not accepted
7	Inability to provide required clothing, jewelries, and cosmetics	2.32	0.31	Not accepted
8	Lack of contribution by the woman economically	1.60	1.64	Not accepted
9	Difference in libido	3.80	0.85	Accepted
10	Barrenness	2.64	0.05	Accepted
11	Adultery	3.60	0.52	Accepted
12	Infertility	3.60	0.52	Accepted
13	Educational attainment	1.68	1.44	Not accepted
14	Childishness	3.04	0.03	Accepted
15	Tolerance	4.00	0.01	Accepted
16	Indispline	3.16	0.08	Accepted
17	Alcoholism	3.72	0.71	Accepted
18	Early marriage/force marriage	3.60	0.52	Accepted
19	Short relationship before marriage	3.00	0.01	Accepted
20	Beliefs	2.52	0.13	Accepted

From table 4, divorced women agreed with item numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 as causes of divorce and disagrees with numbers 3, 6, 7, 8 and 13.

H₀: there is no significant difference between the opinion of divorced men and women

Table 5: t-test analysis between divorced men and women

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-value	t-critic
Divorced men	50	2.89	2.57			
				98	0.558	1.984
Divorced women	50	2.66	4.01			

Table 5 shows that t-value (0.558) is less than the t-critic (1.984) at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis which state that there is no significant difference between the opinion of divorced men and women is there by accepted. It implied that there is no significant difference between the opinion of divorced men and women.

HO₂: there is no significant difference between the opinion of married men and women

Table 6: t-test analysis between the opinion of married men and women

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-value	t-critic
Married men	50	2.88	2.99			
				98	0.063	1.984
Married women	50	2.84	3.51			

Table 6 reveals that t-value (0.063) is less than t-critical (1.984) at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between the opinion of married men and women is accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the opinion of married men and women.

IV. DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

This study was design to find out the causes of divorce in Gaya District of Hong Local Government area Adamawa State. Data was collected from different groups of people in the district and the result shows that divorce is been caused by different factors.

The findings of this study is in relation to the views of Olaniyi, 2015., Serkalem 2006 in Mehari, 2013., Abanyam et.al 2014., Amadi and Amadi 2014., Aragu 2014., Yusof and Mashi 2015., Amato and Previti, 2003 and the two null hypothesis raised shows there is no significant difference among the opinion of divorced, divorcee, married men and married women about the causes of divorce in the entire district.

Other causes of divorce that was point out by respondent as causes of divorce are; pride, witch craft, inability to pay a dawry, religion dfferences, and lack of self control, cultism, and lack of understanding among others.

V. CONCLUSION

Marriage is ment to be forever but it is clear that married couples are faced with so many problems that lead to divorce and such creat societal, family, religion and so many other problems in life. The finding of this study have shown clearly to the world that divorce is been caused by different factros in Gaya District of Hong Local Government Area which include family influence (father-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-in-law), starvation, differences in libido, barrenness, adultry, infertility, short relationship, early marriage among others.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

- i. Couples should go for long courtship for them to understand each other.
- ii. Religion bodies should endeavour to provide marriage counseling to all intended couples and establish a bench mark for bride price.
- iii. Married couples should avoid all unnecessary advices from third parties that at times may lead to divorce.
- iv. Government should organise seminar programmes on marriage that will boaster strong understanding on marriage among youth.

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