

THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL DIVORCE ON THE MODERN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The study adopted explanatory research design, the research approach was qualitative research approach, the research strategy used was cross sectional survey, the source of collecting data for study was primary source, the method of collecting data was consultation of published articles, the sampling design were survey of the articles published at the various websites and journal articles, the population of the study was 10 authors, background of the study was detail information about divorce, the objectives of the study were achieved through research, the problem statement of the study was "The impact of parental divorce on the modern society", literature review for the study was based on the consultation of articles on the subject matter under study. The study found out the history of divorce, the causes of divorce, consequences of divorce, the benefits of divorce, argument against divorce, religious views on divorce, myths about divorce and prayer could prevent divorce. The generalized that divorce negatively affect the future children and a nation at large. The study recommended that ministers of God should educate their congregation to know that God hate divorce and help them to understand the effects of divorce

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Divorce is the process of separating marital union which involves breaking the bonds of matrimony between a husband and a wife under the rule of law of a particular country. Divorce is the lawful or religious dissolution of marriage by Covenant between a husband and a wife. Historically the decision to divorce was rejected by society because marriage is a union that should last for good. A man and a woman feel happy to get married but it is not easy to end their marriage. The laws of divorce differ from one country to another and in many countries divorce has to be sanctioned by a court which deals with the issues of sharing of property, child custody, child visitation, parenting and child support. There are two ways of dissolving marriage. They are: Bed and board divorce and Absolute divorce. Bed and board divorce allow married couples to separate from each other but have freedom to live their own lives and do not break the marriage bond legally. Absolute divorce is the dissolution of marriage through law. Besides, divorce is called "death without a body". When one of the couples is dead, divorce is created naturally which causes stressful events. Before

divorce happens, a couple who wants to dissolve the marriage go through long emotional separation. The emotional separation is not seen by the other partner but it takes years. Sometimes the emotional separation ends in private divorce and private divorce is free and cost nothing.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To trace the history of divorce

To find out the causes of divorce

To find out the consequences of divorce

To find out the benefits of divorce

To find out religious views on divorce

To find out argument against divorce

To find out if prayer can prevent divorce

THE HISTORY OF DIVORCE

Matrimonial causes Act in 1857 permit people to divorce. Before the Act, it was only men who were allowed to divorce and had to be accepted by an Act of Parliament which was not easy and rich men were also allowed to divorce. Archbishop of Canterbury permitted Henry VIII to divorce and the church exercise authority to dissolve marriages. According to the new law women who divorced their husbands on grounds of adultery were found to be unfaithful but should additional charges like cruelty, rape and incest. Private members passed bill in 1923 which helped women to

divorce their husbands based on adultery but it still needed a proof. In 1937 law was made which paved way for divorce based on drunkenness, insanity and desertion. In 1969 divorce reform Act was passed that enabled couples to divorce because of separation for a period of two or five years (theguardian,2009). Besides, during the ancient days there were ways to call for divorce but the ancient Egyptian way to divorce is similar to the modern process of divorce. Divorce was legal when the couples were able to produce evidence of illness, hatred or betrayal. In Athens a husband and a wife could divorce and the husband had to send his wife back to her father. The wife would be allowed to divorce but she had to appear before the archon. During the ancient times, the Romans permitted divorce if it was the husband who wanted to divorce. The Romans' law requested for a proof that the couples had lived together. Emperor Augustus made adultery as a crime in 18B.C with his Julian marriage law. Through this, the world accepted adultery as a reason to divorce. Adultery as a way to divorce was made punishable by exile, confiscation of property or murder (hurlows,2016).

THESIS STATEMENT: The problem statements is: "The impact of parental divorce on the modern society". The study find out the history of divorce, causes of divorce, the results of divorce on children, the benefits of divorce, argument against divorce, religious

views on divorce, myths about divorce and how prayer could prevent divorce.

CAUSES OF DIVORCE

In reference to (marriage,2021) the following are the causes of divorce:

Extramarital affairs: If one of the couples is cohabiting with another person, it breaks marital relationship. When this happens, it is hard for the couples to trust each other. Marriages which dissolve out of extramarital affairs is 20-40 percent.

Finances: Misunderstanding about money due to lack proper management creates conflict between two married couples. It is 41 percent of marriages that has dissolved through finances.

Communication: poor communication makes marital relationship to be boring but good communication is the foundation of successful marriage. Marriages that have dissolved out of poor communication is 65percent.

Argument: When couples keep on arguing about certain issues, it creates confusion and division in the home . Marriages that have dissolved through argument is 57.7 percent.

Weight: When one of couples has grown fat, the other partner might lose interest in the relationship.

Lack of intimacy: If the couples are not able to interact with each other. This causes unhappiness in marriage.

Lack of equality: When all the responsibilities rest on the shoulders of one partner, it causes conflict in the home.

Preparation: Many of the married couples complain that they do not prepare well to get married. It is about 75.0 percent of couples that have this problem and the divorce rate are among couples in their 20s.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A lot of writers have written articles about marriage but the study is limited to divorce and the study investigated into writers who had written something about divorce. Jane Anderson wrote an article entitled "The impact of family structure on the health of children: Effects of divorce". In the article she said the structure of families and relationship had changed. A lot of young adults regarded marriage as a thing of the past and accepted cohabitation as good for personal development. When relationship dd not create happiness, parents hoped that their children adapted new family relationship in order to reduce divorce. These beliefs made people marriages to delay, caused women to produce few children, single mothers produced many children, a lot of parents cohabiting and few children staying with married biologic parents.

However, she also stated the effect of divorce on children as follows:

- Divorce affect the future image of children in all sphere of life such as family relationship, education; emotional well-being etc
- Divorce cause family breakdown
- Divorce create poor academic performance
- Children lose relationship with their parents
- Parents lack the emotional strength and time to invest in parenting
- Many Children spend much time with one custodial parents especially the mothers and less time with their fathers.
- Custodial mothers loss 25-50 percent of their pre-divorce income

In November, 2020 Gina Kemp, Melinda Smith and Jeanne Legal wrote an article titled "Children and divorce" and they made it clear that divorce and separation were sad event, stressful and created confusion. There are means to help children to cope with the situation and they are:

- We should let the children's well-being be our first priority
- Provide reliable routines for the children
- We must let the children feel that we are dependable for stability, structure and care.

- Through cordial relationship with ex-wife or ex-husband, we can assist the children to avoid stress. With respect to what the above authors have said, the study investigated into the history of divorce, causes of divorce, benefits of divorce, the results of divorce, myths about divorce, argument against divorce, religious views on divorce and how prayer could prevent divorce.

CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE

CHILDREN

Academic performance: When marriage dissolves, it brings change in the home and it has negative impact of Children. The children become confused which affects their performance at school.

Social activities: Children whose parents have divorced feel boring and find it hard to relate with others.

Adaptation: Through divorce, children do not find it easy to adapt to new system in the home.

Emotional sensitivity: If couples divorce each other, Children go through feelings of loss, anger, anxiety and confusion.

Frustration: The children of the divorced parents become worry and entertain fear that their parents will stop loving them.

Disturbance: The children of divorced parents may think that the divorce is their fault due to

bad behavior. Through this, they become disturbed.

Stress: When the marriage is dissolved, the children lose contact with one of the parents especially the father. This affect parent-child bond and there is high level of stress.

Mental problem: Divorce may cause mental problem in children and adolescents. Irrespective of age, gender and culture, the children of the divorced parents experience psychological problems.

Behavior: Children from divorced family lack good training and may portray bad behavior such as conduct disorders, delinquency and impulsive behavior.

BENEFITS OF DIVORCE

Chance: Marriage goes with responsibilities and couples do not have much time for themselves. When the marriage is dissolved, they will have time to do whatever they like.

Freedom: Married couples are under restrictions but when the marriage is dissolved they have freedom to do what pleases them.

Dreams: Sometimes couples discover that their visions are conflicting with each other. After divorce, they fulfill their visions in a way they wish.

Happiness: Many married couples are under abusive marriage. Through divorce, they regained happiness in life.

Decision: Divorce create chance for couples to reorganize themselves and make the right choice.

ARGUMENT AGAINST DIVORCE

Hurts: If marriage is dissolved, the couples will experience low standard of living, poor social interaction and low self-esteem.

Neighbor: Divorce may affect those who living with us including family and friends.

Right choice: After divorce, it is not easy to find a suitable partner. It may happen that the former wife or husband will be better than the newly discovered partner.

The best: It is good for couples to avoid divorce than to divorce and start marital life new.

RELIGIOUS VIEWS ON DIVORCE

Christianity: The word "divorce" is stated in the scriptures and Jesus' doctrines on divorce said that adultery is not allowed according to the ten commandments. He permits Christians to divorce base on marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9). Besides, Christians views on divorce is based on the scriptures dating back to the giving of the law to Moses and political development of the Christian era. This happens after the canonization of the Bible. The Eastern Orthodox allow divorce and remarriage in the church. The Protestants churches do not support divorce and never prohibit it through

church doctrines. Christians emperors Constantine and Theodosius never supported the grounds for divorce but in 16th century Justinian did not restrict the grounds for divorce. When the empire fell, family life was governed by ecclesiastical authority. The Roman Catholic Church does not accept divorce but believe marriage can end only through death. Couples could divorce through law and in the sight of God their marriage have not divorced. The church of England does not allow divorce but can be possible only if the marriage has totally collapsed. The one who is divided could marry again. A lot of Christians facing marital problems try to abide by the marriage Covenant. The couples consult the church for advice and assistance. Other couples may think that divorce is the only solution to their problems.

Judaism

Divorce is considered as good thing in Judaism and it is not forbidden but in certain cases divorce is encouraged. The Talmud rabbis respect marriage as a holy contract and divorce as unholy act. They believe in the message of prophet Malachi and in the Jewish oral in Sanhedrin (Malachi 2:14). The share tears with the one who divorces his wife. According to the Biblical law a husband has the power to divorce his wife but a wife has no right to divorce her husband. For the past 1,000 years Rebbeinu Ben Yehuda commanded that a

husband had no right to divorce his wife without her knowledge. This decision was accepted as a binding by European Jewry. Jewish religious court can instruct the husband to grant divorce when the case is true. This could be possible if the husband is not willing to have marital relations with her, does not assist her, he is wife-beater or has disgraceful diseases like leprosy

HOW TO PREVENT DIVORCE THROUGH PRAYER

- Identify the state of the marriage and accept the marriage is on the road to divorce. Realizing the situation will urge us to rise on our feet.
- After realizing the problem, focus on and mediating narrating the case to God. Don't put blame on someone and believe God has the solution for the marital issue.
- Develop the thought to prayer within our hearts and value God as greater than our problems.
- Begin to pray in faith without weaving in thought.
- Read books about prayer to motivate us to pray hard

MYTHS ABOUT DIVORCE

Myth: The bank account of the couples should be separated

Fact: Money earned during marriage is regarded as joint property and court will decide the division of the assets

Myth: Mothers always claim the custody of the children

Fact: The court will determine who can claim the physical and legal custody of the children

Myth: Alimony is given to women

Fact: The court considers the income of the couples.

Myth: The cause of the divorce is put on one partner

Fact: Each partner committed mistakes and not only one partner

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter deals with research design, research strategy, research approach, the source and the method of data collection, sampling design and the population of the study. The research design used to write this paper was explanatory research design. Through this, the study achieved the objectives of the study. The research strategy used was cross-sectional survey where authors who had

written about the given topic were considered.

The research approach was qualitative research approach. Through qualitative research approach, the study found out what involved in divorce. The source of collecting data for the study was primary source and the method of data collection was research. The sampling design was consultation of articles. The population of the study was 10 writers.

SAMPLING DESIGN

The study considered articles published at the various websites and journal articles.

POPULATION OF STUDY

10 authors were considered as a population of the study.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The source of collecting data paper for writing this paper was primary source and the method of data collection was research into published papers.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS,

CONCLUSION AND

RECOMMENDATION

Summary findings

The study discovered the ancient history of divorce, reasons for divorce, benefits of divorce, the results of divorce, argument against divorce, religious views on divorce,

myths about divorce and how prayer could prevent divorce.

Conclusion

The study was found out that factors the contribute to divorce was meaningful but out come of divorce negatively affect the future of children. Because of this, the study concluded that divorce had caused harm to society.

Recommendation

Preaching and teaching

Ministers of God in the various churches should educate their congregation to know that God does not support divorce and help them to understand the effects of divorce.

Patience

Married couples must exercise patience with each other and understand that they are from different family background.

Forgiveness

Married couples should accept that "To err is human and to forgive is divine" and must learn to forgive each other.

Prevention

A husband and a wife must not entertain things which will cause divorce. They ought to be responsible in order to sustain happiness in the marriage

Public education

There must be a public education to draw peoples attention to understand consequences of divorce on children and on a nation at large.

Awareness

Married couples ought to be careful not to allow their family members, friends or any other person to involve in the matters of the marriage.

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