

The Challenges of Divorce on Women Socio-Economic Status in Ethiopia: The Case if Dambi Dollo Town, Oromia Regional State

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Abstract:

This article was conducted under title, the challenges of divorce on women socio economic status and it focus on identifying and clarifying. The objectives of this paper are to investigate the socio economic challenges of divorce on women in Dambi Dollo town, Oromia Regional State. In this study, deals about review literature are definition of divorce, factor of divorce, consequences of divorce. In order to conduct this, the researchers was selected 99 respondent by simple random sampling .For data collection the researcher used sample techniques such as secondary and primary data and will analysis this data by using descriptive statically analysis to described the response of divorced and non _divorce spouses. The findings show that, the income level and saving ability of divorced families no-divorced as well as age structure and educational level of those respondent and explain cause of divorce, impact of divorce on economic, on income level of divorced family, impact on the children's of divorced family and women's. Based on necessary data analysis and presentation statics by percentage through tables statement and justification about issues finally, concluded the general over view in this study and recommend the overall problems will be analysis in this study. The researchers recommended important solutions for divorce, which cannot be eradicated totally, government and nongovernmental organization have to support those women who divorced and train how to generate income and saving ability based on the findings of the study.

Keywords: Marriage practice, Divorce, Women, Socio-Economic Status, Dambi Dollo town,

1. INTRODUCTION

As divorce is becoming common in almost all countries of the world, many social scholars are attempting to understand the factors that hold marriage together or contribute to divorce. Marriage and family life are microcosm of life itself. The road to enter family life is marriage. In all systems and structures family exists as the core elements of all societies past and present .Therefore, family is the basic structure that serves the main function to meet the needs and necessities of its members and society in general (olsan.H.p.Defrain,1999;362). In many societies family, which is the first social unit of organizations will give emphasis starting from its formation. Depending on the value and norms of the

society, there are different forms of arrangements to start family life. Marriage is union of couples commit to one another with the expectation of stable and lasting intimate relationship and this socially recognized and approved.

A marital relationship usually involves some kind of contract either written or specified by tradition ,which defines the partners right and obligations to each other (ibid).There are many different practices in Ethiopia depending on the custom and religions to be marriage and start family life .In the revised family code of Ethiopian, marriage can be concluded before and office of civil status, religious marriage, marriage according to custom and marriage celebrate/revised family code (2000;Article 2-5). All forms of

marriage should fulfill the essential conditions stated on article 5-16 of revised family code/RFC/.which include the free and full consent of couples, age above eighteen and prohibition of consanguinity, affinity, polygamy and representation family as a core of society's structure under goes many changes to meet it functions . /RFC/ Sometimes the pressure creates stresses that lead to family breakdown. Depending on the culture and tradition of society, family problems will be solving with different means. Unfortunately, some families cannot escape from the dissolution. Therefore, society will developed means of setting the dissolution through cultural and legal means. In modern societies, many countries based on the nature of the people encourage marriage and protect its dissolution by law.

Recently by considering the social, economic and cultural change, taking place in the society and in line with the constitution and international instruments, the federal Democratic republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) would be revised the old family law in 2000, the revised family code at national level serves for all citizens equally and gives equal weight about the cause and effects of dissolution of marriage regard less of the form of celebration of marriages. Even, the form of celebration of marriage is processed what they find system that is the agreement of both male and female processed, separation/divorce is also going on. After a divorce the ex-wife is allowed to take proportion (knife Abraham, 2000; 98). Divorce is one of the most serious problems which effect different human society. There were various socio-economic causes which increase the rate of divorce. It is a worldwide problem, because it affects not only physical, mental, social life of women and children, but also the socio-economic development of the country as a whole. The other problem of divorce is psychological distress, alcohol abuse and

dependence, stressful life event and vulnerability for the economics of the society (Richard T.Schater., 2006; 287). Some marriage fail, because of the cover of husband and the wife once shared diminishes. There is increasing recognition of divorce in some marriage, when there is reducing the love of husband and the wife considerable tension bitterness and no agreement between the family. Divorce of women was more than men, because women usually take custody of the couple's children, they bear greater financial burdens and face more stress in their lives. The emotional impact of divorce is very similar to the impact caused by the death a close family member. The present study aims at contributing to the understanding of socio economic differential in divorce risk by exporting the possibility its effect on the socio economic positions of the spouse varies with their children Ayman, (2010). In Oromia regional state, divorce has many negative effects involves social isolation, lack of social support and economic hardship. The process of divorce negatively affects not only the socio economic life of women, but also societies as a whole as well as children and higher rates of depression family and low socio economic status in early childhood increase the long- term risk for major depression which the studies have pointed to a variety of long term economic, mental health, physical and social.

According researcher conduct frequently, not only the world but also in Ethiopian, it is one of the impacts of divorce, the previous studies conduct in Addis Ababa by Dereje, (2004). Focus on the impacts factors and psychological consequence of divorce on women to best of my knowledge's in Dambi Dollo town, where there is no study about the various challenges of divorce on socio-economic status of women, but there is explanation that indicates the challenges and situation of divorce on women. So the study would

conduct to fill the following major research gaps such as how divorce influence the socio- economic status of women, why women are divorce from their husband, indicate the cause of divorce for women, to show the badness of divorce on women life style after they divorce and additionally the research would try to investigate how the income level of women after they divorce, as well as indicating the possible measures to reduce divorce in the study area. All the above problems were not well addressed by the previous studies or no study conducted to address this problems. Therefore, the researchers want to address the above major research gaps.

More specifically, this study was attempted to:-

- To examine the economic cause of divorce
- To explore how divorce affects the socio economic status of women
- To outline the problems that women face after divorce

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

It was delimited geographically to Kelem Wollega Zone of Dambi Dollo town and conceptually regards to investigate the

challenges of divorce on socio- economic status of women in the area.

2. METHODOLOGY

Description of the study Area

The study was conducted in Oromia regional state Kelem Wollega Zone at Dambi Dollo town. Dambi Dollo is the capital city of kelem wollega zone, which was established in 1910. Which, is located in south western party of Ethiopia. At distance of 652km from Addis Ababa. The town is bordered by Lalo Qile (Birbir River) woreda from East, Anfilo woreda from West, Hawa Gelan woreda from north- west, Yamalogi Walali from north and Gambella from the South. Latitude and longitude 8°32' N and 34°48'E. with it elevation 1701. The population of Dambi Dollo town is increasing time to time. According to 2007 national census report a total population 116631 of whom 58,268 are men and 58,363 are women. Total area is 1700 hectares; it is rich in terms of food production, crop production and others. The majority of the inhabitants were protestants 56.1%, 25.72% are orthodox Christianity 10.83% Islam as well as 5.84% are catholic among its population. (Dambi Dollo town Administration, offices, 2021).

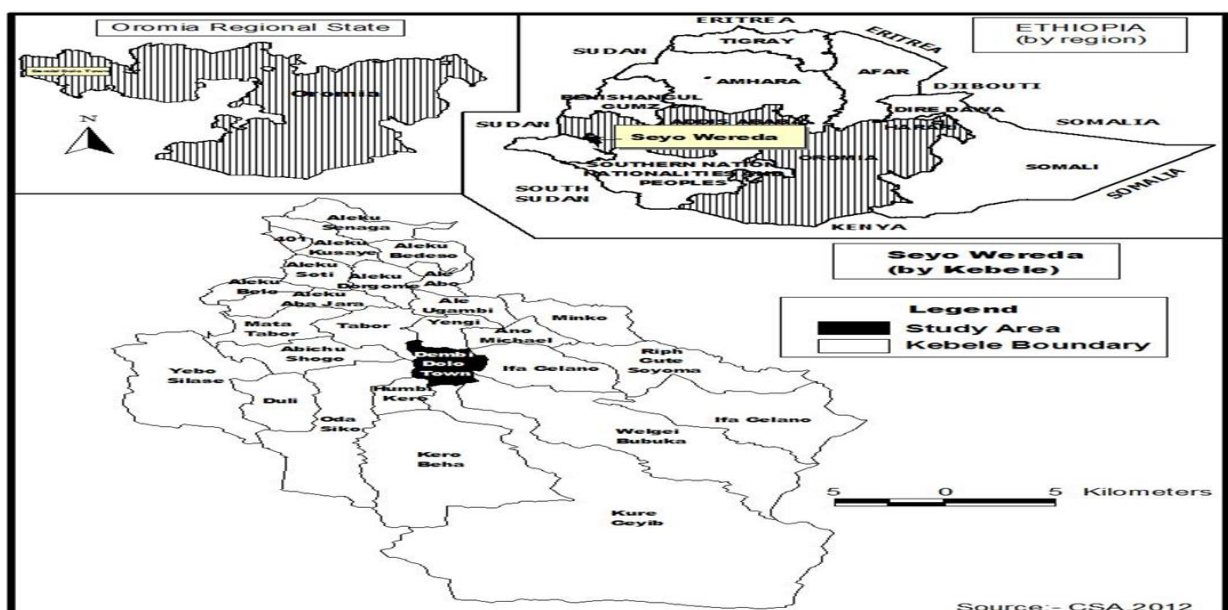


Figure 1: Map of the study area,
Source: Kellem Wollega Zone Education Office document, (2021)

Research design:

The descriptive qualitative research design was employed to label the main challenges of divorce on Women socio-economic status in case of Dambi Dollo town. Both primary and secondary sources of data were used to get inclusive information. Purposive sampling was employed to select the sources of data and tools of data collecting and examining. Quantitative methods were more appropriate with regarding to tables and percentage in terms of quantity and amount. While, qualitative method is more concerned with statements and justification about the issues. This study was entirely employing qualitative research and descriptive were used. The researchers selected 99 sample respondents to represent the entire population of the study area from the total population of 12213. To conduct this studies the researchers were used both judgmental and simple random sampling

techniques. The reasons for the researchers were used judgmental and simple random sampling techniques are lack of financially problem and to get accurate information from the participants without any ambiguity. The researchers were used both primary and secondary sources. Primary source of data were gathered from the target group in the town. This primary source of data contains questionnaires, interviewees and observation. Secondary source of data were collected from different document analysis, such as different relevant books and internet. The collected data were analyzed through both qualitative and quantitative method. The quantitative method was used to present the questions in the form of table, percentages and description. The qualitative method represent description simply describes phenomena by asking how, who and justification about the issues under study.

Ethical Considerations:

In order to have respondents' genuine responses and to make them free, possible emphasis was given to the ethical issues. These include the following enough information provided to the participants of the research regarding the objective and nature of study. Participants of the

research were told about the confidentiality of their response and there would also be considering of their permission. The review literature acknowledged accordingly. The name of respondents was not mentioned in the research.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal information of respondents

Table1: distribution of respondents by sex, age

Demographic characteristics	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Male	44	44.4%
Female	55	55.6%
Total	99	100
Age group	--	--
15-20	15	15.1%
21-25	14	14.2%
26-30	20	20.2%
31-35	35	35.4%

Up to-35	15	15.1%
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

On the above table, data collected from the respondents indicate that 55(55.6%) of the respondents are female, 26-30, 20(20.2%) and 31-35, 35(35, 4%).

Generally we can understood from the above table which indicate the majority of the respondents is 55(55.6%) of females.

Educational Status

Table 2: shows the educational level of respondents

Educational level	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
1-4 grade	—	—
5-8	25	25.2%
9-12	39	39.4%
College graduate	35	35.4%
Others	—	—
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

On the above table, data collected from the respondents indicate that 39(39.4%) of the respondents are from grade 9-12 in their educational status, 25(25.2%) of them are from grade 5-8, and also 35(35.4%) of them are college graduates.

Generally we can understand from the above table, indicate that majority of the respondent is from 9-12 educational level which implies that about problem of divorce on women is at high level.

The main causes of divorce

Table 3: shows the main causes of divorce in the study area

Economic problem/poverty	40	40.4%
Relative Intervention	19	19.3%
Unbalanced sexual intercourse	25	25.2%
Using drugs/magical activity	15	15.1%
Specify others	-	-
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

We can see from the above table, that 40(40.4%) of the respondents answer that they have crucial economic problem and 25(25.2%) of them have unbalanced sexual intercourse as the major causes of divorce, 19(19.3%) of the respondents are indicate that about relative intervention

and 15(15.1%) of them used drug or local magic as the causes of divorce. Generally, we understood from the above table, majority of the respondents indicate that economic problem and unbalanced sexual intercourse are the major causes of divorce.

Property settlement after women divorced

Table 4: shows about property settlement

Property after divorce	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Very stable	15	15.1%
Stable	14	14.2%

Conflicted	36	36.4%
Highly conflicted	34	34.3%
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

As we can see from the above table, 36(36.4%) of respondents respond that conflicts arises for property settlements after divorce, 34(34.3%) of them also indicate that they faced by high degree of

conflict, when property settlements and 15(15.1%) and 14(14.2%) of the respondents response very stable and stable situation respectively about the property settlement.

Post-divorce income of women

Table 5: shows the post-divorce income of women

Post-divorce income	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Lower	13	13.1%
Much lower	37	37.4%
Higher	32	32.3%
Much- higher	17	17.2%
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

As shown on the above table, 37(37.4%) of the respondents response income after divorce is much lower than the previous one, On the other hand, 32(32.3%) are somewhat higher, 17(17.2%) of them said that about the much higher and 13(13.1%) of them said somewhat lower after

divorce. The data obtained from response also shows that the level of women income after divorce, as majority implies much lower than the previous one, because of the network of cooperation was breakdown.

The challenge of divorce

Table 6: shows the effect of divorce in the future life

Problem after divorce	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Economic hardship	41	41.4%
Inability to decide on their own life	39	39.4%
Others like psychological problem	19	19.2%
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey; 2021)

The data obtained from the response of the respondents on the challenge of divorce shows that, divorce affects directly or indirectly the life of the divorced women. Out of respondents on the above table 41(41.4%) of respondents responded that about economic hardship, similar to that 39(39.4%) of responded that inability to decide on their own life choice and finally

19(19.2%)respondents answered those like psychological problem that faced divorced women. Generally, we can understand from the above table that after divorce the divorced women are affected by economic hardship, inability to decide on their own life, morally and psychologically distress.

Kinds of feeling after divorce

Table 7: show kinds of feeling after divorce

Kinds of feeling after divorce	Number of respondents	Percentage ((%)
Bad one	79	79.8%
Good one	20	20.2%
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

Based on the above table 79(79.8) of respondents indicate that the kinds of feeling after divorce is bad one and 20(20.2) % of respondents answered good

one. Generally, we can understand from the above table the majority of the respondents imply that the divorce women are feeling bad one after divorce.

Interaction Level of divorced women with others

Table 8: show the level of contact with relatives/friends

Level of contact relatives	Number of respondent	Percentage (%)
Very good	32	32.3%
Good	38	38.4%
No chance	29	29.3%
Others	—	—
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

The above table show that, 38(38.4%) of respondents response good contact with relatives, 32(32.3%) of them have answer on very good in the relationship with other, 29(29.3%) of respondents implies

that their relationship with other is no chance. This shows that, the majority of the respondents imply after divorce the level of contact with relatives is good.

Responsible body for child rearing

Table 9: show responsible body for child rearing

Responsible of child rearing	Number of respondent	Percentage (%)
Father	36	36.4%
Mother	43	43.4%
Both	20	20.2%
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

Data collected based qualitative survey on the basic responsibility of child rearing that in the study area reflected out of the total 43(43.4%) of the respondents responded that mother have the responsibility of child rearing, 36(36.4%) of them said father have responsibility for child rearing and 20(20.2%) of them

simples that, both mother and father are joint responsibility for their children. Therefore, we can understand from the above table, most burdens of children rearing are result on the mother and this indicates that children are closely related and bearer for mother rather than father.

Consequence of divorce on women

Table 10: show the effect of divorce in the future life

Divorce effect future life	Number of respondent	Percentage (%)
Yes	83	83.8%
No	16	16.2%
Total	99	100

Source ;(survey, 2021)

In the above table it is clear that, 83(83.8%) of the respondents answer yes to mean that, divorce affects their life choices of women and 16(16.2%) of them replay, no to mean that, divorce do not affect their life choices. Here in this table, we can understand that majorities of the respondent's response divorce affects women future life. We can understand from those respondents the future life of divorce women would be affected by different challenges. From this we can interpreter that divorce affects the future life of women choice.

Analysis of data obtained from interviews with respondents

Factors affect the divorce of women

According to the data obtained from interview display that the causes of divorce are diverse. No one can surely define the definite causes of divorce. However, the following factors can create the problem. These are; Adultery

that having sexual intercourse with others, polygamy that is marrying more than one women at a time, spouse abuse, economic backwardness (poorness) as the data from interview indicate that being poor is the causing factor for spouse to conduct a divorce because they have no moral to live together and one of the spouse field away from the town and there will go for another marriage, using drugs is also another basic factors causing for divorce as the data obtained from the interview indicate that and this behavior is highly showing by means rather than women's and distributing the families as identified in interview, these basic factors were

major causes of negative perceptions towards women life

Problems women face after divorce

The data obtained from interview display that, after divorce some women who have divorced were challenged (face) by different problems like adultery, smoking, economic backwardness. This also show that, the level of income after divorce is much lower than the previous one that is the time living with her husband, psychological distress, alcohol abuse and dependence, stressful life events and vulnerability of the society. More or less divorce harms women more than men; because women usually take custody of the complexes children they bear greater financial burdens and face more stress in their lives. Based on the interview information the divorce women were considerable as tension, bitterness and have not confidence among the societies. Generally, it indicates that after divorce the divorced women were faced by different problems that are struggle for societies.

The impact of divorce on governmental organization

The data obtain from the interview indicate that, divorce is not only influence individuals who are divorced but it affect societies at a whole. It affects directly or indirectly governmental and nongovernmental organization. The one who are divorced is fail down in economic crises, health, late children without educational and not properly work their own works, because of influenced by such like problems. A the data obtained from the interview indicate that, the main

influences of divorce in the organization in reducing the employment moral for working effectively, decrease relationship of employment in the organization and also decrease the collaboration of relationship in the organization etc. Generally, as this data indicate that divorce is decreasing the cooperation of people and reducing the productivity of society as the whole.

Income status after divorce

The data obtained from interview also show that, level of income after divorced is much lower than the time live with her husband. The level of income after divorce is directly affects the socio-economic life of women. Generally, after divorced many women's would be affects by economic crisis, low income, inability to work by their own self -esteem and faced by difference challenging the societies.

Tendency toward remarriage

Here qualitative analysis of data taken in to consideration in order to analyze the responses of interview indicate that, the divorce women have high tendency to remarry, except for some factor should take in to consideration like age and number of children the women have. According to them the older women became, the less likely she is remarry. Women divorced after ages have little like hood to remarry. In addition, the rate remarriage decreases as the number of children increase.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Divorce is the problem of all societies and it is the major causes of family break down and disorganization. It has long negative consequence of most aspect on women well-being. Divorce and its economic challenges on the socio economic life of women is severing there are severing reduction women income after divorce. Most women face financial and economic hardship for taking care of

the children, unable to decide on their future life, because they have low self-esteem after divorce. Most of them also have traumatic and stressful experience and their post-divorce in much lower. Divorce has also major and sever problem on families. Families are adversely suffered by divorce challenges, socio economic disadvantage, psychological and behavioral distress is some the long term challenges of women. Divorce is also experiencing in the low income groups. Life after divorces involves social isolation, lack of social support and economic hardship.

5. RECOMMENDATION

Family is a basic social institution, so the individual and society should keep itself from the badness of divorce. So it is indispensable to recommend the following point. As the researchers recommended that, women's are suffering by several problems after they are divorced. Since divorce cannot be eradicated totally, government and nongovernmental organization have to support those women who divorced and train how to generate income and saving ability. In order to prevent the psychological and socio economic problems of the divorced family, they should be take care the mortalities of those women and support them in family, the society should be take care the moralities of those women and support them in any directions. A marriage to be sustainable, the government should pay special attention in the divorce law for the purpose of reducing divorce in the society by using the system of giving awareness about the risk divorce in the societies. Couple should be creative and flexible in their marriage. They should not marry until they have established meaningful relationship and resolved major conflict. Since divorced is damaging socio economic life of individuals, they should be adopting the experiences of tolerance and free discussion between husband and

wife. Elders and religious father should be gives awareness about the badness of divorce and take responsibilities before happening the divorce.

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