



## **Analysis on the Causes and Implications of Divorce in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria**

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### ***Abstract***

*Marriage is an institution that guarantees the procreation, care, socialization and the stability of the family as well as the survival of human race. It is a union of relationship both mystical and physical between a man and a woman meant for long life companionship. Despite the many advantages of marriage, the separation of spouses with their children posed a traumatic danger on all parties. This, without doubt usually leads to breakdown and divorce. This study examined the causes and implications of divorce in four selected electoral wards in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. The study investigates the most affected party by divorce as well as the extent of the effect on them. Critical literatures were reviewed on the cause and effects of divorce. Functionalist theory was adopted as theoretical framework for the study. As a survey type of study, multi-stage sampling method was used to elicit information from 378 respondents via questionnaire. 8 Key Informants comprising the District Heads were purposively selected and interviewed, their responses were transcribed. Frequency tables were used to describe the quantitative data using SPSS version 20, while regression analysis was used to analyse the data. The study found out that sexual incompatibility between couples significantly leads to divorce. Consequently, it was found that children are the most affected party by divorce in the Study areas. Based on the following*

*findings, the study concludes that divorce is a serious social problem bedeviling Keffi Local Government. It is no gain to say that children and women suffer most by divorce. The study therefore recommends that Proper courtship should be done between a man and a woman before venturing into marriage. Parents should endeavor to socialize the children specifically girls on sex education and the importance of sex in marriage. Couples should also be encouraged to occasionally utilize marriage counseling to aid ameliorate the menace of divorce among many others.*

**Keywords:** *Marriage, Divorce, Infertility, Couples/Spouses, Family*

## **Introduction**

Marriage is one of the oldest social, cultural and religious institutions in the history of human societies. In Nigeria, marriage is primarily a sacred institute through which a man and a woman enter into some forms of contract for reciprocal obligations as husband and wife, and a bond between families involved (Omeje, 2000). It is an institution that guarantees the procreation, care and socialization, and the stability of the family as well as the survival of human race (Okoh, 2004). Njerem (2005) noted that for the desired goals to be achieved in marriage there is need for harmony, reciprocity, cohesion, fidelity, high degree of stability and unconditional love among couples. He argued that love and understanding are the twin pillars of marital bliss and stability, though unfavourable conditions of conflicts lead to divorce (Hall and

Hoffin, 2005). The incidence of divorce is receiving increasing attention globally which affects significant number of couples (Dohrenwend, 2004; Norton & Glick, 2003). National Centre for Health statistics (2001) revealed that divorce rate in United States have steadily increased during the past fifteen years and has shown no signs of reduction. Similarly, Rice (2002) noted that as at 1999, the United State's divorce rate is 5.0% per 1000 married persons, 4.3% in Australia, 2.7% in Sweden. In Nigeria, there have been inadequacies of statistics on divorce, though culture and religion plays vital role in this regard. The prevalence of divorce in kano, Northern part of Nigeria have proven that 32% of marriages suffered divorce; claiming that no day pass without records of unregistered divorce (Sulaiman, Yunus & Hassan,

2015). This study therefore, analyse the causes and implications of divorce in Keffi Local Government area of Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Ndiga and Mashi noted that the increasing rate of divorce is very high in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, a BBC network African program incollaboration with the Kano State, Social Re-orientation Board aired on March (2011), gave a gloomy picture about frustrated marriages or divorce rates in Kano state. It was reported from the study conducted that 32% of marriages in Kano state survives only a duration of three to six months; many young ladies within the ages of 20-25 years are said to have gone through three weddings in their lives. At least; that there are more divorce than weddings in Kano every week; that it is not unmoral to come across young women who are less than 30 years of age who have not been serially divorced. Furthermore, as at 2009, it was estimated that there were over one million zawarawa (i.e. Menlesswomen) in Kano state. Ikwuji (2002), Mirror (2003) & Walter (2005) argued that marriage-divorce appears to be on the increase and it is becoming increasingly stressful on the part of the divorcees, their children and the society. Despite the many advantages of marriage, the separation of spouses with their children posed a traumatic danger on all parties (Mekonnen & Ayalew 2019). Weiss (2000) found that divorcees encounter different problems owing to varying personal factors and their patterns of adjustment and this seems to constitute untold hardship to the divorcees and to the society at large. Obi (2006) observed that divorcees seems to experienced similar adjustment problems in order to reach a compromise within the environment they found themselves and adapt to different pattern of adjustment.

Scholars such as Mekonnen & Ayalew (2019), Sulaimanet'al (2015), Terekegn (2015) have written extensively on the causes and effects of divorce to range from childlessness, adultery, maltreatment, homesickness and age difference on one side and lost, financial inabilities, negative effects on the children's school, nutrition and security. Terekegn (2015) noted that divorce also creates challenges to the socialization process of the children, some of the children end up becoming delinquent in the society. Frank and Oak (2006) cited in Sulaiman et'al (2015) argued that sexual incompatibility, frequent cheating, and physical abuse are the major causes of divorce among couples. This study therefore intends to fill these gaps by examining whether the foregoing are the major

cause of divorce and to also fill the gap in location as a study of this nature is lacking in Keffi local government area of Nasarwa state, Nigeria.

### **Research Question**

The following research questions were asked.

- i. What are the causes of divorce in Keffi LGA of Nasarawa State?
- ii. Which of these effects is more severe on the divorced in Keffi LGA of Nasarawa State?
- iii. Who is mostly affected by divorce
- iv. What are the extent of these effects on the lives of the affected

### **Objective of the study**

- i. To examine the significant cause(s) of divorce in Keffi LGA of Nasarawa State
- ii. To examine the most severe effects of divorce in Keffi LGC of Nasarawa State
- iii. To assess the most affected by divorce in Keffi LGA of Nasarawa State
- iv. To ascertain the extent of these effect on the affected

### **Research Hypothesis**

1. Women will be negatively affected by divorce than the children in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

### **Conceptual framework**

Without exception to the significance of marriage in both pre and industrial eras to humans, family and marriage is among the most respected social institution that binds and holds social relationships intact. Marriage is a union of relationship both mystical and physical between a man and a woman meant for long life companionship. Wright (1995) contended that marriage is the state in which men and women can live together in sexual relationship with the approval of other social group. Marriage is a legal union between husband and a wife which manifests to most excellent properties of unity and perpetuity. It resort to morality, foster mutual love between spouses, conforms' families with divine strength; foster education and protection amongst offspring, restores the dignity of the woman and establishes the honour and prosperity of families and civil associations in a most excellent and beneficial way (Ochagha, 1999).

The basic satisfactions that family life offers the partners who enter into the marital relationship are the fulfillment of various psychological needs. They may be summarized as the need for affection, security, perfected emotional response, as well as sexual satisfaction. When children are part of the family, it is more often because the parents want them, and the functions of the family expand (Olaniyi, 2015).

The family occupies a pivotal place in every society and in Nigeria to be precised; it is indeed the bedrock of the state, nation, continent, and world at large. A healthy family produces a healthy nation and healthy continent, while weak families breed weak, corrupt, and a disarray nation and continent. For a nation and continent or the world at large to be at peace, it must first be settled from the family. The sanity in the continent will never rise above that of the family (Hawkins & Lloyd, 1976).

Olaniyi (2015) as cited in Heffeman et al., ((1992) contended that the increasing rate of divorce globally is significant especially during the past decades and particularly in Africa. Despite its damage to family stability, it signifies the loss of an intimate relationship that also brought security and support; and also signifies a loss of hope(s) and dreams as well as feelings of failure. Albeit, there may be relief over the divorce, aloneness also brings fear, anxiety, loneliness and guilt; especially if there are children involved.

Goldsteia (2008) defined divorce as the legal separation of husband and wife affected by the judgements of decree of a court either totally dissolving the marital relations or suspending its effects as far as it concern the combination of the practice. However, Gahler (2006) argued that divorce is the judicial separation of the spouses and completely disruption of their marital relations; in this process marriage is completely broken down either in social or legal context. According to Theodorson (2013) divorce is an institutional arrangement for terminating the marriage relationship and allowing each partner to remarry. Bradson (2016) also defined divorce as the process by which a marriage recognizes as valid can be revoked in a life time of the partners who then revert to single status and are free to remarry. Goode (1968) sees it as a way of dealing with inevitable disharmony of marriage life. It is essential to state that divorce are basically emotional and personal decisions by couples or spouses, nonetheless; researches have proven beyond this perceptions to include other factors not mentioned. This study therefore, view divorce as the

dissolution of intimate relationship between a man and a woman, adjudged by customary laws and traditions.

### **Causes of divorce**

One of the most common reason people give for divorce is "incompatibility. When you deduce from the word, it may connote many things. Jourard contended that in most scenarios, People marry in a haze without proper courtship; they marry an image, not a person. Later, the couples become aware of the many differences between them. If not dealt with properly, these differences may grow; isolating one person from another. Communication may break down under this tension, increasing this isolation. Often there are major problems or differences depending on the family structure that necessitate divorce, some of which includes childlessness, financial difficulties, sexual incompatibility/adjustment, religious beliefs, and social class values as well as parenting styles.

### **Childlessness**

In African culture any marriage that is not blessed with children is not yet considered to have achieved its aims (Oforchukwu, 2014). Infertility in marriage is considered something bad because without children, the name of the family will disappear like the smoke of fire. Marriage is therefore contracted in order to keep the family line going arguing the importance of procreation in marriage. Mbatl (2007) contended that procreation is the absolute way of insuring that a person not cut off from personal immortality and it is unfortunate that women are blamed for childlessness, as a result the wife is scorned, rejected and unloved by some members of the family. For example, Genesis, chapter four verse five; reported that Sarah the childless of Abraham experienced dejection in her marriage simply because she was barren.

Mbatl (2007) also argued that marriage is not fully recognized or consummated until the wife has given birth. First pregnancy becomes therefore the final seal of marriage and the sign of complete integration of the woman into her husband's family and kinship circle. Unhappy is the woman who failed to get children for whatever qualities she possesses, her failure to bear children is worse than committing genocide; she has become the dead end of human life not only for the genealogical line but also for herself. It is presumed that when the partners in marriage die off childless, there will be nobody to remember them

their line of genealogy will disappear. Mbaty (2007) further argued that when she (the woman) dies there would be nobody of her own immediate blood to remember her to keep her in the state of personal immortality, she will simply be forgotten; a marriage therefore is likely to end in divorce whenever the woman cannot bear children.

### **Adultery**

Adultery is defined by moral theologians as the act of sexual intercourse between a married man and a woman not his wife or between married woman and a man not her husband (Miller, 2015). One the essential features of adultery is that a party involved must be married. However, when both adulterers are married, the guilt becomes compounded. Adultery in Nigerian societies is proscribed traditionally and by law a serious crime which does not only leads to conjugal termination, but also punishable. Kennedy (1994) believed that the current conditions of our society offer little encouragement for faithful couples; couples are presented with a challenging phenomenon of infidelity on radio, television, articles and books with an increasing emphasis on the enticing aspects of infidelity. This therefore breaks the conjugal relationship between spouses

### **Alcoholism**

Some husbands as well as wives are addicts to alcohol, they spend much of their time, resources and energy on drink and spend less time to train and direct their children, as a result husbands leaves their domestic affairs to their wives or vice versa who have little or no money for this purpose; alcohol has ruined some homes in African families (Adegoke, 2010). An alcoholic husband can hardly make a reasonable and constructive decision regarding the running of his family. Their interest is to spend their money on drinks. The effects of alcohol are harmful and even lead to wife beating, thereby breaking the family and marriage (Esha, 2019).

### **Financial difficulties**

Financial turbulence has also contributed to the breakdown of many marriages and its relationships over the past and in present times. Oforchukwu (2015) noted that Poverty and the widespread unemployment have forced many able

couples who can no longer find sustenance for their family to terminate their marriages in Nigeria.

### **Adverse influence of In-Laws**

In-laws play a vital role in family affairs in Africa most especially in Nigeria in-laws are part of the family both parents and other siblings and at a point in time in-laws usually have misunderstanding with family with either wife family or husband family and some in-laws triggered the conflict, and along the way one or some members of the family will push for divorce; and if one of the married couple is influenced by what they tell them, the marriage will be separated.

### **Educational Attainment**

Brandson (2016) claimed that education is often used as proxy for female empowerment. But Isiugo-Abanihe (2013) observed that in some cases the relationship between female education and divorce is found to be positive this is because the influence of education appears to be non-linear, with the lowest divorce rates among uneducated women. The findings of Tilson & Larsen (2014) in Ethiopia showed that women with no education as well as those who had attended literacy programme showed lower risk of divorce than women with primary education, women with secondary and higher education 0.63% times the risk of divorce compared with women with primary education.

In Nigeria education is positively associated with the occurrences of divorce and separation among the women of reproductive age. Adedokun (2015) observed that the reason why there is high incidence of divorce among women of reproductive age is that the educated women are more likely to embrace new ideas about marriage, to her as passion of sexual attraction may emerge spouses may wish to end unexciting marriage in favour of relationship that will bring excitement.

### **Polygamy**

The study highlighted the factors responsible of high marital breakdown in Kano state, Nigeria, as a result of frequent marriage break ups due to a number of factors, which our literature explain that the state faced the rate of divorced. Our respondents were clearly indicated that their reason of divorced should either be adding another wife (polygamy), it constitute 62 respondents out of 200, or



force marriage, also constitute 38 respondents out of 200, or lack of patient in which patient is the back burn of marriage has 47 respondents, and finally, abandonments of marriage responsibilities, has 53 respondents out of 200.

### **Effects of divorce**

Divorce has tremendous and traumatic effects on husband, wife and children. Ikwuji (2002) observed that sexual excesses and other social misconducts by both parties' frustrated divorced lady and in some cases may resort to prostitution to make ends meet. It also leads to raising of bastard and illegal children who grow up to harass and moles the society the irresponsible action of divorced woman may go to tempt a man who is living happily and faithfully with his wife and vice versa, divorce brings about futile expenses on both side especially when litigation is involved and refund of money. In addition, divorced couples soon lose their respect and recognition and become objects of gossip and ridicule in the community it creates enmity between individuals and groups and strains existing relationships the children will grow to be bad eggs and undesirable elements in the society they would lack education, training and other qualities which promote harmonious living and juvenile delinquency.

Concerning its consequence, divorce, exposed children to social, economic and psychological problems (Fagan & Rector, 2000). Similarly, (Tarekegn, 2015) stated that separation of the couple is consequences on the psychological, social and economical hardship for the parents and their children and the society as the whole. Moreover, Seid (2014) cited in Venter, 2006) forwarded that the impact of separation between pairs results in lifelong crisis of enormous proportion that makes the start of painful process of changes including major troubles in the family system.

Likewise, after the separation of their parents' children faced emotional and behavioral difficulties connected with different stresses. Divorce also affect children's lifestyle negatively, such like dropping out of school, engaging in addiction and to develop further in a more anti social behaviors (Amato, 2001). Several studies showed that children and their family going through divorce have a higher occurrence of psychological, social and economical problems. From the foregoing, we can conclude that divorce can be a stressful experience, which affects the economical, social and psychological wellbeing of both divorcees; especially mothers and their children.

Studies such like Gahler (2006) showed that the termination of husband and wife are connected with some various social problems. For example, divorced women have no or a little social connection with the community and are more likely to lack social support. In addition, divorced women experienced negative life events and physical and psychological ill-health. Furthermore, divorce may affect their mental health in a more negative way; they have also, the major custody of children, and are more likely to experience parental responsibility overload. Similarly, as to Kitson and Morgan (1990) the effects of divorce is traced to the reduction of income and standards of living for women, and their children.

### **Empirical Review on the Causes and Effects of Divorce**

Marriage collapses because of several reasons ranging from personal, family to environmental. According to Weiss (1999) in a study on causes of Divorce: which he carried out in six randomly selected towns in New York, USA, using 600 couples: 300 male and 300 female divorcees made up of 500 couples with children and 100 couples without children, he found out that the following are the major causes of divorce: abuse, early marriages, political and economic awareness and independence and sexual insatiability. He further noted that divorce occurs when the marriage relationship finally becomes intolerable and unmanageable and all attempts to restore harmony fail. Obiadi, (2001) in his study of why couple's divorce in the selected 12 communities in Nnewi of Anambra State using 400 couples found the following as to why couple's divorce: adultery, desertion, cruelty, insanity, rape, sodomy, sterility or barrenness, threat of life and blood incompatible.

Elizabeth (2001) in her study of blended families-problems and solutions found that the main factors that make a marriage work are a combination of the three "C"S" – communication, compromise, and commitment, with a generous sprinkling of blind luck and the absence of the above factors leads to divorce. In the study carried out by Omeje, (2000) on "Adjustment Strategies of Divorcees in some selected communities in Enugu State", in which he used 400 sample which he randomly selected with questionnaire as the instrument found that one likely factor in marriage breakdown amongst women who marry in their teens is substantially greater than that for women who marry at late ages. For him, other factors of divorce seem to be determined by the structure of the society which, in turn, depends on whether the society is developed or

developing. This finding correlate with Giddens, (1999) which found that factors of divorce differ between and even within the industrial and non-industrial societies of the world, albeit some similar factors can also operate in both: In a study he carried out on “marriage in Industrial and Non-industrial Societies in which he used 600 samples; 300 industrial and 300 non-industrial societies and questionnaire as instrument he found out that: In the industrially advanced societies marriage is seen as an arrangement between two individuals who enter into it for their mutual benefit; such as sexual and emotional satisfaction. These objectives are arguably more difficult to achieve and consequently more easily frustrated than the objectives of marriage in non-industrial societies. He found out that other factors of divorce are the increasing political and economic independence of women in the contemporary period which result to changes in the “ideas” or attitudes to marriage. Again, there is absence of effective kin-group pressures which all contributed to make marriage there more fragile and susceptible to divorce. Supporting the finding of Giddens (1999) that there is absence of effective kin group pressures on marriage and it contributes greatly in divorce rates, Asogwa (2003) in his study on “the dissolubility of the indissolubility of marriage: The causes”, in some selected communities in Rivers State using 500 samples and questionnaire as instrument found that: “The old extended family which encourages loyalty and affection among its members is becoming moribund because it is well suited only to the predominantly agricultural society. Since Nigeria is moving from a basically agricultural society, the modern Nigerian family being transferred from a closely knit group with considerable authority over its members to a rather loose individualistic arrangement in which divorce is very frequent”.

Sulaiman et’ al shows that adultery or more frequently known as “cheating “is in the first and top position on the list of reason or cause of marriage dissolution or divorce in the United States. Most people, what infidelity or cheating is but in more formal terms infidelity, is a transgression of mutually agreed rules or boundaries that couple assumes in relationship. In most marriage, these terms are not mentioned since they are only considered to be kept and honored by each person. Ironically, it holds number one reason for the wedding dissolution or divorce in the United States and many other countries in the world. Many reasons are being counted as thecauses of a high number of marriage dissolution or divorce, in which the causes are differed from nation to nation or from one

society to another. America was among the countries that have the high number of marriage dissolution.

In a study carried out by Suleiman et'al (2015), identified various effects divorcees were experienced from their husbands, parents, and finally the society, 28.0% of the respondents cited looking them as disobedient wife is the way in which their divorced affects them. 24.0% of respondents were cited the family looking them as the additional burden to their parents, then 27.5% of our respondents cited lacks of welfare due to lack of care and maintenance; and finally 20.5% of respondents cited lack of security as the way their divorced affects them.

Semhal (2007) stated that most divorcees in Ethiopia are uneducated and also house wives and divorced women are living without support. Serkalem (2006) concluded that divorced women in Ethiopia are economically weak and usually engage in informal sectors like selling home made products (local beer/Tella, Arekie and Injera, etc), collecting wood and retailing activities after divorce. Because of this, their living condition is almost miserable. Serkalem's finding also indicated that their social connection with the society is almost isolated because divorce does not enable them to get the moral and economical support they need.

Similarly, Yohanis (2015) attempted to investigate the economic and social impacts of divorce on divorced women. Many of the divorced women were found to be depending on agriculture and insecure income sourcesuch as activities to generate income for their survival mainly preparing local bears to make their living.

Becker et' al (1977), cited by Kadri R. (2010) revealed that better education gives women more economic opportunities outside the marriage and therefore makes the decision to leave the union easier. He further argued that most of the married women in the Soviet Union participated in the labor force and did not stay at home until their children grew up, this explanation may not work in these circumstances. Therefore, no strong impact of educational level of women on divorce risk should be anticipated in Estonia according to this explanation. An important aspect of education is the potential to earn more in occupations that require higher education. This implies that people with higher education have more resources to handle divorce costs and therefore decide to divorce more easily.

On the other hand, the study also shows that higher education may lower the divorce risk. The higher education of partners could mean that as they earn more, the family experiences less economic problems; and this factor also should lower the divorce risk (Jalovaara 2003, Ono 1998, Oppenheimer 1997). However, the higher the income of the wife, the increase risk of divorce, especially when the income of the wife is higher than the income of the husband (Jalovaara 2003).

According to Goddy (2002) and Asogwa (2003) divorce rates would be higher in society where life expectancy is much longer than in societies where it is shorter. Goddy (2002) found that: In the U.S.A., there are the operation of some forces in different classes which account for the differences in divorce rates. Thus, divorce rate is lower towards the higher social strata because the discrepancy between the potential income of the husband and the wife is much greater towards this upper social strata, so that wives could see the greater cost of leaving their marriage. This was found in a study he carried out in New York City on “Higher life expectancy on marriage”. He used 800 samples and his instrument was structured questionnaire. He found also that imitation of divorced parents by their off-springs is another cause of divorce. They called this “transmission hypothesis” They found that family disorganization affects another generation. His finding include that divorce itself is a cause of divorce because frequent divorces weaken the norms of marital stability and that off-springs imitate divorced parents and also that the divorce of numerous friends makes the choice of divorce more normal and respectable.

Otite and Ogionwo (1999) in a study they carried out titled: “Before and After Divorce” in 15 communities of Rivers State with a population of 1000 divorcees and questionnaire as their instrument have identified some factors or causes of divorce as: Male impotence, sexual deprivation or cruelty by one of the spouses, childlessness, poverty and hard labour in the family, adultery and infidelity, growing incompatibility between one of them and the in-law, women’s emancipation and income earning which could enable such women to refund the bride price even without the assistance or knowledge of their parents, and in most African societies refusal of a widow to be subjected to widow inheritance is interpreted as amounting to plea for a divorce.

Okorie (2000) in his study among the Arochukwu and Umuahia people in Igbo land, found that childlessness is the greatest calamity that can be fall on Igbo woman. Many without off-springs are regarded as unsuccessful hence the

alternatives for such childlessness or infertility are divorces or at best polygamy. This finding of Okorie (2000) supports that of Norton and Glick (1999) who found that the recently declining fertility rate may have contributed to the rise in the divorce rates. They found out also that among other factors which may have influenced the recent rise in divorce are on increase is pre-marital conceptions and the so-called “incentives” towards disruption found in the present welfare system.

Davis (1998) in his study in England on stress and the woman manager, using 600 women as sample and questionnaire as his instrument found out that pre-marital conception is conducive to divorce, and an increase in such family formation in such circumstances tends to increase the divorce rates.

In a study carried out by Oko (2001) on the causes of high rate of divorce in Umuahia and Aba cities of Abia State, Nigeria, responses 700 divorcees was obtained via questionnaire. The findings proved that the causes of divorce in Nigeria is not but limited to; knowing the family background of the would-be partners, infidelity, sexual insatiability and sexual incompatibility, childlessness, partiality by the polygamist, value differences, dictatorship on the part of the man and where wife assumes the authority of being the head of the family.

## **Theoretical framework**

### **Functionalism Theory**

The functionalist perspective is based largely on the works of Ogburn and Tibbits (1934), Murdock (1949), Parsons (1959) and Merton (1968). The functionalists argued that marriage one of the fundamental elements of family structure with which members of the society creates a kinship pattern and establish relationship bonded on relationships and roles. The functionalists argued that family is the smallest unit of social relation which drives the larger social system (society). Murdock (1949) contended that the family is a social group permeated by marriage and characterized by common residence, procreation and economic cooperation, it includes adults of both or different sexes who maintains a socially approved sexual relationship; and more of children adopted or owned. He further argued that family is essential for social life, since without the sexual and reproductive functions, there would be no members of the society. Ogburn and Tibbits (1934) complimented the argument that the family fulfil reproduction, protection, affection and companionship,

socialization and regularization of sexual behaviour. Additionally, the family is known to fulfil a number of responsibilities to include religious training, education and recreational outlets for members.

The functionalists stressed the importance of family as irreplaceable and inseparable from the functions of individual and the society at large. For example, the sexual relationship provides the moral of behaviour for man and woman, and in most cases forbidding or limiting fornication; it is the sexual gratification that enables rightful offspring and heirs to uphold and sustain the kinship. Murdock (1949) contended that economic activities through division of labour encourage development. Parson (1959) suggests that the family are known with two basic responsibilities; socializing the children to institutionalize the values of their society and stabilizing the adults' personality to maintaining order through the acquired values.

Merton (1968) maintained that since the family are known with numerous functions for the survival of the whole system (society), this requires a matter of functional unity from a complex whole. Thus, the idea of functional unity implies a change in one part of the system (family) will affect and cause change in the entire system. Merton (1968) further contended that divorce is a dysfunction part of the family and should be seen to affect the whole system. For example, a dysfunctional marriage could lead to divorce and some multiple effects on the members of the family; such as dropping out from education, the children may not adequately get socialized on the norms and values of their society among many others.

### **Methodology**

Historically, Keffi town was founded in the year 1802 by Fulani cattle reared named Abdu Zanga who came from Dan Tumaki under Dutsenma Local Government in Katsina State. Keffi local government was formally created in 1976, and it remained the oldest Local Government Council in the country. Keffi Local Government share boundaries with Kokona Local Government to the west, Kaduna state to the north and also Nasarawa Local Government to the south respectively. Keffi town is a gate way to the nation's capital (Abuja) with about 60 kilometers proximity. The Federal republic of Nigeria official gazette (2006) shows that Keffi Local Government population was 92,550 (2006 National population census).

Traditionally, Keffi Local Government Area is headed by an emir, a first class emir called “Sarki” who is been selected by the town's kings makers, the Keffi populace are adherents of the two major religious based organizations: Islam and Christianity. Majority of Keffi populace are Hausa, who fluently speaks the language with a little bit of Fulfulde. Mada, Gwandara, Yeskwa, Eggon, Afo and some other tribes were also found in keffi who migrate to due to insecurity in Plateau, Kaduna and Benue States. Keffi Local Government is also resident with government Institutions such like, The Police, 177 guards Battalion Barracks, Zonal Command of the NSCDC, Immigration service, Nasarawa State University, School of Health technology and many more. The concentration of these agencies will not only create an increase in human population alone, rather encourages inter marriages.

Keffi Local Government has ten (10) wards and is as thus: Tudun Kofa, Yara, Iya I, Iya II, Jigwada, Liman Abaji, Sabon Gari, Goriya, Gangaren Tudu and Angwan Rimi Wards. The study was conducted in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. As a survey research, multi-stage sample was adopted. At first, amongst the 10 electoral wards, Tudun kofa, Gangaren Tudu and Iya 1 were purposively selected. The total number of people in the sub-clustered wards is 36,150 as presented in table 1

**Table 1: Presentation of Population by Ward**

Ward	Population	Sample Size
<b>Tudun Kofa</b>	9,255	$\frac{9,255}{36,150} \times 378 = 96$
<b>Gangaren Tudu</b>	10,121	$\frac{10,121}{36,150} \times 378 = 105$
<b>Iya I</b>	8,345	$\frac{8,345}{36,150} \times 378 = 87$
<b>Liman Abaji</b>	8,429	$\frac{8,429}{36,150} \times 378 = 88$
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,150</b>	<b>378</b>

A sample size of 378 was obtained using the Research Advisor’s Sample size determination table at 95% confidence level and 5% margin error. Since, the population is primarily centered on divorcee whose statistics are basically



unknown; the study adopted a multi-stage sampling. At first, the study stratified the population into stratum according to ward; proportionate quota and snowballing sampling methods were used to obtain information on the research. In other to obtain adequate and reliable information from the respondents, 8 Key informants, 2 from each ward were also selected purposively. The KII are the Mai Angwas and District Heads of each of the wards represented, who are believed to have knowledge about divorce and who may have solved issues related to divorce.

However, the data collected was analysed in tables, frequencies and bar chart using SPSS version 20.

### Discussions of findings

**Table 2: Responses on the causes of Divorce**

Cause of Divorce	Frequency	Percent
Sickness	42	16.9
Adultery	19	7.6
Physical abuse	15	6.0
Sexual dissatisfaction	51	20.5
Infertility	35	14.1
Difference in education	36	14.5
Alcoholism	20	8.0
Adverse Influence of in-laws	16	6.4
Polygamy	10	4.0
Others	5	2.0
Total	249	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2 indicates that 20.5 per cent of the total respondents agreed that sexual dissatisfaction is the major cause of divorce. 16.9 per cent of the respondents are of the agreement that sickness constitute to the significant cause of divorce. While 14.5 per cent of the respondents believed it is the difference in education. 14.1 per cent, 8.0 per cent, 7.6 per cent, 6.4 per cent and 6.0 per cent of the respondents believed that the cause of divorce are infertility, alcoholism, adultery and the adverse influence of in-laws respectively. The responses on this table signify that sexual dissatisfaction is the major cause of divorce in the study areas.

**Table 3: Responses on the effects of Divorce**

<b>Effect of Divorce</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Poor upbringing of children	93	37.3
Juvenile delinquency	47	18.9
School dropout on children	49	19.7
Abuse of drug by the children	29	11.6
Abuse of drug by the parent	31	12.4
Total	249	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 3 is the presentation of the effects of divorce. The table shows that 37.3 per cent of the total respondents agreed that the effect is on poor upbringing of the children, 19.7 per cent of the respondents agreed school dropout on children, while 18.9 per cent of the respondents agreed on juvenile delinquency. 12.4 per cent of the respondents are also on the agreement that the effect is on the abuse of drug by the parent and 11.6 per cent of the total respondent believed is on the abuse of drug by the children. The result indicates that most of the respondents agreed that the effect of divorce in the study area is poor upbringing of children. This can be attributed to the fact that most of the children lack proper parental and care as a result of single parenting (divorce).

**Table 4: Responses on the most affected by Divorce**

<b>Mostly Affected by Divorce</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Children	95	38.2
Wife	75	30.1
Husband	27	10.8
Others	52	20.9
Total	249	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The 4: presents the responses on mostly affected by divorce. The table illustrates that 38.2 per cent of the respondents agreed children, 30.1 per cent of the respondents are on the agreement with the wife. While 20.9 per cent of the total respondents believed it is on others. 10.8 per cent of the respondents believed it is on the husband. This implies that the majority of the respondents in the study areas agreed that those that are mostly affected are children.

## Test of Hypotheses

Hi! Women will be affected negatively by divorce than the children in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

**Table 5: Regression Analysis on the most effected by divorce**

Parameter	Estimate	Std. Error	Z	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound
PROBIT <sup>a</sup>						
Effect of Divorce	-.127	.181	-.703	.482	-.482	.228
Independent	-.091	.117	-.773	.439	-.320	.139
Intercept <sup>b</sup>						
Children	2.468	1.075	2.295	.022	1.392	3.543
Wife	2.146	1.122	1.912	.056	1.024	3.268

Mined from SPSS output V: 20

Table 5 presents a regression analysis on the most affected person by divorce in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Considering the probability values, the results show that there is a statistically significance difference between the children and women on who is mostly affect by divorce. The findings proved that the children are mostly affected by divorce in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Based on this, we therefore accept the null hypothesis which states that Women will not be affected negatively by divorce than the children in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. However, the major finding for this study is that sexual dissatisfaction often cause divorce in the study areas. This findings corroborate with Suleiman who argued that sexual dissatisfaction has been among the causes of divorce in Kano. Other major findings indicate that children suffer most during divorce. This finding corresponds to Ikwuji (2002) and Amato (2011) who contended that the effect of divorce is mostly on the negative socialization of children, and results most on drug abuse among others. Consequently, findings also indicate that infertility and difference in educational attainment by couples often cause conflict in the study areas. These findings also consent to okorie (2000), Ote and Ogionwo (1999) and Kadri (2010) respectively.

From the foregoing, the study concludes that divorce is a serious social problem bedeviling Keffi Local Government. It is no gain to say that children and women suffer most by divorce. The study therefore recommends that

- i. Proper courtship should be done between a man and a woman before venturing into marriage.
- ii. Parents should endeavor to socialize the children specifically girls on sex education and the importance of sex in marriage

- iii. Couples should also be encouraged to occasionally utilize marriage counseling to aid ameliorate the menace of divorce
- iv. Couples, especially men should reduce their adulterous behavior
- v. Couples should be encourage to engage on an entrepreneurial business to help sustain their marriage and income

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