PROBLEMS OF DIVORCE AND THE FAMILIES' SOCIAL WELL BEING IN NYALENDA KISUMU

BY

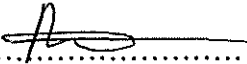### FLORENCE ATIENO OKUMU

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO COLLEGE OF APPLIED ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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DECLARATION

I FLORENCE ATIENO OKUMU, declare that no other researcher has written a similar report for any other university or academic institution, the completion of this research report has been my own investigation with maximum originality of data and information got from secondary sources or references.

Signed   ....

FLORENCE ATIENO OKUMU

[STUDENT]

Date   29 / 5 / 012

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this report has been submitted with my approval as a university supervisor.

Otanga Rusoke

OTANGA RUSOKE Ph.D

[SUPERVISOR]

Date   *May 29 2012*

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Okumu and friends who gave me financial, physical and emotional support throughout my university life and to my mentor, Ms. Doreen and all my family who entirely gave me reason to finish this report; plus all the staff of *KISUMU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL* who allowed me to practice my internship with them.

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I acknowledge the wonderful love of GOD for having kept me safe, the great deal of constructive advice and guidance of my supervisor, Dr. Otanga Rusoke, the wonderful works of various authors, cooperative nature of librarians, the financial assistance from my dad, Mr. Jacob Okumu and my dear mum, Mrs. Julia Okumu, the love of friends like *Eunice Leki* that enabled me to accomplish my work successfully.

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in Nyalenda Kisumu City. The main purpose of the study was to identify the impact of divorce and the social status of families in Nyalenda, Kisumu city - western Kenya.

The researcher also was more interested to know about the views of the public on divorce which is rampant today due to various reasons. Very many families have been broken down, for example in Nyalenda, there are so many single headed families that have come up due to divorce cases, the research also wanted to investigate the nature of divorces and its cause, as well as measures of preventing it.

CHAPTER ONE

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the research problem information, background of the problem, statement of the problem, objectives, significance and the scope of the study. It will focus on the divorce and the social status of families in Nyalenda. Divorce has become a disaster and rampant in the modern society rather than how it was in the past.

1.1 Background

Globally, in the U.S and other western societies, the rate of divorce rose sharply after world war II, accelerated even more dramatically during 1960's and 1970's, and has decreased only slightly since then. These statistics often lead sociologists to proclaim that there is an "epidemic" of divorce in the U.S. But demographers Donald Bogue has concluded that "the divorce epidemic is not being created by today's population aged thirty or more, who married in the 1960's and before" *(1985, p.190)*. This generation was noted for its search for self-realization, often after at the expense of intimate family relationship.

Most status in the U.S now have some form of no fault divorce that reduces the stigma of divorce by making moral issues like infidelity less relevant than issues of child custody, and division of property while the growing acceptance of divorce helps account for why divorce rates are so much higher in the U.S than in other nations with highly educated population. Americans today also place a higher value on successful marriage than their parents may have. This means that they often divorce in the expectation of forming another, more satisfying and mutually sustaining relationship *(Ahlburg and De Vita 1992)*

Divorces are especially common among urban couples, among those who marry after only short or shallow acquaintance and among those whose relatives and friends disapprove of the marriage, most divorces take place within the fast few years of marriage-half within the first seven years and the longer a marriage has lasted, the less likely it is to end in divorce (Carter and Glick, 1976; Goode, 1982)

Despite the fact that dissolution of marriage is virtually universal, no society places a positive value in divorce. In fact, in most society people who divorce are penalized, either through formal controls like fines, prohibitions against remarriage, excommunication and forced alimony and child support. I many parts of the world, women have historically been able to dissolve marriage very easily.

In African continent, the rate of divorce was not as high as it is today, couples used to live together bound by the African cultural believes that called for unity, co-operation and stability in marriage. The percentage of divorce was very low compared to today's society that have been influenced have been influenced by the western culture, greed, superiority, selfishness and materialistic nature. Among the Kanuri of northeastern Nigeria these was high-divorce rate in Islamic society until in the 1960's, whereby 68% to 69% of all marriages had ended in divorce. Men would say "I divorce thee" only once to establish a divorce because they believed it's possible for a man to remarry a women who he had divorced. Divorce was obtained by male only as they were regarded to the part of system of strong male dominance.

Divorce has risen in Africa today because of women growing employment opportunities which give the greater economic independence, which makes divorce a greater alternative for unhappy marriage or domestic violence. Cultural changes whereby a greater emphasis on personal fulfillment made divorce a more acceptable option to those who felt

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unfulfilled by their marriages, economic hardships, race and ethnicity, cohabitation, low income and unemployment as well as the influence from the western culture. Even though there is an increase in most marriages for about 65% compared to 35% of divorce.

In Kenya and especially Nyalenda, divorce has taken its control and eruption with an increase in urban centers compared to rural areas where there is low rate of divorce due to partners admitting their condition, marrying out of love and depending on the status of their background. Today most frequently cited is the change from extended to nuclear families. Another factor is the extent to which functions that were formally performed by the family have been assumed by outside agencies; still other factor is the relaxation of attitude about divorce.

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, divorce is the final termination of a marriage, canceling the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage and dissolving the bonds of matrimony between married persons.

Divorce refers to the legal dissolution of marriage bond that is a legal declaration that marriage/commitment sworn by husbands and wife is now null and void. The two are no longer husband and wife; they are free to live separate life. Hence divorce is the legal process of dissolving marriage that allows former spouses to remarry today are granted on the grounds of irreconcilable differences, meaning that there has been a breakdown of the marital relationship for which neither partner is specifically blamed. Prior to the passage of more-lenient divorce laws, many states required that the partner seeking the divorce prove misconduct on the part of the other spouse.

Divorce is when the husband and the wife decide to opt out of the marriage and need a legal sanction for it. I would say that it is the legal term for the separation that happens at quite an earlier stage. Yes legally

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it can only happen before the "death of any of them". Rates of divorce have increased manifold with women empowerment since they are now getting better and higher education and consequently higher salaries. No please do not think that I am against woman's liberation, in fact I personally feel that the compatibility of two people should only be checked and should be considered valid when they are standing on the same ground.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The rampant increase of divorce and its impact on the social status of families' cases have rapidly arised, hence this has created more problems to the living societies around. There was rise of conflicts amongst the divorced partners and the children within the surrounding communities. Basing on Kenya as a country, divorce had traumatized the whole societies in regards to its repercussions, major cases of divorce exist amongst the rich rather than the poor who seems to bear with the situations and accept each other the way he/she is in the stated marriage.

Divorce had caused more impact and harm in Nyalenda and its surroundings due to the following reasons as the perpetuating causes of it; sexual dissatisfaction, parental influence, social unfaithfulness, forced marriages, incompatibility of conduct, economic hardship, financial unfaithful, diseases e.g. HIV/AIDS, education, religion etc. These have been the key sources of instability in the marriage that end up into a divorce.

1.3 Study objectives

1.3. I General objective

The general objective of the was to assess the impact of divorce on the families' social well being in Nyalenda, Kisumu city

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1.3. II Specific objectives

i)   To find out the main causes of divorce.

ii) To identify the most possible solutions to divorce

iii) To identify major features to consider when choosing a good marriage partner

1.4 Research question

i)   What are the main causes of divorce?

ii) What are the major features to consider when choosing a good marriage partner?

iii) What are the possible solutions that can be put into consideration to address the problem of divorce?

1.5 Scope of the study

Geographical scope, the study focused on the divorce and the social status of families in Western region - Nyalenda located in Kisumu city.

In the content scope, the study further focused on measures that the communities have put in place to manage and eradicate divorce in the society so that to ensure the sustainability of the stable and compact wedlock's in the society and among the couples. The study had to perform a thorough investigation on how the community involved has taken measures and good management process or roles they have played to do away with the issue or strategic problem of divorce.

The study involved the members of the community and stakeholders who carefully and equally were selected basing on gender by the researcher hence sought to involve various partners or families affected in a respectable, dignified and in an appreciable manner of conduct.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The research was to provide useful and detailed information about the measures to be taken so as to reduce the causes, impacts/consequences of the rampant increase of divorce in Nyalenda located within Kisumu city in western region of Kenya. It needed information on how the community, couples and children had been involved in these mal-practice activities that demoralize the social well being of families.

The information collected/data was essential to both the citizens of Kenya, East Africa and the entire world wide societies, non-governmental organizations and other researchers interested in knowing effects/impacts, causes and solutions of divorce. Hence was a guideline and a limelight of avoiding divorce when it is put into consideration and implementation by all.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

The chapter is comprised of the review of the related literature whereby the study objectives are going to be discussed in detailed and to really emphases on the purpose of focusing on this research problem.

2.1 The major impact of divorce on social status of families

Divorce has lead to more problems to the society than good; it has caused more effect upon the partners and children as well. Basing on the consequences of divorce upon the partners, it had lead to loss of self esteem, personal pride and dignity because society no longer looks at them as people who deserve respect but as failures in marriage life. The impacts of divorce in families include:

2.1.1 Lone-parents

In the last two decades, in addition to an increase in the divorce rate, there has been an increase in the proportion of mothers who are unmarried. By 1996, 14.5% of all Canadian families were lone-parent families, 19% of the children lived in one-parent families *(statistics Canada, 1999)*. There are also racial and ethnic differences in the livelihood that children will be raised by one parent. In 1986, 23% of aboriginal families living of reserves were headed by one parent, nearly twice the rate of Canadian *(Mckie 1993:59)*

The chief problem facing lone-parent families is poverty, most are headed by women, and the majorities are poor. The reasons for the poverty are clear. A woman- someone disadvantaged in the labor market-is expected both to earn money for children, since support from the former spouse (if there is one) and the state is generally meager. Thus the tension between employment and family is acute in the families. The evidence is that the

children who grow up in female-headed families are less likely to complete high school than those living in two parent families due to financial stress that lone-parent face and not because of the absence of a father figure *(McLanahan 1985)*

Research on divorce has shown that many of the most disruptive consequences are due to economic impact, women suffer an average decline of about 30% in their income in the year after separation, which men experience 10% increase *(McManus and DiPrete, 2001)*. In fact, most women who apply for various forms of public support do so because they have recently experienced a drastic decline in income as a result of divorce, separation or abandonment.

In addition, almost 40% of divorced mothers (and the children in their custody) more within the fast year after divorce, and another 20% move after a year, a rate for higher than that for married couples *(Cherlin, 1996: Furstenberg and Cherlin, 1991)*. And as if the breakup of their families is not stressful enough, many children also experience the loss of friends and familiar neighborhoods.

Beyond the material effects of divorce, there are the long-term effects on family roles and the feelings of family members. Moreover, both men and women have a diminished capacity for parenting after divorce. They spend less time sensitive to their needs even a decade after the divorce; the parent may be chronically disorganized and unable to meet the challenges of parenting. Instead, they come to depend on their children to help them cope with the demands of their own lives, thereby producing on "overburdened child"-one who, in addition to handle the normal stress of childhood, also must help his/her parent ward off depression *(Wallerstein and Blakeslee 1989; Wallerstein Lewis; and Blakeslee, 2000)*.

There is a silver lining to the dark cloud of divorce; however so many adults who are now marrying for the first time come from families that have experienced divorce, they are likely to take more time in selecting their mates in an effort to make sure that their choice is best for both partners; in addition, they try to become economically secure by marrying, thereby eliminating a major source of stress in a new marriage *(Cherlin, 1996)*.

2.1.2 Emotional and physical disturbance

Divorce normally bring emotional and physical disturbance than the anticipated sense of freedom. In fact, various studies have shown that those who are divorced have high rates of suicide, death from various other causes, accidents, physical and mental ailments, and alcoholism *(Kitson, Babri, and Roach 1985:274: Kurderk 1990; Richards, Hardy, and Wadsworth 1997)*. In some cases, they existed prior to, and helped bring about, the divorce. But they also can result from the divorce. A study of divorced women found that anger, loneliness, and depression can continue for ten years or more after the divorce *(Wallerstein 1986)*. Divorce is a major health problem in the nation, it is likely to become even more severe as fathers take a more nurturing role in the family and thereby suffer greater loss if their relationship with their children must change *(Jacobs 1982)*. Incidentally, in trying to assess the amount of trauma involved in divorce, we should not overlook those in larger family group, such as the parents of the divorcing couples. They may be sufficiently distressed by the divorce to require some kind of supportive help *(Johnson and Vinick 1981)*.

In general, the effects of divorce are greater for children who are very young at the time of dissolution (Allison and Furstenberg 1989). Those whose parents divorced when they are at young adults tend to find the experience painful and disillusioning, and they have a difficult time in

adjusting to the dissolution *(Cain 1989; Bonkowski 1989)*. Nevertheless, the discord that leads to divorce is probably more stressful for the child than is divorce itself (Kelly 1998). Parents who stay together "for the children's sake" may actually harm the children more than if they were to separate. A home with continual conflict or emotional coldness can be more damaging to the children than a home that is broken. Children from divorced-disrupted families have high rates of depression and withdrawal than others, but the rates are even higher for those who live in a single-parent home *(Peterson and Zill 1986:302)*

2.1.3 Emotional and financial strain

Divorce, even when it is desired by both partners, is always accompanied by considerable emotional and financial strain. This is especially true for women, who often have to work and care for children without adequate economic and psychological help from their partners. Because more jobs are often to them, well-educated women are able to cope with the effects of divorce and in fact may choose not to remarry. Other women have more limited options. Most husbands do not continue to support their families after the divorce, although they are often legally required at least to pay child support. Divorce mothers, therefore, are frequently forced into poverty and dependence on public assistance; the leading cause of dependence on welfare (formerly known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children) is divorce desertion *(Ellwood, 1988)*. And because it is assumed that divorced people will soon remarry, adequate social supports are not provided to single mothers.

Research shows that children of divorced parents tend to develop behavioral problems and do less in school than children in intact families. They are more likely to engage in delinquent acts and to abuse drugs and alcohol. They often experience an emotional crisis, particularly in the first two years after divorce. What is more, when children of

divorced parents become adults, they are less likely than children of non-divorced parents to be happy. They are more likely to suffer health problems, depend on welfare, earn low incomes and experience divorce themselves. In one California study, almost half of divorced parents entered adulthood as worried, underachieving, self-deprecating, and sometimes angry young men and women *(Wallerstein and Blakeslee, 1989; Wallerstein, Lewis, and Blakeslee, 2000)*. Clearly, divorce can have serious, long-term, negative consequences for children.

2.1.4 Impact of family disintegration on children and spouse.

Children may experience divorce as the end of life as they knew it, as a falling apart and a severe disruption of their existence. They feel fear, anger, depression, and confusion. Often they blame themselves for contributing to their parents' difficulties. Over a long period, children (and, typically, their mothers) divorce as a severe diminution in their material well-being; one of the leading causes of poverty among children is the dissolution of their parents' marriage. They may also become "latchkey children," far more responsible for their own care after school and for the care of their siblings than they might have been had there not been divorce.

Much research focuses on families with preschool children in the period immediately following a divorce. The lifestyle of these families often become chaotic-meals are eaten at irregular times, the children's bedtimes are erratic, and so forth. The separated spouse experience anxiety, occasional depression, and personal disorganization, and the children tend to be bewildered and frightened. Other research has found that children whose parents are divorced are twice as likely as children from intact families to need professional help for an emotional, behavioral, mental, or learning problem *(Weissbourd, 1966)*. The Effects of Divorce on Children's Feelings. Children can react in various ways

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with an impending divorce. Some children can become very sad, showing symptoms of depression and even be unable to sleep. Their levels of anxiety become very high as they experience feelings of being rejected or abandoned by one parent and sometimes even both. Some situations of divorce can even end up making children feel extremely lonely, which is usually because one parent may be absent for a long time.

Regardless of what the situation may be, a divorce usually affects children in some way or the other. While some children may be scarred psychologically on a long-term basis, others may feel the emotional pangs for a short period of time, and then learn to cope with it, and perhaps even get over it. Of course, a lot depends on how well the situation is handled by the parents.

The Behavioral Aspects of the Effects of Divorce on Children. Children can display a wide range of behavioral changes due to experiencing the traumatic effects of divorce, from difficulty in sleeping to highly harmful behavior like violence, drug abuse, and sometimes even suicide. Some of the other behaviors can include regressive behavioral patterns like using comfort items, displaying fears, and bed-wetting, as well as repetitive physical behaviors, nervous habits, and problems in schools on academic standards and performance.

They can become whiny and clingy and require greater attention and understanding of their behavior and moods. This is the period when they require greater emotional nurturance. Many children feel that they must take care of their divorced parent. One of the widespread behavioral characteristics displayed by children of divorced parents is to take on the care of emotionally disturbed parents in totality.

There is often a common misconception about the natural resilience of children and their ability to cope with a divorce without it having much impact on their lives. As a matter of fact, most children require

supportive people as well as support systems to help them cope and come to terms with the changes that are brought about, especially during the transitional period.

2.1.5 Psychological impact

Divorce has a major psychological impact on children and adults as well. In a classic study, *Robert Weiss (1979)* observed single parents for several years and identified three common source of strain: responsibility overload-single parents must make all the decisions and provide for all the needs of the families; task overload-working, housekeeping, and parenting take up so much time that there is none left to meet unexpected demands; and emotional overload-single parents must constantly give emotional support to their children regardless of how they feel themselves. This and other research suggests that the number of parents in the home is not as crucial as the functioning of the member who is present *(Lamanna 1997)*.

2.1.6 Economic consequences

Financially, divorce can sometimes be good news-for men. Most recently men enjoy higher standards of living because they maintain their income level while jettisoning most family responsibilities and expenses *(Duncan and Hoffman, 1985; Weitzman, 1985; Hoffman and Duncan 1988)*. On the other hand, evidence abounds regarding the economic losses of divorced women. Not only do most women lack men's career resources, but after divorce they usually shoulder the burden of child-care responsibilities and must therefore either enter the labor market or work harder and longer hours *(Peterson, 1989)*. For many such women, remarriage offers the best path to economic improvement *(Johnson and Minton, 1982; Duncan and Hoffman, 1985)*.

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2.1.7 Health consequences

Those who divorce are also more susceptible to a wide array of psychological difficulties: They are 6 to 10 times more likely to use inpatient psychiatric facilities *(Seagraves, 1980)*, are at greater risk to commit suicide *(Stack, 1990)*, and suffer higher rates of anxiety, depression, phobias, and general unhappiness *(Gove and Shin, 1989; Kurdek, 1990, 1991)*. Worse divorce can act as a chronic stressor, causing long term mental problems *(McCubbin and Patterson, 1982; Wallerstein and Blakeslee, 1989)*.

The correlation between divorce and psychological distress, although strong and well documented, does not clearly indicate a cause and effect relationship. It is possible that people with emotional difficulties are simply more likely to divorce. Some researchers suggest that, at least in the case of women who divorce several times, dysfunctional personalities make some wives more "divorce prone" than others *(Brody, Neubaum, and Forehand, 1988)*. However, longitudinal studies that monitor spouses' depression over time find that depression typically appears at the time of divorce and its related stress *(Aseltine and Kessler, 1993)*. Likewise, Alan Booth and Paul Amato (1991) analyzed three waves of data collected from married people, some of whom divorced during the study, and discovered no signs of continuously high levels of psychological stress in those who eventually divorced. Only just before the divorce did stress level rise, eventually declining afterward, suggesting that the distress of many recently divorced people results not from a psychological unfitness but from the crisis itself.

We can also expect a higher incidence of physical illness among divorced and separated couples than those who are happily married *(Gove, Style, and Hughes, 1990)*. The explanation may lie in the suppressed immunological functioning found in people who are divorced, separated,

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or in unhappy marriages *(Ader, Cohen, and Felton, 1990; Kielcolt-Glaser et al., 1987)*. Whatever the reason, divorced people, especially women *(Kurdek, 1991)*, are at higher risk of physical as well as psychological maladies.

Murder, divorce generate a lot of hostility and animosity between the partners to the effect that either of them may be drawn into conspiring and murdering the other. This can be cone by hiring thugs to finish the partner off. A bad example evolves out of divorce to other families since they are so rampant today, young couples facing problems in marriage would not seek for better and lasting solution to the problem instead divorce is made to appear as the only solution, divorce therefore breeds more divorce.

Hatred, sex creates a permanent relationship between husband and wife of when this breaks, it creates great emotional strain. Divorce is a painful experience and gives no easy room for reconciliation and forgiveness, it make partners develop a feeling of frustration, guilt, hatred, revenge and homicide. Financial burden, divorce is usually accompanied by so many demands and in many cases the man may be compelled to forgo substantial amount of hard cash and asset to his divorced wife, if they have many children he may have to pay a lot of money and other support to his divorced wife and children. Lack of trust, after going through divorce especially if the fault is of one of the partners it's likely that in future one may fail to trust anybody.

Infanticide, some women when abandoned while pregnant, they may end up killing the child instead of it being a burden/problem to her, the child is killed to avoid her from taking the responsibilities alone. Some women will give birth to a child after divorce and abandon the baby in the dust pin so that the families home institutions for them to take of the abandoned children. Street children, some mothers will look after the

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children until they are mature enough and but when they are harassed with poverty they can't look after the children, such children end up in streets begging for survival, so divorce causes the problem of street children.

Harassment, children as a result of divorce experience a lot of harassment from people who look after them, they transfer their problem to the children as if they are the cause of their parents divorce. Suffering, divorce causes serious suffering to the children because they lack basic necessities in life like good nutrition (food), clothing and decent lifestyle, and the absence of the father who is the source of financial support leads to serious suffering.

2.2 Causes of Divorce

Husbands are responsible to train up their families in the way they should go. Until the marriage, the woman has every right to back out of the wedding and should if she's not happy in all twelve of these areas. Statistics prove the marriage has a poor chance if there is a problem in any of these areas. Statistics also prove that the marriage has almost no chance if there are problems in two or more of these areas. Following the wedding, the husband is in charge in all twelve areas and the wife must accept his way of working these things out. But, husband, you are responsible to lead in all twelve areas. If you are blaming your wife for failure in any of these areas, face the fact: you are out of step.

At the macro level, societal factors contributing to higher rates of divorce include changes in social institutions such as religion and family. Some religions have taken a more lenient attitude towards divorce, and the social stigma associated with divorce has lessened. The family institution has undergone a major change that has resulted in less economic and emotional dependency among family members and thus reduce barrier to divorce. At the micro level, a number of factors contribute to a couple's

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"statistical" livelihood of becoming divorced. *Here are some of the primary social characteristics of those likely to get divorced:*

To begin with, whichever part of the world you may focus on, the number of divorces seems to be on an all time rise. Many blame divorce on the fact that people have started becoming more selfish and taking the sanctity of marriage lightly. I have a different opinion. I blame evolution. Human beings and minds are evolving to an extent where in we can see the finer things. We have come to believe that if something does not make us happy, then carrying it on is a bigger mistake. So, is divorce correct? Yes and No. If the reasons for divorce are correct then the divorce is correct, else, it could be a big mistake. *Let us see a list of causes for divorce:*

2.2.1 Cultural aspect

Cultural norms for mate selection vary. The degree of freedom individuals have in choosing a marriage partner depends on the society in which they live. In some cultures (parts of India, China, and Palestine) "marriage are arranged by parents, other relatives, or hired 'match makers' and often the young men and women have little to say in the matter. The primary criteria considered in the matching process are often the families' religion, caste, and social class, and love is expected to develop after the marriage occurs" *(Sprecher and Chandak, 1992, 59).* For example, a sample of Indians identified the primary advantages of arranged marriages. These included experiencing support from the respective families, having a high quality and stable marriages and having compatible or desirable background.

Endogamy is the cultural expectation to select a marriage partner within one's own social approval and disapproval to encourage you to select a partner within your own group. This normally helps one to get the right partner hence lessens the issue of divorce occurring within the society.

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The pressure towards the endogamous mate choice is especially strong when race is concerned; *Killian (1997)* studied twenty Blacks-white married couples who reported that the public reaction to their relationship was often negative.

2.2.2 The changing roles of women

In the past, the role of the wife in an American marriage was assumed to be that of housekeeper, child-rearing and nurturing supporter of a husband who was active in the world beyond home. More and more American women are rejecting this role, and in doing so they are challenging the established structure of the nuclear family. Women are no longer confirmed to the home for much of their lives through pregnancy and the care of infants. The average family now has only two children, and the average woman now has her last child in her late twenties. Traditional family norms make little provision for the woman who wants an independent career, and even more than the husband and becomes the primary breadwinner. The growing economic independence of women makes it much easier for them to divorce their mates, and it challenges the role relationship on which the nuclear family has been based *(Kanter, 1978; Rubin, 1979)*.

Infidelity: Infidelity is one of the top reasons for divorce. A cheating wife or a cheating husband can often be a lot for a person to handle, leading the decision to get a divorce. Emotional cheating in a relationship, also, often leads to a divorce.

Zero Empathy: Lack of empathy in relationships is a viable reason to end the relationship. Lack of empathy in a marriage often leads to a brutal and disturbing divorce.

Abuse: Physical, emotional or sexual abuse is a very strong reason for one to get a divorce. Rather than hanging around in the abusive

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relationship, hoping for your partner to miraculously change, get a divorce and save your soul.

Bigamy: While this is not that common an affair in the western world, other parts of the world faces this problem quite often. Unreasonable bigamy (as certain cultures do allow it under certain circumstances), is a very strong and legitimate reason for one to get a divorce.

Intellectual Incompatibility: If a couple is not compatible intellectually, they will not be able to carry the relationship on in the long run. While sexual compatibility may allow them to feel good about the marriage in the start, the lack of the mental and intellectual bond could cause a rift, leading to a divorce.

Lack/poor of Communication: While many may deny having this relationship issue, it is quite common. Many a couple hurry into matrimony, as they are "so in love" with each other. One needs to figure out the "reasons why I love you" before agreeing to say "I do". Marriage requires complete and open communication, to survive all the rough rides. Lack of communication is one of the leading causes of divorce. A marriage is on the rocks when the lines of communication fail. You can't have an effective relationship if either one of you won't discuss your feelings, can't talk about your mutual or personal issues, will keep your resentments simmering under wraps, and expect your partner to guess what the whole problem is about.

Romanticizing: Many people have the tendency to romanticize marriage. They have very high and mighty expectations from the institution. As such, when reality strikes, they cannot handle it. Many such people live in a bubble and in the honeymoon stage of marriage till they are actually faced with difficulties. Not being able to handle it, they opt for a divorce.

Early Marriage: Teen marriages have a very high chance of ending in a divorce. This is because; the individuals are not yet matured and take the decision in a hurry. While there is no doubt that they are in love with each other, they are not mentally ready to also go through life and its challenges together. More so, many of them grow apart while growing up.

Abandonment: If a person abandons his spouse, it is a very legitimate reason to get a divorce. As the person has gone against the marriage and not taken the institution seriously, in the first place. The abandoned spouse could opt for a divorce. I am sure that they can manage a huge alimony as well. One may get a divorce simply out of the fear of abandonment. Which is not entirely correct? Abandonment: As per the bible, one can ask for a divorce, if they are abandoned. This is because; it is the duty of a spouse to stand by their partner, in sickness and in health, through thick and thin. As such, abandonment means that they have broken a vow. Making it a very valid reason to opt for a divorce;

Hidden Sexuality: In many cases, a spouse "comes out" a while after the marriage. As such a divorce is the best option. This is because it gives both the individuals the freedom to go on in life without being tagged to each other. In case of a couple with children, they often opt for a shared custody. You can also see how to go about helping children cope with divorce. These divorces are mostly quite friendly. Still under this, sexual unfaithfulness is another factor to put into consideration; some marriages are broken down by unfaithfulness or suspicion of unfaithfulness. In today's era, when Aids pandemic has scared off everybody and evidence to show unfaithfulness and disorganize the entire marriage system, so when both or one partner has sex people outside the marriage can lead to divorce.

Forced marriage, here the couples marry conditionally e.g. a boy marries a girl because he has pregnant her "mercy marriage," the marriage is not

because he loves her or he was prepared to do so, this will be done due to the fear of opinion, heavy compensation or threat of his job, studies or life. To silence the matter he accepts to marry hence after a short while they will end up in divorce due to discovery of various weird behaviors and difference in characters.

Adultery, if a partner indulges in adultery to an extent that may be unacceptable to the other partner they may opt for a divorce as a solution. As one of them has broken the sanctity of marriage and been indiscreet, the marriage does not stand. As such, one has all rights to get a divorce from a cheating spouse.

Sexual dissatisfaction, the major cause of divorce is sexual boredom and lack of satisfaction. Some people are totally hopeless and boring in bed, they are unable to satisfy their partners, if this happens for a long time the partner may hope for divorce. Another factor that can perpetuate divorce is impotence, some people become impotent either due to diseases, age, medication and other factors such that they are totally unable to erect and perform in bed, the man's sexual operator remains a sleep, and this may drive the woman into seeking divorce.

Incompatibility of conduct, even where courtship and engagement took place, one may decide to hide once true character, habits and behavior only to display them after marriage. This incompatibility may take the forms of greed, anger, cruelty, drunkards, theft, witchcraft, cannibalism when one partner discovers that it becomes impossible to cope with such a person hence divorce takes its control.

Religion, a change in religion especially without the consent of the partner may generate serious trouble culminating in divorce i.e. all of a sudden a woman married of blick convert to a born again Christians it may lead to divorce into a result of fundamental divergence to religion. Education, this is another main factor to consider, some people will be

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forced to ask for divorce when they discover that the education level/background of their partner is shameful, distressful and not pleasing at all, their partner might have told the other lies yet overtime the truth is revealed on their academic status as of low level hence this may lead to divorce.

2.3 The Most Possible Solution of Divorce

A great many people believe that obtaining a divorce is the sole means to pull out of a distressed relationship. However, as the wonderful philosopher Aristotle said, "There is always a third option." Regarding individuals that believe that obtaining a divorce is the same thing as being contented, try thinking it through again. A current study that was lead by Ms. Linda Waite of the University of Chicago disclosed that divorced individuals are not any happier. An additional even more amazing reality that was uncovered by the research is that 67% of the individuals that became distressed about their marriages later stated that they were happy in their marriages five years later. Her group additionally discovered that a preponderance of devotedly wedded pairs had undergone long durations of sadness in their unions. The distinction is that the pair remained with the relationship and discovered answers to their difficulties.

Matrimony is designed to connect the inner souls of two individuals together. The marriage loses its holiness in the complete circumstance of splitting up. There exist more methods than one to stop divorce. Listed below are a few valuable points that someone can use in trying to rescue their marriage from breaking down.

2.3.1 Communication in marriage

Marriage totally changes the lives of two adults. It requires dying to selfishness. It equally requires real communication. (Again, the average couple in the united States communicates 27 minutes a week --

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remember that "communication" means "a stimulating conversation on both ends," but not an argument.) Virtually all differences advance to fights as a result of the absence of communication. A few pairs merely discuss chores and projects. Maintaining an open line of communication would maintain the frankness in the relationship and prevent concealed perceptions that could prod significant emotional harm. Problems DON'T go away by totally avoiding them. You need to communicate with your mate. Communicate, DON'T just talk. The dictionary defines "talking" as "to utter words." "To communicate" means "to transmit thoughts.

Hebrews 4:14-16

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God; let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." James 1:19-20, says"...let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."

2.3.2 Avoid negative statements.

Statements like, *"don't listen to me. You'll do what you want anyway!"* are the kind of sarcasm that turns a wife off and even helps to make her rebellious. Phrases like, "I can't stand..." used during a heated discussion may easily be received angrily by your wife as a weakness on your part. Angrily telling your wife, *"You Shouldn't Be..."* will simply make her defensive. In fact, all negative words need to come out of any times of disagreement. Words like, "DON'T!" "DIDN'T!" "SHOULDN'T!" "COULDN'T!" "CAN'T!" "NEVER!" "ALWAYS!" etc.

Also avoid negative predictions like *"At the Rate you're Going..."*; "IF YOU KEEP (eating, smoking, anything she's doing that you don't like) YOU'RE GOING TO... (And then finish the sentence describing a disaster). Remember that Jesus said in Mark 11:23 that whatever we say are what we'll get if we really believe that it is going to happen. Your negative prediction can even make your listener so angry; she'll unconsciously carry out the prediction as a form of retaliation, even though it is self-destructive.

2.3.3 Hear your wife whether you can solve her problem

A wife cares most that you see how things look to her. Things may not be the way she sees them, but that isn't the issue she's making. She wants you to catch her vision, right or wrong. Let your wife explain. Let your wife complain. Her biggest need is to know that you care about her feelings. You may not be able to do anything about the problem, but your love for her will show through to her IF you listen and sympathize with her. *Don't argue. Never say, "don't worry about it."* (Such a remark guarantees in her mind that you don't care.) CARE! Find out what she's really saying. Discover what she's really worried about. Ask questions when she's finished pouring out her heart to you. Be sure you do understand her position (1 Peter 3:7 -- "...You husbands, likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way...") You may not be able to be Superman, solving every problem, but you are to be Super husband, listening to and caring about your wife! Is the key aspect for good marriage?

2.3.4 Care and be sensitive to each other's needs.

Judith F. Van Heukelem said in a thought-provoking article in Journal of Psychology And Theology, summer '79, "We live in a fallen world, characterized by sin, loss, sorrow, pain, and distress...The human body can survive only limited amounts of stress. God, in His providence, has

provided various tension releases, one of which is crying. "Scripture rarely condemns or disapproves of weeping or crying...Scripture, on the contrary, treats weeping and crying as normal and expected behavior...The only instance that can be found of Jesus telling people not to weep are in cases where the loved one they were grieving for had been raised or was about to experience resurrection."

2.3.5 Look for assistance/counseling

In case everything else does not work the way you hoped it would and you have attempted to solve the difficulty between the pair of you, seek outside help. There exist professional marriage counselors that are able to help marriage partners with problems to get back on the right track. There's no harm in seeking assistance. Keep in mind that divorce has its penalties, which include tremendous monetary losses. Even more significantly, it taints marriage and completely finishes relationships. What it comes down to is that if there is more than sufficient love that exists within a home, divorce will not ever rear its ugly head. Married people really needs guidance and counseling to enable them be aware of the demands and challenges of married life, this may help them cope with the future problems in marriage. Outside influence, married couples should be conscious when choosing friends to socialize with; this will help him/her limit those whose wrong advice may wreck the marriage. The couples should maintain a level of privacy and avoid telling friends the family/marriage problems. *David Fordly* owns the website *http://www.marriage-coundeling-stop-divorce.com* where you can find marriage counseling to stop divorce and turn a marriage in trouble into one of happiness.

2.3.6 Sharing housework and child care

Marital happiness is higher among couples who shares housework and child care. The farther couples are from an equitable sharing of domestic

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responsibilities, the more tension there is among all family members *(Hochschild with Machung, 1989)*. When this is highly taken into consideration, the rate of divorce will decrease hence happiness will perpetuate itself in the family and there will be no more issues of divorce.

2.3.7 Sex satisfaction

Having a good sex life is associated with marital satisfaction. Contrary to popular belief, surveys show that sex generally improves during a marriage. Sexual intercourse is also more enjoyable and frequent among happier couples. From these findings, some expert concludes that general marital happiness leads to sexual compatibility *(Collins and Coltrane, 1991:344)*. However, the reverse may also be true. Good sex may lead to good marriage. After all, sexual preferences are deeply rooted in our psyches and our earliest experiences. They cannot easily be altered to suit the wishes of our partners.

2.3.8 Patience

It's vital in marriage especially in the event of surviving financial hardships, this can arise from temporary loses of job which can be solved with time. The couples should be patient and tolerant to the situation. Married couples should resist from leaving the fellows partner at home and going to work far away. By being away from each other the temptation to go astray is very strong thus destroying the love, mutual dependence and faithfulness to each other, husbands should live with their wife's in their place of work

2.4 The Major Features to Consider when choosing a Good Marriage Partner.

When choosing a marriage partner there are certain factors should be put into consideration to avoid the rampant increase of divorce in the families and marriage as well.

2.4.1 Homogamy

Given the importance of similarity in interpersonal attraction, one expects that people will marry others as themselves. People meet others like themselves, find the relatively more attractive than others they have met, and then marry them, or at least form a household.

This tendency of like marrying like-assortative mating or homogamy-is found for wide variety of characteristics. Important variables on which mate similarity is evident include age, geographic location, various physical traits and overall physical attractiveness, and mental traits, including attitudes, opinions, and personality (Buss 1985). So, where in the pat people married others from the same town and background and were similar to their mate on a great many dimensions, today we marry others to whom we are similar on a few of most important dimensions.

There are good reasons why people tend to be homogamous. First, they are, more likely to meet others who are (at least socially) like themselves than to meet people unlike themselves. This results from the social circles within which people move and interact with others. Second, we usually like people who think the way we do and act the way we expect them to; we feel comfortable in their presence. Third, instrumental and expressive exchanges are easier to balance when like is marrying like. That's because people are bringing similar, hence more equal, qualities and resources to the marriage.

Homogamy promotes marital satisfaction and happiness. Thus, homogamy has a survival value: couples who are similar are not only more likely to meet and marry but also more likely to remain together and produce children than couples who are less similar. Homogamy is promoted in some environments more than others, and the degree of similarity of one's mate will depend on where one meets him or her. Schools promote most forms of homogamy, whereas neighborhoods and

family networks promote religious homogamy *(Kalmijn and Flap, 2001)*. Thus, institutionally organized arrangements can determine what kind of a mate one will meet.

2.4.2 Age

One of the most consistent and persistent facts of marriage is the age gap of the partners involved. Men tend to marry women a little younger than they are. This pattern is clear and persistent-a stable finding of sociological research. Age differences can reflect different power and experience, although, of cause, this is not always true. It can mean that men exercise greater financial leverage in marriage. The younger partner may be in a weaker bargaining position. Its also possible even probable that if the man is a little older, it is his career that is more established and that sets the course for the marriage in terms of who is likely to follow whom for a job or a promotion or a transfer. These differentials tend to widen further with the birth of a child.

When a friend gets you a date, you assume the person will be close to your age. Your peers are not likely to approve of your coming involved with someone twice your age. A student who was dating one of our former teachers said "he always comes over to my place and I prepare dinner for us. I don't want to be seen in public with him although I love him. It doesn't feel right being with someone old enough to be my father." Such a concern for age homogamy is particularly characteristics of individuals who have never married. Those who had been married before are much more likely to become involved with someone who is less close to their age.

2.4.3 Education

Educational homogamy also operates strongly in selecting a living-together and marital partner (with greater homogamy for marital partners) *(Blackwell and Lichter 2000)*. Some characteristics of

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prospective mates are more important than other characteristics in determining mate selection and education is one of the most important in our society. For example education- an achieved status- is a more important criterion in the selection of married partner than social class origins, which are ascribing (i.e. inherited at birth). Moreover, educational monogamy has increased over time *(Kalmijn 1991)*. More people are marrying spouses with the same or a similar level of educational attachment. From the 1930's onwards, the norm has been, and is, increasingly educational homogamy (Mare, 1991). There may be several explanations for this, including increased importance of educational attainment for upward mobility and the increased numbers of young people who prolong their education through secondary schools, college or university, and even post-graduate programs. Though a shift to achieved status over ascribed status, increase in educational homogamy may not indicate a significant change in the pattern of social stratification in modern industrial societies *(Jones, 1987)*. Educational homogamy may be important for the couples involved, but it holds no necessary implication for the way the class structure operate.

2.4.4 Marital status and religion

Marital status and religion are other factors involved in homogamous mate selection. The never married tend to select the never married, the divorced tend to select the divorced, and the widowed tend to select the widowed as partners to marry. In addition, although the religious homogamy is decreasing because we are becoming increasingly pluralistic and secularized as a society, this factor is still operating. Two researchers analyzed the couple formation of a sample of college students and observed that spirituality, Christianity and a view that marriage is a life time commitment were important consideration in the selection of a partner. Some of the respondent also noted that God

played a vital role in their formation as a couple *(Young and Schvaneveldt, 1992).*

2.4.5 Similarity and couples happiness

Similarity of perception is another homogamous factor that researchers have found it related to marital happiness. Family therapists have found those spouses who have similar perception of themselves, each other, their relationship, their children, and family in general, tends to report more marital satisfaction and more harmonious family *functioning (Deal, Wampler, and Halverson, 1992).*

A study of long term committed couple relationships finds that agreement on a wide variety of issues is one factor that contributes to the longevity of the marriage, marital satisfaction and overall happiness (Lauer et al 1990). Men and women whose attitude diverges from those of their spouses are less satisfied with their marriages *(Lye and Biblarz, 1993).* Marital happiness is positively related to the accuracy of perception of a spouse's motivational state; that is spouses' abilities to correctly identify and interpreted each other's thoughts and moods, and generally associated with the frequency, positiveness, and effectiveness of spousal interaction *(Kirchler 1988).* Main causes of marital dissatisfaction between partners are a lack of shared attitudes towards moral standards and sex, with moral standards being the predominant factor for women and sex the predominant factor for men *(McAllister 1986).*

Ross et al (1987) investigate the relationship between marital satisfaction and communication of sexual behavior preferences in a sample of married couples they find agreement on sexual matters is significantly related to the couple's marital happiness. Wives tend to have a better understanding of their husband's sexual preferences than the husbands do of the wives preferences.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this section, the major issues observed is research methodology on data collection used in working out the research problem. There is use of research designs, area of study, sampling techniques, size of the sample, study instruments, sources of data and ethical consideration of the research problem studied.

3.1 Research design

The study was carried out in Nyalenda location located in Kisumu city and its surrounding communities hence it focused on the divorce and the social status of families. The research design involved a case study approach as the major research design. The respondents were mainly the affected members of the community and the entire community. They were confidentially interviewed and examined to provide the research with detailed information required. This satisfied the main intention of the research carried out.

3.2 Area of study

The study was carried out in Western region - Nyalenda location in Kisumu City, Kenya. The city had been identified to be a key area of rampant occurrences of divorce in Kenya due to the opulence nature of dwellers. Kisumu city is believed to be a place where the majorities are perceived to be rich in regards to other areas in Kisumu due to the struggle for resources, status, education level and negative competitive nature of the couples. The study was carried out to address the problem of high rate of family breakdown, loss of love among couples and children that had depreciated the social norms of the present society.

3.3 Sampling techniques

The sampling technique used was a simple random sampling. People who were found in the area of specialization within Nyalenda, particularly to those who are victims or have a view on it or those who have been affected directly or indirectly stood an equal chance of being selected to contribute any information to the research problem. The research relied on them because they are the ones who know the problem very well and how it impacts/affects them either directly or indirectly.

This method helped to obtain specific forms of data required; all of the people concerned provided their possessing vital information. Simple random sampling enabled the entire population to have an equal chance of being included in the sample hence the results obtained were reliable; this is because the sample normally had the same characteristics as the selected population.

3.4 Size of the sample

The sample size of the research consisted of small groups within the community and families affected directly or indirectly. Particular units of the population to be selected were used to represent the whole community. At least seventy six people in each group were interviewed or by use of questionnaires so that the required information could be gathered which were representative, reliable and flexible to address the problem of divorce. The families that are both affected directly and indirectly so that so that they gave me the required information. The random sampling technique was relevant to this research hence interview was the most preferred designing research tools.

3.5 Methods of data collection

3.5.1 Questionnaire method

It involved administering questions to the respondents. The respondents completed them in written form; using both closed and open ended questions, the researcher had a list of questions to ask the respondent in a written form. He/she had to note the answers given so as to help in culminating this problem of concern.

3.5.2 Literature search method

The data was collected from various studies done before. The data was gathered in the library from the text book in the institutions, newspapers, magazines, novels, internet cafes and other areas of research studies.

3.5.3 Interview method

Interview was also used as a direct face to face attempt to obtain reliable and valid measures inform of verbal responses from one or more respondents in form of conversation. The use of interview helped in quick responses, easy flexibility and administrative access to direct/fast hand data of the required information from the respondents.

3.5.4 Data analysis

The data was analyzed using several techniques such as sorting, classification, aggregation, survey tables and graphs. Analysis was done on various aspects of demographic profile of the respondents such as sex, ages, and level of education among others.

3.6 Ethical consideration (confidentiality)

Confidentiality was my main observation in my research, to obtain a letter from the faculty of social science that enabled me to go and carry out the research on the rampant increase of divorce and its impact on

the social well being of families. Respect the dignity of the clients, co-operate and have secret to the ideas that they had rendered to me.

The names of respondents were kept secret hence sought agreement among the parties involved concerning each individual's right to confidentiality and obligation to preserve the confidentiality of information shared by others. Clients records were disposed in a manner that protects client's confidentiality and consistent with state status governing records and social work licensure, reviewing with clients circumstances where confidentiality was requested and where disclosure of confidential information was required.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANNALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the findings of the study conducted on marriages breakdown in families in Nyalenda. It assesses the factors contributing to increasing marriage breakdown in families and out lining some of its effects on the society. It also suggests possible solutions to reduce on marriage breakdown.

The study was conducted in Nyalenda Kisumu City. Although the sub-location has got seventy villages, only two villages were selected to act as a sample size in general all the questionnaires and interview guides were answered and the data was analyzed in percentage.

4.2 Category of Respondents

Table 4.1: Showing respondents by sex.

Sex of respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Male	33	44%
Female	43	56%
Total	76	100%

Source: Primary data

Table 4.1 indicates that 56% of the respondents were female as compared to male who constituted 44%. They all responded to the questionnaires given to them in the study.

According to the research, more questionnaires were given to the females because most of them were housewives who remained at home.

Furthermore it was cited that the females were the most victims of divorce.

Table 4.2: Showing respondent by age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
15-20	7	9.2%
21-25	9	11.8%
26-30	10	13.2%
31-35	12	23.6%
36-40	8	10.5%
41-45	11	14.5%
46 and above	13	7.2%
Total	**76**	**100%**

Source: Primary data

The table 4.2 above indicates that the highest percentage of age group respondents was 23.6 % (31-35 ages) and the least percentage was 9.2% under age group of 15-20 years. Several people from 30-35 were the majority of the respondent because they were the in-married group and were able to provide first hand information to the researcher.

The least percentage of 9.2% were school going age who have been affected by divorce, actually whose parents separated.

Table 4.3: Showing Education Background of Respondents

Education status	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	30	39.5%
O' Level	20	26.3%
A' Level	11	14.5%
Above A' Level	5	6.6%
Others	10	13.2%
Total	**76**	**100%**

Source: Primary data

The table 4.3 above shows the education background of respondents. 39% of them were for primary, 26.3% were for O-level. 14.5% were A-Level; and above A-Level were 6.6%. The general observation was that respondents who did not go for education especially women were not aware of their rights so this made them more vulnerable to divorce.

Table 4.4: Showing Respondents by Marital Status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	40	52.6%
Divorced	27	35.5%
Singles	9	11.8%
Total	**76**	**100%**

Source: Primary data

The table 4.4 shows 52.6% of the respondents were married as compared to 35.5% of the divorced and 11.8% were singles. These groups revealed appropriate information about the study.

According to the finding of the study divorce was high among the married people of 25-35 years because of being young, they look as marriage as not so important in their lives and can easily remarry so far course they can easily breakdown.

Table 4.5: Showing Respondents by Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Catholics	25	32.8%
Muslims	15	19.7%
Born again	18	23.7%
Anglican	9	11.8%
Others	10	13.2%
Total	**76**	**100%**

Source: Primary data

The table 4.5 shows that Catholics were 32.8% implying that they are the most occupants of the area. Born again were at 23.7%, Muslims 19.7%, Anglicans 11.8% others 13.2%. Religion on the other hand has been included and used by most researchers. It was necessary to understand which religion people belong to because some respondents noted that religion has a factor for divorce in Nyalenda. The failure by religious leaders to preach about the role of marriage families has contributed to dishonest in marriage thus leading to divorce in families.

Table 4.6: Showing Occupation Background of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployed	30	39.5%
Self employed	26	34.2%
Employed	20	26.3%
Total	**76**	**100%**

Source: Primary data

In table 4.6, the study indicated that 39.5% were unemployed, 34.2% self employed, 26.3% employed in civil servants like teachers taking a big portion, nurses, technical staff among others.

The researcher noted that there is a need for the government to come up with more programs to help the people although there are programs like poverty eradication programs among others. Still there is need for more programs to cater for the people.

Also there is need to encourage the unemployed to start self employment and reduce poverty which contributes to divorce in family.

Table 4.7: Showing Causes of Divorce in Families

Causes	Mothers	Fathers	Community leaders	Children
Poverty	26.3%	23%	21.5%	29.2%
Sickness	28%	25%	30%	17%
Drug use	25%	20%	40%	15%
Alcoholism	27%	13%	35%	15%
Religion	49%	39%	19%	00%
Bride price	35%	20%	41%	4%
Adultery	**30%**	**22%**	**42%**	**00%**

Source: Primary data

Table 4.7 basing on Nyalenda indicates that 26.3% of mothers gave poverty as a factor for the increasing divorce in families. On the same note 23% of the fathers, 21.5% community leaders, 29.2% of children also attributed the same point of poverty.

28% of divorced mothers attribute the increasing marriage sickness. 25% of fathers, 30% of leaders and children 17% were in for the same point.

From the interview of 76 mothers, 25% agreed that it is drug use that account for the increasing divorce, 13% fathers, 35% children aired a similar view.

Some of the respondents gave alcoholism between married couples as another factor. 27% of mothers, 13% of fathers, 35% leaders, 15% of the children supported the point.

It was revealed that religious factor leads to increasing marriage breakdown. 49% of mothers noted that some couples have separated due to difference in religion that is to say in case if one party diverts from the

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original religion. 39% of fathers and 19% of the leaders supported the issue while none of the children were in for the fact.

35% of mothers gave in the point of bride price, which they say to be sign of appreciation by he husband to the parents of his wife. 20% of fathers were also behind the issue, 41% of political leaders, 4% of the children did the same thing.

36% of the mothers were in for the point of adultery, 22% fathers 42% of leaders and 17.1%of children supported the issue.

By the following statistics in the table (4.7.3) poverty in families was seen as the major factor leading to divorce followed by adultery. The researcher also noted that sickness became third after adultery. It was evident that when the couple finds out that their status is positive, they tend to blame one another for having brought the sickness in the family thus leading to separation.

Table 4.8: Showing the possible solutions for divorce

Ways	Frequency	Percentage
Joining religious groups	18	23.6%
Pre and post marital counseling	15	19.8%
Faithfulness	23	30%
Patience	12	15.8%
Communication in marriage	8	10.5%

Source: Primary data

Table 4.8 reveals the possible solutions that were aired out by respondents.

Faithfulness scored the highest percentage of 30% implying that there must be faithfulness among couples to avoid problems such as cheating and spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Joining religious groups for spiritual counseling

The score on this view was 23.6%.This implied that when there is God fearing in the families the incidence of divorce would be minimal because all religions emphasizes that "in good or bad times" one should be available and supportive to the family and partner.

19.8% called for pre and post marital counseling as solution to marriage breakdown. Some respondent revealed that they got into marriage without knowing what takes place in marriage institution.

Some respondents called for the strengthening of the ministry of gender and integrity, church institutions. This in future translates into strong marriage institutions.

CHAPTER FIVE

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the report gives the overall summary of the study, recommendations and suggestions for further research.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 Main causes of divorce

Basing on the research findings about the causes of divorce in Nyalenda, it meant that the rate of divorce was high in the area because of high rate of unemployment, infidelity, adultery, hidden sexuality, diseases, incompatibility of conduct, poverty and extra marital affairs are the key causes of divorce in families hence this has made more marriages to breakdown.

5.2.2 The most possible solutions for divorce

In addressing the possible solutions to divorce, it is important for married couples to understand their rights and responsibilities in marriage. The religious leaders and the government have a major role to play in order to safeguard the marriages in communities. This is by educating the people on the key principles of marriage before getting married and also referring them to source of redress where their problems can be handled like legal practitioners, churches, mosques and the elders within their communities. Enabling couples to understand the possible solutions to divorce is very important as it helps in curbing down the problems that can lead to divorce.

5.2.3 Major features to consider when choosing a good marriage partner.

When choosing a good marriage partner, it's important for an individual to consider major features that are desirable and of interest to him or her. If this is looked upon well it will help in curbing down the problems that can lead couple to divorce hence it has been realized that poor choice of good marriage partner is the cause of divorce when one of the partner realizes that one's character and posture doesn't suit him or her.

The study objectives as shown in chapter one were all achieved appropriately and all their findings are indicated in chapter four of this report and never the less all the factors are responsible for the seeming divorce in families and the information revealed as applicable to other families in the country at large.

5.3 Recommendations

Basing on research findings, the following is recommended:

5.3.1 Main causes of divorce

To avoid or reduce the causes of divorce in the families, the couples should be sensitized and educated on about the value of marriage as an institution. Religious leaders should ensure that before marriage, a couple is well prepared and informed of marriages affairs, they should be made to know each other very well, taught on what can facilitate divorce hence be made aware of it in advance. When this is taken into consideration, it will be easy for the cause of divorce to be limited or done away with in the families.

5.3.2 The most possible solutions for divorce

To provide possible solutions to divorce in the families, the government should set awareness workshops for married couples through the ministry of Gender, Ethics and Integrity. The government in conjunction

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with the churches should hold conferences, seminars and rallies to address the married people on the importance of marriage and how it should be protected from breaking down (divorce) this will help to control on the uncalled behaviors of some married people. A code of conduct for married people need be developed by the same ministry. Couples should seek premarital counseling before marriage to avoid the identified impacts within this research. Couples should attend and seek spiritual counseling as the way of upholding the principles of marriages; there is need for good communication in the marriage, patience, understanding one another, commitment to one another etc. All this is recommended to be the best and possible solution for curbing divorce in the families.

5.3.3 Major features to consider when choosing a good marriage partner.

In choosing a good marriage partner, it's highly recommended that partners should go for the partners whom they know better and understands their character very well. They should vividly look at the age of their partners, educational level, physical appearance, code of conduct that suits you and her desire hence it is very important to ensure that one does a right choice and decision before engaging into marriage. When all this is put into consideration, there will be limited opportunity for divorce take place hence this will bring stability in the marriage as well as family.

5.4 Area of Further Research

There is need for further studies on the effects of marriage breakdown (divorce) to the couples, children and the entire family. There is also need for further research on how the problems of divorce affect the whole community

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRES

QUESTIONAIRES FOR COUPLES

Dear respondent,

I am a student of Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration. Assist me to fill this questionnaire which seeks your opinion concerning divorce in families in Nyalenda, your contribution will enhance the strategies to reduce divorce in families not only in Nyalenda but to all the country and ones who will access the research therefore I assure you that your opinion will be stated with confidentiality and your particulars will not be exposed.

CLOSE QUESTIONAIRE

Your full name

1. Sex

Male ☐

Female ☐

2. Education Background

Above A' Level ☐

A' Level ☐

O' Level ☐

Others ☐

3. Marital Status

Single ☐

Married ☐

Others ☐

4. Religious Affiliation

Born again   ☐

Muslim   ☐

Anglican   ☐

Catholic   ☐

Others   ☐

5. Occupation

Unemployed   ☐

Employed   ☐

Self employed   ☐

Others   ☐

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

6.

Sex............................   Age...

Village........................

7. Do you go to school?

Yes   ☐

No   ☐

   i)   If yes who meets your requirements

....

   ii)   If No why

....

8. At what time do your father comes back?

....

9. Do you stay with your parents?

Yes   ☐

No   ☐

If No, why?

....

10.   What do you think caused your parents to separate?

....

11.   How has it affected your life?

....

12.   What do you suggest should be done to reduce divorce?

....

....

....

....

OPEN QUESTIONAIRE

13.   What is the impact of divorce on both children and parents?

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14.   What special difficulties confront stepfamilies?

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15.   What legal options are available to a spouse to prevent a divorce from being granted?

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16.   Does a father have the right to deny divorce simply because the mother wants alimony and child support?

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17. How do you get over a divorce if you are divorcing your wife after 8 years and are having a hard time?

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18. How does the court decide who gets custody and physical placement of a child?

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19. What can I do if I'm dissatisfied with the final divorce judgment?

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20. What is the difference between a divorce and a legal separation?

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21. What are the grounds for divorce?

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22. How do the children of the divorced partners survive or find life?

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23. What are the ways forward for cubing the problem of divorce?

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24. How do the divorced couples view each other?

....

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25. How does the society view the spouses who have divorced?

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....

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....

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26. Does bible support divorce, if yes how? (Give quotations from the bible)

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....

Thank you very much for your cooperation

APPENDIX II

TIME FRAME

Activity	February	March	May	May	June	June	June
Identify a research topic	■						
Identification of a research problem		■					
Presentation for approval			■				
Collecting research data				■			
Analyzing & interpretation of research data					■		
Report writing						■	
Submission of final report							■

APPENDIX III

BUDGET

S/No	Particular	Amount [K Shs]
	Stationary and Other Related Costs	95,000/-
	Transport	180,000/-
	Communication	35,000/-
	Photocopy	20,000/-
	Type Setting and Binding	35,000/-
	Subsistence	20,000/-
	Internet	5,000/-
	Miscellaneous	10,000/-
	Grand Total	**400,000/=**