

Analytical Study of the Causal Factors of Divorce in African Homes

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The research is financed by Asian Development Bank. No. 2006-A171(Sponsoring information)

Abstract

The increasing rate of divorce in African homes is an intricate incident happening among African couples and in the world at large. Family is indeed the bedrock of any continent, and world. The rampant occurrence of divorce in African homes is found to have socio-economic and political effect in the society.

Primary data were collected through questionnaires (face-to-face and online) countries across the continent and all were analyzed. The data comprises of sixty married homes, and forty divorcees, consisting of sixty married couples living together, twenty men divorcees and twenty women divorcees were selected at random and given copies of questionnaires.

The results showed that respondents perceived barrenness or infertility as the major cause of divorce. It is also followed by other causes such as absence of love, ignorance, poverty, religion differences, unemployment, and others.

Marriage counselors were encouraged to carry out more studies in this area in order to find a lasting solution to divorce, effect zero tolerance to divorce in the African homes, and device a means of uniting the divorcees so that Africa as a continent will be emulated and set as a standard for other continents to evaluate their marriage performance.

Keywords: causes, divorce, Africa, homes

1. Introduction

Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage. A male divorcee is called divorcé, while a female divorcee is called divorcée, also, marriage is the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife (Concise Oxford English Dictionary, 11th Edition, 2009). Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage by judgment of a court or by accepted custom. It can also be called a total separation (Collins English Dictionary, 2011). It is also a legal way of ending marriage (Macmillan School Dictionary, 2011).

The family occupies a pivotal place in every society and in the Africa continent at large. It is indeed the bedrock of the state, nation, continent, and world at large. Healthy families 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.

Divorce in Africa is a persistent event which effects into immediate and a continuous results. Before divorce can be treated in Africa as a continent, it must be traced out from the developed continents like Europe. Majority of the countries in Africa are referred to as developing countries, therefore, the level of globalization is still on a crawling stage. A developed nation is described as a nation that critically examines the external environment in order to sort out the positive and the negative impacts that such externalities can cause when been imbibed and then find a way of imbibing the positive aspects of it. A developing nation simply imbibed the externalities without critical examinations and as a result of this, the rate of divorce in many African homes increases rapidly.

Marriage is also the backbone of socioeconomic and political development. Its progress and maintenance signifies harmony, while crisis and divorce in the family signals dangers and insecurity in the society (Culled from Daily Trust, 23rd December, 2007). The purpose of this paper is to gain a better understanding of the current research regarding the reasons why the rate of divorce increases in African homes and also proffering various solutions. Literature will be explored to determine strategies reduce or check-mate the rate of divorce and also bring together the divorcee.

1.1 History of divorce

Before 1857 in Britain, freedom to remarry could be obtained only by an act of Parliament following a separation decree given by an ecclesiastical court on the basis of some wrong (such as adultery or abandonment) done by the defendant to the plaintiff. This system, based on the premise that valid marriages may not be dissolved, reflected the Roman Catholic origins of English domestic-relations law.

The early American colonists brought this fault-based system with them to the New World. Because they feared the moral dangers posed by a married yet separated state, they made it possible to obtain an absolute divorce, but only on the traditional English grounds for separation. Basically, however, the conceptual and legal structure of the marriage-dissolution system remained as it had been created and maintained for a divorceless society.

Ecclesiastical courts were abolished in Britain in 1857, and absolute divorce was then instituted. Incorporated into the law of absolute divorce were the fault-based notions that had grown up around separation. These notions continued to affect British and American divorce law and administration for more than a century and also adopted by many other developing continents and countries (Levy, Robert J. "Divorce." Microsoft Encarta, 2009).

Current trends suggest that close to two thirds of new marriage will end in divorce. For instance, nearly 32 percent of couples who divorce will do so before their fifth anniversary and about 63 percent before their tenth (Martin and Bumpass, 1989 and National Centre for Health Statistics, 1993). But, since the nineteenth century the proportion of marriages ended by death of a spouse has declined, while the proportion end by divorce has increased, more or less steadily.

Divorce rates climbed in the 1960s and 1970s reached a peak in the early 1980s, and has dropped slightly since then. Still the U.S. divorce rate remains high when compared with the rate in earlier eras and in other societies (Whites, 1990).

In the same vein, in recent years, Africa has witnessed the high rate of divorce as a result of westernization, globalization, urbanization and industrialization. The periods triggered to a monetary industrial economy. Thus, the extended family that used to resolve conflicts or misunderstandings arise between couples was no longer functioning effectively like in the past. The extended family structure eventually broke up in the process; and there was a shift towards the nuclear family system characterized by less involvement of members in the resolution of marital conflicts.

It can be argued that, perhaps the most important factor in the increase in divorce throughout the twentieth century has been the greater social acceptance of divorce. In particular, this increased tolerance has resulted from relaxation of negative attitudes toward divorce among various religious denominations. Although, divorce is still seen as unfortunate, it is no longer treated as sin by most religious leaders (Gerstel, 1987).

1.2 Limitations and assumptions of the study

It is assumed that some divorcee may be negatively impacted by divorce which may result in behavioral problems, depression, and other problems, thus these problems may affect the accuracy of the observations being carried out. The study is limited to the causes of divorce and solutions in African marriages.

Further limitations include limited literatures from the African continent, limited amount of time, money, and mobility for the research.

2. Review of related literature

The rate of divorce has increased significantly especially during the past several decades globally and particularly in Africa. Divorce results in crisis for family members. For adults, divorce signifies the loss of an intimate relationship that also brought security and support. It also signifies a loss of hopes and dreams as well as feelings of failure. Although there may be relief over the divorce, being alone also brings fear, anxiety, loneliness, and guilt, especially if there are children involved (Heffeman et al., 1992).

There are two factors influencing the rising divorce rates in the United States;

1. Both men and women are relying less on one another for economic survival. This factor is actually practiced in Africa whereby women gain status in the workplace, they aspire for political power, and at the end of service they will be paid gratuity and pension after retirement and this enable them to be less dependent on the male head of household (Nicole Landucci, 2008).

It is also stated that women who are gainfully employed and self-sufficient may be more willing to dissolve a marriage because they are not perceived as a financially dependent spouse. Financial stability allows for the female head of household to have more flexibility to exit a broken marriage.

2. The "childless-by-choice" impact of birth control allows couples to divorce without worry for the emotional stress on a child. Couples without children may have less desire to stay in a failing marriage for the sake of the children if there are no children (Robert Hughes, 2008).

Moreover, the main cause of divorce today is the influence of westernization, movies and poverty. The negative impacts of western world in African continent, negative impacts of movies and a husband who cannot fully bear the family's financial burden find it difficult to control their wives (Abuja Daily Trust, 23rd December, 2007).

Age at marriage is one of the causes of divorce. It seems that it is best not marry too young or wait too long before marrying. Women who marry while still in their teens are twice as likely to divorce as women in their thirties. But those who marry in their thirties are half again as likely to divorce as those who marry in their

twenties (Kornblum, 2001). It has been observed that, higher ages at marriage are typically thought of as an indicator of female autonomy.

Age at marriage is often found to have a considerable positive effect on marriage stability, both in a western context and African population (Martin and Bumpass, 1989; Lecoh and Thiriati, 1995; Reiners, 2003). There is no significant effect of age at marriage as marriage stability decreases with an increasing age at marriage (Isiugo-Abanihe, 1998). Although age at marriage is complicated by the same measurement issues at marriage period. For instance, higher ages at marriage are typically thought of as an indicator of female empowerment. There is increasing ages at marriage to a greater degree of self-arrangement of marriages, and that is considered as powerful mechanism of declining divorce rates (Jones, 2000).

In Africa, going by the generally expressed rarity of divorce in most traditional settings for instance, the current situation of conjugal closure among women is considered sociologically significant. There is a fact that divorce is caused as a result of continued urbanization, and the influence of formal education (White and Booth, 2001, Adedokun, 1998). These findings have lasting repercussion for productiveness in African continent.

Education as often used as proxy for female empowerment (Brandson, 1990, Tilson and Larsen, 2000 and Takyi, 2001), but it was observed that in some cases, the relationship between female education and divorce is found to be positive (Isiugo-Abanihe, 1998). In Africa, education is positively associated with the occurrence of divorce among the women. It was also stated that the educated women are more likely to embrace new ideas about marriage which also resulted into divorce (Adedokun, 1998). She stressed the point that, as the passion of sexual attraction may emerge; spouses may wish to end an unexciting marriage in favor of relationship that will provide renewed excitement. He however, observed that increasing participation of educated women in the labour force may have reduced the extent to which they are depended on men.

According to Kenya Saturday nation magazine (2010), the rate of divorce in Kenya is on the increase and could be higher still if not of the prohibitive legal costs. Even though there has been a marked increase in the number of divorce cases filed in court, many couples often resort to seeking legal advice and settling their divorce in private, away from the court due to the high legal costs. Also, apart from the sky-high legal costs, couples with irreconcilable differences are often discouraged from the court process due to personal reasons, religious factor, family influence or even, mutual agreement. Latest statistics however point to a steady rise in the number of divorce cases. In 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, the number of divorce cases filed at minimum were 101, 115, 206, 296 and 295 respectively, while in 2007 and 2008, the number rose to 357 and 369 respectively.

In Africa, it is believed that the value attached to children, barrenness is often considered an important cause of marriage instability in many African populations (Isiugo-Abanihe, 1998; Takyi, 2001; Reiners, 2003). This is so because the birth of child helps to keep together at least when they are older. These same beliefs are in accordance to the findings (White, 1990, Waite and Lillard, 1991 and Anderson, 2000). From the findings in Ethiopia, majority of the women who did not have a child within their first marriage divorced within 20 years. Eighty-five percent of these women divorce within the first 5 years of their first marriage (Tilson and Larsen, 2000).

Couple's role obligation has been a modest increase in divorce and divorce rates in traditional family setting, an unrestricted marriage whereby family decision-making such as provider, homemaker and child caretaker are shared equally by the husband and wife.

Couple's ethnic/cultural background coupled with other factors has been another factor causing divorce, and adversely affects marriage stability. For instance, in rural areas, ethnic endogamy has a positive effect on marriage stability (Lecoh and Thiriati, 1995). This is so because ethnic endogamous marriages are more securely embedded in existing social relations and normative prescriptions, and therefore less likely to dissolve. In a study carried out in Nigeria, the highest divorce rates were found in monogamous marriages and in polygamous unions with two or more wives (Brandson, 1990 and Gage-Brandson, 1992).

In Ghana, divorce is frowned upon and seen as an element of culture diffusion, no ethnic group has been found to be in favour of divorce. Despite this, divorce cases in Ghana are very high. According to the 15th January, 2008 edition of "Public Agenda" six hundred and eighteen (618) customary marriages were dissolved as against a thousand five hundred and eleven (1511) marriages registered.

Negative effects of divorce

Further research also revealed that negative effects of divorce on the most affected; the women, children and the society at large. This is perhaps the most noticeable effect resulting from most divorces in Ghana is the dramatic change in the standard of living of women. Studies done in developed countries showed that divorced woman face roughly a thirty percent (30%) decline in the standard of living they enjoyed while married. The decline rate is even higher in the Ghanaian society where a significant number of women are housewives. Also, Ghanaian women who tend to work earn less in terms of salary than Ghanaian men. In spite of these, the woman usually retains custody of children after divorce. Thus, the children's school fees, medical bills and other expenses are

catered for by their mothers. This is a huge responsibility which put them into undue hardships. Also, child-support from the father is insignificant and at times totally absent in this part of our continent.

Moreover, effect of divorce is the difficulty faced by women to re-marry. In the Ghanaian, Nigerian and other countries across the Africa continent, women are expected to marry men who are older than them. This makes it difficult for divorced woman to find new partners since these women are normally above the age of thirty-five (35). Also, Christians believe that a divorced woman cannot get married until her divorced husband dies. Hence, as long as the divorced husband lives, she is bounded by the law to remain single, if she re-marry while her divorced husband is still living, she will be called an adulterous (Romans 7:2-3).

Furthermore, effect of divorce is the plight of the children. The children become the most vulnerable after divorce. The family which serves as the primary agent of socialization exist no more, this circumstance makes nurturing of children difficult. Prostitutes, armed robbers and other social misfits are normally found to be the lots of children from broken homes. The situation becomes worst when children shuttle between both parents' home; a parent always believes the child is with the other parent even the child is elsewhere.

Divorce also has a negative effect on the society. Broken homes increases the number of school dropouts and eventually becomes street children. Children from dissolved marriages often drop out of school and become hawkers with the notion of assisting a parent or younger siblings. These children learn to steal, defraud, cheat and even bully people from the streets. The existence of these street children serves as a threat to members of the society, such that the members of the society feel insecure.

2.1 Research questions

For the purpose of this paper, four research questions were raised and shall be answered.

1. What are the causes of divorce in African homes?
2. What are the solutions to that can reduce or check-mate the rate of divorce and also bring together the divorcee?
3. What can the marriage counsellors do to assist couples who are struggling with their marriages?
4. What recommendations does the literature present to adults who are preparing to for marriage?

3. Methodology

One hundred respondents were selected in Nigeria, representing African countries as a primary data collection. Respondents in primary data consists of sixty married homes, twenty divorce males and twenty divorce females and were given copies of Questionnaire at random, they will fill and return to the researcher. The Questionnaire consisted of items covering various possible causes of divorce and possible solutions as mentioned in the literature on divorce.

The items of the Questionnaire were grouped into four parts. The number of items under each cause was the major ones identified in the literatures as the causes of divorce. Part one is a demographic variable, part two is the causes of divorce in Africa and was constructed in Likert format with a 4 scale scoring technique, respondents were free to Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree of any of the statements in the Questionnaire., part three is the ways of preventing divorce or restoring the broken homes, this it obtained through personal interview, part four is the rating of divorce in Africa.

3.1 Study population

The primary data were obtained from well-structured questionnaires and direct interviews. The study targeted sixty married homes, twenty separated men and twenty separated women in Nigeria. While the secondary data is an analyzed data targeted at Africa continent as a whole.

3.2 Data collection instrument

The instrument used for the collection of primary data on this study was a prepared questionnaire and direct interview. This questionnaire is divided into three parts. The items in the questionnaire were structured in such a way that would enable the respondents to pick alternative answers against their choice of responses.

3.3 Description

Part 1: Demographic variables of the respondents.

The items included in this part were gender, age, ethnic group, religion, duration of marriage, and duration of divorce.

Part 2: Causes of divorce. These causes are coined out from personal study and initiative.

This part contains several items containing the causes divorce, they are; Influence of westernization, negative impacts of movies, imbalance of economic survival, age at marriage, education and urbanization, equal sharing of family decision making, infertility, poverty, lack of understanding, differences in culture, self pride, over-confidence, difference in religion, language barrier, influence of the friends and peer groups, In-laws and bad

advisers and negative influencers, unemployment, unsubmitiveness on the part of the wife, accident affecting or damaging or disabling parts of the body, not having regular sexual intercourse, unfaithfulness of the couple to each other, absence of love, immaturity, lack of cooperation, lack of perseverance, lack of trust, family cause or problem, and communication defects.

Part 3: These are the ways of preventing divorce for the married couples and bringing together the divorcee.

Part 4: The rate of divorce.

This study uses a descriptive survey method.

3.4 Administration of primary data

The study was conducted with the goal of examining the causes of divorce in African homes and suggesting possible strategies for reducing or solving the challenge. Part one deal with the demographic variables of the respondents.

Part two of the questionnaire deal with the causes of divorce, the respondent are meant to choose from the scaling options, while part three deal with the solutions to divorce, in this part, the respondent are meant to write down their opinions concerning each causes highlighted from part two and other relevant solutions that can be applicable. Also, personal interviews was adopted to write down should incase the individual cannot write expressly. Part four clearly stated the rate of divorce in Africa.

3.5 Method of data analysis

The source of data is primary and secondary. The primary data collected from the source is scrutinized, edited and tabulated. Data analysis was performed by means of descriptive statistics (e.g. mean, standard deviation).

3.6 Data analysis tools

Research will be carried out by using a structured questionnaire and subjecting it to a statistical test (descriptive statistics).

3.7 Justification

The objective of this work is to examine the causes of divorce and proffer solutions to this undesirable development taking place in the family circles of mostly African nations today.

4. Results and discussions

From the questionnaire survey, the following results were obtained and presented as follows:

Part 1: Demographic variables of the respondents

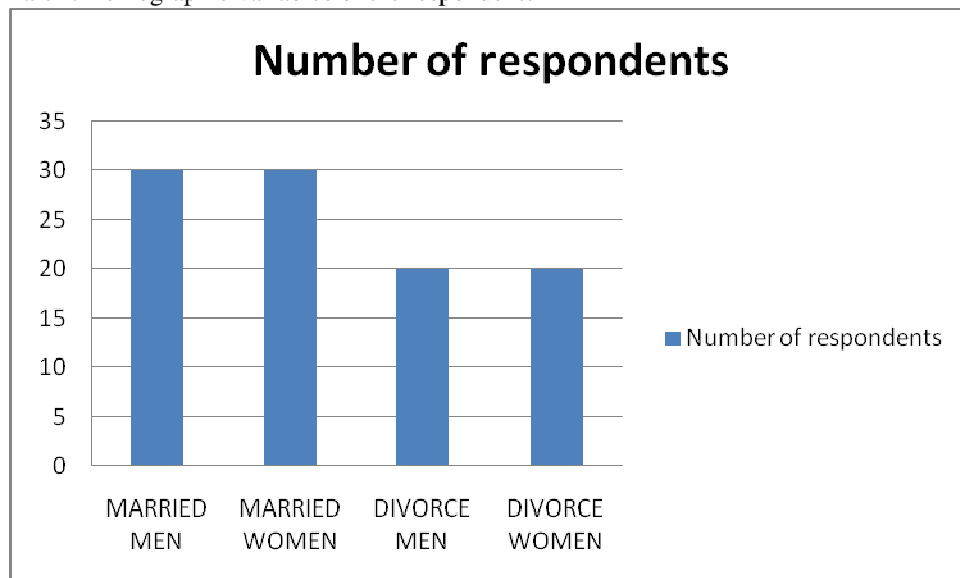


Figure 1: Shows the graphical representation of respondents

Source: Author's field work

From Figure 1, there are 30 married men, 30 married women, 20 divorce men, and 20 divorce women, making a total of 100 respondents.

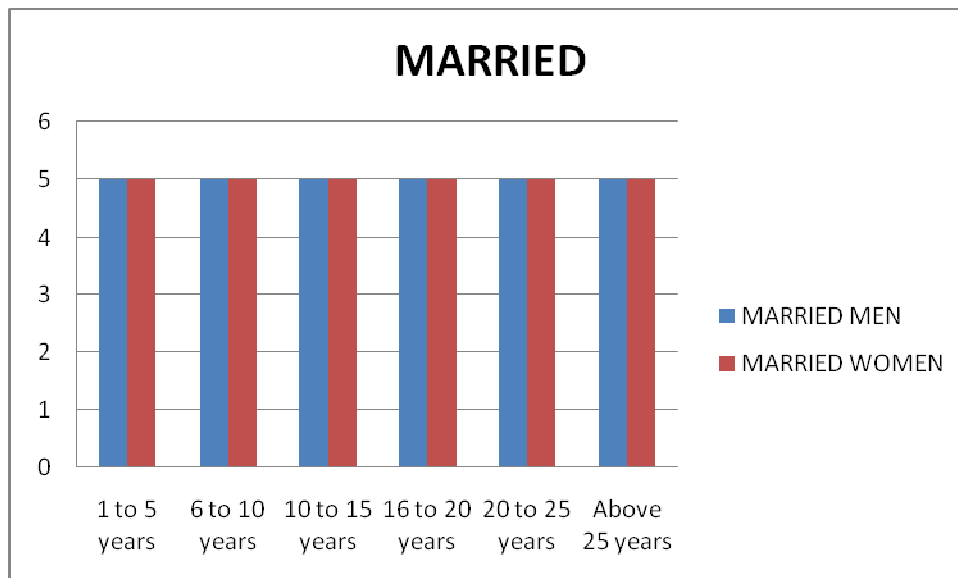


Figure 2: Shows the graphical representation of years of marriage for the married couples
 Source: Author's field work

Figure 2 shows that the questionnaires were distributed to equal numbers of married men and women have the same years of marriage.

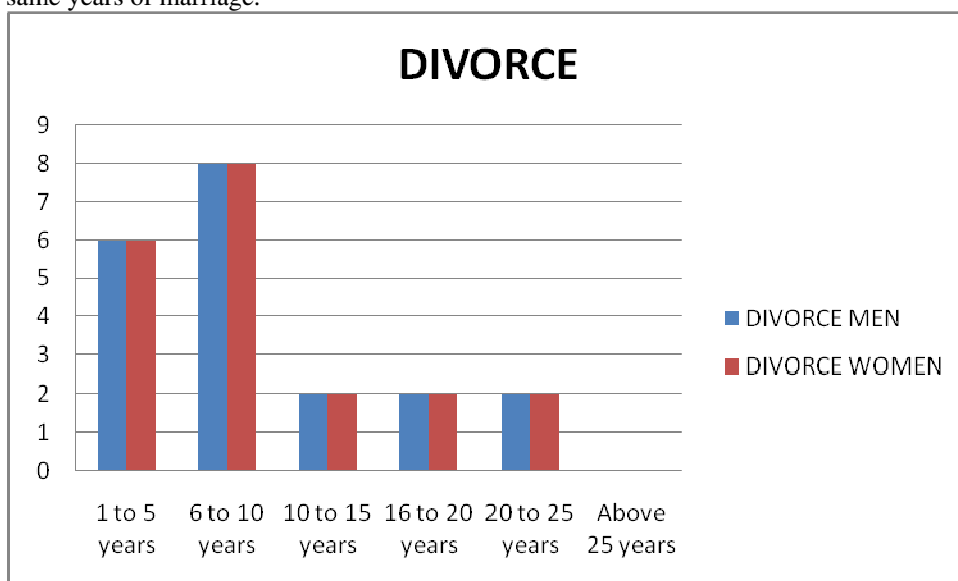


Figure 3: Shows the graphical representation of years of divorce for the divorcee

Source: Author's field work

From the above figure, the selected samples given the questionnaires show that divorce has the highest years from those that separated between 6 to 10 years ago, followed by 1 to 5 years.

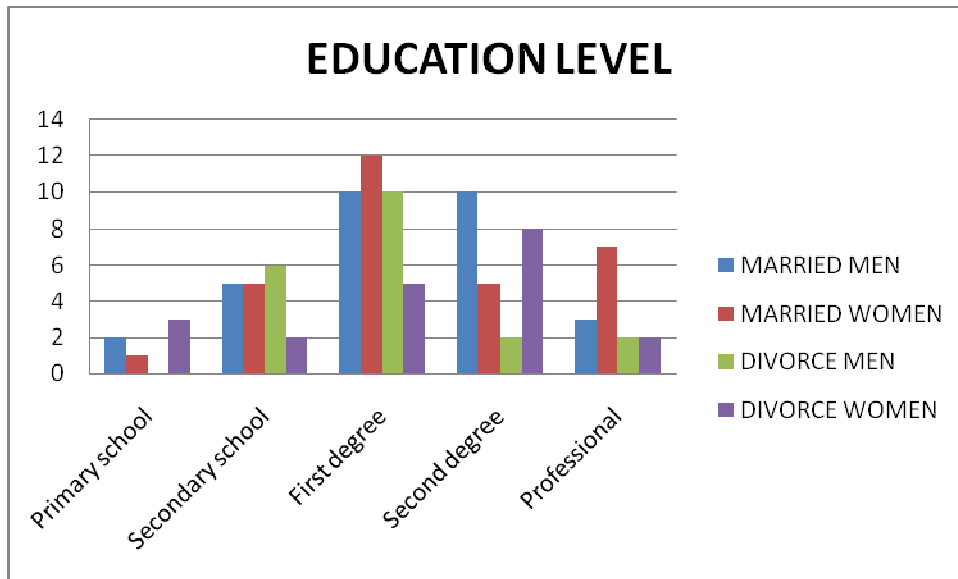


Figure 4: Shows the graphical representation of the educational status of both the married ones and divorce.

Source: Author's field work

From the above figure, majority of the married and divorcee are educated because they mostly attain first degree and second degree.

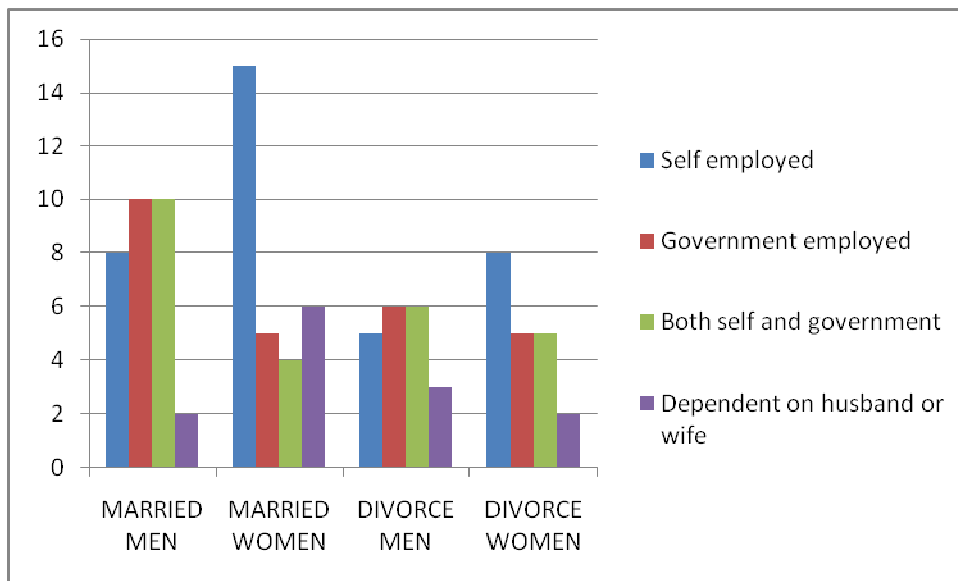


Figure 5: Shows the graphical representation of employment status of the married and divorced.

Source: Author's field work

From the above figure, majority of the married women are self employed. This shows that they give support to their husband in terms of financial needs and not fully dependent on their husband. Married men are self employed, government employed and also both. A responsible man will always provide for his family. Divorce men have low percentage of employment, this might attribute to increase in divorce meanwhile, divorced women has a high percentage of employment which shows that they rely on their work for living and seems satisfied with it.

Part two: Causes of divorce

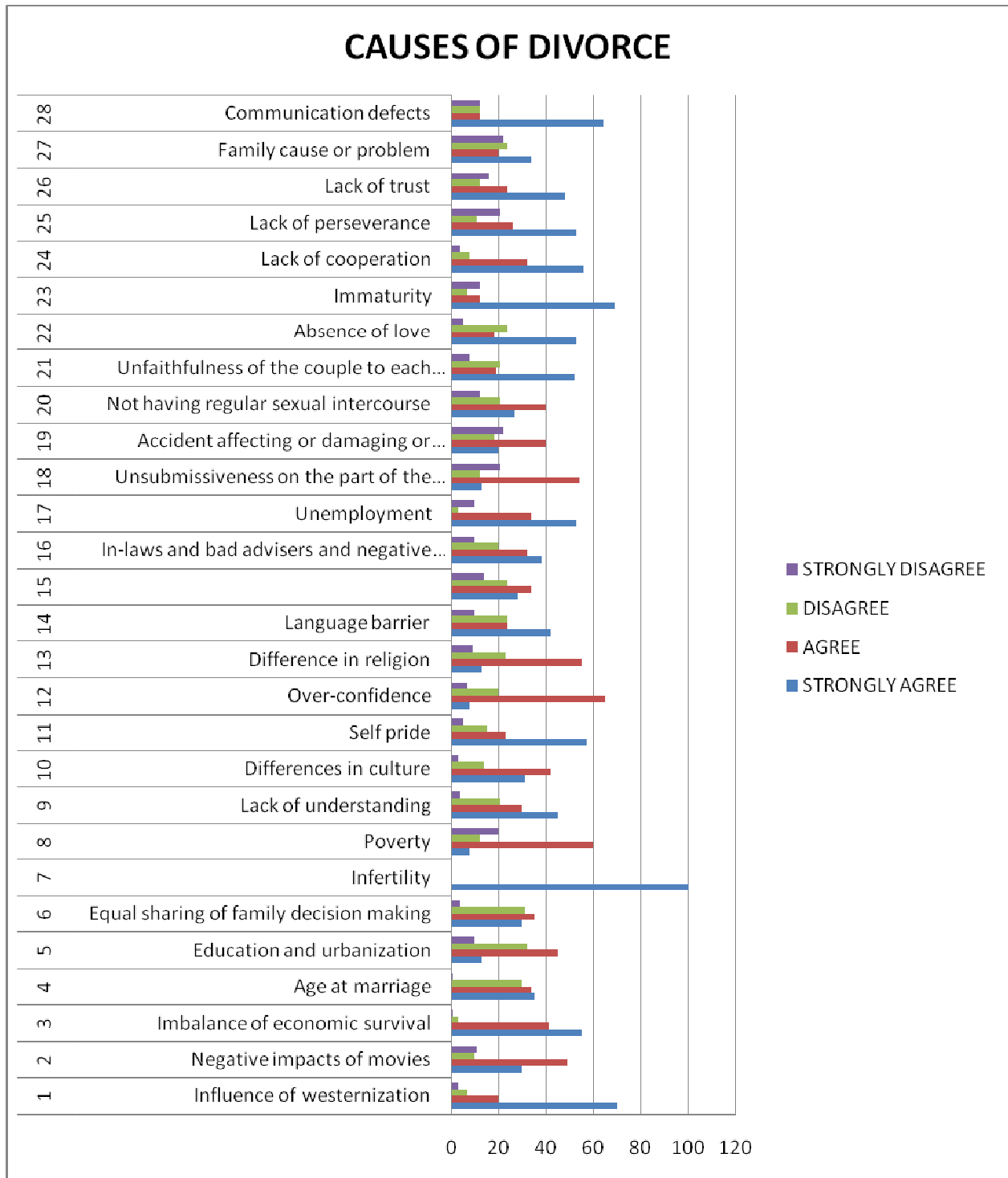


Figure 6: Shows the causes of divorce

Source: Author's Field work

From figure 6 above, it is highly noted that the independent variables such as the listed causes of divorce as well as dependent variable (divorce rates) are the effects of marital instability. Infertility seems to be the most occurring factor that cause high rate of divorce among the sample involved in the study

Part 3: Ways of preventing divorce in Africa

From the questionnaire, it clearly stated the writing of respondents and personal interview, it stated the ways of preventing divorce from happening, and they are;

- a. Caring for one another
- b. Forgiving one another

- c. Serve one another
- d. Considering one another
- e. Bear each other's burden
- f. Be compassionate for each other
- g. Submit to one another
- h. Respect one another
- i. Pray for one another
- j. Do not defraud one another
- k. Do not judge nor condemn one another
- l. Respond wisely to questions
- m. Provoke not to wrath
- n. Do not follow that which is evil
- o. Speak not against each other

They all submitted in one mind that divorce is not an option to the causes listed.

Part 4: Rate of divorce in Africa

All the factors listed in figure 6 contributed significantly to the high rate of divorce in African homes. The results also showed that, infertility seems to be the most occurring factor that cause high rate of divorce among the sample involved in the study. The infertility within the marriage was shown to significantly relate to the high rate of divorce.

The results obtained were in-line with other authors referenced in literatures of the following authors Isuigo-Abanihe, (1998), Takyi, (2001) and Reniers, (2003). The result obtained in this study further showed that, there is significant relationship between poverty level and divorce rates. This therefore, supports the research findings of Tilson and Larsen, (2000), Takyi, (2001) and Reiners, (2003). The result also showed that the differences in religion and culture have a significant influence on divorce rates, both positive and negative ways. Not surprisingly religion and marital instability are significant, but have negative relationship with the sample in the study. This result therefore, contradicted the findings of Isiugo-Abanihe, (1998) and Tilson and Larsen, (2000) and that the Muslim unions are more stable when compared with their Christian counterparts particularly in Nigeria and Africa.

From the research conducted, the causes of divorce will be grouped into two;

1. Causes of divorce from the wife,
2. Causes of divorce from the husband

Causes of divorce from the wife:

The following are the causes of divorce from the wife; they are resulted from the negligence of the wife.

1. Transferring all domestic duties to maids and forgetting that a maid is meant to help and not to take over from the wife.
2. Excessive attachment to her mother and extended family members.
3. Inability to tidy up the house, dress smart and prepare good meal.
4. Resentment against what she does not appreciate in the husband, leading to a careless and casualness in relationship.
5. Loneliness and self-pity.
6. Lack of control on the tongue, complaining and criticizing.

Causes of divorce from the husband:

The following are the causes of divorce from the wife; they are resulted from the negligence of the husband

1. Lack of love, harshness and callousness.
2. Selfishness in spending (spending to satisfy greed rather than need).
3. Not willing to leave parents and dependants and cleave unto his wife.
4. Neglect of his wife for friend (having more attachment to friends than his wife).
5. Supporting and spending for his relations while neglecting the relations of his wife.
6. Lack of communication (deliberate hiding of information).
7. Lack of care and attention (having no respect and attention).
8. Lack of appreciation (always finding faults with her).
9. Callousness in attitude which prevents him from listening to her or identifying with her emotions and shielding from fault-finding in-laws.
10. Playing no active role in the training and upbringing of the children, thus leaving the heavier role to the weaker vessel (the mother) while stronger vessel (the man) bears the lighter role.
11. Joblessness with no serious effort to be gainfully employed.
12. Making delay in child bearing an unpardonable sin of his wife.

All the causes listed above are in-exhaustive and all encompassing, they are not without solution. This solution comes when there is love. Husband and wife will need to get together and talk things over, forgive each other

and put the past behind. It is not too late for separated African homes to come together, erect another foundation, and build on that foundation (The Magazine for Building Godly Women: Christian Women Mirror: A Blessed Home, Page 4 and 5, 2010).

4.1 Implication and summary of the findings

The findings of this study have great implications for helping professions most especially in the area of sensitizing the members of the public in reducing divorce and maintaining marital stability among African homes. The results obtained from this study enabled us to understand the broader context and complexities of the family problems with particular reference to the issues of divorce and divorce rates.

In the course of this study, we found those factors associated with a higher probability of divorce among married couples in Africa. Having identified and discussed those factors in relation to divorce rates, it is pertinent to stress two general strategies for responding to the problem of divorce. They are:

1. Approaches to sustain marriages from collapsing (prevention of divorce), and
2. Approaches to join together the divorcee.

4.2 Approaches to sustain marriages from collapsing (prevention of divorce)

From the word "FAMILY", the alphabets give the connotative meaning of the essential ingredient to prevent divorce from happening.

F – Fellowship: In fellowship, there is communion, communication, and togetherness. This is promoted when the family does things in common and in togetherness.

A – Acceptance: Psychological and temperamental differences should not be allowed to bring strife. Accepting each other and forbearing for each other in whatever the condition they are.

M – Maturity: A good family cannot be raised particularly in Africa without maturity. Maturity makes one to know the right time to say the right thing to the right person in the right place. Being effective is different from being efficient. One can be effective and not efficient, but when efficient means one is effective. For a home to produce an efficient result, maturity must set in.

I – Integrity: Without faithfulness, fidelity, and integrity, a good home cannot stand. Be principled enough to know one's boundary or limitation with the opposite sex, (apart from your spouse). Commitments to marriage vows and do away with all forms or shades, illicit affairs with others.

L – Love: Everything in the home revolves around love, where love is lost, the home is ruined and divorce is inevitable.

Y – Yieldedness: Even when one is right, and the partner is wrong, yieldedness at least for the sake of peace can save the home from havoc and salvage the family from collapse. Yielding unto one another differences.

In other to prevent divorce, there must also be an encouragement of couples to participate in marital education before getting married, and in the process of marriage.

Therefore it is necessary to design hard policies that will strengthen marriage and reform divorce laws to make divorce harder to obtain (Brienza, 2000). In most cases, these measures are designed to make break up harder to do by requiring proof of faults (e.g. adultery, abuse) or extending the waiting period require before divorce is granted.

4.3 Approaches to join together the divorcee

The following are the ways of bringing together the divorcee;

1. Encouraging divorcing couples to participate in 'divorce mediation'. In divorce mediation, divorcing couples meet with 'a neutral third party', a 'mediator', who helps them reduce issues of property division, child custody, child support, and spousal support in a way that minimizes conflict and encourages cooperation (Marlow and Sauber, 1990).

2. Establishing of marriage or family counselling by a variety of professionals, including social workers, psychologists, guidance counsellors, psychiatrists, and members of the clergy. In marriage or family counselling, families are helped to understand behaviours and coping patterns, establish more productive communication patterns, resolve problems and support each other as family members. This also prevents divorce from happening.

5. Conclusion

Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage by judgment of a court or by accepted custom. It can also be called a total separation. The family occupies a pivotal place in every society and in the Africa continent at large. It is indeed the bedrock of the state, nation, continent, and world at large. Healthy families 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.

The results showed that respondents perceived barrenness or infertility as the major cause of divorce. It is also followed by other causes such as absence of love, ignorance, poverty, religion differences, unemployment, and others. In the past decades, Africans are not witnessing cases of divorce as they do in the recent times and unless serious attention is paid to this challenge, there is a strong indication that high rate of divorce will be witnessed in future. In those days, there is a less concern in pursuing material things and fame, but in this era, people set their highest priority on material things and highest political power. Divorce was not addressed as a problem but rather as a challenge because a problem cannot be solved while challenge can be solved, therefore, divorce can be solved.

The family life is a life of commitment into one another. The uncommitted and irresponsible man or woman cannot raise or maintain the home without divorce. Both of them must be committed to loving their children, helping and developing them in a right manner to become the best in the society at large. By the time majority of the homes does this, the society, Africa will be free from pollution and will be properly represented and given a better place in the world at large.

Marriage counsellors were encouraged to carry out more studies in this area in order to find a lasting solution to divorce, effect zero tolerance to divorce in the African homes, and devise a means of uniting the divorcees so that Africa as a continent will be emulated and set as a standard for other continents to evaluate their marriage performance. Also, couples were admonished to solve marital challenges and not see divorce as a solution. However, should in case all resolutions fail and dissolution becomes the order of the day, couples should come together to think of their children's welfare.

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