

UNLOCKING MOTIVATORS AND EXPLORING REMEDIES TO THE RISING TIDE OF MARITAL DIVORCE WITHIN BAUCHI METROPOLIS, BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Globally, marital separation has become a persistent social issue, with both formal and informal mechanisms proving largely ineffective in addressing it. In particular, marital divorce is rising at an alarming rate in Bauchi metropolis, resulting in adverse consequences for individuals, families, the government, and society at large. The severity and frequency of the divorce trend have aroused concern among scholars and policymakers. However, existing studies have been largely conceptual or anecdotal, yielding limited insights. This study, therefore, adopted an empirical approach to investigate the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to the growing divorce trend in the area. Guided by Social Learning and Intersectionality Theories, the study utilised a Social Survey Research Design. The target population comprised divorced men and women aged 18–45. Eight of the thirteen wards in the metropolis were randomly selected as sampling frames, and a sample size of 384 respondents was determined using Taro Yamane's formula. Respondents were selected through purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Data were collected using a structured and validated questionnaire and analysed using SPSS version 30. Results were presented in frequency tables and percentages. Findings identified socio-demographic incompatibility, misinformation, poor conflict resolution skills, inadequate premarital education, financial disagreements, and substance abuse as major drivers of divorce. Consequences included emotional trauma, financial hardship, child neglect, family discord, and moral decline. Based on the findings, the study recommended establishing marital counselling centres, enforcing marital norms, promoting community-based dispute resolution, and strengthening interagency collaboration to combat the increasing divorce rates in Bauchi metropolis.

Keywords: Marital divorce, Divorce motivators, Marital instability, Bauchi metropolis

Introduction

Globally, the family is identified and treated as basic social unit that embraces all sheds of mutual interactions between couples. Aside the significance of the family to the members of the society, it serves as a semi-originator, incubator and social regulator of the existing institutions in the social system, because without people who make up the society, there will be no existing social institution (James, 2018). The family provides the individual with an identity, social status, and economic well-being. The other institutions have only slowly emerged from the family and have long been dependent on the family. From the creation of man, the family has been the basic unit of social organization (Bell, 2019). Divorce is the

official termination of a legitimate end valid marriage, canceling the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage and dissolving the bonds of marriage between two persons (Kumuyi, 2018).

The rates of divorce among couples worldwide are on a daily increase. There is a nearly unanimous opinion among social scientists and anthropologists that the number of divorces in most parts of the world is increasing day by day in comparison with the number of marriages that are registered (Appathuria, 2017). At the present moment, it is estimated that nearly 50 percent of current marriages are heading for dissolution (Appathuria, 2017). Divorce cases have increased dramatically among married couples in Africa, and it is among the highest in the world (Oosthuizen & Bezuidenhout, 2017).

Specifically, social factors have been Influencing marital instability among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. Families are torn apart by decline in love, affection, mutual trust and respect. External influences, misinformation, incompatibilities often lead to irrational decisions and marital failures (Adegoke (2017). Divorce though unwanted, has still been found to be a compelling necessity for relief among couples. Divorce is a major source of anxiety, loss of intimate relationships, loneliness, depression, guilt, compromise, hopelessness, distorted dreams, feeling of failure and inadequacy among the victims (Adegoke, 2017).

Problem Statement

Divorce is conceived as a distortion to the stability of society because is a hindrance to the socialization of children. And due to neglect and incapability of the parents to salvage the situations, the children usually experience poor primary socialization, which results in lack of proper education, high level of juvenile delinquency (Lee, 2017). Divorce tears young people from familiar surroundings entangles them in bitter feuding, and distance them from a parent they love. Divorce changes the course- of many children's entire lives, causing emotional and behavioral problems and raising the risk of dropping out of school and getting into trouble with the law. In any case, parents should remember that (when couples think about divorce) more harm to their well-being is at stake (Lee, 2017). The issue of divorce has become more pronounced, especially in the northern part of Nigeria, Bauchi metropolis of Bauchi State inclusive, as a result of this we have a low level of socialization and a high level of children with delinquencies as well as emotional and psychological problems. In most cases, the custody of the child goes to one parent some children might find themselves in a hostile or strange environment especially when the custodian parent remarries, the problem of training the child begins to manifest itself in different ways and the child becomes a problem (Peil, 2017). However, the institution of marriage has echoed throughout time and history which is the fundamental upbringing of children to be coming best and brightest in society. Unfortunately divorce has now become a rampant practice in Bauchi metropolis trailed by unpleasant experiences for both sperated couples and broader society. Seperated couples are often expose innocent children to different dimensions of abuses and socioe-conomic deprivations such dropping out of school, street hawking, prostitutions, child labor, beggary, willing tools in the hands criminals, and child trafficking due to broken homes and parental maladjustment. These were the facts, conditions and issues that the motivated the study with a view to unraveling foundational elements responsible for the rising social palava, and exploring sustainable remedies before it deteriorates into malignant social disorder. Several studies on the subject matter have been carried, however, none gave attention to the rising challenges of marital divorce in the

study locality. While most past related studies are anecdotal and conceptual commentaries, offering shallow outcomes, the study sought to be empirically in nature for broader perspective and more analytical outcome.

Study Objectives

The general objective of the research was to unpackage the motivators for spiraling scourge of marital separation and explore sustainable intervention strategies. Specifically, the study attempted to address the following sub-objectives.

1. To establish the causes of divorce among couples in Bauchi metropolis.
2. To determine the consequences of divorce among couples in the study locality.
3. To proffer sustainable remedies to rising cases of divorce among couples in the study locality.

Study Significance

The research would help in evolving policies necessary for shaping family dynamics. The study will also enable seamless implementations of social services in the areas of mental health, financial support and guidance and counselling therapy. The research would usher in a new academic perspective on the subject matter, and also serve as a springboard or frontier for future academic enquiry.

Literature Review

Concept of Couple

A couple refers to married people between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age (Preller, 2017). In the context of this study, a young couple refers to married people up to the age of 35 years who have been married for no more than ten years. Two people who are married or in a romantic or sexual relationship, or two people who are together for a particular purpose. A couple is simply a pair of people who identify themselves in terms of belonging together, trusting one another, and having a unique relationship, separate from all others. There are different types of couples in relationships with distinct behaviours, traits, and attitudes. Love is a beautiful phenomenon that an average human experiences in their lifetime. No matter the number of couple relationships you might have seen in life, each of them falls into a particular group. Couple relationships are unique from one another, and each has its benefits and risks (Wilde, 2018).

Concept of Divorce

Divorce is one of the most stressful events in a person's life. It is especially important that the conflicts preceding a divorce or separation, and dissatisfaction with the relationship, have many negative consequences for those affected and for society at large (Joachim et al, 2019). Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage. A male divorcee is called a divorcee, while a female divorcee is called a divorcee. Also, marriage is the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognised by law, by which they become husband and wife. Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage by the judgment of a court or by accepted custom. It can also be called a total separation. It is also a legal way of ending a marriage. The family occupies a pivotal place in every society and the African continent at large. It is indeed the bedrock of the state, nation, continent, and world at large. The sanity in the continent will never rise above that of the family (Rogge, 2018).

Divorce is the final termination of a marital union, canceling the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage and dissolving the bonds of matrimony between the two parties (Nkuke, 2017). The concept of divorce is one that has become increasingly pertinent to today's society. People are bombarded by statistics about its rise and facts about the decreasing stability of the nuclear family. Rates of divorce have increased so greatly over the past few decades that people have come to fear the institution of marriage (Wazili, 2020).

Divorce Motivators

i. Personality Conflict

According to Vincent (2019), married couples need to adjust to each other, as well as to adjust to each new phase of the marital life cycle, also to the social environment that they live in. Incompatibility between partners may weave & exacerbate tension and friction, resulting in a disorganized family. Age differences, cultural differences, personality differences, temperament style, and sexual adjustment differences between young couples can lead to divorce. According to Bezuidenhout (2017), due to strong attachment to traditional beliefs and practices, young couples with different cultural backgrounds find it difficult to practice cultural tolerance in their marriages and therefore, experience what they perceive as cultural rejection from their spouses. This problem increases tension between spouses and consequently leads to family disorganisation. African communities that are especially based in rural areas have strong beliefs in traditional practices, which they observe religiously.

ii. Inadequate Communication

According to Cox (2020), an underlying high rate of divorces among young couples is a lack of communication. Failure to communicate makes it difficult to resolve issues, whether financial, emotional, or otherwise. Furthermore, a lack of communication can result in alienation from one's spouse. Without regular communication, maintaining a strong relationship bond is unlikely. Communication problems between a couple may exist even long before they get married officially. Discussing feelings about aspects that are personally important is also crucial, but may not always be practised by couples. According to Bezuidenhout (2017), some young couples may put a little weight on pre-marital issues, only to realise during the marriage that they should have set things in black and white or that they should have been better listeners. Communication issues before marriage can get worse during marriage.

iii. Abusive Relationship

According to Lamanna and Riedmann (2019), there are many forms of abuse, all of which can lead possible high rates of divorce among young couples. This does not just include intentional and habitual physical battery. Abuse may also come in the form of sexual and emotional abuse. One partner may actively seek to degrade his/her partner through harsh language. Drug and alcohol abuse, as well as excessive gambling that is becoming detrimental to the marriage, may also be used as a form of abuse. There may be no physical or verbal abuse, but the other partner would understandably have a difficult time managing finances and daily life with an addicted spouse. No one should feel unsafe at home, and many communities, counselling, and legal organisations will encourage the

dissolution of abusive marriages for the safety and happiness of the family as a whole (Bezuidenhout, 2017).

iv. Financial Disagreement

Hofheimer (2018) points out that financial difficulty can add stress to any relationship, especially marriage. While experts disagree as to the extent to which money accounts for the high rate of divorce among young couples, financial issues can cause a breakdown in communication and trust between young couples. Money or aspects related to it are a possible cause of disagreement between young couples. Young couples could fight over issues such as shared financial responsibility, unequal financial status, undisclosed financial status, overspending, and lack of financial support. However, evidence suggests that money is not always the sole or primary cause of divorce. Nonetheless, it is still a significant factor. Again, lack of communication over financial issues can be the real problem and not money per se (Hofheimer, 2018).

v. Sexual Incompatibility

According to Hofheimer (2018), the inability or lack of desire to have a romantic relationship and intimacy with one's spouse can negatively alter the relationship. While friendship makes a good base for marriage, romance can help maintain interest and improve trust and support between young couples. It is important, however, to view sexuality as only one of the many components of a marriage or of a committed relationship.

vi. Infidelity

According to Vincent (2019), betrayal, adultery, and cheating in marriage have become some of the most common reasons for divorce among young couples. Infidelity in marriage can ruin the best of relationships. Whether it is a cheating wife or husband, the repercussions can be devastating for the entire family.

vii. Relationship Quality

Couples with relationship satisfaction are probably more able to maintain non-traditional arrangements throughout their first child's early years. Alternatively, South et al. (2018) suggest that women's greater economic independence through employment increases the high rate of divorce risks for couples only when the other already appreciates and considers the relationship quality to be below par and is willing and ready to cope and live with the existing situation. According to Kanji & Schober (2018), studies on the interaction effect between mothers' low relationship satisfaction and nontraditional marital arrangements revealed a weak family bond and uncertain marriage longevity among couples (Kanji & Schober, 2018).

viii. Cultural Disparity

Butcher, Mineka, and Hooley (2017) state that marriages of people from different cultural Backgrounds have been a topical issue as people come more and more in contact with persons from different ethnic backgrounds, and the number of interracial couples relationships grows. Diener, Oishi, and Ryan (2017) suggest that this brings the question of how couples negotiate aspects of culture, diversity, and difference. The issue of interracial marriage has frequently been viewed in a negative light, and much of the literature has approached the issue from a problem perspective (Cruikshank, 2017; Hantrias & Letablier,

2018). Saroglou and Cohen (2019) believe that disparities between an individual's personal preferences and cultural norms can create marital upheaval over whose culture should take precedence. Aghajanian and Thompson (2018) highlight the fact that conflicts usually come in when one spouse believes that the other's culture or beliefs are inferior, thereby discounting the other person's importance in the relationship.

ix. Gender Affirmation.

With the traditional heterosexual institution of marriage, divorce among young couples is equally likely among men and women. However, striking gender differences emerge when one examines subjective and objective causes of relationship dissolution. Certain variables, such as affirmation by one's spouse, predict marital stability when they are measured in terms of husbands, but not in terms of wives. Husbands who reported that they felt affectionately affirmed by their wives were at lower risk for divorce than those who did not feel affirmed (Orbuch, Veroff, Hassan & Horrocks, 2017). When asked what accounts for their divorce, young 31 men and women identified different variables, leading some researchers to suggest that they may be his and her divorces (Gager & Sanchez, 2018). Wives are more likely than husbands to mention emotional or relationship issues, spousal personality variables, spousal drinking, and abusive behaviour as factors that account for divorce. Husbands are more likely to identify external factors and to mention their negative behaviours as being causally related to the divorce (Harvey & Fine, 2019).

x. Inter-Faith Conflict

According to De Graaf and Kalmijn (2019), religion is an important and influential part of family life. Various dimensions of religious life and practice have been found to either protect against or place couples at higher risk for divorce. Edward and Booth (2009), buttressed that religious hierogamy, in which two spouses hold different faiths or interfaith marriage, has been one of these risk factors. Connidis (2017) says that classically, religious hierogamy has been defined as the difference in faith; however, a more recent view of religious hierogamy is differences between partners' beliefs in the areas of faith, and denomination commitment in their faith. This broader definition has evolved as researchers have sought to improve and better understand specific aspects of interfaith marriage and practices that put couples at high risk for divorce, and the expanded definition also better explains differences in the prevalence of divorce among same-faith couples (Harvey & Fine, 2019). Nevertheless, some recent research has suggested that it is the dissimilarity between spouses that places them at greater risk for divorce, as opposed to some factors directly germane to interfaith marriage (Emery, 2018).

xi. Maturity

Age at marriage is a factor that accounts for the high rate of divorce. Regarding the mechanisms that link early marriage to divorce, it has been argued that individuals marrying at a young age may be less compatible with one another, less prepared for marriage, and lack economic resources (Edwards & Booth, 2019). Specific problem behaviours may also account for the link between age at marriage and divorce. Amato (2019) finds that marrying at a later age was associated with a decline in problems that were due to infidelity, jealousy, and the use of alcohol or drugs related behaviors that have been shown to predict divorce. Interestingly, subjective accounts of divorce also tend to differ according to age at divorce. Individuals who marry at older ages are more likely to

mention incompatibility and lack of a sense of family as factors that account for the high rate of divorce (Amato, 2019). Those who marry young tend to blame marrying young, growing apart, and going out too much with friends. Drinking has been mentioned by those who married young as well as by those who married at an older age (Amato, 2019).

Marriage Failure Implications

i. Social Life Pattern

Divorce leads custodial parents to experience major changes in their lives, including a change in residential arrangements, economic disadvantage, loneliness associated with social network changes, and role strain associated with the task overload that results from having to care for children and work outside the home (Doherty, 2018).

ii. Health Challenges

In divorced couples' residential arrangements, economic status, social networks, and role demands lead to deterioration in physical and mental health for the majority of individuals immediately following separation. However, for most people, these health problems abate within two years of the divorce (Neil & Turcotte, 2017).

iii. Mood Swings

Both men and women suffer extreme emotional liability in the period leading up to separation and for the two-year post-separation period. An awareness of the opportunities for a new way of life and escape from the emotional pain of chronic marital discord both lead to periods of elation. The loss of a familiar way of life, the loss of a longstanding partner, and a fear that alone one may not meet the extraordinary challenges that go with being a single person or a single parent commonly are associated with episodes of depressed mood (Wilde, 2018).

iv. Identity Crisis

For women in particular, separation is associated with a crisis of identity. Before separation, many women define themselves in terms of their husbands or their children. Also, women may rely on their husbands to develop a social network of friends. After separation, women who have relied on their husbands for self-definition find that they experience confusion about their identity. They have to redefine their self-concept in terms of their role and develop their social network. Women who have jobs outside the home experience fewer identity problems in the aftermath of divorce (Markman, 2019).

Panacea to Divorce

i. The Contemporary Approach

Marital education awareness campaigns exist through social workers to offer awareness to the Hausa community on the effects of divorce in the Bauchi metropolis. A social worker assumes the role of an educator who educates the community to identify expectations, practice relationship-enhancing skills such as conflict resolution, and identify and communicate spiritual values in relationships such as honor, respect, intimacy, and forgiveness (Futris & Bradley, 2014). A social worker teaches the community especially the young couples to address communication and physical intimacy and reiterates the

responsibility of couples to form and practice contingencies for communication within their relationships. Rogge, Cobb, Lawrence, Johnson, and Bradbury (2018) argue that divorce among young couples is a societal issue that has not been fully dealt with, and most approaches to marital distress occur in marriages involving young couples.

ii. The Traditional Norm Approach

Traditional counselling is proven to improve physical and emotional intimacy, increase communication, and establish an overall better connection between spouses, which enables you to find solutions to divorce (Gurman & Kniskern, 2017). Mentorship: spouse, look for some other married couples who can help to hold you accountable as well. Everyone needs friends and mentors who can serve as a support system, and this is especially the case when it comes to married people.

Theoretical Orientations

Social Learning Theory

The study employed social learning theory, propounded by Bandura (1997), to underpin the research and guide the study objective. The social learning theory model, otherwise known as behavioural family therapy, has Albert Bandura as its chief proponent. Bandura (1997) assumed that human behaviour is, in general, a function of the person plus the environment. By the term person here, Bandura essentially means cognitive factors, while by the term environment, he means the social models around as well as the circumstantial contingencies pressing upon the individual. The three elements, the person, the behaviour, and the environmental situations, are highly interrelated variables, with each being capable of influencing the other. According to Bandura (1997), all facets of human behaviour are learned from their social environment.

Intersectionality Theory

This model proposes that domestic violence is shaped by intersecting social factors, including race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. The theory suggests that interventions and support services must be tailored to address the unique experiences and challenges faced by diverse populations. These theories provide a foundation for understanding the complex causes and consequences of domestic violence. By integrating multiple theoretical perspectives, researchers and practitioners can develop more effective interventions and support services for victims of domestic violence.

Methodology

The descriptive survey design was chosen to allow respondents to share their lived experiences and provide comprehensive data on the phenomenon of marital divorce. This method enabled the collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data, offering a broad understanding of the issue. The research population consisted of divorced men and women aged 18 to 45 years, residing in Bauchi Metropolis, who had been married for no more than five (5) years and/or divorced. According to the Office of the Bauchi State Chairman, Association of Divorcees (2022), this population included 9,300 individuals.

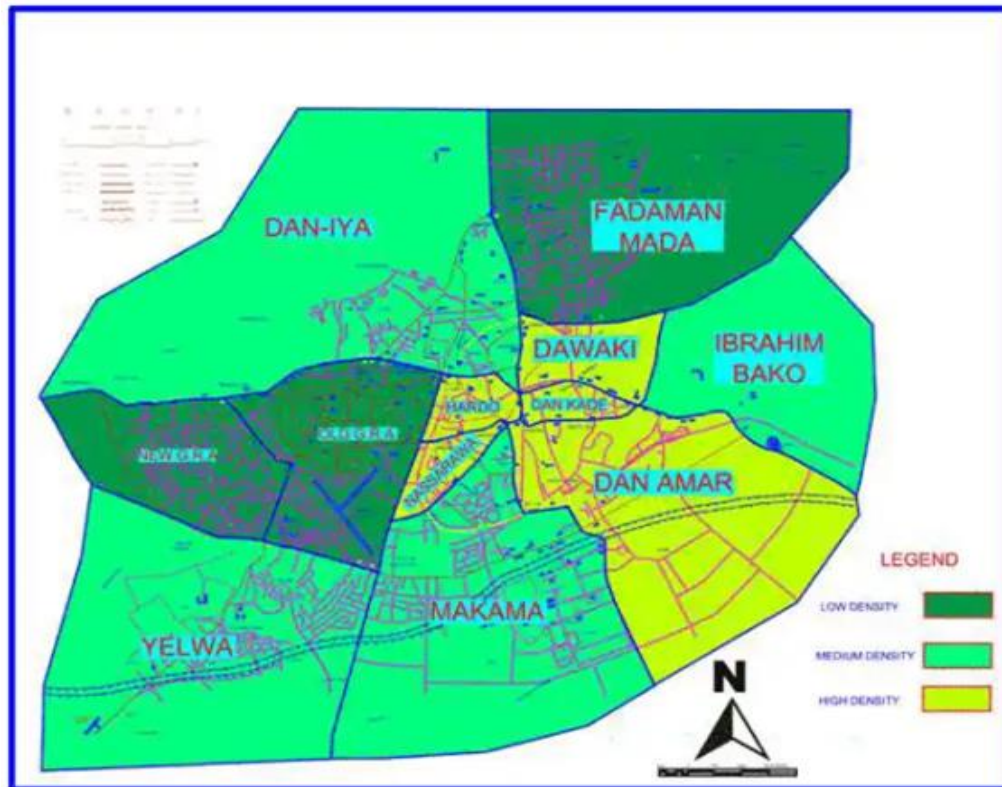


Fig. 1: Map of Wards in Bauch Metropolis and Density

A sample size of 384 respondents was determined using Taro Yamane's formula at a margin of error of 5%. Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were applied to ensure fair representation across the wards, notably, Dan'Iya, Dankade, Dawaki, Hardo, Makama 'A,' Makama 'B,' Majidadi A,' and Majidadi 'B' wards. A sample size is the number of randomly selected study respondents to represent the total sample space. For the study, the sample size was determined using Taro Yamane's scientific formula. The sample size for the research work was 384. A Proportionate sample size allocation formula was subsequently used in determining sample sizes for the selected wards.

Table 1:

Sample Frames with their respective Sample proportions

S/N	Wards	Population Figure	Sample Size
1.	Dan'iya Ward	1200	50
2.	Dankade Ward	1100	48
3.	Dawaki Ward	1000	42
4.	Hardo Ward	900	30
5.	Makama 'A' Ward	1250	51
6.	Makama 'B' ward	1300	53
7.	Majidadi 'A' Ward	1350	60
8.	Majidadi 'B' Ward	1200	50
	TOTAL	9,300	384

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The study employed a structured and validated Likert Scale questionnaire to solicit relevant views and perspectives of respondents on the subject matter. Data was analyzed and summarised using SPSS IBM Version 30 IBM and presented in tables, using frequency counts and percentages for informed decision.

Result

Table 2: Causes of Divorce among Couples

S/N	QUESTIONS	REMARKS				
		S A 1	A 2	DA 3	SDA 4	UD 5
1.	Personality incompatibility	98	167	97	17	5
2.	Misinformation	89	198	40	57	0
3.	Abusive relationship	188	145	40	11	0
4.	Financial disagreement	147	153	50	27	7
5.	Sexual dissatisfaction	181	142	35	26	0

Field Survey, 2025

The table above indicates that 265 (69%) of the respondents agree that Personality incompatibility is one of the causes of the high rate of divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. While 114 representing (30%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement, and 5 respondents (1%) of the respondents were undecided, this indicates that the majority of the respondents believed that Personality incompatibility is one of the causes of the high rate of divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. 287 representing (75%) of the respondents agree that inadequate communication or misinformation between couples leads to divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. While 97 representing (25%) of the respondents disagree. This means that the majority of the respondents believed that the communication gap between couples leads to divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. 333 (87%) of the respondents said that Abusive relationships are also among the causes of divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis, and 51 (13%) disagree with the statement. This shows that the majority of the respondents believed that Abusive relationships are also among the causes of divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. The table also indicated that 300 representing (78%) of the respondents thought that Financial disagreements account for divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. While 77 representing (20%) of the respondents disagree with the statement while 7 representing (2%) of the respondents do not decide. This indicates that the majority of the respondents believed that Financial disagreement accounts for divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. Moreover, 323 (84%) of the respondents said that Sexual dissatisfaction also accounts for divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis, and 61 (16%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. This shows that the majority of the respondents believed that Sexual dissatisfaction also accounts for divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis.

Table 3:
Effects of divorce on couples

S/N	QUESTIONS	REMARKS				
		S A 1	A 2	D 3	SD 4	U 5
1.	Divorce correlates with social exclusion and loneliness	152	178	15	39	0
2.	Divorce results in economic instability	125	205	40	14	0
3.	Divorce leads to emotional pain from chronic marital discord	97	138	104	40	5
4.	Divorce incubates identity crises among divorced women	88	162	110	19	5
5.	Divorce causes juvenile neglect and delinquency	117	199	38	30	0

Field Survey, 2025

The table above revealed that 330 representing (86%) of the respondents agree that divorce leads to loneliness among divorced couples in the Bauchi metropolis, while 54 representing (14%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. This indicates that the majority of the respondents agree that divorce leads to loneliness among divorced couples in the Bauchi metropolis. The table revealed that 330 representing (86%) of the respondents agree that divorce leads to economic instability among divorced couples in Bauchi metropolis, while 54 representing (14%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. This indicates that the majority of the respondents agree that divorce leads to economic instability among divorced couples in the Bauchi metropolis. The table also shows that 235 representing (61%) of the respondents agree that divorce leads to the emotional pain of chronic marital discord among divorced couples in the Bauchi metropolis, while 144 representing (38%) of the respondents disagree with the above statement and 5 representing (1%) of the respondents undecided. This indicates that the majority of the respondents agree that divorce leads to the emotional pain of chronic marital discord among divorced couples in the Bauchi metropolis. It is also shown that 250 representing (65%) of the respondents agree that divorce leads to problems of identity for divorced women in the Bauchi metropolis, while 129 representing (34%) of the respondents disagree with the statement, and 5 representing (1%) of the respondents undecided. This indicates that the majority of the respondents agree that divorce leads to problems of identity for divorced women in the Bauchi metropolis. Moreover, the table indicated that 316 representing (82%) of the respondents agree that divorce leads to child abuse, while 68 representing (18%) of the respondents disagree with the statement. This indicates that the majority of the respondents agree that divorce leads to child abuse in the Bauchi metropolis.

Table 4:
Remedies to Rising Tide of Divorce

S/N	QUESTIONS	REMARKS				
		S A 1	A 2	D 3	SD 4	U 5
1.	Marital education awareness campaign program is undertaking to enhance competences among couples	67	127	82	100	8
2.	Conflict resolution awareness campaign program is undertaking to promote peace among couples	97	99	93	90	5
3.	Awareness program to enhance honour, respect, intimacy and forgiveness that prevent divorce among couples	77	153	50	104	0
4.	Awareness program to enhance relationship satisfaction among couples	49	180	80	65	10
5.	Awareness program to reduce divorce and violence among couples	58	135	100	85	6

Field Survey, 2025

From the table above, 194 representing (51%) of the respondents agree that the Marital education awareness campaign program is undertaken to enhance competencies among couples in the Bauchi metropolis, while 182 representing (47%) of the respondents disagree, and 8 respondents (2%) of the respondents undecided. Therefore, we can say that the marital education awareness campaign program is undertaken to enhance competencies among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. 196 (51%) of the respondents agree that the conflict resolution awareness campaign program is undertaken to promote peace among couples in the Bauchi metropolis, while 183 (48%) of the respondents disagree with the statement, and 5 (1%) of the respondents have not decided. The table also indicates that 230 representing (60%) of the respondents agree that the Awareness program is undertaken to enhance honour, respect, intimacy, and forgiveness that prevent divorce among couples in the Bauchi metropolis, while 154 representing (40%) of the respondents disagree. The table also revealed that 229 representing (60%) of the respondents agree that the Awareness campaign program is undertaken to enhance relationship satisfaction among couples in the Bauchi metropolis, while 145 representing (38%) of the respondents disagree with the statement, and 10 representing (2%) of the respondents make no decision. This indicates that the Awareness program is undertaken to enhance relationship satisfaction among couples in the Bauchi metropolis. Moreover, the table above revealed that 193 representing (50%) of the respondents agree that the Awareness program is undertaken to reduce divorce and violence among couples in the Bauchi metropolis, while, 185 (48%) of the respondents disagree with the statement and only 6 representing (2%) of the respondents undecided.

Summary of Findings

The study identified several motivations behind marital divorce among couples in the study area. Key among these is personality incompatibility, with 69% of respondents agreeing it is a major cause. Lack of communication between couples was cited by 75% of respondents, highlighting its significant impact. Furthermore, 87% of respondents attributed abusive relationships to the high divorce rate, while financial disagreements and sexual dissatisfaction were also significant contributors, as reported by 78% and 84% of

respondents, respectively. These findings suggest that both interpersonal and financial factors play a critical role in the rising divorce cases in the area. The research revealed that divorce has far-reaching consequences for individuals and families. A majority (86%) agreed that divorce leads to loneliness and economic instability among divorced individuals. Emotional pain due to chronic marital discord was noted by 61% of respondents, and 65% highlighted the issue of identity problems faced by divorced women. Additionally, child abuse emerged as a notable effect, with 82% of respondents agreeing that divorce contributes to the mistreatment of children. These findings underscore the emotional, social, and economic challenges associated with divorce in the Bauchi metropolis. The study explored potential solutions to mitigate the effects of divorce. Awareness campaigns emerged as a recurring theme, with 60% of respondents agreeing that programs promoting respect, intimacy, and forgiveness could prevent divorce. Similarly, marital education and conflict resolution programs were deemed essential, as supported by 51% of respondents. Efforts to improve marital relationships and reduce violence were also revealed, with 60% and 50% of respondents, respectively, affirming the effectiveness of such initiatives. These solutions emphasise the need for community-based interventions to strengthen folkways and marital bonds among couples.

Conclusion

The study, therefore, concluded that sudden character change, poor communication, financial problems, abuse, and infidelity are inadvertently associated with divorce among couples in the study locality. Mastering all the stages of the family life cycle also has the efficacy of mitigating spiralling cases of divorce within the referent study population. This can be achieved through pre-marital counselling programs, using relevant social networks.

Recommendations

Premised on the study findings, the following suggestions were proffered:

- i. There should be guidance and counselling departments with qualified counsellors to help married couples establish and strengthen couples rights and obligations in the locality
- ii. Couples should be adequately sensitised on the family life cycle doctrine to enable them to appreciate early warning for early response to marital collapses
- iii. The legislative oversight mechanism should be actively utilised to legislate for compulsory pre-marital and post-marital counselling for both couples and would-be couples.
- iv. Sustainable, productive engagements should be encouraged among couples to mitigate economic hardships and depression.
- v. A robust interagency coordination model involving both state and non-state actors should evolve to effectively and efficiently manage marital crises in the area.

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