THE PROBLEMS OF MARRIAGE BREAKDOWN ON CHILDREN WELFARE IN DAR ES SALAAM: THE CASE OF ILALA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

STELLAH STARFORD KIHOMBO

A DISSERTATION SUBBMITTED IN A PARTIAL FULLFILLMENT OF THE REQUREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF SOCIAL WORK OF OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned that she has read and hereby recommend for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania, a dissertation titled: *'The Problems of Marriage Breakdown on Children Welfare in Dar es Salaam: The Case of Ilala Municipal Council',* in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree Master of Social Work (MSW) of Open University of Tanzania.

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Dr Magreth S. Bushesha

(Supervisor)

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Date

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DECLARATION

I, **Stellah Starford Kihombo,** do hereby declare that this dissertation is my own original work and it has not been submitted or presented to any other University or higher learning institution before its submission at Open University of Tanzania and will not be submitted or presented to any other University or higher learning institution for the similar or any other degree award.

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Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the whole family of Mr and Mrs Starford Kihombo for their support and affection. The family encouraged and supported me with moral supports and spiritual supports which helped me to gain a better basic knowledge and motivated me throughout the entire period of my study.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to find out the problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare. The specific research objective was to identify the reasons of marriage breakdown, to highlight the problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare, as well as to assess the existing interventions done by different actors to improve children welfare after marriage breakdown. Both cross sectional and casual comparative research were employed to make an investigation of the phenomenon. Data were collected through hypothesis as well as social work perspective. Based on the result found in this study, it was revealed that the capacity of the projects and canters to help the children after marriage breakdown, and quality of care and support differ significantly because of financial differences among them, Ilala Municipal Council in particular. Based on the findings above the researcher and respondents recommended that NGOs in partnership with government officials should enhance coping skills of children affected by marriage breakdowns in problems solving, effective communications, supports seeking, and appropriate expressions for anger social welfare officers as well as helping children identity and appropriately express their feelings. There should be strong network between the government particularly the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare through department of Social Welfare.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADBG	African Development Bank Group
AIDS	Acquired Immunity Deficiency syndrome
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IMC	Ilala Municipal Council
LHRC	Legal Human Rights Centre
LMA	Law of Marriage Act
MVC	Most Vulnerable Children
NSFH	National Survey of Families and household
NCPA	National Coasted Plan of Action
OUT	Open University of Tanzania
SWO	Social Welfare Officer
TAMWA	Tanzania Media Women Association
US	United State
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Aid
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WLAC	Women's Legal Aid Centre
WFP	World Food Program

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Introduction

This chapter presents the background to the problem, statement of the problem, research questions, and objectives and significance of the study.

1.2   Background to the Problem

Families in recent decades have undergone changes; one of such change is the increasing rate of marriage breakdowns that lead to divorce (Moore, 1994) as cited in Vida (2013). This rise in marriage breakdowns rate has been predicted to disintegrate the family institution and the foundations of society itself. Vida (2013) asserts that, the fundamental unit of all societies is the family, the family that is responsible for the care and up-bringing of all children since it is a cohesive unit which ideally provides economic, social and psychological security to all its members.

In light of the roles identified for family to play, if marriages are being disrupted more often by marriage breakdowns that lead to divorce, the family could then be said to be undergoing very serious crisis and the most affected in the scenarios are children (Joam, 2015). According to Joam (2015), findings over the past decades, marriage breakdowns have become a common song among many communities worldwide. Anato (2010), as cited in Joam (2015) asserts that, today's aging inhabitants have not been exempt, with more and more couples age 50 and older breaking marriages after many years of voluntary unions.

Marriage breakdowns have been and continue to be a topic that holds high interest for researches and scholarly writings Joam (2015). Despite similarities, Amato (2012)

found that, determining how common marriage breakdowns are has been challenging due to the inconsistencies in region to region reporting status. Anato (2012) suggests that, the inconsistencies in marriage breakdowns according to regions and specific countries as well as informal marriage breakdowns especially in Africa have hampered international researchers' ability to do an accurate count of the annual world marriage breakdowns in general and Africa in particular as well as official estimate of the number of children impacted by marriage breakdowns.

Patrick and Aaron (2012) emphasise that, marriage breakdowns diminish children's future competence in all five of society's major tasks or institutions: family, school, religion, marketplace and government. Patrick and Aaron (2012) additionally argue that, the reversal of the cultural and social status of marriage breakdowns would be nothing less than a cultural revolution. Conflicts weakness marriages hence affect couples in conflict, their offspring, and the whole community. The reality is that, when conflicts start, it is not just a different of opinion but rather it is a series of events that are poorly handled so that it deeply damages the marriage relationship as a result marriages breakdown (Jonathan, 2012).

However, for multiple marriage breakdowns remain a negative and traumatic experience to people. According to the U.S. Bureau of Census cited in Owusu-Bempah (2007), not only do the couples who decide to breakdown their marriages suffer, but the children are the most affected ones since for many children, the effects of marriage breakdown might have instantaneous and long-lasting results and even trans-generational in nature. According to Cohen (2002:1019), cited in Anna (2007), millions of children worldwide have been living in either separated or totally

breakdown families each year. According to Arnato (2000) cited in Teresia (2010), with an international comprehensive view, observers have attributed the increase in number of divorces in many countries over the decade to factors such as larger economic independence of women rising expectations for personal fulfilment from marriage, and greater social acceptance of divorce.

Mayhew (2005) cited in Muschamp et al., (2007), asserts that, demographic and social changes in the last half a century have brought about a transformation in family formations and structures as the result, greater diversity and complexity in family forms. According to Mayhew and Bradshaw (2005), cited in Muschamp et al., (2007), compared with children 40 years ago, children now have a higher probability of experiencing parental separation, lone parenting, stepfamilies, visiting families, and half-siblings.

According to Afifi (2013, p. 240), cited in Amato (2013) and Wayne (2004), separation and divorces rates have increased dramatically on a global scale since the 1960s, 1970s and reached a peak in the early 1980s, and has dropped slightly since then particularly in industrialized countries. Despite the fact that marriage breakdown is a common song worldwide, the degree of marriage breakdown differ from one region to another and countries to the other. For example, the extent of marriage breakdown from western countries differ from Africans, at the same time in Africa the degree of divorce also differs from Uganda to Tanzania (Johnson, 2013).

According to OECD (2016), crude marriage breakdowns that lead to divorce rates vary across countries from as low as 0.1 marriage breakdowns that lead to divorces

per 1000 people in Chile to as high as 3.4 in Denmark but in comparison to 1970, for example, current marriage breakdowns in most OECD countries are generally high. The OECD average according to OECD (2016), cute marriage breakdowns that led to divorce increased by over 50 percent between 1970 and 2012, from 1.3 divorces per 1000 in 1970 to 2.1 in 2012 with CDRs increasing in most OECD countries between the two time points.

OECD (2016) found that, in recent years trends in marriage breakdown rates have become a little more mixed, in some OECD countries CDRs have continued to increase between 1995 and 2014 (or nearest available), for instance, CDRs increased in 14 of those OECD countries with available data. In others, however, they have started to fall. In Australia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Norway, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, for example, CDRs fell by at least 0.5 marriage breakdowns per 1000 people between 1995 and 2014. Statistics from the United States of America according to Schoen and Canudas (2006); show that the likelihood of marriage breakdown for women escalated linearly and plateaued between 1990 and 2000. Schoen and Canudas (2006); posited that marriage breakdowns risk in the United States during that era, were the highest among Western Countries. By the end of the twentieth century, 43% to 46% of marriages were predicted to end in divorce.

In the same vein, Brown and Lin (2010) posited that, the marriage breakdowns rate in the US doubled since 1990 from 4.9 to 10.1 % per 1000 married persons, 50 and older. According to Brown and Lin (2010), the trend of marriage breakdown in the US showed that approximately 206,007 individuals aged 50 and older were divorced, while 643,152, experienced divorce in 2010 and affecting more than one million

children each year. Contextually, this translated to less than one in ten divorces in 1990, and one in four in 2010. They further inferred that should this trend remains stable over the next two decades, one could conservatively expect the rate for this cohort to climb by a third, to more than 828,380, by 2030.

On the other hand, according to statistical Bulletin in the United Kingdom (2016), evidences from England and Wales suggest that in 2009 there were 232,443 marriages but 113,949 marriage broke downs, equivalent to 49,02 percent, in 2010 there were 119,589 marriage breakdowns compared to 243,808 marriages, equivalent to 49,05 percent, in 2011 there were 249,133 marriages and 117,558 marriage broke downs, equals to 47,18 percent, while in 2012 the statistics show that there were 262,240 marriages and 118,140 breakdowns, equals to 45,05 percent. Statistical bulletin of United Kingdom (2011) suggests that, almost half (49%) of couples that broke downs their marriages in 2011 had at least one child aged under 16 living in the family. There were 100,760 children aged less than 16 years who were in families where the parents divorced in 2011, a decrease of 31% from 2001 when there were 146,914 children.

In the same vein, Statistical bulletin of UK (2011) asserts that, over a fifth (21%) of the children in 2011 was under five and 64% were under 11. In 2011 there was an average of 1.76 children aged fewer than 16 per divorcing couples with one or more children aged fewer than 16. This compares with 1.85 in 2001. These changes may reflect the increasing proportion of children born to cohabiting, rather than married, couples. Based on this social ill, according to Beck and Sales, (2000) as cited in Sofie (2011) argue that, western societies have taken policy measures to limit conflict or its impact on children during divorce procedures. More specifically, more gender-neutral

laws (reflected in acts that favor joint physical custody) and no- fault- legislation. A very good example of child custody is the USA, whereby studies show that forty-three percent of children in the United States are being raised without their fathers (Babb et al., 2009).

According to Babb et al., (2009), when the parents are happily married, the risk of divorce of their children decreases by 14 percent. The statistics according to Babb et al., (2009) show that, 90% of divorced mothers have custody of their children and over 79 percent of custodial mothers receive a child support award, while just fewer than 30 percent of custodial fathers receive one. In addition to that, evidences show that 65% divorced mothers receive no child support and over 46 percent of non-custodial mothers completely default on child support, compared to only 27 percent of non-custodial fathers (Babb et al., 2009).

Additionally, divorce mediation has also been recognized and stimulated as an alternative to the more adversarial court system. Mediation is focused on minimizing parental conflict and stimulates cooperation with respect to parenting and decision-making, which should positively influence adolescents' adjustment to divorce (Emery, 1994) as cited in Sofie (2011).

Recent evidences have shown that Africa has witnessed the high rate of marital misunderstanding as a result of westernization, globalization, urbanization and industrialization periods triggered to a monetary industrial economy that have affected the extended families that had the responsibilities to solve any misunderstanding between the couples (Adeniran, 2015). According to Vida (2013), available

information, on Sub-Saharan Africa including Tanzania have shown an increasing rate in marriage breakdowns, even though statistics on marriage breakdowns in the region are limited and unreliable. This is due to limited studies conducted in the area of marital dissolution and the little coverage on registration of marriages and divorces. Though limited, UN (2006) as cited in Vida (2013) has shown that, more than one-third of women in this region experience marital dissolution before they reach ages forty and sixty in their first marriages.

According to Tetteh (1967), as cited in Frost and Dodoo (2010), many marriage breakdowns that lead to divorces in Africa do not take place in courts but rather at homes which most often are in the form of returning of the bride wealth by the woman's family to the man's family. When this is done the marriage is said to have finally ended. Nevertheless as a result of urbanization and modernization in Africa some marriage breakdowns that lead to divorces go through the legal process, i.e. those marriages recognized under ordinance. Taking an example of Ethiopia, the practice of marriage in Ethiopia has different forms traditional, cultural, religious and civil. Still the traditional and religious marriages are widely practiced where civil marriage is becoming more common.

Marriage in Ethiopia as the finding of Tilson & Larsen, (2000), cited in Serkalem (2006), is nearly common where about 95 % of women marry by age 30 where as 45 % of all first marriage ends in marriage breakdowns within 30 years; 28% of first marriage ends in divorce within the first 5 years, 34 % within 10 years and 40 % within 20 years. The experience of South Africa according (Collins, 2003:32), cited in Shanny (2017), show that, one out of every two marriages ends in divorce,

According to pillay (1999); Mukash (2003), as cited in Shanny (2017), many registered marriages end in divorce as statistics show that among 148,188 marriages which were registered in 1995, 31,592 ended in divorce.

The statistics of South Africa of 2005 show that, 32,484 divorces were recorded in 2005. As a result, there were 32,524 South African children who were caught up in the pain of divorce. The experience from Kenya show that, according to Kenya Saturday Nation Magazine (2010) cited in Adeniran (2015), the rate of marital misunderstanding which result to marriage breakdown 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 (Adeniran, 2015). 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 (Adeniran, 2015).

In Tanzania on the other hand according to Merina (2012), half of every-married woman has suffered from spousal or partner abuse at some point in time, whether physical, emotional, or sexual. Referring to the data which was collected from 2000 married couples in Tanzania from the year 1980-2000, it showed that the relationship of one couple to another as follow: 16% of the married couples have moderate

conflicts, but 60% are those couples having high conflicts as the results these marriages end to divorce which is harmful to the children and family as whole.

Thomas &Woodside (2011) cited in Shanny (2017) in their study indicate that, children exposed to high levels of parental conflict are neither better off nor worse off, on average, when their parents' divorce, while those exposed to low levels of parental conflict appear to suffer severe disadvantages when their parents separate or marriage breakdown. Based on the (2004) census bureau cited in Shanny (2017), in Tanzania, 1.1 million children lived with a parent who had experienced a divorce and therefore suffered the effects of marriage breakdowns. In Tanzania for example and especially in towns, a big number of marriages are at risk either breaking downs or separations due to multiple changes in relationships (Mhau, 2010). Report from the woman's Legal Aid Centre (2007) estimates that marriage breakdowns problems, frequently causeing divorce, has become one of the biggest challenges Tanzania society is going through these days. According to WLAC (2007) report as cited in Shany (2017) more than 1,138 legal cases related to marriage breakdowns problems were handled between 2006 and 2007 based on the reported cases and the number was expected to increase.

McIntosh (2005), cited in Susie et al. (2009) highlights that, matrimonial conflict that leads to wedlock breakdown always protect children from ongoing exposure to within-wedlock misunderstanding, but in the same stance have the potential to expose children to raised inter-parental misunderstanding, particularly during the transition from marriage to separation. According to Emery (1994) as cited in Susie et al., (2009), evidences show that, the welfare of children born and who have been living in

both cold or active domestic war zone which result to divorce and separation are to most extent negatively affected since they experience significant psychological distress and pain following and report a number of fears and wishes, including fears of abandonment, wishes for reconciliation, grief at separation from, or the loss of contact with a family member, and worries about the raised stresses in a single parent family. Additionally, Wadsworth et al.,(1985) as cited in Susie (2009) argue that, children experiencing inter-parental every day's conflict learns disobedience behaviour such as street lives, school truancy and misconduct, suspensions from classes, aggressiveness, non-compliance and inadequacy in self-regulation.

Neher (1998) as cited in Abraham, (2006) asserts that, it is very clear that every child needs a very strong emotional security base from both parents but parent in conflict most of them reduce parental monitoring, use poor parenting style, and become less effective in coping skills. The failure to guarantee and provide protection and basic emotional needs to children due to marriage breakdowns deprive the welfare of children hence plunging children to commence sexual business earlier, child bearing in adolescence, and have more pregnancies outside marriage.

To ensure that children's welfare is protected, the Tanzanian government has set many policies and ordinances to protect children. For example, Affiliation ordinance of 1949 as amended in 1964 (Mwanabaraka, 2010), The Law of the Child Act of 2009, Child and Development Policy (2008). Tanzania is also a signatory of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990. Marriages breakdowns are, however, not a single event, but evolving families' processes and people are required to explore the processes variables that influence children's post marriages breakdown

welfare. Because the societal context and the context of marriage breakdowns have both profoundly changed over time in Tanzania context, the current researcher thought to conduct this study in order to find out the exact problems of marriage breakdowns on children's welfare in the Ilala Municipality**.**

1.3   Statement of the Problem

Marriages breakdown induce drastic changes within the family and cause either long or short term problems in children's lives (Jerry et al., 2011). Disruptions caused by marriages breakdown affect the welfare of the child in different aspects (Potter, 2010). Children who have experienced marriage breakdown of their parents are likely to experience both externalising and internalizing problems (Potter, 2010). Lack of parental protection due to interpersonal conflicts between father and mother cause children to miss their basic needs like food, shelter, clothes as a result street life, hazardous work (Abraham, 2006).

In Tanzania, the extent of marriage breakdowns is on increase especially in urban areas even if there are no specific and reliable statistics regarding marriage breakdowns nationwide due to informal and marriage breakdowns (Michael, 2011). Different efforts according to (Michael; (2011) from different Nongovernmental organisations, children's rights activists and women rights activists have been deployed in order to minimize the extent of marriage breakdowns and improve the welfare of the child affected by marriage breakdowns but those efforts are less effective and durable. In addition to that, the government of Tanzania has set different policies including the Child Development Policy of 2008, the Law of the Child Act of 2009 and signatory of different international treaties in order to protect the welfare of

the child but few positive results are observed to children affected by marriage breakdowns.

Despite the enormous researches emphasizing the negative impacts of marriage breakdowns on children's welfare, there is scanty of process researches on parental misunderstanding during marriage breakdown and their impact on the welfare of the child is a gap in the marriage breakdown literatures in Tanzania and especially in Ilala district. The current researcher recognizes the contribution of the previous ones in this area but intends to fill this knowledge gap by finding out the problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare in Ilala Municipal Council.

1.4 Research Objectives

1.4.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study was to find out the problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare in Ilala Municipal Council as a case study.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

The study specifically aimed to:

(a) Identify reasons for marriage breakdown in Ilala Municipal Council.

(b) Highlight the problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare in Ilala Municipal Council.

(c) Assess the existing interventions done by different actors to improve children welfare after marriage breakdown Ilala Municipal Council.

1.5   Research Questions

The following research questions guided this study

(a)   What reasons lead to marriage breakdown in Ilala Municipal Council?

(b)   What are the associated problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare in Ilala Municipal Council?

(c)   What existing interventions are done by different actors to improve children welfare after marriage breakdown in Ilala Municipal Council?

1.6   Significance of the Study

This study was carried out to investigate the problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare in Ilala Municipal Council. The findings of this research are of importance due to the following:

First, to help government institutions operating in the field of children to redesign strategies and policies that respond directly to short and long term effects of marriage breakdown on children's welfare.

Second, the findings of this study will act as references to other researcher who will be interested in carrying out studies in this area.

Third, this study is partial fulfilment of the requirement of the award of the Degree of Master in Social Work of the Open University of Tanzania.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the literature review for the study. Section one focuses on theoretical review, under which major theoretical perspectives on marriage breakdown issues and its effects on children welfare are discussed. This focuses on cognitive conceptual framework, emotional security Hypothesis and attachment theory. Section two deals with the reports regarding marriage breakdown which focuses on a global overview of the importance of marriages in different cultures and marriage conflicts, causes of marriage conflicts, effects of marriage conflicts on children, efforts done to end marriage conflicts and dissolutions through marital conflict management, Tanzanian government efforts. Section three deals with the empirical literature which focuses on the findings from previous studies with a view of identifying gaps that the current study intended to fill.

2.2 Theoretical Review

2.2.1 Definition of Concepts

2.2.1.1 Marriage

Based on its nature, this study considers the definition provided by Ryan and Underson (2013) that defines Marriage as a more or less durable connection between male and female lasting beyond a mere act of propagation till after a birth of the offsprings. Despite of all those definitions, the current research opted for the definition given by the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 that recognises marriage as a voluntary union between man and woman (URT, 1971).

2.2.1.2 A child

A child based on the nature of this study is considered as any person being male or female under the age of 18. The definition adopted is based on Tanzania the Law of Child Act, 2009. The understanding of who is a child brings the concepts of the child's right where the best interest of a child shall be the primary contemplation in all procedures regarding a child whether assumed by any institution whether public or private.

2.2.1.3 Welfare

By definition, according to Michael (2011), the concept welfare is the provision of a minimal level of well-being and social support for citizens and other eligible residents without sufficient current means to support basic needs. In most developed countries according to Michael (2011), welfare is mainly provided by the government from tax revenue, and to a lesser extent by NGOs, charities, informal social groups, religious groups, and inter-governmental organizations. Social security expands on this concept, especially in welfare states, by providing all inhabitants with various social services such as universal healthcare, unemployment insurance, student financial aid (in addition to free post-secondary education), and others.

In its 1952 Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (nr. 102), the International Labor Organization (ILO) defined the traditional contingencies covered by social security. In the context of this study, the researcher defines the concept welfare as the provision of comprehensive services to citizens for the betterment of e their economic and social status.

2.2.1.4 Marriage Breakdown

According to Michael (2015), marriage breakdown refers to the common process whereby the relationship between married couples erodes, such that they cannot ordinarily restore their relationship. There are many stages to the process, and each individual goes through the stages at different rates. It is a complex process involving psychology, personal finance, and often religion. It is the breach of domestic anticipation, often leading to a divorce or dissolution of the marital relationship. Often there are children, in-laws, and other individuals involved in the process. Therefore, for the purpose of this study, marriage breakdown is when problems arise in marriage as a result of poor communication, and in order to communicate our needs and desires we need health sense of our own identity so when those problems are poorly managed they result to marriage breakdown.

2.2.1.5 Child Welfare

Child welfare refers to the continuum of services designed to ensure that children are safe and that families have necessary support to care for children successfully. According to UNICEF (2007) child welfare is a term used to describe a set of government services designed to protect children and encourage family stability. Generally, this study agrees, child welfare is all about support and coordination of services to prevent child abuse and neglect in the family.

2.2.2   Theoretical Perspectives on Marriage Breakdown

Phenomenon like problems, misunderstanding and peace deal with the relationships among and between people, groups, and Nations and involves a continuous sequence of interactions in which perspectives are either shared or ignored, and actions and

reactions are coordinated. The processes of marriage and family development are viewed as part of the social system, within which members are facing the perpetual problem of coming to terms with each other's conflicting interests.

Therefore, from this basis, there were various perspectives and conceptions about marriage breakdown and its relationship to child welfare. In this regard, four theoretical frameworks were considered by the current researcher to be pertinent for the present investigation.

First, Cognitive theory as explained by Anderson (2010), Cognitive psychology is the study of mental processes such as "attention, language use, memory, perception, problem solving, creativity, and thinking". Much of the work derived from cognitive psychology has been integrated into various other modern disciplines of psychological study, including educational psychology, social psychology, personality psychology, abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, and economics.

According to Eysenck (1990), philosophically, ruminations of the human mind and its processes have been around since the times of the ancient Greeks. In 387 BCE, Plato is known to have suggested that the brain was the seat of the mental processes. In 1637, René Descartes posited that humans are born with innate ideas, and forwarded the idea of mind-body dualism, which would come to be known as substance dualism (essentially the idea that the mind and the body are two separate substances). From that time, major debates ensued through the 19th century regarding whether human thought was solely experiential (empiricism), or included innate knowledge (nativism). Some of those involved in this debate included George Berkeley and John

Locke on the side of empiricism, and Immanuel Kant on the side of nativism. According to Smith (2000), from the 1920s to the 1950s, the main approach to psychology was behaviourism. Initially, its adherents viewed mental events such as thoughts, ideas, attention, and consciousness as unobservable, hence outside the realm of a science of psychology. One pioneer of cognitive psychology, who worked outside the boundaries (both intellectual and geographical) of behaviourism, was Jean Piaget. From 1926 to the 1950s and into the 1980s, he studied the thoughts, language, and intelligence of children and adults. In the mid-20th century, three main influences arose that would inspire and shape cognitive psychology as a formal school of thought:

This theory proposes that, matrimonial problems and misunderstanding which are intense, ineffectively and inefficiently resolved, and child-related represents a destructive form of problems, which are specifically upsetting to children. The framework of this theory also proposes that, the magnitude of threat perceived by the child as a result of interpersonal problems between father and mother will have a significant influence on the child's development. The pioneers of this theory further assert that, matrimonial problems that is more threatening to children will create greater fear in children and the latter will, therefore, have a greater impact on them Davies and Cummings' (1994) as cited in Katherine (2012).

Second, Emotional Security Hypothesis. According to Juliet (2018), when we talk of emotional security it might be wise to first understand what is emotional and what is security. Emotions are feelings how we feel. Feel what? Love, confidence, deprivation, anger dislike and others. These feelings may be directed towards

someone or something. In their more intense forms they become passions and even obsessions, which progressively blind us so that we become less and less aware of ourselves as separate from the emotion, and mistake ourselves to be the emotion itself. Security is a sense of being safe; of not being under attack, being confident of protection, a feeling that someone cannot be violated and hence exploited, a sense that there is no fear, a sense that he/she cannot be betrayed or cheated.

When we put the two words together emotional security means that being confident that our feelings are respected and are important. Which are the emotions that we need safety for? Feeling of love for another, confidence that these feelings are reciprocated, are inviolable, will remain unaltered in spite of any altered circumstance, that these feelings which flow from another can never go away, can only intensify and be strengthened in time. Therefore, it is the confidence of being safe, whole (not deprived), of requiring security from other person/persons, that there can be no circumstance in which this position will or can be altered. The theory was pioneered in the first half of the twentieth century by Susan (Juliet, 2018).

According to Katherine (2012), this theory proposes that, some forms of matrimonial problems and misunderstanding are specifically likely to undermine children's sense of emotional security and psychological well-being. The pioneers like Susan and several others suggest that, matrimonial problems and misunderstanding that are intense that involve direct threat to children, and are child-related are specifically stressful for children. They argue that, when these particular misunderstanding and conflict happen, they are likely to reduce children's emotional Security. The research believes that, all of these theories agree to the fact that, marriage problems and

misunderstanding that is intense because marriage breakdown, open hostile, and that involve child-related issues are specifically harmful to children.

The third perspective is attachment theory. According to Inge (1996), attachment theory is the joint work of John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth (Ainsworth & Bowlby, 1991). Drawing on concepts from ethology, cybernetics, information processing, developmental psychology, and psychoanalysts, John Bowlby (1991) formulated the basic tenets of the theory. He thereby revolutionized our thinking about a child's tie to the mother and its disruption through separation, deprivation, and bereavement.

According to Crowell et al., (2009) attachment theory describes emotional responses as well as behaviours and thought processes. The theory posits that bonds are formed between children and their primary caregivers, and that caregiver responsiveness and attentiveness leads to secure attachment, while inconsistency and distance leads to insecure attachment. Bartholomew (1990) as Cited in Katherine (2012) describes infant attachment as "coherent patterns of behaviour, which indicate the quality of the attachment bond within a relationship". Securely attached children according to Katherine (2012) seek out physical proximity with their caregivers, are easily comforted, and seem to respond positively upon reunion with their parents.

When caregivers provide a secure base, children are free to explore the unknown with the confidence that accompanies knowing that they have a safe haven, or a comfortable and trustworthy place of retreat to find peace and restoration (Feeney & Monin, 2008). Insecurely attached children can be categorized as anxious-resistant or avoidant. Insecurely attached infants are difficult to comfort when distressed, less

affected by separation from their caregivers than are more securely attached infants, do not seem to welcome reunions with caregivers, and some ignore their caregivers.

From these early experiences children organize how they view the world, how they perceive people who are close to them, and how they interact with their romantic partners later in life (Crowell et al.; Hazan & Shaver et al (2003) as cited in Katherine (2012). Those who develop secure attachments tend to have low anxiety about close relationships and do not avoid closeness with others, whereas those who develop insecure attachments tend to avoid intimacy and experience discomfort when experiencing emotional closeness with others.

Fourth, the conflict theory, According to Stark (2007), conflict theories are perspectives in sociology and social psychology that emphasize a materialist interpretation of history, dialectical method of analysis, a critical stance toward existing social arrangements, and political program of revolution or, at least, reform. Conflict theories draw attention to power differentials, such as class conflict, and generally contrast historically dominant ideologies. It is therefore a macro level analysis of society. Karl Marx is the father of the social conflict theory, which is a component of the four paradigms of sociology.

Certain conflict theories set out to highlight the ideological aspects inherent in traditional thought. While many of these perspectives hold parallels, conflict theory does not refer to a unified school of thought, and should not be confused with, for instance, peace and conflict studies, or any other specific theory of social conflict. Which focuses: on the conflict of interest that is inherent in all groups and between all

members of groups. This principle extends to the larger society in all its forms. These theorists argue that, conflict management in marriages is an idea that provides the basis for prescriptions for conflict resolution at the micro-level of social interaction that is to say communication between husband and wife (Ibid).

According to Thio (2008), conflict theory describes a social structure prone to constant erosion and change. Here, social change is pervasive through inherent conflicts built into the system itself. Similarly, Conflict Management Approach views the conflict that arises among members of small groups as inevitable and inherent in the small group itself. The reality is that, when two people interact and become together, disagreements is obvious, perhaps to the point of changing their personal relationship system. Misunderstandings evolve due to the fact that, there is differential distribution of social power, the powerful garnering the lion's share of all scarce resources for themselves. It is obvious to observe the differences in social power between the rich and the poor, men and women, or any given pair of individuals attempting to resolve problems particular to their relationship.

Conflict theorists such as Karl Marx; believe that whenever misunderstanding is brought to a solution, the social system within which the misunderstanding came up is forever changed. Changes and adaptations to the social system happen over time. Based on that, according to conflict theorists, misunderstanding is to be analysed for its own sake. This means that misunderstanding might be either resolved, or it might be managed.

According to the conflict theorists misunderstanding is normal, and no one can escape it, in all social relationship (Ibid). On one hand, conflict theorists argue that family is

not necessarily a group characterized by consensus. It might be held together by constraint or coercion. On the other hand, the conflict theorists argue that, harmony is not necessary for continuation of order in the family. This means that, misunderstanding might even build strong relationships, making them rewarding in the final analysis (Ibid).

As noted above, the purpose of explaining these theoretical perspectives was to offer an overview of contemporary insights, accumulated research, and conceptual explanations on how most vulnerable children may come to normalcy. This study opted for all the three perspectives since the study used mixed approaches to analyse the findings of this study.

2.3 Global Overview of Marriage Breakdown

Nine out of 10 adult people being males or females are expected to marry sometime in their lives (Bergman, 2006 cited in Sobia, 2013) and this marriage is expected to be a source of happiness and joy. Moreover, marriage is a form of legal commitment, which holds significant implications for both the couples and for the whole family. It not only helps in placing the couple into a strong relationship but also establishes various levels of relationships within a family (Benokraitis, 1996 cited in Sobia, 2013).

In general, it is seen that couples who are married are expected to assist each other in various domains for instance dealing with economic responsibilities, engaging in sexual activities, bearing and raising children, etc. The bond a family shares as a unit depends a lot on the level of satisfaction and harmony a couple shares in a marriage

(Sobia, 2013). Today, marriage has been turned to hell, since most of the households have become zones of active violence and conflicts, which result to marriage separation or divorces (Amato, 2013).

According to Afifi (2013, 240) as cited in Amato, (2013 and Wayne, 2004). States that separation and divorces rates have gone to an increase dramatically on a global scale since the 1960s, 1970s and reached a peak in the early 1980s, and has dropped slightly since then particularly in industrialized countries. However, in recent years, Africa has witnessed the high rate of marital misunderstanding as a result of westernization, globalization, urbanization and industrialization periods triggered to a monetary industrial economy that have affected the extended families that had the responsibilities to solve any misunderstanding between the couples (Adeniran, 2015). One can say that all over the world, marriages are still considered as universal phenomena, the fact that, 50% of marriages terminate during the first five years of the unions (Adeniran, 2015).

2.3.1 American Experience

In spite the marital problems being a worldwide phenomenon, the United States is the leading country of the world in terms of marital conflicts that lead to divorces. For instance, the prevalence of intimate partner violence has remained high in the USA. Population based surveys have found that in U.S, between 25% and 30% of married women have experienced some form of spouse abuse at some point in their marriages (Merina, 2012). Severe violence is a chronic feature of almost 13% of all marriages in the U.S. and 1.6 million women are severely assaulted by their partners (Merina, 2012).

Among 50 million married people in the U.S, for instance some 15 million have experienced violence in their marriage and the highest rate of intimate partner violence in the U.S. is among American, Indian women and native Alaskan women (WHO, 1997 cited in Merina, 2012). Studies conducted in the United States had findings which suggested that 50% of marriages end in divorce within the first five years; additionally, 60% of marriages fail among women without high school diplomas, compared 34% of those with college education; and 60% of marriages which occur in couples younger than the age of 20 fail, compared to those occurring in 40% in couples older than the age of 22 (Raley and Bumpass, 2003 cited in Evadine, 2009). Further, research in the United States suggested that there are race-ethnic differences in marital quality and divorce (Bulanda and Brown, 2007 cited in Evadine, 2009).

2.3.2 Malaysian Experience

Recent studies conducted by Malaysian Islamic Development Department (JAKIM, 2008) showed a drastic increase in divorce rates in Malaysia. The total number of divorces reported annually against marriages is high. For example, in 2007 there were 131,086 marriages against 20,259 divorces. This translates into more than 56 divorce cases daily.

According to JAKIM (2008), divorce rate appears to be associated with changing expectations about marriage, marital conflict and women working outside the home. In addition, the department has found that 21.0 percent of divorces are due to irresponsible attitude of couples whereas 19.2 percent is attributed to incompatibility. These high figures threaten the integrity of the Malaysian family system.

2.3.3 Kenyan Experience

According to Kenya Saturday nation magazine (2010 cited in Adeniran, 2015) the rate of marital misunderstanding which result to 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 (Adeniran, 2015). 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 (Adeniran, 2015).

2.3.4 Tanzanian Experience

In Tanzania, half of ever-married women have suffered from spousal or partner abuse at some point in time, whether physical, emotional, or sexual, if these become tense, marriage are likely to be broken (Merina, 2012). In Tanzania when we talk of marriage breakdown it is obvious that the conflicts have gone beyond reparable and the best solution for that marriage is dissolution. Referring to data that was collected from 2000 married couples from the year 1980-2000, it showed that the relationship of one couple to another as follow: 16% of the married couples have moderate conflicts, but 60% are those couples having high conflicts to which are harmful to the

children and family as whole. That means when we come to the reality in our societies, it is true that most of the marriage couples are in high conflicts, which end up in marriage breakdown as the result affects the welfare of children and making them vulnerable. Studies in Tanzania have shown that, more than one third (37%) of ever-married women reported having experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their husband/partner in the past year (TDHS, 2010 cited in Merina, 2012).

In most cases intimate partner violence occurs inside the houses of the partners. Tanzania likewise, experience couples conflicts that affect directly or indirectly children. For instance about 275 cases of serious marital conflicts have been reported every three months in Dar es Salaam alone (Natihaika, 2000). In 1993 alone, the number of marital conflict cases were handled in primary courts of Dar es Salaam was 42 (Manzese), 125 (Ilala) and 300 (Temeke). Between 1989 and 1993 about 338 cases of parental conflict were registered at the primary court in Songea-Urban (Mhagama, 1994); and Natihaika (2000) reveal that there has been an increase in numbers of people seeking aids because of marital discord. Extensive researches conducted in Tanzania by civil organizations such as the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) on marital conflicts reports a number of marital cases reported and that Magomeni primary court received 118 matrimonial cases in 1997 and the number has risen to 422 cases by 1999 (TAMWA, 1999, 2006, 2009 cited in Ebenezer *et al*., 2015).

The Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) annual report (2006 cited in Ebenezer *et al*., 2015) shows that, there were a total of 1479 types of matrimonial cases out of which

were 3510 cases were domestic violence, land disputes and interference. The nature of these conflicts were reported all over the country including: Songea (974 cases), Morogoro (118 cases), Arusha (102 cases), Tanga (76 cases), Iringa (68 cases), Shinyanga (42 cases), Kiteto (18 cases), Moshi (12 cases) and Mwanza (2 cases).

According to this organization, there is a big problem of women not reporting their marriage woes to the relevant authority for various reasons: women are worried about being divorced, but they do not know their rights, this implies that parental conflicts are increasing in numbers at a unnoticeable rate due to some cases are not reported thus, the number may be higher than in various reports (TAMWA, 2006 cited in Ebenezer *et al*, 2015). The situation of marital misunderstanding seems to be in increase day after day.

According to RITA (2008) as cited in Shanny (2017) , despite all the above statistics on conflicts between couples in Tanzania , there are no specific statistic on marriage breakdown in Tanzania since most of marriage breakdown are not registered. Based on Shany (2017) findings, marriage breakdown cases recorded rose to 43 in 2007/2008 year compared to 37 cases registered in the 2006/2007. Data collected from 1994/1995 to 2007/2008 shows that 2005/06 had the lowest number of registered divorces with only 28 divorces, which was 34 percent decline compared to the previous year.

On the other hand, 2001/02 had the highest number of marriage breakdown with 54-marriage breakdown recorded in the same period of time (ibid). RITA (2008) indicates that, in Tanzania the number of registered marriage breakdown reached total

405 in ten years, which is small compared to the real situation on the ground. Most of them are as unregistered, most divorces are granted in the courts, or don't follow legal procedure and not in RITA.

2.4   Causes of Marriage Breakdown

A conflict among people in marriages is a complex event that can be viewed from multiple perspectives. For example, sociological research has focused primarily on structural and life course predictors of marital disruption, such as social class, race, and age at first marriage (Bumpass, Martin, and Sweet, 1991; White, 1991). Psychological research, in contrast, has focused on dimensions of marital interaction, such as conflict management (Gottman, 1994 cited in Paul, 2003), or on personality characteristics, such as anti-social behaviour or chronic negative affect (Leonard & Roberts, 1998 cited in Paul, 2003). African culture is quite different from western culture and causes of misunderstanding in marriages may differ from one region to another. This study considers African causes; it is obvious to say that since marriage is a social phenomenon, similar causes might be observed in different cultures and continents. There are several factors responsible for marriage divorce in Africa and in the globe generally. A review of extant literature revealed the following factors.

2.4.1   Lack of Children or Infertility

In African culture, any marriage that is not blessed with children is not yet considered to have achieved its aim (Oforchukwu 2000 cited in Love, 2014). Mood Africans value children in any wedlock due to the fact that children are the ones that make the society to continue. That is why any man or woman who has no child is not yet considered to be a fulfilling wife or husband. Marriage is therefore contracted in order

to keep the family line going, arguing the importance of procreation in marriage, Mbiti (2007:28 cited in Love, 2014). Procreation is the absolute way of insuring that a person is not cut off from personal immortality. It is unfortunate that it is the woman who is blamed for childlessness. Mbiti (2007:107 cited in Love, 2014) stated that- Marriage is not fully recognized or consummated until the wife has given birth. First pregnancy becomes, therefore the final seal of marriage, the sign of complete integration of the woman into her husband's family and kingship circle.

2.4.2   Infidelity

In any society (whether early or modem), adultery represents a vexing problem in marriages. Adultery is considered a serious crime in African society. This attitude weakens and discourages an honest spouse who wants to be faithful to his or her commitments (Kisseadroo, 2016). Emphasized by Kisseadroo (2016), Adultery may lead to divorce of a valid marriage among African Christians when the couples do not accept the situation.

2.4.2   Family Cohesion

Some couples have failed to achieve the ideal marriage, meaning that some couples do not live in harmony with one another. Such couples need to be pitied, because they are missing the blessings and joys of married couples. According to Selma Wilson (2016) some couples may also conflict with one another, such that it does not encourage good relationship in the family. Quarrels, strife, rifts, and disharmony are incompatible with peace and may lead to friction between husband and wife. Quarrelling is unhealthy in a relationship and poses a big problem for married life. At times, it is natural for couples to have misunderstandings, but the couple should not allow these disputes to

be prolonged. In family life, incompatibility, hot temper, poverty, or negligence may be the root cause of quarrels. Further, many husbands and wives might engage in the misguided pursuit of wealth. Money is a motivating force in our society.

2.4.4 Drug Abuse

Some husbands, as well as wives, are addicted to alcohol. They expend much of their time, resources and energy on drink (Wilson, 2016). They spend less time to train and direct their children. As a result, husbands leave their domestic affairs to their wives or vice versa who have little or no money for this purpose. Alcohol has ruined some homes in African families (Adegoke, 2010 cited in Love, 2014).

An alcoholic husband, for example, can hardly make a reasonable and constructive decision regarding the running of his family. He is only interested in spending his money on drink. The effects of alcohol are harmful. When a man gets drunk, he neglects the affairs of his house. He will no longer support his family as he ought, and he may even beat his wife. In the face of alcohol abuse, the family falls into danger (ibid).

2.4.5 Socialization and Technological Advancement

Modem society is dynamic. Most families in Africa are highly influenced by social activities, mass communication techniques, and community friends (Obi, 1990 cited in Love, 2014). These factors could pose dangers on some homes. Some friends may be wolves in sheep's clothing; they may be pretending to be friends but in actual fact, they have some ulterior motives. At times, familiarity breeds contempt. When there is too much familiarity between a spouse and a friend, the friend may become a threat to family solidarity (Wilson, 2016).

2.4.6   Financial Difficulties

Money is very powerful in our society and the love of it is said to be the root of all evils. Mba (1986 cited in Love, 2014) observes that, money can often be a troublemaker. Financial difficulty is today considered as one of the leading causes of divorce among families (Oforchukwu, 2000 cited in Love, 2014). Lack of money has an effect on marriage. Lack of money has led to crisis in marriage relationships. It has destroyed many Tanzanian families. Poverty is largely responsible for the explosive rate of divorce among couples in Tanzania. Many able couples are not properly employed in the labour force, which results in many broken families, due to the fact that unemployed couples cannot support their families (Rebecca 2016).

2.4.7   Immaturity

Age at marriage is one of the leading factors in 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 (Komblum, 2001 cited in Love, 2014). 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 Burmpass, 1989; and Reiners, 2003 cited in Love, 2014). But, Isiugo-Abanihe (1998 cited in Love, 2014) did not find a significant effect of age at marriage on marriage stability decreases with an increasing age at marriage. The age at which many modern couples marry has seriously been questioned. Many broken families have been associated with

the immaturity and youthfulness of the married couple who get married in their teens (13-17). Marrying too young is destructive and has a tremendous impact in a relationship. Some youths are not experienced enough to face the realities of life. As a result, it is no wonder that the rate of divorce linked to youthful marriage is high. Rhyme (2010 cited in Love, 2014) argues that, the biggest factor in marital disharmony is immaturity.

2.4.8 Mixed Marriage

The African society is such that encourages freedom in her constitutional enactments or example, freedom of choice, freedom of worship, and freedom of association exist in the Tanzanian constitution. In view of this, every individual feels that he or she is free to exercise this freedom. Unfortunately, cultural and religious differences make this practice unworkable. Tanzania has about over 125 ethnic groups. Each ethnic group has a different culture and religious practice, couples used to be cautious on ethnic differences when choosing partners for marriage. Unfortunately, contemporary Tanzanian families do not pay much attention to this phenomenon. Mixed marriage refers to both cultural and religious differences among a couple (Doyle, 1993 cited in Love, 2014). A marriage between at Catholic and a Christian of another denomination also represents a mixed marriage Mixed marriage has long been frowned upon; cultural and religious differences have been considered an impediment (ibid).

This impediment renders the marriage illicit rather than invalid. In spite of this, it has been noted that mixed marriages have been problematic in some families. However, some mixed marriages have been very successful among new couples. Mixed marriages could work where there is love and sacrifice among the parties. It has been

discovered that mixed marriage generally do not thrive, and therefore could lead to divorce. Also, some scholars believe that mixed marriage leads to the perversion of faith. For example, in any mixed marriage, the children born in the union may not get the proper Catholic or non-Catholic doctrines. This might pose a serious threat to the religious faith of the people. However, there is no doubt that mixed marriage could work where there is mutual understanding, self-sacrifice, love, self-giving and maturity among the patties (Kisseadroo, 2016).

2.4.9   Adverse Influence of in-Laws

In-laws play a vital role in families. In African society, in-laws are considered part of the family. A married daughter's parents should be able to visit their daughter's house at will. The husband is encouraged to establish a friendly relationship with his in-laws. It is expected that this healthy relationship will help to improve their relationship. It is true that partners should endeavour to cultivate a cordial relationship with their in-laws, and this should be done in such a way that the feelings of both parties are not hurt, but respected. However, it should be noted that some in-laws have helped to disintegrate some families. This should be avoided. Also, married couples should avoid over-dependence on the parents. They should try to live independent life. They should be able to get a job of their own. They should also make effort to live in their own houses or apartments. This, no doubt, will help them to live happily in their homes (Oforchukwu, 2010 cited in Love, 2014).

Religious Affiliation- Different scholars perceived relationship between religious practice and marital instability in different perspectives. For instance, lsiugo-Abanihe (1998 cited in Love, 2014) and Tilson and Larsen (2000 cited in Love, 2014) reveal in

their studies that, Muslim marriages are found to be more stable than their Christian counterparts; but according to Brandson (1990 cited in Love, 2014), this pattern is opposite in Africa, particularly in Tanzania. The declining divorce rates among the Muslim unions are likely as a result of rigorous religious practices (Jones, 2000 cited in Love, 2014). In Bangladesh for instance, there are Muslim divorce customs and laws for Muslim marriage. For instance, divorce of Muslim marriage is an option, which is available to spouses. Thus, Muslim divorce customs and laws serve as a check to the incessant divorce rates, which were accompanied by trends in rigorous practices among Muslims (Jones, 2000).

2.4.10 Educational Attainment

Brandson (1990) claims that, education is often used as proxy for female empowerment. But Isiugo-Abanihe (1998) observes that, in some cases the relationship between female education and divorce is found to be positive. This is so because the influence of education appears to be nonlinear, with the lowest divorce rates observed among uneducated women. The findings of Tilson and Larsen (2000) in Ethiopia shows that, women with no education as well as those who had attended a literacy programme showed lower risk of divorce than women with primary education. Again, according to them, women with secondary and higher education have 0.63 times the risk of divorce compared with women with primary education.

Adedokun (1998) observes that, the reason why there is high incidence of divorce among women of reproductive age is that, the educated women are more likely to embrace new ideas about marriage. She stressed the point that, as the passion of sexual attraction may emerge; spouses may wish to end an unexciting marriage in

favour of relationship that will provide renewed excitement. Adedokun (1998) however, observes that, increasing participation of educated women in the labour force may have reduced the extent to which they are depended on men (Love, 2014).

2.4.11 Communication

According to Warren (2018) Peaceful talks are very important tool to build any relationship. In many marriages communication has been found to be among the sources of matrimonial conflicts. For instance, bad interpretation of talks and lack of much attention to partner might cause the speaker to become angry.

2.5   Effects of Marriage Breakdown

Marriage breakdown problems have been associated with the development of a wide variety of problems in children and adolescents. Misunderstanding in the marital relationship adversely has negative impact on the quality and consistency of parenting. Divorced couples or in misunderstanding are sometimes lax in their management of child behaviour or sometimes use opposing discipline strategies. These inconsistencies in parental discipline, in turn, contribute to adjustment problems in children (Killian, 2003 cited in Lungile, 2007). As the result, children are likely to lack their important and basic needs such as:

2.5.1   Physical Needs

According to Killian (2003 cited in Lungile, 2007); children have many physical needs, which include material/financial needs for clothing, shelter, school basic survival needs such as food, health care and hygiene. The simple provision of financial and physical needs is simply not sufficient enough for children to grow into

healthy and well-adjusted adults in future. The physical needs often appear to be the most urgent basic need. Before the marriage is broken-down, most of the time parents find themselves in tense conflicts, the situation that make all the couples to be traumatised and become less productive due to the situation they are going through as the result they may be unable to provide necessary physical needs to their children.

2.5.2   Social Needs

On the social learning theory, John Watson shared Locke's views that, the child was a blank slate on which experience writes on. He held that a child learns to be what he/she becomes, usually in a social context (Killian, 2003 cited in Rose, 2015). Humans are also social beings; they have to live among others. No man is an island. Children need to feel that they belong in their peaceful families, and their communities, that they form part of a cultural group and national group. This basic need to feel as if they belong gives them a sense of identity and belonging.

2.5.3   Cognitive Needs

There are three main categories of cognitive needs: (i) formal education where we are taught from infancy what we need to know and then attend school to help us to survive within an industrialized society; (ii) informal education where we learn by observing others, their reactions and also learning what it takes to be part of particular community setting; (iii) general life skills and general knowledge (Killian, 2003 cited in Rose, 2015). This is linked to the notion that behaviour is learned through interaction during the socialization process (Owens, 1993 cited in Rose, 2015). The cognitive theory of Piaget focuses more on the development of thought processes (reasoning) and stresses the child's active role in determining his/her developmental

level. Each stage is associated with the development of certain kinds of behaviours and reasoning strategies.

2.5.4   Spiritual Needs

It is through our belief in the Higher Being that we develop a sense of hope in the future. Being able to pray in times of hardship enables us to cope and deal better with life's challenges. It gives us a sense of purpose and also enables us to think beyond the hardships of the present life circumstances to a life hereafter (Killian, 2003cited in Rose, 2015). Children especially those affected by marital conflicts need spiritual support to make them strong and endure the suffering they are passing through. Without spiritual support most of the children would have ended up not being able to cope and survive the escalating scourge of miserable life, poverty and violence (Ibid).

2.5.5   Emotional Needs

Children need to love and be loved and a sense of belonging to society. Children are also viewed as needing a voice to be heard and to feel that they are important and valued in their communities. The basic sense of being a worthy individual and important to those who love you is an essential part of being a human being (Killian, 2003 cited in Rose, 2015). When GOD spoke about human beings distinct from animals, he was primarily referring to these emotional needs to have others love us and accept us and for us to reciprocate these feelings. When children are distressed in any way, their emotional needs become critically important (Ibid).

2.5.6   Behavioural or Externalising Effects

Exposure to high levels of marital conflict that end up by marriage breakdown have been associated with the development of a wide variety of problems in children and

adolescents, including externalizing effects such as aggression, conduct disorder or delinquency and anti-social behaviour (Conder et al., 1997).

However, marital misunderstanding and marriage breakdown might influence the family atmosphere and endanger the psychological health of children whereby in turn these conditions might lead to rebels and antisocial behaviours in the children's adulthood (Tavakolizadeh et al., 2014). The current levels of parental misunderstanding reflect a breakdown in the moral structure of many families. Children who witness misunderstanding and marriage breakdown between parents by their names have been labelled the "silent," "forgotten," "unintended" victims of adult to adult domestic violence (Grovel et al., 1993).

The past half-century has been experiencing dramatic changes in family lives and ways of living in African countries in general and Tanzania in particular (Abraham, 2006). Marital misunderstandings that lead to divorces and separations among parents turn most of them to suffer impairment personality. This situation has decreased their capacity of children to take care and use appropriate style of parenting for rearing their children and reduce parents' ability to be reciprocal, involved and encouraging with their children and offer them sufficient emotional warmth (Terry, 2004).

As life style changes in marriages and becomes difficult, as the result, parent-child connectedness and appropriate decision making decreases and children become free (Kaisa, 2005). Parent low level of behavioural control to the child will result to high levels of externalizing problems. Moreover, Children showing persistent disruptive behaviour become child delinquents and, in turn, child delinquents become

serious, violent, or chronic juvenile offenders which make them to conflict with the Law (Rolf, 2003). For instance, in 2010 the LHRC undertook an assessment of the situation of children who come in conflict with the law in Tanzania. The study found that 591 children aged between 13 and 17 years were found in detention centres of which 441 children were detained in adult prisons.

The findings also showed that 374 were pre -trial and 64 convicted; 13 children were detained with their mother (Tanzania Child Rights Forum, 2013). Parent misunderstanding, have an influence on internalizing or externalizing outcomes in children, depending on child temperament and how that child responds to the conflict (Lengua, 2008). Inabilities of parent to provide adequate love affection make more children to run from homes and decide to live independent lives, hence, the increase of street children. For instance, a worldwide report estimates that there are around 200 million children who neither have homes to sleep in, nor a place where to eat (James, 2014).

In the Tanzanian context, a survey conducted in some 95 districts in Tanzania shows that the number of street and vulnerable children in the country is on the increase, accounting for 849,054 children with an estimated 437,500 of street children (Global Giving, 2014 and Saliboko, 2012). According to Wright and Wright (1994), the family is the foundation of human society. Understanding the nature of relationships within the family, i.e. family adaptability, cohesion, and satisfaction, provides more information for understanding children and youths behaviours (Cashwell and Vacc, 1996). Evidences show that, today traditional patterns guiding the relationships and transitions between family and child are being challenged. Social relations that ensure

a smooth process of socialization are collapsing; lifestyle trajectories are becoming more varied and less predictable (ibid).

It is not only developing countries that are facing this situation; in developed countries as well there are new pressures on young people undergoing the transition from childhood to independence (UN, 2003). The disintegration of the family and ineffective parenting are some of the pressures making children go astray (ibid). In Tanzania, most children   from both separated and divorced families have been experiencing poor-quality child care and parenting style which make them at risk for poor long-term developmental outcomes, including apathy, poor school skills, and heightened aggression (Bets *et a*l., 2009).

In addition to that, research indicates that affectionless, child temperament and effective parenting style ignorance among some parents make children at risks of going astray (Betts et al., 2009). Parent's misunderstandings have profound effects on child behaviour (Yahav, 2006). Family rearing has been found to predict child well-being in terms of social competence, academic performance, psychosocial development, and problem behaviour.

Children in high quality early childhood parenting and care are more likely to be emotionally secure and self-confident, proficient in language use, able to regulate impulsive and aggressive inclinations, and advanced in cognitive development (Suzanne and Carollee, 1996). Moreover, over time, these children may experience enhanced school achievement, higher earnings, and decreased involvement with the criminal justice system.

2.5.7 Emotional or Internalizing Effects

Studies from different areas have been done to examine if parents conflict and marriage breakdown affect children in the domains of adjustment, including internalizing problems such as: anxiety, depression, and withdrawal, poor emotional well-being, academic problems, and low social competency.

Divorce and separation has also been associated with child internalising problems (Amato and Keith, 1991a). Children and adolescents from divorced and/or high conflict families experience higher levels of depressed mood in comparison with those from non-divorced or low-conflict families (Conger and Chao, 1996; Peterson and Zill, 1986). Similarly, research also indicates a greater incidence of anxiety disorders in children with divorced parents, although differences have typically been modest (Hetherington and Stanley-Hagan, 1999). Children with divorced parents are also two to three times more likely to receive psychological treatment, have more illnesses and medical problems and visits to the doctor, than children with no divorced parents (Howard et al., 1996; Zill et al., 1993).

Moreover, studies have found an association between marital conflict and children's psychological well-being. Amato (1986 cited in Amato, 2013), for example, demonstrated that inter-parental conflict was negatively related to school-aged children's self-esteem. Black and Pedro Carroll (1993 cited in Amato, 2013) also found an association between inter-parental conflict and late adolescents' psychological well-being (including interpersonal trust, emotional empathy, and dependency). In a cross-cultural study of 39 countries on 6 continents, Gohm, Oishi, Darlington, and Diener (1998 cited in Ming, 2015) studied young men's and women's

subjective well-being, including life satisfaction and balance of positive affect that is to say, affection, joy, contentment, and pride and negative affect such as fear, anger, sadness, and guilt. They found that well-being was negatively associated with marital conflict.

In an especially interesting analysis, Amato, Loomis, and Booth (1995 cited in Ming, 2015), using a 12-year longitudinal study, found that young adults had higher levels of well-being that is happiness if parents in high conflict marriages divorced rather than stayed together. On the other hand, young adults had higher levels of well-being if parents in low conflict marriages stayed together rather than divorced. The study also found that, in marriages that did not end in divorce, marital conflict was negatively associated with the well-being of young adult children (Ming, 2003 cited in Ming, 2015).

2.5.8   Effects According to Sex

Regarding children's sex differences in response to inter-parental misunderstanding and marriage breakdown, earlier researches showed that male children were more likely to exhibit externalizing problems whereas female children were at greater risk for internalizing problems (Block, and Davies, 1994). Moreover, sex differences also have been found in the mediating process. For example, Block and colleagues (1981) suggest that, male children were more affected by inconsistent parenting than female children when marital conflict occurred. However, some studies found that male children and female ones were similarly affected by exposure to marital conflict (Buehler et al., 1998). Male children and female ones might experience and react to conflict differently, although with equally deleterious outcomes for both.

Moreover, studies have found that gender differences in response to parents misunderstanding that lead to divorce, separation are not pronounced (Amato and Keith, 1991). Girl adolescents from divorced and remarried families are more likely than their male counterparts to drop out of high school, and both male and female adolescents are equally likely to become teenage parents (McLanahan and Sandefur, 1994). Some girls in divorced, mother-headed families emerge as exceptionally resilient individuals following divorce, but this does not typically occur for boys following marital transitions, or for girls in stepfamilies (Hetherington, 1989).

For some girls in divorced families who have been overburdened with responsibilities or emotional support of a parent, there is an increased risk of depressive symptoms, low self-worth, and a sense of inadequacy and failure, despite their achievements (Hetherington and Stanley Hagan, 1999. Boys are more likely than girls to benefit from being in step-father families (Amato and Keith, 1991a; Hetherington, 1993 cited in Susie *et al.*, 2009). Close relationships with supportive step-fathers are more likely to reduce antisocial behaviour and to enhance the achievement of step-sons than of step-daughters (Amato and Keith, 1991a; Hetherington, 1993; Zimiles and Lee, 1991 cited in Susie *et al,* 2009).

2.5.9   Effects According to Age

A child's age and developmental stage has been identified in the research literature as one of several factors that is associated with children's responses to inter-parental conflict that lead to separation and divorce (Susie et al., 2009). The growth of children into adults is marked by a number of stages, both physical and social/emotional (Susie *et al.*, 2009). Psychosocial development includes changes in thinking, understanding

of self and the world, ways of relating to others and level of independence (Susie *et al*, 2009). Different researches indicate that the reactions of children and adolescents to their parents' misunderstanding that lead to divorce and separation differ qualitatively with age (Chase-Landsdale et al., 1995 cited in Susie *et al.,* 2009). This difference is thought to be due to cognitive maturity, as older children and adolescents may be more capable of understanding the reasons behind a marital separation than are younger children (Susie et al., 2009). This means that, younger children are more dependent on, and needier of continuous, reliable care from a primary caregiver (Susie *et al.,* 2009).

Other researches have shown that the limited understanding of pre-school children leaves them more vulnerable to the effects of parental conflict and family disruption (Allison and Furstenberg, 1989; Hetherington and Clingempeel, 1992; Zill et al., 1993 cited in Susie *et al.*, 2009). The limited cognitive capacity of young children means that they cannot grasp the concept of divorce, and can, therefore, be expected to be particularly unprepared for the changes caused by the separation (Emery, 1994 cited in Susie *et al.*, 2009).

In addition, it has been proposed that young children's limited ability to realistically appraise the reasons for the divorce makes them more likely to blame themselves and fear total abandonment. Other studies have found that, pre-separation stress and divorce, and the resulting family disruption and instability, has a particularly deleterious impact on adolescents, given the particular developmental challenges faced by this group (Hetherington, 1993; Sun, 2001; Adam and ChaseLandsdale, 2002 cited in Susie *et al.*, 2009), such as the development of a sense of identity and

independence. It appears that parental inter-conflicts that lead sometimes to separation as well as divorce do not necessarily have more negative effects on children of a particular age, but differential effects can be seen at different developmental stages (Susie *et al.*, 2009).

Former evidences from different researches highlighted that adolescents were more negatively affected by parental conflict than younger children (Rodgers and Pryor, 1998 cited in Ann *et al,* 2009) but that younger children adjust more easily to subsequent re-partnering by their biological parent (Rodgers and Pryor, 1998 cited in Ann *et al*, 2009). On the other hand, children who experience parental separation at a young age are more likely to be exposed to repeated transitions in family structure. Overall, evidence indicates that younger children are at greater risk of adverse outcomes, including higher rates of delinquency in adolescence (Wadsworth, 1979 cited in Ann *et al.*, 2009).

Moreover, older children appear to be more vulnerable to the impact of conflict between parents than younger children (Rhoades, 2008). This may be explained, however, by a number of factors, including, a failure to fully capture the impact on younger children and the interplay of age and developmental stage and how that affects children's responses to conflict. It might also simply mean that older children have become more sensitive to conflict because they have been exposed to it for a longer period of time compared to younger children.

2.5.10 Nature of the Child

Children differ from one to another and their physiological make up, temperament and biological factors make them to cope with conflict or to be more affected.

2.5.11.1 Children's Temperament

Temperament might serve to rise or reduction of children's vulnerability to inter-parental conflict. That is to say, children with a difficult temperament are witnessed to be more vulnerable to the outcomes of conflict between male and female parents (Ramosetal.2005; Whiteside-Mansell, 2009). Biological make up researches have shown that specific genetic susceptibilities and early brain development, might explain why some children are at greater short-and long-term risk for negative outcomes as a result of living with high levels of inter-parental conflict and discord as well as the perpetuation of conflict-based behaviours across generations (ibid).

2.5.12 Physiological Factor

Physiology of the child according to the studies might also play an important role in differentiating between children who are at greater risk of poor outcomes. For example, some children's nervous systems help them to regulate their feelings and responses to conflict more effectively than other children (ElSheikh and Erath, 2011).

2.6 Strategy to Cope with Problems

Children's coping strategies have also been witnessed to be very important. In general, emotion-focused strategies that help children to distance themselves from parental conflict and marriage breakdown are associated with better outcomes for children than problem-solving strategies that may result in children becoming embroiled in the situation (Shelton and Harold, 2008).

2.7 Tanzanian Efforts to Minimize Marriage Breakdown

The movement for the unification of laws during the early postcolonial period in East Africa was most pronounced in the area of family law, which had been particularly

beleaguered by the choice of law problems created by the plural legal system inherited from the British (Edward, 2006). The fact that individuals "rarely confined their actions within one system of law" encouraged much confusion and mischief (Edward, 2006). For example, Bart Rwezaura has noted the phenomenon of Christian men who enter into monogamous marriages and then use customary law to acquire additional wives, only to disavow obligations towards a subsequent spouse by disputing the legal effect of the later relationships (Edward, 2006).

In order to untangle the competing bodies of family law, the African Conference on Local Courts and Customary Law was held in Dar es Salaam in 1963 (Edward, 2006). This conference inspired the government of Kenya to create the Commission on the Law of Marriage and Divorce in 1967, which issued a report the following year and urged reform and integration of the disparate systems of religious, customary, and law via a proposed Law of Matrimony Act (Edward, 2006). Ultimately, the Commission's efforts stalled in Kenya, where the draft bill was rejected by the legislature multiple times on the grounds that it was "un African, a model of English law that took insufficient account of African customs and traditions and gave too many rights to women.

Tanzania, however, adopted the Kenyan model in overhauling its own family law system. Mapendekazo ya Serikali juu ya Sheria ya Ndoa (Government's Proposals on Uniform Law of Marriage), Government Paper No. 1 of 1969, incorporated most of the reforms advanced by the Kenyan draft bill and provided the ground work for Tanzania's groundbreaking Law of Marriage Act, 1971 ("LMA" or "the Act") (Edward, 2006). Those reforms included the recognition of religious and customary

marriages, registration requirements, the establishment of marriage conciliation boards, the requirement of a judicial decree prerequisite to a valid divorce, and the presumption of marriage based on a two-year period of cohabitation (Edward, 2006).

Although these changes appeared to enjoy widespread support among certain sectors of the political class, some have questioned whether the general public had an adequate opportunity to debate the merits of the proposed LMA before it came into effect. Nevertheless, the Tanzanian parliament's proactive stance garnered it credit for "tak [ing] the pioneering step of enacting the first measure in Commonwealth Africa (or indeed in any of the Commonwealth states with comparable problems of plural legal systems) to integrate the diverse personal laws of marriage and divorce which were formerly applicable.

2.7.1   Maintenance and Child Custody

Another novel development introduced into the Tanzanian legal system by the LMA is the availability of maintenance for women (Edward, 2006). Situations where a court may order a husband to make payments to his wife include: neglect, desertion, separation, divorce or during the course of any matrimonial proceedings (Edward, 2006). The determination is to take custom into account, as well as the degree of responsibility apportioned to each party for the breakdown of the marriage. Remarriage by either party extinguishes the right to maintenance.

The guiding tenet in the awarding of child custody is the best interest of the child (Edward, 2006). Whenever consistent with this principle, the court also takes into consideration the wishes of the parents, the child's desires, and the customs of the

community to which the parents belong. However, the LMA creates a rebuttable presumption that "it is for the good" of a child under the age of seven to reside with his or her mother (Edward *et a*l., 2006). Courts are not bound to award custody of all children to one parent. In the absence of an agreement between the parties, the father has a duty to maintain his children regardless of whether he has physical custody of them. If the father is dead, missing or otherwise unable to provide maintenance, the support obligation transfers to the mother (Edward *et al.,* 2006).

2.7.2   Marriage Breakdowns Problems Resolution Strategy

Resolving matrimonial problems in Africa and Tanzania in particular has long been conceptualized as involving both constructive and destructive process, and research in the area of matrimonial problems has focused on these two global aspects of conflict management (Beach and Ficham, 1999 cited in Meaze, 2014). Constructive process often include interactions involving cooperation, problem solving behaviours, intentions to learn about other's needs, willingness to talk about disagreements, and a focus on the relationship rather than the individual (Hocker and Wilmot, 1995 cited in Meaze, 2014), and they are associated with high level of   matrimonial satisfaction (de Bruyne and Greeff, 2000). In contrast, destruction process often includes interactions that involve manipulation, coercion, escalation, and avoidant patterns of domination and subordination (Olson and Waite, 2004).

To understand these constructive and destructive aspects of conflict, there is a need to explore spouses' strategies from managing and resolving conflicts. Putnam and Wilson (1982 cited in Meaze, 2014) identified conflict resolution strategies employed across a variety of interpersonal contexts that represent behavioural responses to

conflict idlest disagreements of differences of opinions in a relationship. Specifically, they described three styles of conflict resolution: solution Orientation, Control, and non-confrontation. Solution orientation resembles the constructive style of problem solving and compromise that couples employ, including direct communication about conflict, attempts to integrate others' needs, and the act of compromising.

2.7.2.1 Controlling Orientation

These include attempts to dominate the interaction and persistently promote one's own position. Non-confrontation: orientation resembles avoidance in that it includes withdrawal from disagreements, use of behaviours such as silence, and the concealment of ill feelings. Researchers have found difference in theses conflict resolution styles across cultures (Cai and Fink, 2002 cited in Meaze, 2014).

According to Habtamu, (2005) some of the common actions taken to resolve conflict are beating, kicking the wives out of home, getting angry at wives, discussing the problem and asking for elders' interference are listed by husbands. Calling on elders or relatives, discussing the problem, leaving home and tolerating the problem are the main conflict resolution actions taken by the wives. Because conflict resolution is so critical, many therapists focus their efforts on understanding and describing useful approaches and identifying counterproductive ones. According to Bruyne and Greef, (2000) this model of conflict resolution identifies five styles:

2.7.2.2 The Competitive Style

People who use a competitive style of conflict resolution tend to be aggressive and uncooperative, perusing personal concerns at the expense of the other. Those with a

competitive style gain power by direct confrontation and try to win without adjusting their goals and desires. Life is a battle ground for people with this type of conflict resolution   style is usually not encouraging to develop intimacy. Communication is forceful and lacking in collaboration. This is often associated with a win-lose mind-set (Bruyne and Greef, 2000).

2.7.2.3 Collaborative Style

People who use collaborative style of conflict resolution are highly assertive in regard to reaching their goals but have a great deal of concerning the other person. Collaborators tend to burn out on relationship because they invest so much energy into resolving conflict. Another problem with collaborative style is that good collaborators are powerful and sometimes use their strength to manipulate others. Communication is direct and collaborative. The goal of this style is problem solving and solution finding (Bruyne and Greef, 2000).

2.7.2.4 The Compromise Style

People who use compromise style tend to give up something and also expect to relinquish something. It is similar to collaborative style but more focus is placed on finding solutions that best suit both spouses. It is intermediate on both the aggression and cooperative axes (Bruyne and Greef, 2000 cited in Meaze, 2014).

2.7.2.5 The Avoidance Style

Characterized by non-assertive and passive behaviour, avoiders peruse neither their own concerns nor the concerns of the other person. They sidestep the issue by changing the subject or withdrawing from conflict. It gives the avoider time to think

about whether any good will come from continuing the fight and about whether others could manage the situation better. Communication is dismissive and not acknowledged by one or both spouses (de Bruyne and Greef, 2000 cited in Meaze, 2014).

2.7.2.6 The Accommodative Style

This refers to non-assertive style where spouse disregards ones' own needs and accedes to the partners' desires. Communication is passive and the intention is to please the other spouse in order to end the conflict peacefully (de Bruyne and Greef, 2000 cited in Meaze , 2014).

2.8   Empirical Literature Review

The current researcher has gone through the literature highlighted below Janice (1998) in her study on understanding marital conflict and the marital relationship who investigated 60 children (30 girls, 30 boys) from three age groups (5 years, 7 years, and 9 years). Jance (1998) found that, age differences were hypothesized in children's conceptions of the causes of conflict, conflict resolution, the spousal relationship, family triangulation, and simultaneity of emotions. Children answered questions about stories involving family interactions.

Five year old children explained conflict in terms of one person being right and one person being wrong whereas seven and nine year old children understood conflict as resulting from diverging goals. Five year old children thought that conflict resolution occurred by people stopping angry behaviour whereas older children made reference

to how at Least one person's goals needed to change. Children's understanding of triangulation increased with age. Seven and nine year old children think about their parents as parents and as one another spouse, a distinction rarely made by five year old children. Significant age differences were not found in children's understanding of how both a positive and a negative emotion may be sirnultaneously directed to one person. In the literature examining the effects of marital conflict on children, the developmental constraints on children's understanding of conflict are rarely investigated. Janice (1998) study made it clear that marital conflict is a very different type of stressor depending on the level of cognitive development of the child.

In their study, Susie *et al.,* (2009) found that, separation and divorce are common phenomena in the community today, but still represent a major life stressor for the individuals involved, with potentially strong negative consequences for the mental and physical health of all members of the family. Susie et al., (2009) argue that, the impact of divorce on child wellbeing has been the subject of research attention for several decades, and has long been viewed as the cause of a range of serious and enduring behavioural and emotional problems in children and adolescents Susie et al., (2009) found that approximately 43 per cent of all marriages in Australia will end in divorce in the long run. Susie et al., (2009) argue that remarriage following divorce is common, but these marriages have the highest risk of divorce.

In Australia for example, Susie *et a*l., (2009) found that it was estimated that 50,000 children will experience the effects of family breakdown resulting from separation and divorce each year. In addition, Susie et al., in their study found that approximately 50 per cent of all divorces involve children under the age of 18 years and these figures

were likely to be even higher when we consider the numbers of children in Australia born to people who were not actually married (cohabiting). Susie et al., (2009) argue that of all Australian families in 2003, 84% (4.6 million) were couple families and 14% (799,800) were one parent families. Families with children made up 60% of all families. In addition to that, Susie et al., (2009) found that children of divorced parents were still at twice the risk of problems as the non-separated community.

Meaning that the association between intense marital conflict and children's poor adjustment has been repeatedly demonstrated, and children were found to have more psychological problems when their parents are in conflict, either during marriage or following divorce. The researchers in their study found that separation and divorce have the potential to disrupt vital parenting functions. That is to say, the major protective factors that facilitate children's adjustment to divorce are low inter-parental conflict, effective and constructive resolution of conflict between the parents, the quality of the parent-child relationship, nurturing, authoritative parenting from at least one parent, and cooperative co-parenting with good communication.

In his study, Ademiran (2015) found that, the increasing rate of divorce in African homes is an intricate incident happening among African couples and in the world at large. He found that the rampant occurrence of divorce in African homes is found to have socio-economic and political effect in the society. Ademiran (2015) primary data were collected through questionnaires (face-to-face and online) countries across the continent and all were analysed. The data comprised 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. Ademiran (2015) found that respondents perceived barrenness or infertility as the major cause of divorce. It was also followed by other causes such as absence of love, ignorance, poverty, religion differences, unemployment, and others.

In his study on Sources of Marital Conflict, the relationship between Conflict Resolution Mechanisms and Marital Satisfaction among Married People in Jemo, Meaze (2014) using a mixed type. Using lottery method that selected 160 and 6 participants who also participated in interview. The researcher found that major causes of marital conflict were money/financial issues, impatience/lack of tolerance, aggressiveness, lack of demonstration of affection, communication issues, in-laws interference, and lack of responsibilities in house hold affairs.

Kristen (2013) in his study used all three waves, 1987-1988, 1992-1994, 2001-2002, of the nationally representative dataset National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH). Four longitudinal models were tested using path analysis and the Bayesian estimation technique. Findings from Kristen's study (2013) indicated there was no effect of marital conflict on change in marital status when demographic and marital environment variables were in the model. The researcher found that Age has the strongest direct and indirect effects.

An increase in number of times married consistently increases the chance of a change in marital status. Variables measuring the marital environment with the exception of the effects of unfairness of chores and spending money in the male models primarily, contribute direct and mediating effects on the two measures of marital conflict. The findings indicated that the dominate influence on marital environment and marital

conflict, and, ultimately, changed in marital status, is that of age as a proxy for developmental change over the lifecycle.

In her study, carried out in Manzese Merina (2012) used a cross sectional descriptive research design, and multistage sampling to select the participants. The researcher selected a total number of 267 eligible women living in the study area were interviewed. Data were collected through interviewing women using a structured questionnaire.

The researcher found that, the rate of intimate partner violence was still high in this area; the prevalence of physical intimate partner violence was 69.3%, psychological 70%. While for the case of sexual abuse being forced to have sexual intercourse with the husband/intimate partner even when they did not want to do so was reported to be 41.2%, threats of separation was reported by 38.2%. Merina (2012) found that, alcohol use was significantly associated with characteristics of men who were violent to their wives or partners. Men who were using alcohol were more likely to be violent to their wives compared to those who were not using alcohol.

The study findings indicated that the prevalence of intimate partner violence in Manzese was high. The findings showed that the majority of women who experienced intimate partner violence did not take any action. There are various reasons, which were associated with their silence, and the most reported reasons included affection 21.9%, limited financial options 20.8%, and fearing the husband 19.8%. For the respondents who had the tendency of reporting incidences of violence most of them were reporting to family 30.7% and religious leaders 15.7%.

The findings also indicated that changes in the family have not affected not only the form of the family life but also the psychological wellbeing of the children. This is contrary to the families of traditional society whereby parental conflicts were considered as the shame and failure of marital relationship. According to Merina (2012) Tanzania have many children who resorted to live in the streets and children's centers following frequent and persistence of parents' quarrels. In addition Materu (2009), found that children have been forced to live on the streets due to marital conflicts.

The study showed that children have been forced to live on the streets due to marital conflicts and about 50% of street children who were interviewed complained that they were forced to live on the streets due to their parents' frequent quarrels. Wayne (2004) also found that, cultural practices such as parental choice of spouse, bride wealth customs, domestic abuse of women, and the legitimization of marriage through child-bearing were undergoing transformation and in some cases rejection.

2.8   Knowledge Gap

More comprehensive researches on parental conflicts and marriage breakdown and child vulnerability have been undertaken in several parts of the country but many studies mostly focuses on general situation of marriage breakdowns in Tanzania with limited focuses on the extent or magnitude of marriage breakdowns at the geographical areas of the study. There is a paucity of detailed information on how intervention programmes deal with and meet the welfare of the affected children according to their needs. There is little likelihood of finding a lasting solution to the problems of marriage breakdown and its impacts on the increase of children losing

their welfare. In general most researches interventions focus mostly on physical needs and neglecting age and gender factor as well as other effects of marriage breakdown that might cause children's vulnerability.

In addition, there is paucity on how children voice their views on their needs, thus posing challenges for developing a sustainable solution to the problem. These studies above altogether were unable to assess what specific type of vulnerability is caused by marriage breakdown and to which extent the services support strategies and means enable the affected children to get rid of their vulnerability hence failing to inform the development of transformative interventions to the affected communities to establish more community-led (self-help) programmes for supporting the welfare system of children in their localities.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1   Introduction

Research methodology is a systematic way to solve a problem through describing work, explaining and predicting phenomena (Limb and Dwyer, 2001). The problems of on marriage breakdown on children welfare in Dar es Salaam have been understood through qualitative and quantitative research methodology. Both methodologies provides quantified information on problems of marriage breakdown, moreover descriptive research design provided valid and reliable information to research questions that aimed at understanding the effects of marriage breakdown to children welfare in Dar es Salaam. This chapter covers research design and methodology. Its subsections include research design, data collection method and types of data, population of the study, sample and sampling technique, data analysis procedure, reliability of data, limitation of the study and ethical consideration.

3.2   Research Design

A research design has been defined as the detailed blue print used to guide a research study toward its objectives (Aakar, 2002 cited in Adam and Kamuzora, 2007). The function of the research design is to provide a paradigm where relevant evidence can be collected with minimum expenditure of time, efforts and money.   This study used a descriptive approach to give accurate information descriptive approach involve both qualitative and quantitative research methods which were used to understand the research problem more accurately in a single study, neither qualitative nor quantitative research method is sufficient in itself to describe the trends and details on the

problems of marriage breakdown to the welfare of the children in Dar es Salaam. It is important to note that, qualitative research method relies on numerical data (Charles and Mertle, 2002) in this method the researcher has been objective in order to determine the appropriate instruments to that were used to capture the right information. According to Guba (2000) qualitative research method is mostly used by the constructionist who believes that truth does not exist anywhere but it is created by people, so this enables a researcher to gather accurate information from multiple related to the problem under study in the real world.

3.3   Research Methodology

This study used both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to find out the problems of marriage breakdown on children welfare in Dar es Salaam. Qualitative methodology was explained through open ended questions aimed at understanding the given research problem from the view of that particular community. Qualitative research methods are also helpful to portray intangible aspects in the community such as social norms, social economic status, gender roles, ethnicity and religion (Denzin and Linkolin, 2000).

According to Pope and Mays (2000), there are three common qualitative methods which include partial observation (Enable a researcher to describe the existing situation using the five sense), in-depth interview (Aiming at collecting information from the wide range of people who have first-hand knowledge about the community) and Focus group (provide a platform for a group of people to share their perceptions, opinions, beliefs and attitude towards a condition that affect their lives). In quantitative methodology, questioners have been appropriate for a researcher to able

to get unique information such as attitude and knowledge of the respondents, maintain respondent privacy and serve cost when resources are limited.

The respondents obtained from questioners can easily be qualified by the researcher, analysed scientifically and objectively, compared and create or test existing theories (Bernard, 1995). The problem of marriage breakdown on children welfare of Dar es Salaam has been found out by the use of close ended questions which aimed to create quantifiable data. Alternatively the study aimed to use open-ended question that provides the view of purposive selected respondents.

Through focus group discussion, the key informant interview, problems have been found out to explain the existing marriage breakdowns on welfare of children in Dar es Salaam. Where by the information obtained from close ended questions were supplemented by the open ended information which is very much detailed. Therefore this study used both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to obtain quantified data from the study.

3.4   Area of the Study

This study was conducted at Ilala municipal council. This area has been chosen essentially since there are many problems concerning with marriage breakdown on welfare of children where by most of the children are roaming around the streets searching for their basic needs. However, many studies have been undertaken in this area focusing on most vulnerable children specifically on street children. Therefore, this study aimed at finding out the problems of marriage breakdown on welfare of children in Ilala.

3.5   Geographical Characteristics of Ilala Municipal,

According to Godfrey (2015), Ilala Municipality bears the status of an Administrative district laying between longitude 39o and 40o east and between latitude 60 and 70 south of the Equator. It has an area of 210 km2. The Municipality is bordered by the Indian Ocean on its Eastern part with distance of about 10 kilometres. On the southern part it borders with Temeke Municipality, whereas in its Western part it borders with Kisarawe District, and in the North there is Kinondoni Municipality. Its altitude that ranges between 0 and 900 meters above sea level influences the ecological characteristics of the Municipality. Thus the Municipality consists of a larger lowland area and a small part forming the upland zone.

The lowland areas start where the municipality borders with the Indian Ocean (Kivukoni ward) and extends up to Segerea, Ukonga and Kitunda wards. Godfrey (2015) asserts that beyond these wards, the small upland areas emerge as small hills or plateaus of Pugu, Kinyerezi, Chanika and Msongola wards. Whereas most of the lowland areas constitute the urban part of the Municipality, the upland areas are predominantly agricultural and rural in character. The soil type in these areas consists of sand, clay and loam properties.

According to the 2002 National Household Census, Ilala Municipality had a population of 634,924 with an average growth rate of 4.6 percent. The Census of 2012, a preliminary result shows Ilala population has increased up to 956,471. Population density now is 4555 while 2002 was 3923. This study was conducted in Ilala Municipal Council due its population density of which the researcher was in the assumption that the more the people, the more the problems on family breakdown.

3.6 Population of the Study

According to Nachmias, (2008) population is the aggregate of cases that conform to some designated set of specifications. The selection of the population of the study depended on the researcher. Based on the researcher's current work, the population of the study comprised. Social welfare Officers at Ilala municipal council, the police officers (gender desk), the high court magistrates, the religious leaders, the children affected by marriage breakdown, the Ward Executive officers in Ilala district, the separated couples, the divorced couples and those still in marriages.

These categories were targeted because they were better placed to provide their experiences and opinions on the question of matrimonial problems in the district and its implications on children in their communities. The target population of this study was 600 participants. It comprised of 350 children from broken marriages families, 60 separated couples, 60 divorced couples, 10 social welfare officers, 60 couples in marriages, 10 ward executive officers, 40 religious leaders (20 from Islamic and 20 Christianity), 2 court magistrates, and 8 police officers, as illustrated in the Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Population of the Study

Parameter	Sex		Total
	Males	**Females**	
Children	175	175	350
Police	4	4	8
Welfare officers	5	5	10
Religious leaders	20	20	40
Magistrates	1	1	2
Divorced couples	30	30	60
Separated couples	30	30	60
Couple in marriage	30	30	60
Total	**300**	**300**	**600**

Source: Researcher Option, 2017

3.7   Sampling Procedures and Techniques

3.7.1   Sample

Bartlett (2001), as cited in Godfrey (2015), explains a sample as a subset of a population used to represent the entire group of a whole population Therefore a sample size is the act of choosing the number of observations to include in a statistical sample. The sample for this study included local communities in Ilala Municipal Council who were drawn from ten wards of Chanika, Gongolamboto, vingunguti, Msongola, Zingiziwa, Buyuni, Pugu, Ukonga, Majohe and Kitunda out of the 36 wards present in Ilala Municipal Council. The three wards were selected through simple random sampling because all the 36 wards are homogeneous in character.

3.7.2   Sampling Design

Sampling Design refers to specific plan for obtaining a sample from a given population, which is usually determined before data are collected (Kothari 2004). This study employed two sampling approaches namely probability sampling design (stratified random sampling) as well as non-probability sampling design (purposive sampling). For the purpose of qualitative data, simple random sampling was used as it provides equal opportunities of selection for each element in a population (Thomson, 2012). Quantitative data was collected through questionnaires, the responses obtained was compared, summarised, statistically analysed, tabulated and displayed diagrammatically.

Participants involved in filling questionnaires were randomly selected from the population of the ten wards and each participant had an equal chance of being selected since they all shared the needed characteristics. Simple random sampling increases the

likelihood of the collected data to present the whole population of interest (Chaudhui et al., 1999). Again the researcher decided to use simple random sampling because bias can be avoided when the elements of the entire targeted population are given equal opportunity of being selected (Manku, et al., 1999).

Moreover, was used to obtain qualitative data for this study, this sampling method involves deliberate selection of particular units of the universe for constituting a sample, which represents a universe. This technique does not give any guarantee estimating that every element in the population has a chance of being included in the sample (Adam and Kamuzora, 2008). Purposive sampling was used because it is less expensive and quick for selecting a sample and the results obtained from an analysis of deliberately selected sample was tolerably reliable (Kothari, 2004). Purposive sampling technique was used to select 10 respondents from social welfare offices in Ilala municipality, 10 ward executive officers in the same municipality and two high court magistrates.

However key informants were selected because they are the members of the community and have much knowledge and experience about the culture and the problems. The key informant are also able and willing to share their knowledge (Lyon and Hardesty, 2005) From social welfare officers, the purpose was to obtain relevant information on how the marriage breakdown problems have affected the welfare of children in the municipality; since this office receives reports of children's abuse arising day after day. People operating in this office also have great knowledge on issues related to child vulnerability related to marriage breakdown and how multiple stakeholders can work together to ensure that welfare of children and dignity

are respected. Since many cases are reported to these ward executive officers, the researcher aimed at knowing the number of reported marriage conflicts to their working places per months and the number of cases reported by children being affected by marital problems per month.

High Ccourt Magistrates, They were involved in this study since it is the high court of Tanzania that is entitled to break marriages. Since selecting purposively the respondents needs a lot investigation on the availability of the respondent, the researcher made phone calls to inform the targeted respondents about the study and why they were purposively selected for the study.

3.7.3 Sample Size

Mason (2010) explains that, samples for qualitative studies are generally much smaller than those used in quantitative studies. There is a point of diminishing return to a qualitative sample as the study goes on more data does not necessarily lead to more information. This is because one occurrence of a piece of data, or a code, is all that is necessary to ensure that it becomes part of the analysis framework.

 Furthermore, frequencies are rarely important in qualitative research, as one occurrence of the data is potentially as useful as many in understanding the process behind a topic. In addition, qualitative research is concerned with meaning and not making generalized hypothesis statements. Finally, because qualitative research is labour intensive, analysing a large sample can be time consuming and often simply impractical.

Delice (2010) is of the opinion that, a quantitative research paradigm emphasizes the importance of generalizability and reliability. The aim is to apply the relationship obtained among variables to the general population. This explains the reason for the selection of a sample representative of the population is essential. Therefore, the sample size in this study was obtained for quantitative data only while for qualitative data was obtained through the principle of saturation.

Besides, Yamane (1967) provides a simplified formula to calculate quantitative sample sizes. This formula was used to calculate the quantitative sample sizes in North Mara in order to find out the social problems associated with child labor in artisanal and small scale mine.

The formula states thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)2}$$

Where n is the sample size, N is the population size which include a total of 17,823 populations of the ten wards, *is* the margin of error and in this case, e = 10% (0.01) and 1 is constant. Therefore, from the above formula the calculated sample size is 99.54, which will be approximated to 100 sample size.

Hence, to find out social problems associates marriage breakdown and welfare of children in Ilala, 60 community members out of the total of 17,823 from ten wards were chosen by the researcher to administer questionnaires because the community members have greater understanding of their wards. Moreover, ten ward executive officers (one chosen from each ward), five social welfare Officers, one magistrate, four polices from gender desk, and children were purposively selected for in-depth

interviews. In particular, the researcher conducted three focus group discussions containing eight community members from each ward and making a total of 100 respondents.

Generally, the study applied random and purposive sampling techniques in selecting the respondents. In the first stage, children and communities (married, separated and divorced) was randomly selected. Secondly, key informants (i.e. District official, ward executive officers, Police officers), were purposively selected.

Table 3.2: Composition of the Sample Size

Respondents	Number		Total	Percentage
	Males	**Females**		
Children	30 (15%)	30(15%)	60	30
Separated couples	17(8.5%)	16(8%)	33	16.5
Divorced couples	16(8%)	17(8.5%)	33	16.5
Couples in marriages	14(7%)	13(6.5%)	27	13.5
Social welfare officers	5(2.5%)	5(2.5%)	10	5
Ward executive officers	5(2.5%)	5(2.5%)	10	5
Religious leaders	10(5%)	10(5%)	20	10
Police officers	2(1%)	3 (1.5%)	5	2.5
Magistrates	1(0.5%)	1(0.5%)	2	1
Total	**99(49.5%)**	**101(50.5%)**	**200**	**100**

Source: Researcher 2017

3.8   Data Collection Methods

This study used both Primary and secondary data as collection methods. Walcott (2005) explained that Primary data are those, which are collected afresh and for the first time and thus happens to be original in character. Secondary data on the other

hand refers to those which have already been collected by someone else and which have already been passed through the statistical process. In acquiring primary data the researcher used questioners, in-depth interviews as well as focus group discussions, whereby Secondary data were collected through literature review, journals, research reports, government documents and interment on the areas of marriage breakdown and welfare of children.

3.8.1 Primary Data Method

3.8.1.1 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion is a facilitated discussion that elicits the opinions and emotions of participants on a specific theme (Lori and Dipak, 2006). It also provides a platform for people to share their perceptions, opinions, beliefs and attitude towards a condition that affect their lives (Greenbaum, 2000). This method was used in order to obtain detailed information about the whole problem of marriage problems and its relationship with the welfare of children and exploring attitudes and feelings of community and vulnerable children on the issue.

This method also helped to raise precise issues that were unknown by the researchers concerning marriage problems and its relationship to child vulnerability. The interaction among participants enabled them to ask questions to each other, as well as to re-evaluate the problem. The method also helped the researchers to find out why minimising child vulnerability through marital conflict resolution was salient and at the same time the participants of the FGD could become a forum of change both during the FGD meeting and afterwards.

Each FGD was comprised of 8 to 12 members and spent 45 minutes each to respondent to all research questions. Four FGDs were done with the following groups: Divorced couples, children affected by marriage breakdown, Separated couples and Couples still in marriages the researcher used this method because it provides quick results and the sample size can be increased by allowing more people to be interviewed at the same time (Morgan, 1997).

3.8.1.2 In–Depth Interview

According to Sobra (2010), the in-depth interview is designed to elicit a vivid picture of the participant's perspective on the research topic. During in-depth interviews, the person being interviewed is considered the expert and the interviewer is considered the student. The researcher during the collection of data using this method engaged with participants by posing questions in a neutral manner, listening attentively to participants' responses, and asking follow-up questions and probes based on those responses.

In depth interviews were conducted to generate personal accounts of marriage breakdown problems and its relationship to welfare of children in the Ilala municipality. Such interviews were used because they constituted a flexible research strategy of discovery recommended when the purpose is to explore and describe what is happening about the phenomenon and not to find out the frequency of some predetermined variables (Lofland, 1971 cited in Makombe, 2006). All in-depth interviews were tape recorded in order to have accuracy and consistency of the data collected. This method of data collection was used to 5 ward executive officers especially those in marriage resolution committees, 5 Social welfare officers, 5

vulnerable children, 5 divorced couples respectively and two High court of Tanzania magistrates.

The reason for choosing this method was that, the researcher aimed at going beyond the questionnaires to receive explanations about the issues raised in them. Besides, the interviewer had access to control the environment, which made the questions to be answered to the researcher's satisfaction. The method cleared up any misunderstanding of questions immediately and also helped observe nonverbal behaviour and assessed the validity of the respondent's answers. The method was also used due to its importance during data interpretation when linking responses obtained from questionnaires and real situation observed during the interview. Therefore this method allows for follow up and clarifications soon as possible which enable the researcher to further understand the meaning attached by people on daily life practice through observation and interviews (Patton, 2002).

3.8.1.3 Questioners

According to Sansoni (2011), a questionnaire is defined as a document designed with the purpose of seeking specific information from the respondents. This method of data collection was used due to the following reasons, First, the researcher found it cheaper and quicker despite the fact that the sample was large and widely scattered in different geographical areas. Secondly, this method helped the researcher minimise bias and to be fair regarding the answers given by the respondents.

The choice of this method was to its accuracy, generalization and convenience, quantitative data on a certain problem can be obtained and research can be conducted

in ethically sensitive areas (Czaja and Blair, 2005). The closed and open questionnaires were used whereby; the questionnaires were given to the respondents and being requested them an appointment to come back to collect the questionnaires.

Since this method refers to research comprised of a series of questions aimed to gather information from respondents in the area under study (Gillham, 2008). The researcher managed to prepare 200 questionnaires and distributed them to the respondents. The questionnaires were divided as follows in order to respond to all specific research questions: Children 60, Separated couples 33, Divorced couples 33, Couples in marriages 27, Social welfare officers 10, Ward executive officers 10, Religious leaders 20, Police officers 5 and Magistrates 2.

3.8.2   Secondary Data Method

Secondary data aims to gather information relevant to the study so as to enrich the study with appropriate resources related to the problem (Baker, 2000). This type of data collection constitutes an important source of data, which was collected through library research; this includes published and unpublished reports, books and journals as well as electrically stored materials.

3.9   Instrument Validity and Reliability

Validity and Reliability are terms that are closely related. Maxwell (1996) cited in Makombe, (2006), defines the term validity as the correctness or credibility of a prescription, explanation, interpretation, account or conclusion. In this regard, MacClung (1988) cited in Makombe, (2006) states that the study results must be internally and externally valid to make generalizations. Regarding reliability, the

concept refers to the degree to which the same results would be obtained in repeated attempts of the same test (Gall and Gall in Ballinger, 2000) cited in Makombe, 2006). In order to ensure the validity of this study, the researcher took several measures. In order to have valid descriptions, all FGDs and in depth interviews were recorded through a recorder and finally transcribed repeating the actual words that were spoken or written. The researchers expected doing so would make the data accurate and complete.

To ensure the reliability of this qualitative research, the researcher ensured that instructions are given to research assistants in order to ask questions exactly as they appear in the questionnaires. Careful examination of data was conducted to ensure the consistency of both the process and the product of the research. This was achieved through the use of combined methods of data collection such as, in depth interviews, focus group discussion, questionnaires, and documentary reviews. Thus, the reliability was when a particular technique had been applied repeatedly to the same situation and gives the same results each time.

3.10   Limitations of the Study

During the course of this study, the following limitations were observed, one, literature reviews regarding this topic with specific emphasis on Ilala district was a very difficult thing to find. Despite that limitation, the researcher used other literature from other geographical areas other than Ilala municipality. Two, this study was done in a very short time due to the university deadline. Despite the limitation, the researcher managed to employ more research assistants in order to collect data within the time line and submit them for data analysis.

3.11   Ethical Consideration

Ethical issue refers to rule of conduct, principle or mechanism, which guide the researcher prior, during and after their research activities either to do or not to do such things as plagiarism confidentiality and anonymity (Lo, 2009). Therefore, the researcher in this study approached the ward executive officers, community (married, separated and divorced couples) and social welfare officers, gender desk and magistrate to inform them the need of the research. The researcher then sought consent of the leaders to participate in the study and also sought their permission to have respondents from their ward and communities. Finally, the respondents who were selected purposeful to participate in research their consent were sought before every interview session.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1   Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of the findings of this study. The presentation is laid out according to the questions and research objectives.

4.2   Reasons for Marriage Breakdowns

In accordance with the research objective of this study (see 1.4.1), the first research question of the study was: What reasons that lead to marriage breakdowns in Ilala council? The analysis of the findings was based on knowledge of the existing reasons and specific types of the existing reasons that lead to marriage breakdowns. The section covered all 200 respondents. Questionnaires and in-depth interviews were used to collect primary data for this section.

4.2.1   Knowledge of the Existing Reasons for Marriages Breakdowns

The researcher in this sub-section through questionnaires asked the respondents if there existed some causes leading to marriage breakdowns. Answers from respondents were divided into 3 sub-groups as highlighted in Figure 4.1. The findings in Figure 4.1 show that the vast majority of respondents 160(80%) said yes to the question, more than tenth, 30(15%) of them said they did not know, while less than tenth, 10(5%) said they were not sure.

The findings in Figure 4.1 indicate that "Yes" answers to the questions on if the respondents knew the reasons for marriage breakdowns was 65% higher than those

who said they did not know and 75% much higher than those who said that they were not sure. This implies that, more respondents had knowledge on what might have been causing marriage breakdowns in Ilala Municipal Council.
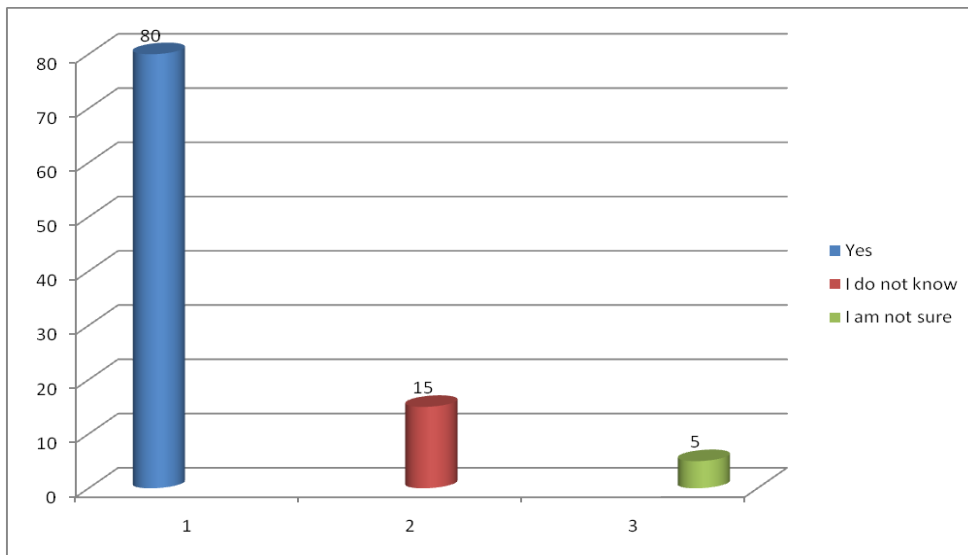
Figure 4.1: Knowledge of the Reasons for Marriage Breakdowns
Source: Fieldwork, 2017

The findings of the current study are much closer with those of Shanny (2017) who found that 85% of the interviewees knew the reasons for marriage breakdowns, while 15% had no idea of the reasons for marriage breakdowns. After analysing the knowledge of respondents on the reasons leading to marriage breakdowns in Ilala Municipal Council, the next sub-section analyses the specific types of reasons of marriage breakdowns in Ilala Municipal Council.

4.2.2 Specific Types of Reasons for Marriage Breakdowns in Ilala Municipal Council

In this sub-section the researcher probed into answers of respondents who said "Yes" for the first question to identify specific types of reasons that lead to marriage breakdowns in Ilala council. Answers from respondents were divided into four sub-

groups as highlighted in the Figure 4.2. The findings in Figure 4.2 shows that, more than half 100(55.55%) of respondents said infidelity was the leading reason for marriage breakdowns, less than third 50(27.77%) of them said infertility, less than tenth 5(2.77%) said in laws influence, while 5(2.77%) of them said drug abuse was among the leading reasons of marriage breakdowns in Ilala council.
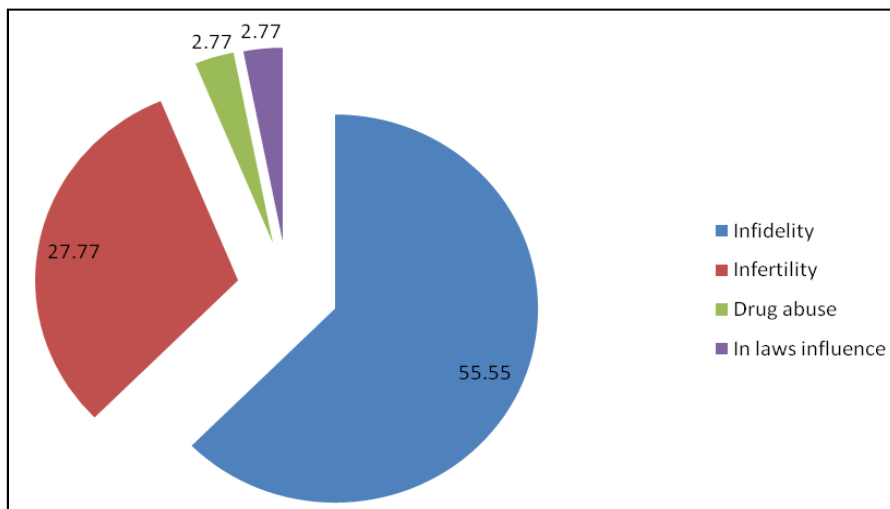
Figure 4.2: Specific Types of Reasons for Marriage Breakdowns
Source: Fieldwork, 2017

During an interview session, a child affected by marriage breakdowns said the following words:

> *" ....I think my mum has left my father due to excessive alcohol uses. My father most of the times beat my mother when he got drunk...."* (Interview with a child in Ukonga Ward December, 2015).

On the other hand, a divorced woman when asked when she divorced she said the following words:

> " ....*I got married to my husband 7 years ago, after some few years I discovered that he was cheating on me . Worse enough, he got a child out of wedlock without my consent but he could not apologise his mistakes. I decided to leave since we Christian's infidelity is the strongest reason for divorce....''* (An interview with a divorced woman in Ukonga Ward December, 2015).

The findings in Figure 4.2 of this study indicate that, infidelity was the leading reasons for marriage breakdowns in Ilala Municipal Council since it scored 55.55% of total answers. The findings further show that, 27.78% higher than infertility and 52.78 percent much higher compared to drug abuse and influence of in-laws. The findings imply that, despite myriads of reasons for marriage breakdowns in Ilala Municipal Council, infidelity was the main causes among several others. This argument is consistent with that of Adegoke (2010) cited in Love (2014), who asserts that adultery is considered a serious crime in African society. Adultery may lead to marriage breakdowns of a valid marriage among African Christians when the couples do not accept the situation.

The current study's findings are consistent with Shany (2017) who found that, the leading reasons for marriage breakdowns were love, unfaithfulness and jealousy. After analysing the first research question based on the research objective number one, the following section deals with the problems associated to marriage breakdowns.

4.3   Associated Problems to Marriages Breakdowns on Children Welfare

In accordance with research objective number two, the second research question was: what are the associated problems of marriage breakdowns on children welfare? The analysis of this question was based on the following: knowledge of the existence of the problem, the specific problems associated to marriage breakdowns on children's welfare, the ages most affected by marriage breakdown and the most affected child based on sex. The section covered all 200 respondents and the findings were collected through questionnaires, in depth interviews and FGDs.

4.3.1 Knowledge of the Existing Problems

The researcher asked the respondents if there existed problems associated with marriage breakdowns on welfare of children. Answers from respondents were grouped into two aspects as highlighted in Figure 4.3. The findings in Figure 4.3 show that the vast majority, 185(92.5%) of respondents said "Yes" to the question, while slightly less than tenth 15(7.5%) of respondents said they were not sure.
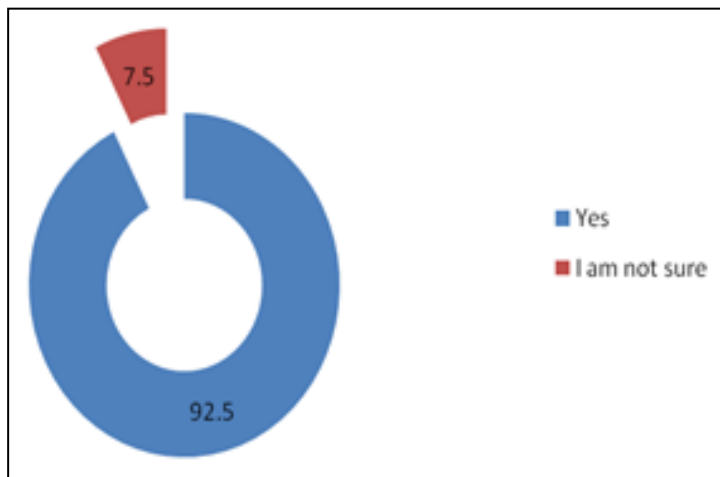
Figure 4.3: Rrespondent's Knowledge on the Associated Problem
Source: Fieldwork, 2018

With regard to knowledge of the existing problem related to marriage breakdowns, the findings in Figure 4.3 indicate that "Yes" answers scored 92.5% against 7.5% who said that they were not sure. Further findings indicate that, "yes answers" were 85% higher compared to those who said they were not sure. This implies that, the respondents had more knowledge on what might have been the welfare of children affected by marriage breakdowns. After analysing the knowledge of the respondents on the associated problem of marriage breakdowns on children welfare, the next subsection deals with the specific problems associated to marriage breakdown on children's welfare.

4.3.2 Specific Problems Associated with Marriage Breakdown on Children's Welfare

In this sub-section, the researcher asked the respondents to name some very specific problems associated with marriage breakdown on children's welfare. The answers from respondents were grouped into four as highlighted in Table 4.1. The findings in Table 4.1 show that less than half 80(43.24%) of respondents said that inadequacy of provision of physical needs was among the problem associated to the marriage breakdowns, slightly less than third, 55(29.72%) said inadequacy of provision of social needs, slightly more than tenth, 20(10.81%) of them said inadequacy of cognitive needs, while more than tenth, 30(16.21%) of them said inadequacy of provision of emotional needs.

Table 4.1: Specific Problems Associated to Marriage Breakdown on Children's Welfare

Parameters	Frequency	Percentages
Inadequacy of provision of physical needs	80	43.24
Inadequacy of provision of Social needs	55	29.72
Inadequacy of provision of Cognitive needs	20	10.81
Inadequacy of provision of emotional needs	30	21
Total	**185**	**100**

Source: Field data, 2017

During a focus group discussion with children affected by marriage breakdowns, on the specific problems that affect their welfare due to marriage breakdowns, children said: lack of love and affection from both parents, inadequacy of financial support from fathers for education, food and clothes.

During an interview with separated women, one of them said the following words:

> '' .....Marriage breakdowns never spare any individual involved in the family. We are really all vulnerable but children are the most. When children remain with their mothers during those periods, most parents diminish love towards their children thinking that they love their mothers than their fathers. To punish the children and their mothers, the father cut off all important assistances ''. (Field interviews with separated women in Ilala Municipal Coucil, December, 2015).

In the same vein, during an interview with social welfare officers, the latter said the following words:

> '' ....Among several other clients , we mostly receive cases related to matrimonial problems and especially claims of divorced mothers for not being supported financially by their former husbands in order to support children . They hate both children and their mothers...... '' (Interview with Social Welfare Officer in Ilala, December, 2015).

The findings in Table 4.1 indicate that, inadequacy of provision of physical needs scored 43.24 against inadequacy of provision of social needs that scored 29.72. The findings further show that. inadequacy of provision of physical needs was 13.52% higher compared to that of social needs, but 32.43% higher compared to those of cognitive needs and 27.03% higher compared to those of emotional needs. These differences are significant. This means that, physical needs in these perspectives are much valued and inadequacy of their provisions affect negatively children.

The findings in this current study are consistent with the argument of Killian (2003) as cited in Lungile (2007) who asserts that, many children have many physical needs which include material/financial needs for clothing, shelter, school basic survival needs such as food, health care and hygiene. According to Killian (2003) as cited in

Lungile (2007) in most of the time prior the marriage is broken-down, most of the time parents find themselves in tense misunderstandings, the situation that turns all the couples to be psychologically unfit and become less productive due to the situation they are going through as the result they decide not to work hard in order to support the family.

The findings are also consistent with those of Wambura (2014) who found that, children of the divorced couples especially poor families suffer from lack of basic needs such as food, clothes and even places to sleep. This argument of Wambura (2014) is supported by Watson (2015) who asserts that, one parent or marriage breaks down; first needs are the first impact or immediate impacts to be observed to children affected by the marriage breakdowns. Watson (2015) adds that, poor families rely much on fathers' income, once marriage is broken down, children suffer the consequence since the little income of the father is likely to be given to the new wives. After analysing the specific problems related to marriage breakdowns on children's welfare, the following sub-section analyses the most affected age of the child.

4.3.3   Most Affected Children's Age

In this sub-section, the researcher wanted to explore the most affected age of children affected by marriage breakdowns. The findings in Figure 4.5 show that less than a quarter, 40 (20%) of respondents said that the age between 0-5 years old was the most affected by marriage breakdowns, half 100(50%) of them said 6-11 years old, more than tenth, 30(15%) of them said 12 to 17 years old, while more than tenth 30(15%) said that all ages were mostly affected.
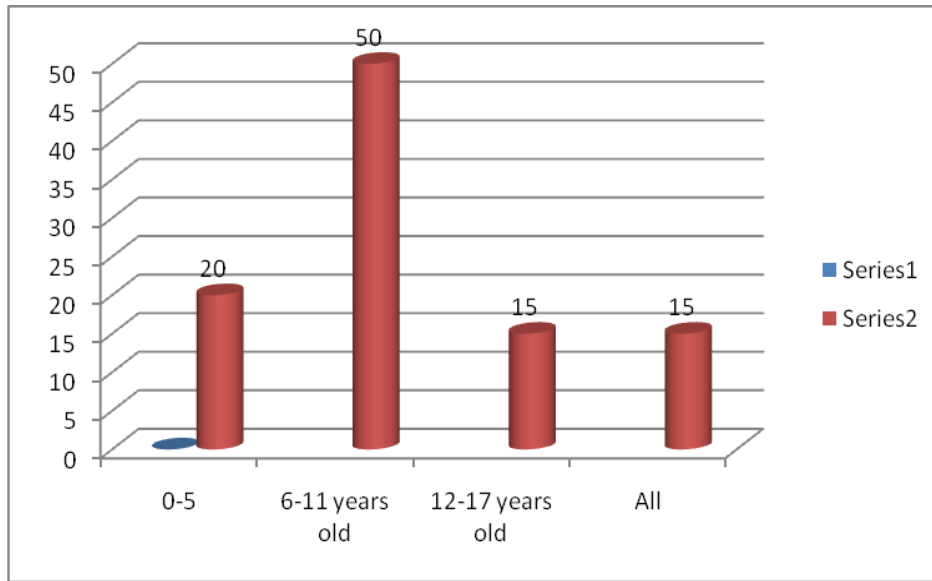
Figure 4.4: The Age the most Affected

Source: Field Data, 2017

When the researcher during in depth interview asked one of the respondents who said

0-5 age was the most affected, the latter said the following words:

> *".........This age is the most affected by diseases much care is needed for them. A single parent can hardly rear the child at this age since they require cognitive, emotional and social needs from both parents. The cognition of the child is built positively at this age but inadequacy of support from this age affects the whole life of the child......"* (Interview with Community members in Ilala, December, 2015).

Paradoxically, when a police woman was asked to give her opinion on why she said

that 6 to 11 years old was much affected, she said the following:

> *".......My dear, this is a primary school age. Every parent who wants to build very positive future to his/her child has to support him/her for good education. Education today is very expensive, if two parents cannot work together for that purpose what do you think will the future of the child be ?together parents can plan and mitigate all challenges that might arise....."* (Interview with a police woman in Ilala, December, 2015).

On the other hand, a divorced man who said that the very affected age is 12-17 years old asserted the following:

> *'' ....This is the very complicated age. This age is combined with pre-adolescence, puberty and adolescence. If parents are not together, it is very difficult to handle the behaviour of these children. These children most of the time understand the root cause of marriage breakdowns; they may hate the source of the problem to death. They are in need of comfort when they are in dilemmas, if parents cannot be together to comfort them they automatically go astray..."* (Interview with a divorced man in Ilala Municipal, December, 2015).

The findings in Figure 4.5 indicate that, the age of 6-11 is the most affected range of age, since half of respondents opted for it, against 20% of the age of 0-5. Furthermore, the findings show that, 6-11 years old scored thirty percent much higher compared of that of 0-5 percent, 35% higher compared to that of 12-17 years old, and that of all ages. These differences are more significant. This means that according to the findings, this age might be at higher risk of marriage breakdowns compared to other group of ages.

The findings are consistent with those of Cheryl (2003) who found that, children from age's six to eight experiences the most intense sadness of any age. Engel (1992, p.24); McKay, (1999, p.190) cited in Cheryl (2003) argue that, this age tends to worry about being left without a family and to worry about physical needs. In the same vein, Cheryl (2003) asserts that, marriage breakdown is frequently most difficult on children ages 9-12. The predominant response for this age group is anger. At times, the anger is explosive. Often the anger is directed at the custodial parent or the parent who seems to the child responsible for the divorce since their fear is directed toward financial needs (Benedek, 1998, p.83) as cited in Cheryl (2003). The findings of the

current study are closely related to those of Susie el al., (2009) who found that, younger children are more dependent on, and needier of continuous, reliable care from a primary caregiver since the limited cognitive capacity of young children means that they cannot grasp the concept of marriage breakdowns, and can, therefore, be expected to be particularly unprepared for the changes caused by the separation. After analysing the most affected age of the child, the following sub-section deals with the most affected child based on sex.

4.3.4   Effects of Marriage Breakdown Based on Sex

The researcher in this sub-section wanted to explore the effects based on sex of the child. The findings in Figure 4.6 show that, more than half 130(65%) of respondents said that girl children were the most affected by marriage breakdowns, while more than third, 70(35%) of respondents said that the most affected are boy children.
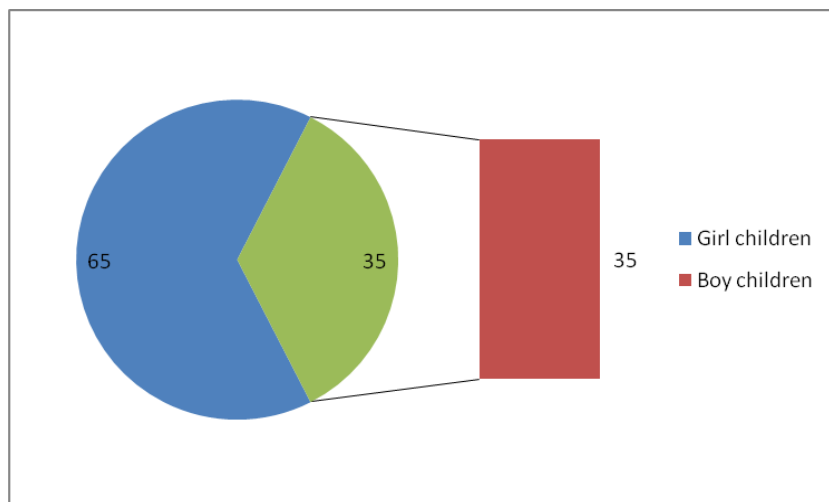

Figure 4.5: Effects Based on Sex

Source: Fieldwork, 2017

During in-depth interviews with one the ward executive officer who said that girl children were the most affected, the latter was in this opinion:

'' ....*When poor marriage decide to disintegrate, female children normally remain with their mothers since they hardly cope with step mothers. When they stay with their mothers, there is little controls and might be child mothers at early ages since protection is minimised to them. In addition, they find difficult to go with studies and decide to do small business that aim at supporting their mothers responsibilities, as the result they fail to complete their education.....* *''* (Interview with a Ward Executive Officer in Ilala Municipal, December, 2015).

Paradoxically, one police man during in depth interview said the following words**:**

''.........male children find difficult to decide who to stay with after marriage breakdown , as the consequence they fail to go to school due to lack of close relationship with both parents ....'' (Interview with a police man in Ilala Municipal, December, 2015).

The findings in Figure 4.6 indicate that, there is difference between male children and girl children in terms of effects related to marriage breakdowns. The findings in Figure 4.6 indicate that girl children were affected at a degree of 30 percent higher compared to their counterpart's male children. These findings are consistent with those of Helena (2014) who found that, girl children especially adolescents from poor families that is broken down often drop school when faced with marriage breakdowns of their parents than their male counterparts who sometimes endures the situation. The abandonment of school, according to Helena (2014) leads girl children to be teen mothers, hence losing their opportunities of continuing with the studies.

On the other hand, Baraka (2015) argues that, girl children who have experienced marriage breakdowns of their parents lose hope of life, sometimes engage in prostitution if not well cared and protected by the custodial parents. After analysing the effects of marriage breakdowns based on sex, the next section analyses the existing interventions that are done to improve the welfare of children.

4.4 Existing Interventions

In accordance with research objective number three, the research question number three was: what are the existing interventions done by different actors to improve children's welfare after marriage breakdowns? Data of this section was collected through questionnaires .The answers from respondents were grouped into seven sub-groups as highlighted in Table 4.2.

The findings in Table 4.2 show that tenth, 20 (10 percent) of respondents said that some schools provide supportive groups environments for affected children, more than tenth, 30(15%) of respondents said that some NGOs help affected children identify and appropriately express their feelings, less than a quarter, 40(20%) of respondents said that Social welfare officers in collaboration with some NGOs promote comprehension of marriage breakdown -related concepts and clarify marriage breakdown-related misconceptions, tenth, 20(10%) of respondents said that Some NGOs try their best to enhance coping skills in problems solving, effective communications, supports seeking, and appropriate expressions for anger , while more than third 70(35%) of them said that some NGOs are enhancing foster parenting-child communications to help marriage breakdowns that affected children.

The findings in Table 4.2 indicate that, different interventions have been deployed in order to help the child that is affected by marriage breakdowns after their parents' separations. The findings indicate that, enhancement of foster parenting-child communications was much done by most NGOs since it scored 35%, against promotion of comprehension of marriage breakdown -related concepts and clarify marriage breakdown-related misconceptions that scored 20%.

Table 4.2: Interventions Done by Different Actors

Parameters	Frequency	Percentages
Some schools provide supportive groups environments for affected children	20	10
Some NGOs help affected children identify and appropriately express their feelings	30	15
Social welfare officers in collaboration with some NGOs promote comprehension of marriage breakdown - related concepts and clarify marriage breakdown-related misconceptions	40	20
Some NGOs try their best to enhance coping skills in problems solving, effective communications, supports seeking, and appropriate expressions for anger	20	10
Some NGOs are enhancing children's positive perceptions of selves and families		
Some NGS are enhancing foster parenting-child communications	70	35
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2017

The difference is still significant compared to other interventions. The findings in this current study are inconsistent with those of Mathayo (2015) who found that, most interventions are done in the area of help affected children identify and appropriately express their feelings and enhancing coping skills in problems solving, effective communications, supports seeking, and appropriate expressions for anger.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

The current chapter provides conclusions and recommendations based on the findings. It further recommends areas for further research. This study sought to assess the problems of marriage breakdowns on the welfare of children in Ilala Council with the aim of achieving the following three objectives:

To identify reasons for marriage breakdowns in Ilala council

(i)   To highlight the problems of marriage breakdowns on children's welfare in Ilala council

(ii)   To assess the existing interventions by different actors to improve children's welfare after marriage breakdowns

The following research questions were formulated to guide this research:

(i)   What are the reasons that lead to marriage breakdowns in Ilala municipal council?

(ii)   What are the associated problems of marriage breakdowns on children's welfare in Ilala municipal Council?

(iii)   What are the existing interventions performed by different actors to improve children's welfare after marriage breakdowns?

5.2 Summary of the Findings

Findings reveal that marriage breakdowns in Ilala council are caused by many reasons including infidelity, infertility, in-laws, and drug abuse. The findings have shown that

infidelity was the leading reasons, followed by infertility, in-laws, and finally drug abuse.

Similarly, the findings have shown that the most related welfare effects on children was the inadequacy of provision of physical needs, followed by inadequacy of provision of social needs, cognitive needs and finally inadequacy of provision of emotional needs. The findings have also revealed that the age ranging from 6-11 is the most affected group compared to other ages, such as those ranging between 0 to 5, and 12 to 17. The findings have shown that children at the age of 6-11 are much in need of physical needs but other ages are also much affected by the problems of marriage breakdowns. The findings have shown that with regard to inadequacy of provision of physical needs, child after marriage breakdowns do not get enough food, clothes, financial support and other important things. With regard to inadequacy of social needs, the findings have shown that children experiencing marriage breakdowns get inadequacy the love and affection from both parents. With regard to cognitive needs, the findings revealed that children affected by marriage breakdowns most of the time fail to go to school due to insufficiency of scholastic material support from both parents who mostly diminish their working efforts due stresses. With regard to inadequacy of provision of emotional needs, the findings have shown that children affected by marriage breakdowns do not have sufficient comfort from parents.

Moreover, the findings have shown that girl children are the most affected by marriage breakdowns compared to boys. The findings revealed that once parents disintegrate, girl children especially in poor families decide to remain with their mothers, but abruptly the mother becomes incapable of securing the child, as the

result, the child may get early pregnancy, may become prostitute hence leaving school. The direct consequence according to the findings, the child becomes a teen mother.

5.3   Conclusion

The problem of marriage breakdowns on the welfare of children in Africa has been found to be more traumatic to the affected children.   Despite that people are aware of the problem; the many African governments and different actors have put little efforts and resources into the rehabilitating the welfare of children affected by marriage breakdowns after the marriage disintegration. Moreover, little expertise in psychological matters most development actors have in the psychological rehabilitation and child psycho-social trauma healing in favour of their welfare has caused these children and especially those in Ilala council to be vulnerable.

From the findings, the following conclusions are drawn:

(i)   With regard to reasons for marriage breakdowns, the findings showed that the infidelity reasons had 55.55% of scores. That is the highest score compared to other reasons.

(ii)   With regard to associated problems related to marriage breakdowns, the findings have shown that inadequacy of provision of physical needs scored 43.24%. This is the highest score compared to other related problems.

(iii)   With regard to existing interventions, the findings have shown that enhancement of foster parenting-child communications scored 35%. This is the highest score compared to other interventions.

Based on the above conclusion from the findings, there is a need for the Tanzanian government, welfare officers, Police, wards executive officers and religious leaders to work effectively and allocate more funds in order to improve the welfare of children affected by marriage breakdowns.

5.4   Recommendations

The researcher would like to recommend the following interventions to be emphasised by the government and other development actors.

(i)   NGOs and government officials such as social welfare officers should enhance and foster parenting-child communications for identified families affected by marriage breakdowns NGOs should enhance children's positive perceptions of themselves and families. NGOs in partnership with government officials should enhance coping skills of children affected by marriage breakdowns in problems solving, effective communications, supports seeking, and appropriate expressions for anger.

(ii)   Social welfare officers in collaboration with some NGOs should go on promoting comprehension of marriage breakdown-related concepts and clarify marriage breakdown-related misconceptions.

(iii)   NGOs in collaboration with other stakeholders should go on helping affected children identify and appropriately express their feelings.

(iv)   NGOs, private entities and schools should go on providing supportive group environments for affected children.

5.5   Area for Further Studies

It is clear that the findings of this study rose theoretical and methodological questions that require more investigations to be carried out. From this basis, further researches are to be conducted in the following areas. The study covered only Ilala |Municipal Council. Since marriage breakdowns are also in other regions a bigger study must be conducted to include all regions in Tanzania.

Since this study was cross-sectional, the findings did not give the process of changes to marriage conflicts and marriage breakdowns over time. From this basis, longitudinal study is required from both rural and urban areas. The study of this nature will give a useful insight into the marriage conflict process, marriage breakdowns and welfare of the child after marriage breakdown across time.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Confidentiality and Ethical Guidelines for Research Assistants

As a research assistant, I accept to abide by the rules and research ethics outlined below. I understand that if I do otherwise, I will be disqualified for the task.

1. I will keep both children and adult respondents' names confidential. This implies that as an assistant researcher, I will not reveal and discuss respondents' names to anyone except to the study team.

2. I will keep the information from respondents who will participate in this study confidential. This implies that all information provided from respondents will not be shared and discussed outside the research setting and will be kept privately.

3. The interview materials such as questionnaires will not be used or shared with anyone except during the course of an interview with the respondents. I will let the respondents know what this study is all about and the nature of the questions I will be questioning.

4. I will make sure that I protect the safety, security and privacy of all respondents interviewed.

5. I will make sure that I write the word of the respondents interviewed without distorting the information provided. I will make sure that I translate correctly his/ her words without losing the meanings.

6. I will be able to stop personal interview if the interviewee has asked me to do so.

7. I will not give unmet expectations and promises to respondents who will take part in this study.

8. I will agree to make any changes in what I have written if the respondent requires me to do so after he/ she has read the document or I have read to her.

9. I will be able to tell the respondents the importance of this study and their full participation.

Name and signature   --

Date   --

Appendix B: Questionnaires

Introduction

We are interested in exploring the problems of marriage breakdowns on welfare of children in Ilala council. The researcher is a student of Master of Social Work of Open University of Tanzania. This study is carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the mentioned degree above. You have been selected to participate in this study because you are potential to provide the information required. Findings of this study will lead to a clear understanding of problems of marriage breakdowns on the welfare of children in Ilala district. and provide the government and other actors a basis to improve the welfare of children after marriage breakdowns.

Please assist by responding the following questions as honestly as possible. Rest assured that the information you will provide will be treated confidentially and solely for the purpose of this study.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. We greatly appreciate your contribution for the success of this exercise. Please, circle the statement or phrase that you think is the best answer.

Reasons for marriage breakdowns

1. Do you think that there are reasons that contribute to marriage breakdowns in Ilala council ?

   a) Yes (   ) b) No (   ) c) I do not know (   ) D) I am not sure (   )

2. If you answer to the question one is yes , what do you think are those reasons ? please explain

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3. Do you think that there are problems of marriage breakdowns that affect the welfare

of the child?

a) Yes (   ) b) No   (   )   c) I do not know (   )   d) I am not sure (   )

4. If your answer to question three is yes , what do you think are those problems,

please explain

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5. What age do you think marriage breakdowns affect the most?

a) 0-5 years old (   ) b) 6 to 11 years old (   ) c) 12 to 17 years old (   ) d) All (   )

6.   What do you think is the most affected child between girl children and boy

children?

a) Girl children   (   )   b) boy children (   )

7. If your answer is a boy child who is the most affected, do you think why? Please

explain

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8. If your answer to the question is girl children, do you think why? please explain

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9. Do you think that there are interventions that help children affected by marriage breakdowns after marriage breakdowns?

a) Yes (   )   b) No (   )   C) I do not know (   )   d) I am not sure (   ).

10. If your answer is yes to the question nine, what do you think are those interventions? please explain

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11. If your answer is no the question, do you think why? please explain

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Thank you for your cooperation