

THE EFFECTS OF DIVORCE BY PARENTS ON THE CHILDREN

WELFARE: A CASE OF NGOMA DISTRICT

ESTHER BUSINGYE

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

2020

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that she has read and hereby recommends for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania, a thesis entitled: “*The Effects of Divorce by Parents on the Children Welfare: A Case of Ngoma District*” in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Social Work (MSW) of Open University of Tanzania.

.....

Prof. Mary Kitula

(Supervisor)

.....

Date

COPYRIGHT

No part of this thesis may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission of the author or the Open University of Tanzania in that behalf.

DECLARATION

I, **Esther Busingye**, do hereby declare to the Senate of Open University of Tanzania that, this dissertation is my original work and that it has pronounced that this study is my original work and has not been presented and will not be presented to any other university for a similar award.

.....

Signature

.....

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my lovely parents who supported me in different ways for achieving the success of this study. I dedicate this thesis to my brothers and sisters who supported my academic journey financially, morally and guidance, which had positive impact in successful of this research. I can't forget all my classmates for their morals and advises who help me in the academic journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successful completion of my work leaves me indebted to my family, supervisor, friends and colleagues. I take this opportunity to acknowledge my family for providing me different supports and without which this study would not have been accomplished.

I would like to pay my respectful gratitude for my esteemed supervisor Prof. Mary KITULA for the keen interest and invaluable guidance rendered to me under whose able guidance and motivation, this study has been undertaken from its conception to its completion. I am grateful to him for being a constant source of encouragement and inspiration and without whom this journey would have been a figment of imagination. This study would not have been accomplished without the blessings and support of my parents.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to my friends, brothers and sisters for giving valuable suggestions during the course of preparing this thesis time to time.

I would also like to thank authorities working in the field of Ngoma District for giving their precious time for interview and providing relevant information about this research study. Above all, I bow my gratitude to the Almighty God whose grace enabled me to complete this thesis.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to assess the effect of divorces by parents on children welfare. Divorce is there both in developed and developing countries. It is there in Rwanda. And it is affecting children lives and the consequences are lifelong. This proportion in Rwanda is higher in the Eastern Province (3%), Kigali City (2.7%) and the Southern Province (2.3%) and less represented in the Northern (1.5%) and Western (1.8%) provinces). These pushed the researcher to assess the effect of divorce by parents on children welfare. The specific objectives were to determine factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda, awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda, to examine the type of life children of divorced parents lead in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District and to assess the impact of divorce on children welfare in Ngoma District. For achieving the objectives of the study, different methods and techniques were used; Interviews and questionnaires were utilized to establish the opinions of the participants. The researcher used systematic sampling technique for selecting population of Ngoma District. It was found that even if divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage; it can lead children to difficulty life, drop out and street children in our society. It is affecting children lives and the consequences are lifelong. Although most children from divorced parents suffer long-term consequences, some children may experience difficulties in adolescence, such as mental health problems, substance abuse, delinquency, and teenage pregnancy. In order to reduce the divorced and its effects, it is recommended the following parts (government, Local leaders, religious institution, spouses on marriage and respective responsibilities to their offspring and Social workers and related stakeholders interested in children and related welfare) to intervene.

Keywords: Effect, divorce, parent, children and welfare

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CERTIFICATION.....	ii
COPYRIGHT.....	iii
DECLARATION	iv
DEDICATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
ABSTRACT	vii
LIST OF TABLES.....	xii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of Problem.....	7
1.3 Research Objectives.....	9
1.3.1 General Objective	9
1.3.2 Specific Objectives	9
1.4 Research Question	9
1.5 Significance of the Research.....	9
1.6 Definitions of Key-concepts	10
CHAPTER TWO.....	14
LITERATURE REVIEW	14
2.1 Overview.....	14

2.2	Theoretical /Conceptual Framework	14
2.3	Empirical Literature Review	18
2.3.1	Research Gaps.....	21
CHAPTER THREE.....		22
METHODOLOGY		22
3.1	Introduction.....	22
3.2	Research Design	22
3.3	Study Area (Case Study).....	23
3.4	Study Population.....	26
3.5	Sample Size and Sampling Technique.....	27
3.6	Sources of Data.....	29
3.6.1	Primary Data	29
3.6.2	Secondary Data	30
3.7	Data Collection Methods	30
3.7.1	Qualitative Data Collection Method	30
3.7.2	Quantitative Data Collection Method	31
3.8	Data Collection Instruments	31
3.8.1	Questionnaire	31
3.8.2	Interview Schedule	31
3.8.3	Documentation.....	32
3.9	Research Procedure.....	33
3.10	Data Analysis.....	33
3.10.1	Quantitative Approach.....	33
3.10.2	Qualitative Approach.....	33

3.11	Ethical Consideration.....	34
3.12	Limitations of the Study	34
CHAPTER FOUR		35
PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS		35
4.1	Introduction.....	35
4.2	Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.....	35
4.2.1	Divorced Parents.....	35
4.2.2	Children of Divorced Parents	39
4.2.3	Employees in Charge of Social Development in Ngoma District	41
4.3	Results from Analysis of each Objective.....	43
4.3.1	Factors that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda	44
4.3.2	Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents.....	47
4.2.3	The Type of Life Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children in Ngoma District	50
4.2.4	The Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District	54
CHAPTER FIVE		57
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS.....		57
5.1	Introduction.....	57
5.2	Summary of Findings.....	57
5.2.1	The Factors that Lead to Divorce of Spouses in Rwanda.....	57
5.2.2	Awareness of Spouses on the Consequences of Children of Divorces Parents in Rwanda	59
5.2.3	The Type of Children Life of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms	

of Essential Rights as Children in Ngoma District	60
5.2.4 The Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District	61
CHAPTER SIX	63
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	63
6.1 Introduction.....	63
6.2 Conclusion	63
6.3 The Recommendations	65
6.3.1 Recommendations to the Government.....	65
6.3.2 Recommendations to Parents	65
6.3.3 To Social Workers	66
6.3.4 To the Judiciary	66
6.3.5 To the Police	66
6.3.6 To the Local Leaders	66
6.3.7 To Religious Institution	67
6.3.8 To Spouses on Marriage and Respective Responsibilities to their Offspring.....	67
REFERENCES	68
APPENDICES.....	72

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1: Category of Population Under Study	27
Table 3.2: Distribution of Population.....	27
Table 4.1: The Number of Respondents by their Age Group	36
Table 4.2: The Number of Respondents by their Gender	36
Table 4.3: The Number of Respondents by their Education Level	37
Table 4.4: The Number of Respondents by Their Marital Status	37
Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents According to the Period Since Divorced.....	38
Table 4.6: The Number of Respondents by their Income Level	38
Table 4.7: The Number of Respondents by their Age Group	39
Table 4.8: The Number of Respondents by their Gender	39
Table 4.9: The Number of Respondents by their Education Level	40
Table 4.10: The Number of Respondents by Their Marital Status	40
Table 4.11: Distribution of Respondents According to their Position Held	41
Table 4.12: The Number of Respondents by their Age Group	41
Table 4.13: The Number of Respondents by their Gender	42
Table 4.14: The Number of Respondents by Their Education Level	42
Table 4.15: The Number of Respondents by their Marital Status	43
Table 4.16: Factor that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda (Data from Divorced Parents).....	45
Table 4.17: Factor that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda (Data from Children of Divorced Parents)	45
Table 4.18: Factor that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda (Data from Employees).....	46

Table 4.19: Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents (Data from Divorced Parents)	48
Table 4.20: Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents (Data from Children of Divorced Parents)	49
Table 4.21: Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents (Data from Employees)	50
Table 4.22: Type of Life of Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children (Data from Divorced Parents)	51
Table 4.23: Type of Life of Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children (Data From Children of Divorced Parents).	52
Table 4.24: Type of Life of Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children in Ngoma District (Data from Employees)	53
Table 4.25: Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District (Data from Divorced Parents)	54
Table 4.26: Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District (Data from Employees)	55

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework of the Research.....	17
Figure 3.1: Ngoma District Map	26

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
D.C	District of Columbia
DDP	District Development Plan
HHs	House Hold
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Km ²	Kilometer Square
LLITN	Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets
MINECOFIN	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
NCFMR:	National Center for Family & Marriage Research
NISR	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda
OUT	Open University of Tanzania
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
U.K	United Kingdom
UAE	Arab Emirates
USA	United State of America

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The rise in divorce has followed an international trend in the last few decades. From 1960 to 1980 alone, the divorce rate in industrialized nations has more than doubled(Onofrio, 2011). An increasing number of children from cohabiting, non-married couples are also likely to experience parental separation(Onofrio, 2011).

These socio-demographic changes affect millions of children. The effects of divorce and separation may be particularly important for children under 4 as rapid developmental changes in the cognitive, emotional, and social domains take place in early childhood(Onofrio, 2011). Thus, disruptions in this period can have lasting consequences on the child's well-being and adjustment in later years. It is estimated that eradicating the detrimental impact of divorce on children could lead to a 30% reduction in rates of mental health difficulties in young adults, a 30% decline in teenage pregnancies, and a 23% cutback in school dropouts (Onofrio, 2011).

The divorce rate in the United States is at its lowest level in more than 35 years, according to census data analyzed by Bowling Green State University's National Center for Family & Marriage Research (NCFMR). The divorce rate is down for the third consecutive year. In 2015, the rate was 16.9 divorces per 1,000 married women, down from a rate of 17.6 in 2014. Since 1980, when the divorce rate was 22.6, a decline of 25 percent is apparent in 2015. Additionally, the data show a slight uptick in the marriage rate, which has been stable since 2010 at a 45-year low. In 2015, there

were 32.3 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women while 2014's rate was 31.9. The marriage rate has decreased by 47 percent from 1980 when it was 61.4, but 2015's marriage rate of 32.3 is the highest since 2009.

Divorce is becoming a common event in the lives of many people. It is now easier to dissolve marriage, and fewer stigmas are attached to divorced people. However, for many, divorce remains a negative and traumatic experience. Not only do the divorcing couples suffer, but the children are affected as well: In the past, concern has been focused on the problems of the parents, but lately there has been a growing interest in the effects of divorce for children (Hawkins & Lloyd, 1976). The only countries that do not allow divorce are the *Philippines*, an ecclesiastical state, which has no procedure for divorce. Countries that have relatively recently legalized divorce are *Italy* (1970), *Portugal* (1975), *Brazil* (1977), *Spain* (1981), *Argentina* (1987), *Paraguay* (1991), *Colombia* (1991), *Andorra* (1995), *Ireland* (1996), *Chile* (2004) and *Malta* (2011). All types of divorces lead to the effects of divorce for children to a such as depression, decline in academic achievement, poor attendance, loss of confidence, and disorganization may signal adjustment issues pertaining to divorce in a child's home (Landucci, 2008).

The family occupies a pivotal place in every society and in the Africa continent at large. It is indeed the bedrock of the state, nation, continent, and world at large. Healthy families produces a healthy nation and healthy continent while weak families breed weak, corrupt, and a disarray nation and continent. For a nation and continent or the world at large to be at peace, it must first be settled from the family. The sanity in the continent will never rise above that of the family. Divorce in Africa is a persistent

event, which effects into immediate and a continuous result. Before divorce can be treated in Africa as a continent, it must be traced out from the developed continents like Europe(Olaniyi& State, 2015).

Marriage is also the backbone of socioeconomic and political development. Its progress and maintenance signifies harmony, while crisis and divorce in the family signals dangers and insecurity in the society (Culled from Daily Trust, 23rd December, 2007). Divorce also has a negative effect on the society. Broken homes increases the number of school dropouts and eventually becomes street children. Children from dissolved marriages often drop out of school and become hawkers with the notion of assisting a parent or younger siblings. These children learn to steal, defraud, cheat and even bully people from the streets. The existence of these street children serves as a threat to members of the society, such that the members of the society feel insecure(Olaniyi& State, 2015).

Divorce detrimentally affects individuals and society in numerous other ways:

Religious practice: Divorce diminishes the frequency of worship of God and recourse to Him in prayer.

Education: Divorce diminishes children's learning capacity and educational attainment.

The marketplace: Divorce reduces household income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity. Government: Divorce significantly increases crime, abuse and neglect, drug use, and the costs of compensating government services. Health and well-being: Divorce weakens children's health and longevity. It also increases

behavioral, emotional, and psychiatric risks, including even suicide(Fagan & Rector, 2012).

Divorce in pre-colonial Rwanda was initiated by either the husband or the wife. There were several "socially recognized" reasons for divorce. For the husband, they included a wife's negligence in domestic work and repeated infidelities. For the wife, they included maltreatment, incapacity of the husband to support her, and refusal to cohabit(Koff, 1997). Divorces were customarily preceded by temporary separations, *kwaahukana*, during which the spouses' relations attempted to mediate between the two people. Bride wealth was not returned to the husband's family unless children had not been born or the counter-gifts had not been exchanged.

Children born to a divorced woman belonged to her lineage, although the genitor could acquire the children in return for payment of a "birth price or "child wealth. It is notable that infertility was not a "socially recognized reason for divorce in pre-colonial Rwanda. The Post-genocide survey of married people, however, has shown resurgence in polygamy almost to the level achieved prior to colonialism: 23 percent of married women and 17 percent of married men reported living in polygamy households (McKinley1998). Response to infertility was polygamy, regardless of which partner contributed to the infertility. The transformation in Rwandan marriage patterns between the arrivals of the White Fathers in 1899 to 1994 is a clear shift from polygamy to monogamy(Koff, 1997).

As Ian Under (1977) states, the White Fathers were not "unfortunately hostile to Rwandan social institutions; it was only in the area of marriage that they had shown

themselves determined to impose quite new patterns of behavior." This determination led the Catholics to collude with the colonial administration in order to ensure that the transformation of the society be a lasting event and not be overturned by resistance cults or Rwandan independence.

The formerly married population includes three categories of people who have been in unions but are no longer the divorced, separated and widowed. However, for practical reasons separation will be combined with divorce. Among the ever-married population aged 20 and above, nearly one in four women but less than one in 20 men were formerly married. People who are separated/divorced account for only 21% of the formerly married women but 41% of men. The difference between urban and rural areas in regard to divorce may translate to greater stability in unions in rural than in urban areas, where sexual freedom and female emancipation is higher thus leading to more separation/divorce. In regard to separation/divorce, whatever the sex the prevalence is higher in the province of Kigali City and the Eastern and Southern provinces. The highest prevalence of separated/divorced people among the ever-married population is found in the age range 45-74 for men whereas it is highest in the age range 30-49 for women. The proportion of separated/divorced people has increased between 1978 and 1991, declined between 1991 and 2002, and has now increased again in 2012(Schmieding, 2014).

In traditional Rwandan society, divorce was an exceptional event because marriage was considered an indissoluble institution. Even sterility was not accepted as a reason for divorce, with Rwandan culture recommending polygamy as an answer in such a circumstance. However, with time, the dissolution of unions through divorce has

intensified. The law provides that when a couple wants to marry, both parties to the intended marriage will bring the following documents: certificate of births, certificate of celibacy or extract of death certificate of the former spouse or extract of judicial decision of divorce or annulment of the former marriage. After verification of the documents the civil registrar and the intending spouses agree with the civil registrar on the date and time he/she will officiate at their marriage. Seven days before celebration of the marriage, intending spouses must be taught by the civil registrar about types and effects of matrimonial regimes. The registrar announces the marriage by posting a notice at the office of the residence or domicile of the intending spouses and that of the intended location for the celebration of marriage at least twenty (20) days prior to the marriage celebration(NISR, 2016).

The State protects the family as the natural foundation of the Rwandan society. The Rwandan legislation stipulates that marriage has to occur by free consent and spouses have the same rights and duties during marriage and divorce. Rwanda has ratified the Convention on the Consent to Marriage, the Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages and the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women. The institution of marriage in Rwanda is governed by law. The law on Matrimonial Regimes, Succession and Gifts give equal rights to succession to all boys and girls. There is a National Policy on Family Promotion. Couples in common marriages are sensitized and encouraged to enter into a civil marriage, and this plays an important role in protecting the right to succession for mainly women and children. The percentages of separated and divorced people do not change according to the type of residence.

Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage. A male divorcee is called divorcé, while a female divorcee is called divorcée, also, marriage is the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife. (Amato, 1994). Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage by judgment of a court or by accepted custom. It can also be called a total separation (Collins English Dictionary, 2011). It is also a legal way of ending marriage (Macmillan School Dictionary, 2011).

Divorce is there both in developed and developing countries. It is there in Rwanda. And it is affecting children lives and the consequences are lifelong. The government of Rwanda has done something to control divorce so as to ensure children enjoy their rights. The percentages of separated/divorced are relatively lower, except in the male population who did not state their educational level among whom 11% are divorced. Rwanda 3).

However, this research is conducted for assessing the effect of divorce by parents on children welfare in order to provide some recommendations which can help in controlling the rate of divorce and to give advises for better children welfare who have divorced parents.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Divorce and separation often lead children to experience intense emotions. Misinterpretations about the divorce and loyalty conflicts are also experienced by many, although few discuss their thoughts and feelings with their parents. Because of the increase of divorce, the number of children involved in divorce is also rising.

Children who experience divorce may have more difficulties than children from two-parent families (Olaniyi & State, 2015). Indeed, in the short term, divorce has been associated with decline in academic achievement, self-concept, and overall adjustment problems.

Although most children from divorced parents suffer long-term consequences, some children may experience difficulties in adolescence, such as mental health problems, substance abuse, delinquency, and teenage pregnancy. Problems may even persist into adulthood, as they tend to have more economic, emotional, health, and relationship problems.

Consequently, the percentage of married persons has declined. Among men, it has fallen from 59% in 1978 to 53% in 2012. The decline is slightly steeper among women, from 62% in 1978 to 50% in 2012. The divorced population is more numerous among women (2%) than among men (only 0.7%). This proportion in Rwanda is higher in the Eastern Province (3%), Kigali City (2.7%) and the Southern Province (2.3%) and less represented in the Northern (1.5%) and Western (1.8%) provinces).

The reasons why the researcher wants to assess the effect of divorces by parents on children welfare in order to clarify very well its effect especially in Ngoma District areas and give recommendations which can help the government of Rwanda to reduce the rate of divorce. And advising divorced parents who they can educate their children without harming them or provoke them to street in different areas.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study was to assess the effect of divorces by parents on children welfare.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific Objectives of the study were to:

- (i) Disclosing the factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda
- (ii) Awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda.
- (iii) Examine the type of life children of divorced parents lead in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District.
- (iv) Assess the impact of divorce on children welfare especially in Ngoma District.

1.4 Research Question

- (i) What are the factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda?
- (ii) How do you understand the consequences of children of divorces parents?
- (iii) What are the types of life children of divorced parents lead in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District?
- (iv) What are the impacts of divorce on children welfare especially in Ngoma District?

1.5 Significance of the Research

This study identified the effects of divorce for children. It is hoped that this study added new knowledge and fill a very critical gap in the existing body of knowledge.

In practice this information was useful by the community at large. It helped the married couples to avoid the repeat of the same mistakes done by colleges. It also helped social and community leaders who deals with issues related to family.

This research helped the government to prevent the divorce which caused different social effect on the children in their families. This study gave the researcher opportunity to put into practice the theories concerning social work on the field of the study. It will enable the researcher to fulfill the requirement of masters in social work. It is also serves as a basic tool for future researchers who will need to go further into this aspect. It contributed to the scientific research knowledge about divorce.

1.6 Definitions of Key-concepts

The key concepts of the subject under study are defined in order to make more understandable the research objectives. Neuman (1997) defines **key concepts** as: “An important term for a topic that is likely to be found in a title.” Goldenberg (1992) feels that it is important that the reader will be “speaking the same language when comparing notes or attempting replications or even when being critical.” For the purpose of this study, the following key concepts were relevant to provide a theoretical framework for the research study:

Keywords: Divorce, welfare, children of divorce

Divorce

Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage by judgment of a court or by accepted custom. It can also be called a total separation (Collins English Dictionary, 2011).

Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage. A male divorcee is called divorcé, while a female divorcee is called divorcée, also, marriage is the formal union of a man and a woman, typically as recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife (Olaniyi & State, 2015).

Divorce is the conclusive act of dissolution of marriage (Brodkin, 1997 and Newsletter, 2005). Benokraitis (2005) sees divorce as: “The legal and formal dissolution of a marriage.” The Essential Cohen (2002) states that: “Divorce is the termination of the family unit.(Jaarsveld, 2007).

Welfare

Welfare is Availability of resources and presence of conditions required for reasonably comfortable, healthy, and secure living. Read more: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/welfare.html>.

According to Merriam welfare is the state of doing well especially in respect to good fortune, happiness, well-being, or prosperity *must look out for your own welfare*. Also means aid in the form of money or necessities for those in need. An agency or program through which such aid is distributed.

Children of Divorce

In this study, children of divorce were children ages five through eighteen that have parents that are in divorce proceedings or have obtained a divorce. These children may be living with one parent or divided living arrangements are made with both parents(Betty & Ackerman, 1997).

Intact Family

A nuclear family in which membership has remained constant, in the absence of divorce or other divisive factors.

Benokraitis (2005) explains a family as: “A unit made up of two or more people who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption and who live together, form an economic unit, and bear and raise children”. She sees the family as:

An intimate environment in which two or more people: live together in a committed relationship, see their identity as importantly attached to the group and share close emotional ties and functions” (Benokraitis, 2005).

The Essential English Dictionary (1999) states Intact as: “untouched, unharmed and with no part missing”. The Essential English Dictionary (1999) describes family as: “a household, parents and children or a group of things in some way related to each other”.

“Definitions of family range from the nuclear family of breadwinner father, homemaker mother and two children to multiple families living together as a whole” (Thompson and Rudolph, 2000). For the researcher the intact family is a family as a whole: mother, father and children living together, sharing relationships and who respect each other.

Developmental Stages

Developmental stages are the periods in a child's life and the experiences of physical, social, emotional and mental phases he/she goes through at that time (Betty & Ackerman, 1997).

Younger children are at risk short-term due to confusion surrounding the divorce and the loss of the parent no longer living in the home. Younger children are less able to make sense of all the changes that are occurring (Furstenberg & Teitler, 1994).

Elementary age children: Children ages 5 through 12 are expanding their world to include peers and school friends rather than just family. They react to what is happening by thinking about it and questioning the changes. They worry about many things and believe in living by rules and that life is fair. Children in this age group deeply feel the loss of the family when the divorce or separation happens.

Young teenagers: Young teenagers are in a stage where they are going through rapid physical, social and emotional growth. Often they are confused, moody and feel insecure. At times they may act like a little child by clinging, being needy, or demanding to parents. Other times they reject their parents and attach to friends.

Older teenagers: This stage may be the stormiest for the parent and child relationships. Older teenagers are trying on different roles and in the process of establishing their identities. This age group may become preoccupied with the survival of relationships and mourn the loss of the family of their childhood. They feel embarrassed and resentful toward parents who are perceived as giving their own needs priority.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview

In this chapter an attempt was made to review the literature relating to effects of divorce for children with to develop the concept frame work for this study, it key concepts used in thesis. The study of related literature was based on the study of various academicians and scholars understanding of concept.

There are many emotional variables that play a role in how a child feels prior to divorce during separation, throughout the process of a divorce, and after the divorce is finalized. Some impacts of emotional issues may occur long after the divorce happens. The impact of divorce has on a child are often influenced by the following factors: age (Stage of development), gender, and maturity (Golden & Henderson, 2007).

2.2 Theoretical /Conceptual Framework

Divorce is among the most significant of all life events because it involves the disruption of one of the strongest affection bonds formed by adults. The significance of this disrupted bond is often compounded by its far-reaching Implications not only for the divorcing spouses, but also for their children, the extended family, and future relationships formed by the couple members and their children, (Feeney & Monin, 2015).

Amato and Keith (1991), in their meta-analysis on studies quantifying how much disruption affect children, and subsequent researchers have offered several

mechanisms for how marital disruptions could affect children. These primary mechanisms include effects coming from the impact of parental conflict (both pre-disruption conflict and post disruption co-parenting conflict), less parental contact, economic changes, and parental remarriages and further marital transitions. Of course, there could be other mechanisms, such as the anticipation of a disruption affecting children's outcomes. Although disentangling these mechanisms is beyond the scope of this study, they do help us in understanding how the disruption process could affect outcomes over time.

These mechanisms will have different effects at different points of the disruption process. Before the disruption, parental conflict and anticipation of a disruption would likely have the greatest negative effects on children (Arkes, 2016). In addition, there could be less parental contact, as some evidence indicates that women increase their labor supply in response to an increased risk of divorce (W. R. Johnson & Skinner, 1986; Sen, 2000).

Although the mechanisms clearly point to negative effects as a disruption approaches, it is obvious how children would be affected at the time of the disruption and in the years following the disruption. Pierret (2001) argued that, in some cases, parents will make decisions on whether to stay married based on how it would affect their children. Parents might not know how the children would fare under different scenarios. Ideally, the worst marriages would be the ones that end. Based on this theory, Pierret argued that a disruption could actually benefit the children. Children might benefit from reduced parental conflict and perhaps less contact with an abusive parent. Other effects after a disruption include lower standard of living and co-

parenting conflict, however, could contribute negatively to children's outcomes. Subsequent romantic relationships for the parents, including remarriages and further marital disruptions, could also hurt children.

As many of these post disruption mechanisms are dynamic, the effect of the disruption process on children could be dynamic as well. Any negative effects could subside over time or be offset by the potential benefits of the marital change. However, it is conceivable that the pre-disruption experiences of children have lasting impacts that affect the children for many years.

Of course, every child will have a different experience. The models in this analysis are intended to capture the average total effect for children. That is, some children will benefit from family disruptions, whereas others will struggle, perhaps having to live through a series of remarriages and subsequent divorces, constantly changing their living situation. The models will indicate how children, on average, fare over time from the combined effects of all of these mechanisms(Arkes, 2016).

Several themes emerge from this literature, although it should be noted that children differ significantly in their perceptions and reactions to parental separation and divorce (Hogan, 2003; Rodgers, 2001). For example, although distress, anger, and sadness are feelings often reported by children when their parents separate, these feelings are by no means universal (Deckard, 2001; Pritchard, 1998, cited in Hawthorne, Richards, 2003). It is clear that divorce causes a crisis in family life. A number of theoretical perspectives were related to the effects of divorce on children to provide directions for analysis and policy.

Direct effects of economic deprivation on children are explained in the classical opportunity and in strain theories of crime and deviance (Cloward, 1960; Merton, 1937; Rosenfeld, 1993; all cited in Akers,1999). Children and adolescents who experience parental divorce, however, frequently experience great emotional distress during the separation and afterward. Rather, ongoing conflicts between the co-parents after the separation, problems with poor parenting, financial difficulties resulting from the separation, and loss of contact with the non-residential parent help explain the association between parental divorce and offspring functioning.(Onofrio, 2011).

The following figure shows conceptual frame works of this study based on the objective of the study which is to find out the effects of divorce by parent on children welfare.

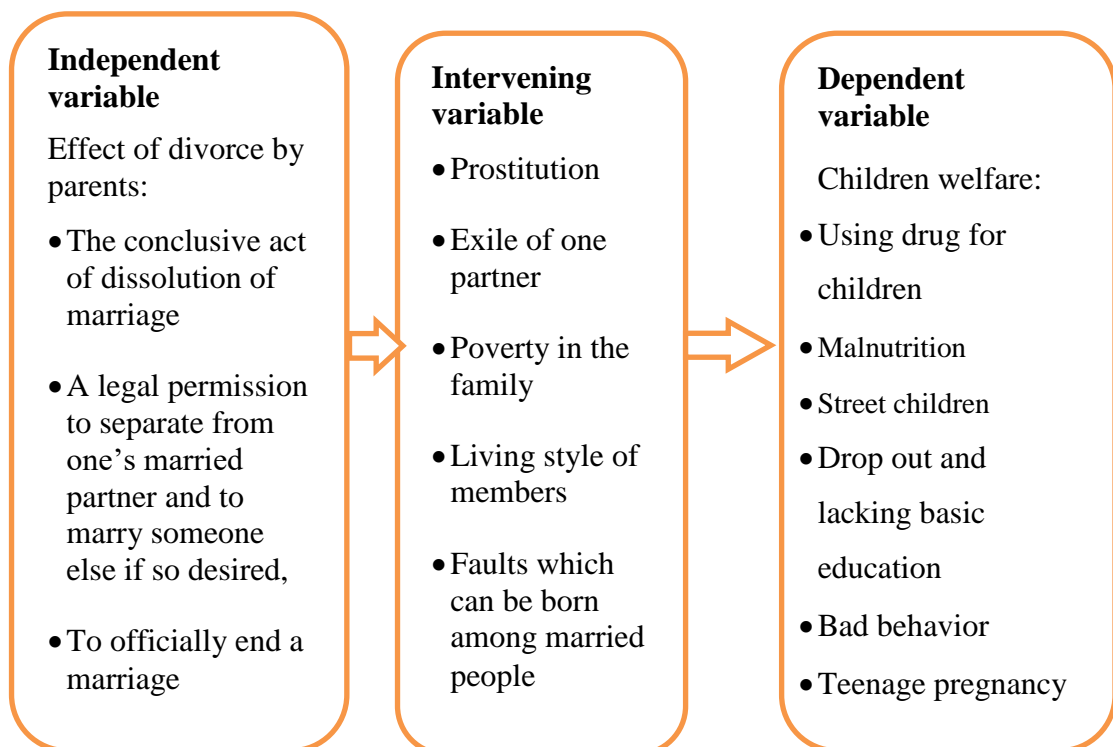


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework of the Research

As presented in the above figure, independent variable is the effect of divorce while dependent variable is children welfare. These can be interconnected with intervening variable which are prostitution, exile of one partner. Poverty in the family, living style of members and faults which can be born among married people.

However, the effect of divorce by parents (The conclusive act of dissolution of marriage, a legal permission to separate from one's married partner and to marry someone else if so desired, and officially end a marriage) which cause different children welfare (dependent variable) like using drug for children, malnutrition, street children, drop out and lacking basic education, bad behavior and teenage pregnancy. And also some children will benefit from family disruptions, whereas others will struggle, perhaps having to live through a series of remarriages and subsequent divorces, constantly changing their living situation. The models will indicate how children, on average, fare over time from the combined effects of all of these mechanisms.

2.3 Empirical Literature Review

Patrick (2012) wrote on the Effects of Divorce on Children where they said that Divorce damages society. It consumes social and human capital. It substantially increases cost to the taxpayer, while diminishing the taxpaying portion of society. It diminishes children's future competence in all five of society's major tasks or institutions: family, school, religion, marketplace and government. The reversal of the cultural and social status of divorce would be nothing less than a cultural revolution. Only a few generations ago, American culture rejected divorce as scandalous. Today,

law, behavior, and culture embrace and even celebrate it. Divorce also permanently weakens the family and the relationship between children and parents. It frequently leads to destructive conflict management methods, diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults.

They continued that the primary effect of divorce (and of the parental conflict that precedes the divorce) is a decline in the relationship between parent and child. Immediately after a divorce, most parents have two sets of problems: their adjustment to their own intrapsychic conflicts and to their role as a divorced parent. The stress of divorce damages the parent-child relationship for as many as 40 percent of divorced mothers. The support they receive from home is rated much lower by children of divorced parents than by children from intact homes, and these negative ratings become more pronounced by the time children are in high school and college.

Videon (2002) in his book (the Effects of Parent-Adolescent Relationships and Parental Separation on Adolescent Well-being) said that one study found that parental divorce and maternal non-residence led to delinquent behavior in girls if the mother-daughter relationship was satisfying: A stronger relationship correlated to more frequent exhibition of delinquency.

Breivik (2006) said in "Adolescent's Adjustment in Four Post-Divorce Family Structures" that adolescents from divorced families (particularly those in divorced single-father families) display more antisocial and violent behavior than adolescents in biologically intact families.

Chapman (2008), wrote in their book “Relationship breakdown and the economic welfare of Australian Mothers and their children” that the detrimental effects of divorce on women’s income vary based on the relative earnings capacity of the husband and wife. Women who experience the largest income losses (38.5 percent for a mother with one child) are “the ‘low education’ mother[s] who were married to a ‘high education’ man.

Furstenberg (2001), stated in their book “Delayed Parental Divorce: How Much Do Children Benefit?” that Among women whose parents divorced, “statistically significant differences exist in educational attainment, level of household income, and receiving welfare compared with women raised in intact marriages.

Keister(2004) argued in her book“ race, family structure, and wealth: the effect of childhood family on adult asset ownership” that much of the economic impact of divorce on children is mediated through the parents, as research below demonstrates.

Barry (2003), found in his book “The Effects of Divorce on the Academic Achievement of High School Seniors,” that children whose parents divorced skipped nearly 60 percent more class periods than children from intact families. Girls appeared to be more affected than boys.

Yongmin and Yuanzhang (2009), stated in their book “Post-divorce Family Stability and Changes in Adolescents' Academic Performance: A Growth-Curve Model,” that lack of family transitions after divorce does not eliminate the effect of the divorce on student academic performance, but it does provide their performance in math and

social studies a certain degree of protection, compared to students who live in unstable families with multiple family transitions.

2.3.1 Research Gaps

As reviewed on in literature; different authors showed that divorce lead children to experience intense emotions while others found that misinterpretations about the divorce and loyalty conflicts are also experienced by many, although few discuss their thoughts and feelings with their parents. Immediately after a divorce, most parents have two sets of problems: their adjustment to their own intrapsychic conflicts and to their role as a divorced parent. The stress of divorce damages the parent-child relationship for as many as 40 percent of divorced mothers. The support they receive from home is rated much lower by children of divorced parents than by children from intact homes, and these negative ratings become more pronounced by the time children are in high school and college. These pushed the researcher to assess the effects of divorce by parents on children welfare with reference to Ngoma District.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter gives a detailed presentation of the tools and techniques that were used to investigate the research issues at Ngoma District. It included spelling out study population. It further describes the methods and techniques used in the choosing the sample size and selection of instruments like questionnaire, interviews and documentation, which were used; it also included data collection, processing and analysis.

According to Howell (2013) research methodology is the general research strategy that outlines the way in which research is to be undertaken and, among other things, identifies the methods to be used in it. These methods, described in the methodology, define the means or modes of data collection or, sometimes, how a specific result is to be calculated. Methodology does not define specific methods, even though much attention is given to the nature and kinds of processes to be followed in a particular procedure or to attain an objective.

3.2 Research Design

According to Singh (2010) research design is a choice of an investigator about the components of his project and development of certain components of the design. It is a planning stage of research, which is usually made logically visualizing its practicability. This study used case study in order to collect data effectively where

Ngoma District located in Eastern Province of Rwanda was chosen as case study for analyzing the effects of divorce by parents on children welfare.

With reference to this study, the researcher collected qualitatively and quantitatively in order to make analysis and interpretation of information brought from Ngoma District. These approaches of qualitative and quantitative helped a researcher to collect efficient information for achieving the objectives of the study.

3.3 Study Area (Case Study)

This study was carried out at Ngoma District; it is one of seven districts that make up the Eastern Province. The District of Ngoma is part of lowlands of the East, a region essentially dominated by hills with low slopes, with an average altitude between 1400m and 1700 m above sea level. The original relief is a plateau strongly dissected by tectonical movements of the quaternary that were progressively gullied by the erosion creating valleys and swamps. The climate is temperate especially in low altitudes. The annual average temperature is around 20C.

Ngoma like other regions of the country enjoys four seasons of which two are rainy and other two are dry: a short rainy season which extends from October to December, a short dry season which runs from January to February, and a long rainy season from mid- February to mid -May and a long dry season from mid -May to Early October. Generally; the dry season begins earlier and ends later compared to other regions of the country. The resulting pluviometric deficit impacts adversely agricultural and pastoral production. The volume of annual precipitations on the whole of the district lies between 900 and 1400 mm of rains (Ngoma District DDP, 2013).

As regard to soil and hydrography, Ngoma soil is favorable for agricultural activities due to the presence of little sandy –clay soil mixture. The District of Ngoma has three lakes namely Bilira, Mugesera and Sake, which provides the region with a beautiful landscape that may attract tourists if developed and advocated for. In terms of flora and fauna, the natural vegetation of the district of Ngoma is dominated by savanna landscapes.

It is a typical vegetation of the east African basin, with vast lands of grass with scattered shrubs of the natural vegetation dominated by savanna landscapes. The western part of the district is made up of vast wetlands constituted by depressions of fluvio-lakes of the Akagera that offers a typical landscape of lakes and swamps.

As the District Natural ecosystems have disappeared, leaving room for crops and artificial forests which mainly consist of large banana plantations with the combination of avocado, mangoes, sweet potatoes, cassava, etc. The majority of the current afforested area consists of Eucalyptus and Pinus. Wildlife no longer exists in the region for a long time except for some birds, small mammals and reptiles encountered in the less frequented places.

The 82, 4% of the district population is covered by health insurance against 68.8% of the population at national level. The fertility rate is 5 % in Ngoma district, which is higher compared to the national average, evaluated at 4.6%; the national target is to achieve 3.4%. 65.9% women delivered in health facility against 69% at national level. At the same time, 34.5% of the population in Ngoma District has comprehensive

knowledge about HIV/AIDS compared to 52% at national level (Ngoma District DDP, 2013).

In Ngoma District, 3.1% of women aged 15-49 years are HIV positive against 2.1% of men of the same age. At the national level 4% of women and 2% of men are HIV positive. A high record in disease prevention and control since 84.7% of children receive all vaccinations while 92.7 % of HHs have at least one LLITN and 59% have two or more LLITN. The proportion of births attended in Health facilities is 80.4% compared to 78% of the national average.

The proportion of married women who are satisfied by the modern family planning methods is at 60.2% in Ngoma against 62.4% of the national average; the unmet needs for family planning account for 17.0% in Ngoma district compared to 18.9% of the national average. Only 25.8% of pregnant women in Ngoma District receive 4 antenatal Consultation visits. It is important to notice the increased up-take of family planning for women aged 15-49 years (Ngoma District DDP, 2013).

The following map shows Ngoma District chosen as the area of the study with the objective of analyzing the effects of divorce on children's living standards.

As shown on the figure above; Ngoma District is subdivided into fourteen (14) sectors, sixty four (64) cells and four hundred and seventy three (473) villages (Imidugudu). The district covers an area of eight hundred sixty seven point seventy four square kilometres (867.74 Km²). It is limited by Rwamagana District in the North-West, by Kayonza District in the North-East, by the District of Bugesera in the

West, by the District of Kirehe in the East and by the Republic of Burundi in the South.

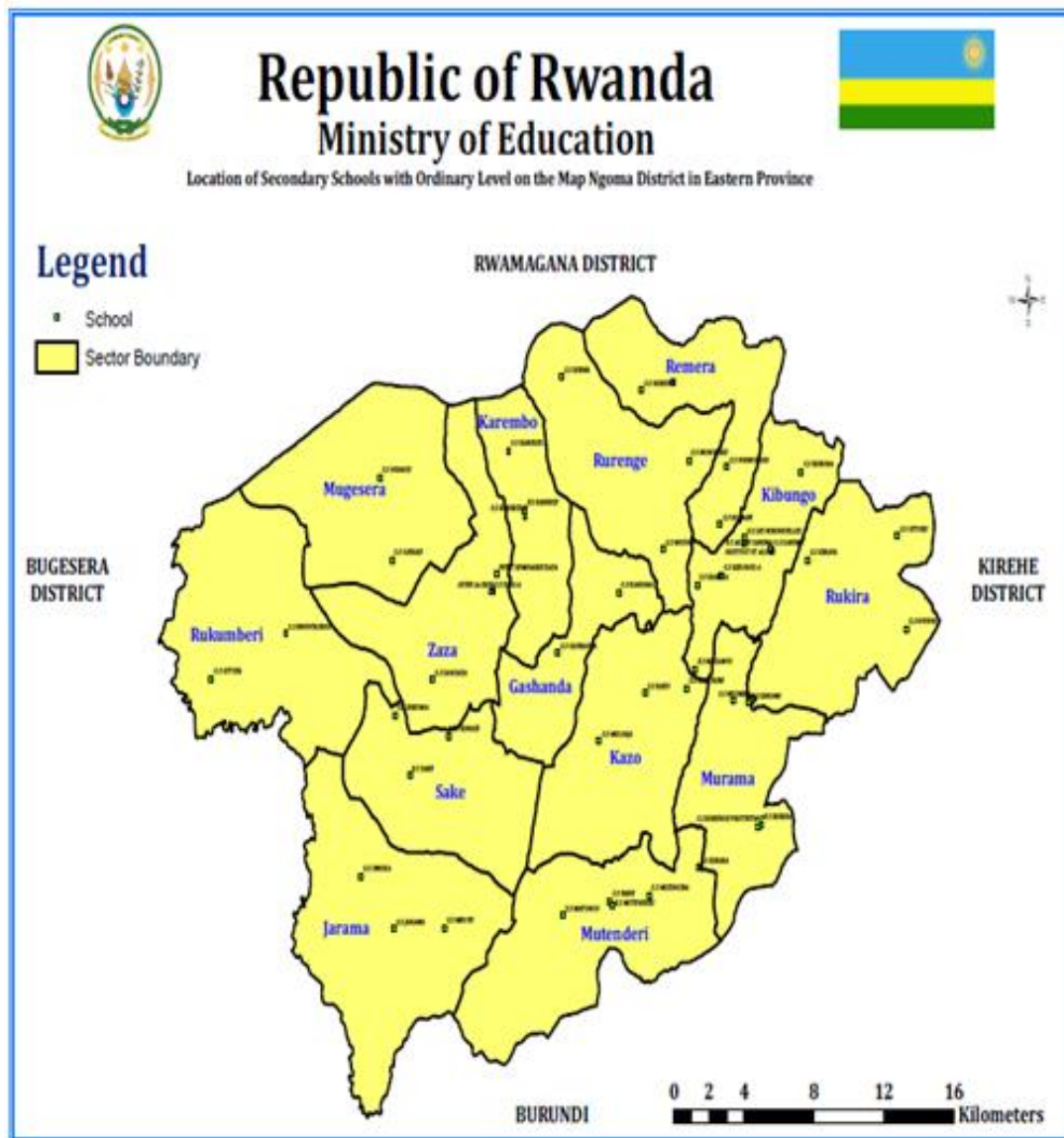


Figure 3.1: Ngoma District Map

Source: <http://mineduc.gov.rw>

3.4 Study Population

The population under study was divorced people and their children (above five years) of Ngoma District and the employees of Ngoma District who were in charge of social development. The following table shows the total number of population categories.

Table 3.1: Category of Population Under Study

Categories	Numbers	Characteristics
The employees of Ngoma District who were in charge of social development	10	8 sector social affairs, 2 employees work at District level in charge of social development
Divorced parents	121	64 female and 55 males
Children of divorced parents	254	Above 5 years old

Source: Researcher 2018

As shown above, the researcher took population in three categories without considering whether divorced parents were re-married or not because the objective of the study was to assess the effect of divorce by parent on the children welfare.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Sample refers to "part of the population that is selected to respond to survey Scott (2006). In this researches researcher has not used whole population because typically they do not have the time and money to study all the cases in population of interest to them reason why he has chosen and picks only those who best meet the purpose of the study. In this study researcher has conducted research on 385 people in Ngoma District.

Table 3.2: Distribution of Population

No	Sectors	Number of divorced spouses and their children above five years	Total population
1	Kibungo	51	385
2	Zaza	17	
3	Murama	11	
4	Rukira	24	
5	Mutenderi	19	
6	Jarama	22	
7	Sake	16	
8	Gashanda	29	
9	Kazo	42	
10	Mugesera	18	
11	Rukumberi	17	
12	Remera	49	
13	Karembo	32	
14	Rurenge	38	

Source: Ngoma District Report, 20117

The research cannot cover all total population during interview and providing questionnaire due to time and budget for this reason researcher has used sample in order to determine those who fitted and contribute to this research by using the formula of Cochran (2009);

n = Sample

N = Total population

e = margin error which is equal to 0.1 $n = \frac{N}{1 + N \times (e)^2}$

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N \times (e)^2} = N = \frac{385}{1 + 385 \times 0.01} = \frac{385}{4.85} = 79.38 \approx 80 \text{ people}$$

The sample size taken by the researcher was 80 people and 10 employees which were taken as whole.

The distribution of respondents according to their category was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Divorced parents} = \frac{80 \times 121}{375} = \frac{9680}{375} = 25.74 \approx 26 \text{ respondents}$$

$$\text{Children of divorced parent} = \frac{80 \times 254}{375} = \frac{20320}{375} = 54.18 \approx 54 \text{ respondents}$$

The researcher used systematic sampling technique for selecting population of Ngoma District (divorced parents and children of divorced parents). For systematic sampling technique means that rather than go through the laborious process of choosing randomly from a list that is not necessarily assumed to be random (as random sampling), it would be much simpler if we could assume the units to be randomly listed in the sampling frame and then choose $1/k^{th}$ of them with k being any constant. Such a sample is called a systematic sample. By definition, a $1/k$ systematic sample is

a sample constructed by selecting every k^{th} element in the sampling frame (Kenneth, 2008).

K^{th} = total population/sample size; where k^{th} is the interval

In this study the interval to be followed for choosing the respondents sampled in divorced parent was equaled to $121/26=4^{th}$ meaning that a researcher took 8th person, 12th person..... until 25 persons. While on children of divorced parent, the interval was equaled to $254/54= 4^{th}$ meaning that a researcher took 8th person, 12th person..... until 54 persons.

3.6 Sources of Data

The sources of data collected about the effects of divorce by parent on children welfare are both primary and secondary data.

3.6.1 Primary Data

According to Kate & Hennessey (2010), primary data is collected for a specific research purpose and obtained by direct observation or by direct contact with sources of information. To evaluate the overall value of primary data, the researcher must weigh precision, correctness and reliability against high cost time pressure and limited access to materials.

The main techniques of primary data collection in this research project were interviews and questionnaires given to population of Ngoma District. Therefore, primary data was collected from respondents in form of answers to the administered questionnaire as well as responses where interviews was applied.

3.6.2 Secondary Data

According to Kate & David (2010), secondary data is that which is already in existence that was collected for some purpose other than the current study. Often called desk research or library research, this approach depends on the availability and reliability of material. Secondary sources include government publications, trade journals and other readable documents.

This technique is important because it reviewed the literature and tries to canvas both global and national perspectives so that the researcher could have a comparative framework for analysis and evaluation. Secondary data sources for this research work were drawn from the permanent file of some surveyed on the effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare.

3.7 Data Collection Methods

The goal of any researcher is to collect data that are meaningful for his purposes in his study. Many of the procedures in collecting meaningful data depend largely on the quality of the measuring instrument employed in the process (Consuelo, 2007). The data will be collected through qualitative and quantitative methods.

3.7.1 Qualitative Data Collection Method

“Qualitative research methods seek to help the investigator understand the experience or view point of another person or group of persons” Roysed(1995). The researcher focused on the quality of data from the respondents in the relation to the facts about the effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare in Ngoma District.

3.7.2 Quantitative Data Collection Method

Any attribute that we measure in numbers was termed as a quantitative attribute or variable. For purposes of quantitative data collection, the data was collected in way of facilitating analysis and interpretation of data through percentage and number shown in table. These facilitated comparisons between variables.

3.8 Data Collection Instruments

3.8.1 Questionnaire

According to David (2006), the term questionnaire is used here to signify the use of questions to elicit responses in self-completion (by electronic or postal means), face to face (survey interviews) and telephone formats in order to generate data that is quantified in a case by variable data matrix.

The researcher prepared a list of questions according to the objectives of the study and then distributed to the respondents who knew how read and write for filling. The questionnaires were close-ended and open ended. Therefore, it was much easier to code and analyze; and often can be coded from the questionnaire, saving time and money. Further, the respondents were often clear about the meaning of the question and could often tell the answer for what was demanded. This technique was used to 16 divorced parents and 40 children of divorced parents.

3.8.2 Interview Schedule

According to Christine (2010), an interview is a conversation with a deliberate purpose that the participants accept. An interview resembles a conversation in a many

ways. Both involve verbal and nonverbal communication between people during which they exchange ideas, attitudes and feelings.

The researcher prepared interview guides, which directed the conversation. For better organization of the interview exercise, the researcher made appointments with the respondents in order to have access to them. The researcher then prepared a separate schedule, which would later facilitate the coding process. 8 respondents meaning 8 employees who worked in domain of social development were interviewed during data collection of this study as described early.

3.8.3 Documentation

According to Geronimo (2000), documentation by definition is a process of acknowledging the sources of the citations made in the study. As part of the process in research work, the researcher must give due recognition to authors of publication and other information sources where the theory, the concept, the idea, the data, and the like were borrowed or lifted. In this research, the researcher collected the already existing data, by finding them where they are stored or filed.

During the process of documentary analysis, the researcher studied the documents and after understanding and analyzing the relevance of texts to this study, she jotted them down on manuscripts and later typed them on a computer for compilation. The researcher read documents such as manual procedures, newspapers and other publications which provided the information related to the effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare.

3.9 Research Procedure

This study was carried out at Ngoma District located in Eastern Province for the purpose of finding out the effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare in order to achieve the objectives of the study. The researcher collected data and analyze them for achieving the objectives of the study.

3.10 Data Analysis

Judd (1989) stress that data analysis is a process for obtaining raw data and converting it into information useful for decision-making by users; Data is collected and analyzed to answer questions, test hypotheses or disprove theories. In this study, quantitative and qualitative methods were used in order to analyze the data brought from Ngoma District.

3.10.1 Quantitative Approach

Quantitative data is often gathered through questionnaire and documentation were carefully developed and structured to provide the researcher with numerical data that can be explored statistically and yield a result that can be generalized to some larger population. Descriptive statistics analysis helped a researcher to analyze the data by using frequency and percentage based on the responses of the respondents. The researcher used SPSS for drawing tables and calculating percentages of data collection in order to analyze findings brought from Ngoma District and it helped the researcher to analyze correlation of research variables.

3.10.2 Qualitative Approach

Qualitative approach used data gathered through individual interviews and focus group discussions. In qualitative approach, the researcher used content analysis due to

the fact that, is applied to the verbatim responses given to open-ended questions in order to code those answers into a meaningful set of categories that lend themselves to further quantitative statistical analysis. By coding these verbatim responses into a relatively small set of meaningful categories, survey researchers can create new variables in their survey data sets to use in their analyses.

3.11 Ethical Consideration

In doing this study, the researcher did all possible for keeping the information gathered from Ngoma District in order to be honest and keeping his integrity. Identification of respondents were the secret for the study in order to keep the information of the vulnerable group chosen as study population.

In addition, for achieving the objectives of this study, the researcher explained for the respondents that the research is for academic purpose and there are no other institutions were communicated or used them for their purpose.

3.12 Limitations of the Study

The researcher forecasted the following limitations when carrying out this study at Ngoma District;

- (i) Limited time which caused to do hardly for achieving the objectives of the study
- (ii) Financial means due to disappointment of respondents the researcher used unexpected budget.
- (iii) Dealing with busy people, which require the researcher to use all possible ways for obtaining a little time of responding.

However, the researcher experienced these limitations for achieving the objectives of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the information collected from the field about the effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare. It was carried out at Ngoma District. It presents descriptive analysis of respondents based on their age, marital status, level of education and income level. This chapter also presents and shows the analysis of the objectives of the study. The first objective was factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda, second was awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda, thirdly, the type of life children of divorced parents lead in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District and finally, the impact of divorce on children welfare especially in Ngoma District.

4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This part focuses on the analysis and presentation of Socio-Demographic Characteristics of respondents (employees, divorced parents and children of divorced parents) based on the age of people, marital status, level of education, and income level of people who represented whole population according to the information and data collected by researcher at Ngoma District.

4.2.1 Divorced Parents

The characteristics of respondents on the side of divorced parent were concerned with age group, gender, level of education, marital status, time of divorce, and income level of people. The Table 4.1 shows number of respondents by their age group according to the results from respondents who interacted with the researcher.

Table 4.1: The Number of Respondents by their Age Group

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
26-40	21	80.8	80.8	80.8
41-55	4	15.4	15.4	96.2
56-70	1	3.8	3.8	100.0
Total	26	100.0	100.0	

The information presented in Table 4.1 shows that the most respondents were in age between 26 and 40 while minority was between 56-70 year-old. This implies that the most divorced parents were still younger due to the results obtained. The information concerned with gender of respondents is illustrated in the following table according their answers.

Table 4.2: The Number of Respondents by their Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	12	46.2	46.2	46.7
Female	14	53.8	53.8	100.0
Total	26	100.0	100.0	

As shown here in the Table 4.2 female represents 53.8% of respondents and 46.7% of respondents were male. This implies that female was more participative than male in this study due to their big number as male left their place after divorce. The Table 4.3 presents the education level of respondents (divorced parents) who participated in this study based on the answers provided during the research on the field.

Table 4.3: The Number of Respondents by their Education Level

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Illiterate	4	15.4	15.4	15.4
Primary school	8	30.8	30.8	46.2
Secondary level	7	26.9	26.9	73.1
University A1	3	11.5	11.5	84.6
University A0	4	15.4	15.4	100.0
Total	26	100.0	100.0	

As illustrated in this table most respondents studied primary school. These imply that the perceptions from lowest level of education and high level were considered in this study. The data collected on the number of respondents (divorced parents) by their marital status is presented in the Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: The Number of Respondents by Their Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Divorcees not yet remarried	9	34.6	34.6
Divorcees re-married	17	65.4	100.0
Total	26	100.0	

The most respondents in this study was divorcees who remarried due to the fact that 65.4% of respondents in divorced parents was participated in this study.

The Table 4.5 presents characteristics of respondents according to the time (period) since divorced.

Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents According to the Period Since Divorced

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-3 years	5	19.2	19.2	19.2
4-6 years	9	34.6	34.6	53.8
7-9 years	6	23.1	23.1	76.9
10-12 years	4	15.4	15.4	92.3
13-15 years	2	7.7	7.7	100.0
Total	26	100.0	100.0	

As illustrated in this Table 4.5; the most respondents have the period between 4 and 6 years since divorced while the period are ranged from one year to fifteen years. This implies that the information given by these respondents were believable.

Table 4.6: The Number of Respondents by their Income Level

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Second category of ubudehe schemes	6	23.1	23.1
Third category of ubudehe schemes	19	73.1	96.2
Fourth category of ubudehe schemes	1	3.8	100.0
Total	26	100.0	

Income level of respondents (divorcees) who interacted with researcher was characterized with second up to fourth category of ubudehe schemes. These imply that the effects of divorce on children welfare were analyzed based on different level of respondents' income level characterized the population of Rwanda.

4.2.2 Children of Divorced Parents

The information concerned distribution of respondents (children of divorced parents) according to the socio-demographic of Ngoma District is classified into their age group, marital status, educational level). The Table 4.7 demonstrates age group of children of divorced parents who sampled in this study.

Table 4.7: The Number of Respondents by their Age Group

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
6-10	3	5.6	5.6	5.6
11-15	22	40.7	40.7	46.3
16-20	19	35.2	35.2	81.5
21-25	10	18.5	18.5	100.0
Total	54	100.0	100.0	

The information presented in Table 4.7 shows that the respondents (children of divorced parents) were characterized by the age group between 6 years old and 25 years old. This indicates that children of divorced parents were youth and know how their living style goes. The Table 4.8 shows gender of respondents on the side of children of divorced parents according to their respondents.

Table 4.8: The Number of Respondents by their Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	26	48.1	48.1	48.1
Female	28	51.9	51.9	100.0
Total	54	100.0	100.0	

As shown here in the Table 4.8 female represents 51.9% of respondents and 48.1% of respondents were male. The Table 4.9 presents the education level of respondents on the side of children of divorced parents who participated in this study based on the answers provided during the research on the field.

Table 4.9: The Number of Respondents by their Education Level

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Illiterate	11	20.4	20.4	20.4
Primary school	32	59.3	59.3	79.7
Secondary level	6	11.1	11.1	90.8
University A1	5	9.2	9.2	100.0
Total	54	100.0	100.0	

These shows that many children had attended primary school and dropped out due to their life with their parents. The distribution of respondents on the side of children of divorced parents according to their marital status is summarized in the Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: The Number of Respondents by Their Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	42	77.8	77.8	77.8
Married	12	22.2	22.2	100.
Total	54	100.0	100.0	

The most children of divorced parents were single due to the fact that they were still children to be educated while small number of them were married due to the life condition lived.

4.2.3 Employees in Charge of Social Development in Ngoma District

The researcher interacted with the employees of social development who deal with the problem of divorced in social life and their identification are summarized in different Table 4.11.

The Table 4.11 illustrates identification of respondents on the side of employees according to their position held by employees who participated in this study.

Table 4.11: Distribution of Respondents According to their Position Held

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Sector Social affairs	8	80.0	80.0	80.0
District social development officers	2	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

As shown in this table the employees who participated in this study were in domain of social development which give hopes that the study built on real information.

The age group of employees are summarized in the Table 4.12 according to the information provided.

Table 4.12: The Number of Respondents by their Age Group

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
26-40	6	60.0	60.0	60.0
40-55	4	40.0	40.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

The information presented in Table 4.14 shows that the employees who participated in this study was ranged between 26 and 55 years old.

The information concerned with gender of respondents (employees) is illustrated in the Table 4.13 according their answers.

Table 4.13: The Number of Respondents by their Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	7	70.0	70.0	70.0
Female	3	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	10	100.0	100.0	

As shown in the Table 4.13; the most respondents were female with 70% while 30% of respondents were male.

The Table 4.14 presents the education level of employees who participated in this accordingly.

Table 4.14: The Number of Respondents by Their Education Level

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
University A0	6	60.0	60.0	60.0
Master's degree	4	40.0	40.0	100.0
Total	90	100.0	100.0	

The identification of employees according to their educational level was Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree as shown in the Table 4.14.

The information gathered on the number of respondents by their marital status is summarized in the Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: The Number of Respondents by their Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Married	10	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	90	100.0	100.0	

All employees in charge of social development were married as shown in the Table 4.15. This indicates that they know more information about the welfare of children of divorced parents.

4.3 Results from Analysis of each Objective

In conducting this research on the field; the researcher had the following specific objectives:

- (i) Determine factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda
- (ii) Awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda
- (iii) Examine the type of life children of divorced parents lead in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District
- (iv) Assess the impact of divorce on children welfare especially in Ngoma District.

The information collected from Ngoma District did not go beyond the objectives of the study which guided the researcher on the field. Each objective is presented and analyzed in order to achieve the conclusion of the research. The results were from divorced parents, children of divorced parents and employees in charge of social development in Ngoma District as described in the previous chapter.

However, the views of respondents who participated in this study was considered in this study in order to analyze, interpret the data collected from Ngoma District and achieve the objectives of the research.

4.3.1 Factors that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda

On the field the respondents were asked the following question “what are the factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda?”

The responses were provided by all respondents (divorced parents, children of divorced parents and employees) about the factors that lead to divorce among spouses in Rwanda based on the closed questions gave to the respondents sampled in Ngoma District who participated in this study. The Table 4.16 summarized the factors that lead to divorce among spouses in Rwanda on the side of divorced parents.

According to the results from divorced parents who interacted with the researcher; the factors that lead to divorce among spouses in Rwanda especially in Ngoma District where the research took place were prostitution, neglect by husband, women battering, promiscuity, poverty, loss of sexual desire, irresponsibility, infertility and loveless marriage. These are proved by the data summarized in the Table 4.16.

Table 4.16: Factor that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda (Data from Divorced Parents)

Factors	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Prostitution	22	84.6	4	15.4	0	0.0
Neglect by husband	17	65.4	6	23.1	3	11.5
Women battering	19	73.1	5	19.2	2	7.7
Promiscuity	20	76.9	5	19.2	1	3.9
Poverty	22	84.6	0	0.0	4	15.4
Loss of sexual desire	19	73.1	4	15.4	3	11.5
Irresponsibility	24	92.3	2	7.7	0	0.0
Infertility	25	96.1	1	3.9	0	0.0
Age difference	11	42.3	9	34.6	6	23.1
Loveless marriage	18	69.2	6	23.1	2	7.7

Source: Field survey (2018)

The Table 4.17 illustrates the information gathered on the factors that lead to divorce among spouses in Rwanda on the side of children of divorced parents.

Table 4.17: Factor that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda (Data from Children of Divorced Parents)

Factors	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Prostitution	52	96.3	2	3.7	0	0.0
Women battering	41	75.9	11	20.4	2	3.7
Poverty	53	98.1	0	0.0	1	1.9
Irresponsibility	39	72.2	15	27.8	0	0.0
Loveless marriage	28	51.9	21	38.9	5	9.3

Source: Field survey (2018)

The information gathered from children of divorced parents about the factors that lead to divorce among spouses in Rwanda especially where they live in Ngoma District were prostitution, women battering, poverty, irresponsibility and loveless marriage as indicated by the respondents and summarized in the Table 4.17.

The information collected from employees in interview about the factors that lead to divorce among spouses in Rwanda on the side of divorced parents is presented in the Table 4.18.

Table 4.18: Factor that Lead to Divorce among Spouses in Rwanda (Data from Employees)

Factors	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Prostitution	10	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Neglect by husband	9	90.0	1	10.0	0	0.0
Women battering	10	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Promiscuity	10	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Disease infection	7	70.0	3	30.0	0	0.0
Poverty	10	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Loss of sexual desire	8	80.0	2	20.0	0	0.0
Irresponsibility	6	60.0	4	40.0	0	0.0
Infertility	10	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Age difference	6	60.0	2	20.0	2	20.0
Loveless marriage	10	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Source: Field survey (2018)

The results obtained from employees as illustrated in the table above indicates that the most respondents agreed that the factors that lead to divorced among spouses in Rwanda were prostitution, neglected by husband, women battering, disease infection, poverty, loss of sexual desire, irresponsibility, infertility, age difference and loveless marriage.

4.3.2 Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents

The divorced parents have different consequences on the children in our society; in this study, the level of awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents was one of the objectives to be analyzed in order to capture different ideas from people (divorced parents, children of divorced parents and employees) in Ngoma District.

In collecting data for this objective, the researcher interacted with selected respondents who had full information in order to make decision and achieve the purpose of this study. The researcher also used questionnaire in order to collect data concerning with the level of awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorced parents where the list of questions are provided as appeared in the appendices of this study. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used in data analysis. Data were identified by respondents according to different statements given during the collection of data in Ngoma District.

The views of respondents on the side of divorced parents are summarized and presented in the Table 4.19.

Table 4.19: Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents (Data from Divorced Parents)

Consequences on children of divorced parents	People's awareness of the consequences on children of divorced parents					
	Aware		Don't know		Unaware	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Drop schooling	17	65.4	3	11.5	6	23.1
Lack of care from both parents	20	76.9	2	7.7	4	15.4
Bad behavior	16	61.5	10	38.5	0	0.0
Malnutrition	21	80.8	4	15.4	1	3.8
Teenage pregnancy	24	92.3	2	7.7	0	0.0
Use of drugs	19	73.1	5	19.2	2	7.7
Depression	22	84.6	3	11.5	1	3.8

Source: Field survey (2018)

As provided by divorced parents in the Table 4.19; the consequences on children of divorced parents known by divorcees were drop schooling, lack of care from both parents, bad behavior, malnutrition, teenage pregnancy, use of drugs and depression.

The views of respondents on the side of children of divorced parents are illustrated in the Table 4.20.

Table 4.20: Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents (Data from Children of Divorced Parents)

Consequences on children of divorced parents	People's awareness of the consequences on children of divorced parents					
	Aware		Don't know		Unaware	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Drop schooling	51	94.4	3	5.6	0	0.0
Lack of care from both parents	49	90.7	0	0.0	5	9.3
Street children	50	92.6	2	3.7	2	3.7
Malnutrition	41	75.9	10	18.5	3	5.6
Teenage pregnancy	39	72.2	14	25.9	1	1.9
Use of drugs	48	88.9	6	11.1	0	0.0
Depression	54	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Source: Field survey (2018)

On the side of children of divorced parents; the consequences on children of divorced parents were disclosed as drop schooling, lack of care from both parents, street children, malnutrition, teenage pregnancy, use of drugs and depression.

The views of employees in charge of social development are summarized in the following table according as they are aware of the consequences on children of divorced parents.

Table 4.21: Awareness of People on the Consequences of Children of Divorced Parents (Data from Employees)

Consequences on children of divorced parents	Aware	
	Frequency	Percentage
Drop schooling	10	100.0
Lack of care from both parents	10	100.0
Bad behavior	10	100.0
Street children	10	100.0
Mood swings and irritability	10	100.0
Malnutrition	10	100.0
Teenage pregnancy	10	100.0
Use of drugs	10	100.0
Depression	10	100.0
Trouble with relationships	10	100.0

Source: Field survey (2018)

As disclosed by employees who participated in this research; the consequences on children of divorced parents are drop schooling, lack of care from both parents, bad behavior, street children, mood swings and irritability, malnutrition, teenage pregnancy, use of drugs, depression and trouble with relationships.

4.2.3 The Type of Life Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children in Ngoma District

The full list of rights for children is set out in the United Nations Convention on the right of the child. The most accepted standard on children's rights in the world. Ireland committed to promote children's rights when it signed up to the convention in 1992.

This section intends to disclose the type of life children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children; the researcher used list of questions and the

respondents were required to give the types of life children of divorced parents held in terms of essential rights as children. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used in data analysis where SPSS was used in calculating frequency and percentage appeared in the table.

Some of rights of children are: 1) Child has the right of shelter from parents, 2) Child has the right for clothing by his/her parents, 3) Child has the right to expect that both parents will follow through with the child's residential plan, 4) Child has the right to both parents being had foods, 5) Child has the right to be protected from abuse, 6) Freedom from having to take over the parental responsibility for making custody and visitation decisions and Right to be with their parents or guardian, 7) Being free of conflict between the parents and having Peace and harmony, 8) Child has the right to be financially supported by both parents. And 9) Children have the right to attend the school.

Table 4.22: Type of Life of Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children (Data from Divorced Parents)

Type of Life of children for divorced parents	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentag	Percentag	Frequency	Percentag	
Drop out	14	53.8	10	38.5	2	7.7
Lack of basic education	9	34.6	15	57.7	2	7.7
Malnutrition	19	73.1	3	11.5	4	15.4
Lack of shelter	24	92.3	0	0.0	2	7.7
Living in Street	18	69.2	2	7.7	6	23.1
Teenage pregnancy	21	80.8	1	3.8	4	15.4

Source: Field survey (2018)

The information collected about the type of life children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children are analyzed below according to the information provided by divorced parents in Ngoma District.

As illustrated in the above table from the information provided by divorced parents; the life of children of divorced parents is characterized by drop out, malnutrition, lack of shelter, living in street and teenage pregnancy. These were obtained by considering at least fifty percent of agreed respondents on the statement.

The data gathered about the type of life children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children are summarized in the table below according to the answers of children of divorced parents;

Table 4.23: Type of Life of Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children (Data From Children of Divorced Parents)

Type of Life of children for divorced parents	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Drop out	28	51.9	20	37.0	6	11.1
Lack of basic education	31	57.4	9	16.7	14	25.9
Malnutrition	29	53.7	12	22.2	13	24.1
Lack of shelter	41	75.9	13	24.1	0	0.0
Living in Street	36	66.7	10	18.5	8	14.8
Teenage pregnancy	39	72.2	11	20.4	4	7.4

Source: Field survey (2018)

As shown in the table, children of divorced parents disclosed their life, which is characterized by drop out, lack of basic education, malnutrition, lack of shelter, living in street and teenage pregnancy. These were proved by the percent of their answers in the Table 4.23.

The information collected from employees in charge of social development about the type of life children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children are summarized in the Table 4.24.

Table 4.24: Type of Life of Children of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children in Ngoma District (Data from Employees)

Type of Life of children for divorced parents	Agree		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Drop out	10	100.0	0	0.0
Lack of basic education	9	90.0	1	10.0
Malnutrition	8	80.0	2	20.0
Lack of shelter	10	100.0	0	0.0
Living in Street	10	100.0	0	0.0
Teenage pregnancy	9	90.0	1	10.0

Source: Field survey (2018)

The results shown in the Table 4.24 indicates that 100% of respondents agreed that the type of life of children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District is characterized by drop out, lack of shelter and living in street while 90% stated lack of basic education and teenage pregnancy and finally, 80% said malnutrition.

4.2.4 The Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District

The information collected on the field (Ngoma District) on this objective was based on the impact of divorce on children welfare where there are many impacts of divorce on children welfare some of them provided by respondents (divorced parents and employees in charge of social development) in Ngoma District during data collection were careless of children, children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families, the result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage, and divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults.

The data collected about the impact of divorce on children welfare on the side of divorced parents are presented and analyzed in the Table 4.25.

Table 4.25: Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District (Data from Divorced Parents)

The impact of divorce on children welfare	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Careless of children	17	65.4	0	0.0	9	34.6
Children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families.	20	76.9	4	15.4	2	7.7
The result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage	24	92.3	1	3.8	1	3.8
Divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults	25	96.2	1	3.8	0	0.0

Source: Field survey (2018)

The information presented in the table above shows that the impact of divorce on children welfare are careless of children, Children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families. The result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage. And finally, Divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults.

The information gathered from employees interacted with researcher about the impact of divorce on children welfare are summarized in the Table 4.26.

Table 4.26: Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District (Data from Employees)

The impact of divorce on children welfare	Agree		Disagree	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Careless of children	8	80.0	2	20.0
Children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families.	10	100.0	0	0.0
The result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage	10	100.0	0	0.0
Divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults	10	100.0	0	0.0

Source: Field survey (2018)

The employees who participated in this study agreed that the impact of divorce on children welfare are careless of children. Children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families. The result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage. And finally, Divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

The general objective of the study was to assess the effect of divorces by parents on children welfare. For achieving the objectives of the study, different methods and techniques are used; Interviews and questionnaires were utilized to establish the opinions of the participants. A sample size of 80 respondents (including 26 divorced parents and 54 children of divorced parents) was selected from the total population by systematic sampling technique while 10 employees were taken as whole.

The research was based on the following specific objectives:

- (i) Determine factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda
- (ii) Awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda
- (iii) Examine the type of life children of divorced parents lead in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District
- (iv) Assess the impact of divorce on children welfare in Ngoma District

5.2 Summary of Findings

5.2.1 The Factors that Lead to Divorce of Spouses in Rwanda

The information gathered from Ngoma District from divorced parents, children of divorced parents and employees in charge of social development summarized in Table 4.16, 4.17 and 4.18 respectively stated that the most of them agreed with prostitution,

loss of sexual desire, loveless marriage, poverty, promiscuity, irresponsibility, age difference and infertility were the factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda.

These are almost complimentary with those disclosed by Thomas G. Papps (2012) where he stated that the reasons of divorce are Sexual problems, financial problems, loss of respect, cultural differences, age differences, in-laws, children, and community roots. And Alison C.-S. & Cornelia B. (2007) stated that a review of the history of divorce makes it clear that the high divorce rate is due to complex social, cultural, demographic and economic changes that were the cause of divorce law reform.

In our research done at Ngoma District, the results show that the factors that lead to continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda are prostitution, loss of sexual desire, loveless marriage, poverty, promiscuity, irresponsibility and infertility. The National Executive Secretary of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Hagurukain 1991 provided the following information on Rwandan divorces:

There are conditions under which a woman can legally obtain from a Rwandan court a divorce or legal separation. In accordance with the provisions of Article 237 of Law 42/1988 of 27/10/1988 establishing the Preliminary Title and Book One of the (Rwandan) Civil Code (loi n° 42/1988 du 27/10/1988 portant titre préliminaire et livre premier du Code civil), either spouse may seek a divorce on the following grounds: Conviction for an offence that brings considerable disgrace, Adultery, Excess, physical violence or serious injury, Refusal to help with the main household chores, Abandoning the marital home for more than 12 months, and De facto separation of three or more years.

5.2.2 Awareness of Spouses on the Consequences of Children of Divorces Parents in Rwanda

In summary, people interacted with researcher were aware of consequences on children of divorced parents as illustrated in Table 4.19, 4.20 and 4.21 which were drop schooling, lack of care from both parents, bad behavior, street children, mood swings and irritability, malnutrition, teenage pregnancy, use of drugs, depression and trouble with relationships.

From the views of respondents of Ngoma District, the researcher compared with what other researcher disclosed about the awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents; Andrew Root (2010) stated that children do not belong to the family because they have chosen to trust it. Children do not belong by choice, but by being-by being the very creation of the union of mother and father. The child, on the other hand is not able to leave, for his or her being and acting in the world are wrapped up in this now condemned structure called family.

Alison C.-S. & Cornelia B. (2007) found that if a couple has children, their adapting to the new demand of becoming single parents is a critical task of separation. Parents need to coordinate their schedules, transfer the children between them and arrange the myriad details that pertain to the daily care of the children.

One of the most difficult changes that parents must accept is the loss of some of their influence over their children because they will not be able to control the type and quality of interactions between the children and the other parent.

5.2.3 The Type of Children Life of Divorced Parents Leads in Terms of Essential Rights as Children in Ngoma District

The researcher found that in Table 4.22, 4.23 and 4.24 are summarized as drop out, lack of shelter and living in street, lack of basic education and teenage pregnancy and malnutrition characterized the children life of divorced parents lead in term of essential right as children in Ngoma District.

The research of Craig Everett (2014) revealed that divorce can be framed as complicating family growth, rather than permanently damaging family members. Many parents do not seek therapy during the actual crisis precipitated by the separation. Some years later, after the family has seemingly destabilized, a youngster may develop stage-related difficulties. For example a child who experienced parental divorce as a preschooler may not be viewed as a problem until school performance falls below the child's measured abilities.

In addition, Patrick and Aaronin (2012) wrote on the effects of divorce on children where they said that Divorce damages society. It consumes social and human capital. It diminishes children's future competence in all five of society's major tasks or institutions: family, school, religion, marketplace and government. The reversal of the cultural and social status of divorce would be nothing less than a cultural revolution. Only a few generations ago, American culture rejected divorce as scandalous. Today, law, behavior, and culture embrace and even celebrate it. Divorce also permanently weakens the family and the relationship between children and parents. It frequently leads to destructive conflict management methods, diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or

femininity for young adults. In our study, we have clearly disclosed that the type of life children of divorced parents is characterized by lack of shelter, drop out teenage pregnancy and children live in street.

5.2.4 The Impact of Divorce on Children Welfare in Ngoma District

The impacts of divorce on children welfare in Ngoma District are disclosed by respondents both divorced parent and employees are agreed as follow (Table 4.25 and 4.26); children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families, result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage. divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults and careless of children characterized welfare of divorced parents children. Therefore, the fourth objective has achieved.

However, Terry D.,Pezzot-P. & John Pearce (2004) in their research stated that the impact of divorce is influenced by several factors, including parental absence, economic disadvantage and family conflict. Children exhibit better adjustment after parental death than divorce. In their reactions to separations, infants may experience language and gross motor delays, while preschoolers may be upset initially but then experience variable long term effects. Young school age children may regress and have many intense feelings, including sadness and anger. Older school age children can have a compromised sense of identity and compensate for feeling of powerlessness by engaging in activities where they can develop a sense of mastery. Teenagers and young adults may have difficulties with heterosexual relationships.

In the study of Barry D. Ham done in 2003 found that children whose parents divorced skipped nearly 60 percent more class periods than children from intact families. Girls appeared to be more affected than boys. While Yongmin Sun and Yuanzhang Li in 2009 stated that lack of family transitions after divorce does not eliminate the effect of the divorce on student academic performance, but it does provide their performance in math and social studies a certain degree of protection, compared to students who live in unstable families with multiple family transitions.

However, this study makes clear the effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare due to the information presented in this chapter and the disclosing of other researchers during their study about the divorced parents and children welfare with reference to Ngoma District where the research was carried out.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This study assessed the effect of divorces by parents on children welfare with a case study of Ngoma District. This chapter presents the conclusion and recommendation taken after the research done.

6.2 Conclusion

It was found that even if divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage, it can lead children to difficulty life when they need care from both parents and it can cause drop out and street children in our society. It is affecting children lives and the consequences are lifelong. Although most children from divorced parents suffer long-term consequences, some children may experience difficulties in adolescence, such as mental health problems, substance abuse, delinquency, and teenage pregnancy. Problems may even persist into adulthood, as they tend to have more economic, emotional, health, and relationship problems.

The results extracted from different tables presented above on the objectives of the study indicated that: the most of them agreed with prostitution, loss of sexual desire, loveless marriage, poverty, promiscuity, irresponsibility, age difference and infertility were the factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda.

People interacted with researcher were aware of consequences on children of divorced parents as illustrated in Table 4.19, 4.20 and 4.21 which were drop schooling, lack of care from both parents, bad behavior, street children, mood swings and irritability,

malnutrition, teenage pregnancy, use of drugs, depression and trouble with relationships.

The researcher found that in Table 4.22, 4.23 and 4.24 are summarized as drop out, lack of shelter and living in street, lack of basic education and teenage pregnancy and malnutrition characterized the children life of divorced parents lead in term of essential right as children in Ngoma District

The researcher found that in Table 4.22, 4.23 and 4.24 are summarized as drop out, lack of shelter and living in street, lack of basic education and teenage pregnancy and malnutrition characterized the children life of divorced parents lead in term of essential right as children in Ngoma District

The impacts of divorce on children welfare in Ngoma District are disclosed by respondents both divorced parent and employees are agreed as follow (Table 4.25 and 4.26); children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families, result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage. divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults and careless of children characterized welfare of divorced parents children. Therefore, the fourth objective has achieved.

The researcher concludes that the clarification of the effects of divorce on children welfare was highly disclosed during this study with preference to Ngoma District

chosen as case study. The research objectives and questions were achieved and answered during this research.

6.3 The Recommendations

In order to reduce the divorced and its effects, it is recommended the following parts (government, Local leaders, religious institution, spouses on marriage and respective responsibilities to their offspring and Social workers and related stakeholders interested in children and related welfare) to intervene as follows:

6.3.1 Recommendations to the Government

The following recommendations are provided to government:

The government of Rwanda should mobilize people about the effect of divorce in order to be aware and care their families. The government of Rwanda should train people about the relationship among the spouses and couples who wish to get marriage in order to prevent the divorce.

The government of Rwanda should help children of divorced parents who were in bad life for their education. The government of Rwanda should make a law which punishing married people who prostitute instead of looking the development of their family.

6.3.2 Recommendations to Parents

The parents should ensure that the rights of the children are protected by both parents (mothers and fathers) in order to make her/him mature enough. The parents should help their children financially and morally in order to develop their sociability.

6.3.3 To Social Workers

Social workers and related stakeholders should interact with married people who want to divorce and tell them that divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults because they may respect their relationship and then refuse to divorce.

Social workers and related stakeholders should create the organizations which care about the children of divorce in order to integrate them in society and develop their career of education even their maturity.

6.3.4 To the Judiciary

The judiciary should punish people who do not care about their children when they divorced in order to protect the right of the children.

6.3.5 To the Police

In order to prevent divorce and to protect the rights of children; it better to teach and advise police to interact with people in order to assess the cause behind their divorce and search the sustainable solution.

6.3.6 To the Local Leaders

The local leaders are recommended to solve conflicts between married people in order to avoid prostitution and to remind spouses their responsibilities in the social development of their family. Local leaders should prevent dropout of all kinds of children in order to educate children and develop community.

6.3.7 To Religious Institution

The following recommendations should be given to the religious institution:

The religious institution should preach married people how to care their family and their relationship among their living. The religious institution should mobilize people to join them for respecting law of God our creator.

6.3.8 To Spouses on Marriage and Respective Responsibilities to their Offspring

People should make sure and decide if their children will be well living after their divorce and the children should have their rights after divorce of their parents. Spouses on marriage should avoid disease infection by consulting medical doctor immediately in case the disease occurred.

The researcher suggests that as the assessment of the effect of divorces by parents on children welfare done, the further researchers should examine the relationship between divorce and poverty in society.

REFERENCES

- Amato P, & Keith, B. (1991). *Parental divorce and the well-being of children: a meta-analysis*. Psychological Bulletin, New York: Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Arkes, J. (2015), The Temporal Effects of Divorces and Separations on Children's Academic Achievement and Problem Behavior. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 56(1). 71-85.
- Barry, D. H. (2003). The Effects of Divorce on the Academic Achievement of High School Seniors, *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 38(3). 45-57.
- Benokraitis, N.V. (2005). *Marriages and families: Changes, choices and constraints*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Cochran, W. G. (2009). *Planning and Analysis of Observational Studies; Volume 232 of Wiley Series in Probability and Statistics*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Cohen, G. J. (2002). *Helping Children and Families deal with Divorce and Separation*. American Academy of Paediatrics
- Consuelo, G., & Sevilla, B. (2007). *Research methods*; Florentino St. Quezon City: Rex Printing Company, Inc.
- David, S., & Marlene, M. (2006). *Key Ideas in Educational Research, Continuum Research Methods Series, 1st edition*. London: A&C Black.
- Fagan, P. F., Aaron, C., & Rector, E. (2012). *Effects of Divorce on Children, Marriage Research*. Washington, DC: marriage & Religion Research Institute.
- Frank, F. F. & Kathleen, E. K. (2001). Delayed Parental Divorce: How Much Do Children Benefit? *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 3(2), 56-67.
- Geronimo, L. G., Evelyn L. G., & McDonald, D. B. (2000), *Research Methods and Technical Writing in Agriculture*, 1st ed.; Rex Book Store, Inc. Florentino City

- Golden, L., & Henderson, P. (2007). *Case studies in school counseling*. New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Goldenberg, S. (1992). *Thinking Methodologically*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers Inc.
- Howell, K. E. (2013). *Introduction to the Philosophy of Methodology*. 1st ed. London: Sage Publications.
- http://mineduc.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/Maps/Secondary%20Ordinary%20Level/MAP%20OF%20NGOMA%20DISTRICT.pdf
- Judd C., & McClelland, G. (1989). *Data Analysis; A model comparison approach*, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Kate, G., & Hennessey, D. H. (2010). *Global Marketing* 3rd ed. London: Cengage Learning Publication.
- Kenneth, B. (2008). *Methods of Social Research*, (4th Ed.) Simon and Schuster publisher New York
- Kyrre B., & Dan, O. (2006). Adolescent's Adjustment in Four Post-Divorce Family Structures: Single Mother, Stepfather, Joint Physical Custody and Single Father Families, *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 44(3), 34-45.
- Landucci, N. M. (2008). *The Impact of Divorce on Children: What School Counselors Need to Know*: (5th ed.) New York: American Psychological Association.
- Lisa A. K. (2004). *Race, Family Structure, and Wealth: The Effect of Childhood Family on Adult Asset Ownership*. California: Sociological Perspectives 47Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA.
- Marlow, Christine R. (2010), *Research Methods for Generalist Social Work*; Sw 388r 1-*Research Methods I Series*, 5th ed., Knoxville: Cengage Learning publisher.

- Matthew, G., & Bruce, C. (2008). *Relationship breakdown and the economic welfare of Australian Mothers and their children* (Crawford School of Economics and Government, The Australian National University,
- McKinley, & James, C., Oxford (1998). AIDS Prolongs War Devastation in Rural Rwanda. London: New York Times.
- Monogamy vs. Polygyny in Rwanda: Round 1 -The White Fathers Round 2 - The 1994 Genocide Digital Commons, Nebraska. England
- Neuman, W. L. (1997). *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative approaches*. 4thed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Ngoma District DDP (2013). *District Development Plan (2013-2018) final*, Ngoma District
- Olaniyi A. A., & State (2015). *Analytical Study of the Causal Factors of Divorce in African Homes* 5(14), 2015, Research on Humanities and Social Sciences, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria.
- Onofrio, B. M., Turkheimer E. N., Emery R. E., Maes H. H., Silberg, J., & Eaves, L. J. (2011). A Children of Twins Study of parental divorce and offspring psychopathology. *Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry* Rockville Pike, 3(1), 44-57.
- Pierret, C. R. (2001). *The Effect of Family Structure on Youth Outcomes in the NLSY97*. In: Michael RT, editor. *Social Awakening: Adolescent Behavior as Adulthood Approaches*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Schmieding, F. (2014). *Marital status and nuptiality, Fourth Population and Housing Census, Rwanda, 2012*, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) [Rwanda],

- Sen B. (2000), *How important is anticipation of divorce in married women's labor supply decisions?* An intercohort comparison using NLS data. *Economics Letters*.
- Singh, Y. K. (2010). *Research Methodology*; APH Publishing, New Delhi: Balaji Offset, Navin Shahdara.
- Smith, H. (1999), *Children, feelings and divorce*. London: Free Association Books publication,
- Tami, M. Vi. (2002). The Effects of Parent-Adolescent Relationships and Parental Separation on Adolescent Well-being, *Journal of Marriage and Family* 6(4), 78-89.
- Thompson, C. L., & Rudolph, L. B. (2000). *Counseling Children*. 5thed. Brooks/Cole. United States of America.
- Timothy G. G., & Harry, T. V. (2007). *Sampling Strategies for Natural Resources and the Environment*, Chapman & Hall/CRC Applied Environmental Statistics, New York: CRC Press, Wiley & Sons.
- Vander, V., Spruijt, E., Goede, M., Maas, C., & Meeus, W. (2005). Family structure and problem behavior of adolescents and young adults: A growth curve study. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 34(2), 120-141.
- Wallerstein, J. (2005). Growing up in the divorced family. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 33(4), 401-418.
- Yongmin, S. & Yuanzhang, L. (2009). Post divorce Family Stability and Changes in Adolescents' Academic Performance: A Growth-Curve Model, *Journal of Family Issues* 30, no. 11 Mansfield, Rockville, Maryland.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The time frame and Budget table

The following table illustrates time frame and budget of this research in order to achieve the objectives of the study.

1. Time Frame for doing the research

Activity/ Task	Time from 2017 to August 2018				
	October 2017	December 2017	May and June 2018	July and August 2018	September 2018
Research proposal					
Data collection					
Data analysis and discussion, summary, conclusion and recommendations					
Report writing and submission					

Source: researcher (2017)

2. Budget Frame of the research

Item	Costs (Rwf)
1. Data collection:	
Research fees	100,000
Transport charges	150,000
Internet payments	50,000
Photocopy	50,000
2. Report writing:	
Printing	50,000
Binding	10,000
Other expenses	200,000
Total	610,000

Appendix 2: Tools used on the field

Esther BUSINGYE

The Open University of Tanzania (OUT)

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Department of Sociology and Social Work

MSc of Social Work

Tel: 0783757005

Date: 15th June 2018

To: Mayor of Ngoma District

Ref: Requesting permission of accessing research information

Dear sir,

I am writing this letter for requesting the permission of accessing information for academic purpose in your district.

In actually, I am student at The Open University of Tanzania (OUT), as required by academic, I am doing research on the subject entitled as “The effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare: the case of Ngoma District”. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, I kindly request you the permission of gathering information concerned with my research in your district. The information collected will be used for academic purpose, it will be kept with almost secretly.

Thank you for your best response

Esther BUSINGYE

1. QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction letter

Dear Sir/Madam

This is to inform you that I am requesting you the assistance in answering the questions attached; I am finalist Post Graduate at The Open University Of Tanzania (OUT), in Faculty Of Arts And Social Sciences and Department Of Sociology And Social Work. I am doing a research on the subject entitled as “The effects of divorce by parents on the children welfare with case study of Ngoma District”.

For achieving the objectives of this study; you are required to answer the questions attached on this letter. Feel free in providing your answers because this research is used in academic research only.

Thanks for your collaboration in this research

Esther BUSINGYE

**QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSED TO THE EMPLOYEES OF NGOMA
DISTRICT WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN
NGOMA DISTRICT**

Instructions

Responding in right place where multiple questions are provided; put a tick in the box or circles the right answer. If no choice provided more clarification is required, please answer the questions accordingly in the space provided.

A. DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA (CASE STUDY)

1. Talk briefly about Ngoma District (historical background, location and population)

.....
.....

B. IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

1. Select age group you belong in:

a) 16-25 ☐

b) 26-35 ☐

c) 36-45 ☐

d) 46-55 ☐

e) 56-75 ☐

- 2 State your gender

a) Male ☐

b) Female ☐

3. Select your marital status

- a) Single
- b) Married
- c) Divorced
- d) Widow(er)

4. Select your education Level

- a) Illiterate
- b) Primary school
- c) Secondary level
- d) University A1
- e) University A0
- f) Masters

C. PROFILE OF DATA

Use 1. For strongly agree, 2. For agree, 3. For undecided, 4. For disagree and 5. For strongly disagree

1. The factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda

	1	2	3	4	5
Does prostitution lead to continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda?					
Is spending amount of money for the family of spouse caused divorce in Rwanda?					
Does conflicts in between married people lead to continued divorce in Rwanda?					
Does leaving family without the causes lead to continued divorce of spouse in Rwanda?					
Do believes in clan lead to continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda?					
Is job for one partner caused continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda?					

2. The level of awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda

	1	2	3	4	5
Does spouses know that divorced children lost education?					
Spouses do not know that children of divorces parents have not care from both parents					
Are spouses knew the role of having both parents due to the divorced parents?					
Dospouses know that street children are the consequences of divorced parents?					
The application of Umugorobaw'ababyeyi helped to discuss the consequences of divorced parents					

3. The type of life children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District

	1	2	3	4	5
Drop out for children of divorced parents may determine the life of children in terms of essential rights missed					
Consuming drugs for children is the life of divorced parents' children.					
Parents' care can be essential right of divorced parents' life children.					
Does nutrition for life children of divorced parents be the one missing essential right as children?					

4. The impact of divorce on children welfare in Ngoma District

	1	2	3	4	5
Does divorce influence careless of children?					
Does divorce cause malnutrition for children?					
Is divorce influenced drop out of children for some children?					
Children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families.					
The result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage					
Divorce frequently leads to destructive conflict management methods					
Divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults					

Thanks for your good collaboration!

Esther BUSINGYE

5. QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSED TO DIVORCED PARENT IN NGOMA DISTRICT

Instructions

Responding in right place where multiple questions are provided; put a tick in the box or circles the right answer. If no choice provided more clarification is required, please answer the questions accordingly in the space provided.

A IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

Select age group you belong in:

- a) 16-25 ☐
- b) 26-35 ☐
- c) 36-45 ☐
- d) 46-55 ☐
- e) 56-75 ☐

State your gender

- a) Male ☐
- b) Female ☐

Select your education Level

- a) Illiterate ☐
- b) Primary school ☐
- c) Secondary level ☐
- d) University A1 ☐
- e) University A0 ☐

f) Masters

B PROFILE OF DATA

Use 1. For strongly agree, 2. For agree, 3. For undecided, 4. For disagree and 5. For strongly disagree

1. The factors that lead to divorce of spouses in Rwanda

	1	2	3	4	5
Is prostitution lead to continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda?					
Is spending amount of money for the family of spouse caused divorce in Rwanda?					
Does conflicts in between married people lead to continued divorce in Rwanda?					
Does leaving family without the causes lead to continued divorce of spouse in Rwanda?					
Do believes in clan lead to continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda?					
Is job for one partner caused continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda?					

2. The level of awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda

	1	2	3	4	5
Does spouses know that divorced children lost education?					
Spouses do not know that children of divorces parents have not care from both parents					
Are spouses knew the role of having both parents due to the divorced parents?					
Do spouses know that street children are the consequences of divorced parents?					

3. The type of life children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District

	1	2	3	4	5
Drop out for children of divorced parents may determine the life of children in terms of essential rights missed					
Consuming drugs for children is the life of divorced parents' children.					
Parents' care can be essential right of divorced parents' life children.					
Does nutrition for life children of divorced parents be the one missing essential right as children?					

4. The impact of divorce on children welfare in Ngoma District

	1	2	3	4	5
Does divorce influence careless of children?					
Does divorce cause malnutrition for children?					
Is divorce influenced drop out of children for some children?					
Children of divorce are more likely to experience injury, asthma, and headaches than children from intact families.					
The result of parental divorce shapes children emotionally and may impact self-esteem, future relationships, dating and marriage					
Divorce frequently leads to destructive conflict management methods					
Divorce diminished social competence and for children, the early loss of virginity, as well as diminished sense of masculinity or femininity for young adults					

Thanks for your good collaboration

Esther BUSINGYE

4. Interview guide

1. Age group
2. Gender.....
3. Education Level
4. The factors that lead to continued divorce of spouses in Rwanda
5. The level of awareness of spouses on the consequences of children of divorces parents in Rwanda
6. The type of life children of divorced parents leads in terms of essential rights as children in Ngoma District
7. The impact of divorce on children welfare in Ngoma District

Thank you

Esther BUSINGYE

Appendix V: Research Clearance Letter**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA*****DIRECTORATE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES***

P.O. Box 23409
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
<http://www.openuniversity.ac.tz>



Tel: 255-22-
2668992/2668445 ext.2101
Fax: 255-22-2668759
E-mail: dpgs@out.ac.tz

Our Ref: PG201402904Date: 06th December 2019

Mayor, Ngoma District
Kibungo
Rwanda

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE

The Open University of Tanzania was established by an act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1st March 1993 by public notice No. 55 in the official Gazette. The act was however replaced by the Open University of Tanzania charter of 2005, which became operational on 1st January 2007. In line with the later, the Open University mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.

To facilitate and to simplify research process therefore, the act empowers the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania to issue research clearance, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, to both its staff and students who are doing research in Tanzania. With this brief background, the purpose of this letter is to introduce to you **Esther Busingye, Reg No: PG201402904** pursuing **Master Degree of Social Work**. We hereby grant this clearance to conduct a research titled: **“The Effects of Divorce by Parents on the Children Welfare: A Case of Ngoma District”**, she will collect her data in Ngoma District, Rwanda from 10th December 2019 to 7th February 2020.

In case you need any further information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the Open University of Tanzania, P.O. Box 23409, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 022-2-2668820. We lastly thanks you in advance for your assumed cooperation and facilitation of this research academic activity.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Hossea Rwegoshora
For: VICE CHANCELLOR
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA