

**AN ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE ON THE  
PERSISTENCE OF DIVORCED INCIDENTS IN TANZANIA: A CASE OF  
AT KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK  
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**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certifies that he has read and hereby recommends for acceptance to the Open University of Tanzania that this dissertation entitled, “An assessment of Community Perspectives on the persistence of Divorce incidents in Tanzania: A case of Kinondoni Municipality” in a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Master of Social Work of the Open University of Tanzania.

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I, **Kelvin Kalangasa**, declare that the work presented in this dissertation is original. It has never been presented to any other University or Institution. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided. It is in this regard that I declare this work as originally mine. It is hereby presented in fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Social Work (MSW).

.....  
**Signature**

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**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

I passionately dedicate this work firstly, to the Almighty God my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge as well as understanding. I, secondly, dedicate this work to my wife Catherine Mwafuililwa and my children, Ivan Kalangasa, Evans Kalangasa, and Jackline Kalangasa for their unconditional love, encouragement and prayers throughout my journey, who's their encouragement has motivated me to reach this far.

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study aimed to assess the community perspectives on the persistence of divorce incidents in Tanzania: A case of Kinondoni Municipality. The study is guided by three specific objectives: to assess community awareness of the divorce issue, to examine the influence of urbanization on shaping marital dynamics, and to explore the impact of cultural and traditional practices on relationships. The study applied cross-sectional research design and mixed methods approach combining both qualitative and quantitative data. Data collection methods involved the use of questionnaires and interview guides, and analysis performed using both descriptive and narrative methods. sample size of 98 participants, drawn from a total population of 386 divorced in Kinondoni Municipality. Sampling was done using purposive and random techniques to select (75) divorced parents, (07) ward social welfare officers, (05) municipal social welfare officers, (07) religious leaders, and (04) magistrates. Findings revealed that there was high community awareness of the rising divorce rates, with contributing factors identified as unfaithfulness, economic instability, urbanization, domestic violence, lack of intimacy, and infertility. Urbanization was found to significantly influence marital dynamics by introducing new lifestyles, stressors, and exposure to different cultural values. Cultural and traditional influences, such as arranged marriages and rigid gender roles, were also seen as contributing to marital conflicts and eventual divorce, it is recommended that provision of education programs, pre-marital counseling, and further research be conducted to explore the long-term effects of divorce, as well as comparative studies.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATION**

EU	European Union
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
NPS	National Panel survey
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OUT	Open University of Tanzania
RITA	Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency
TAMWA	Tanzania Media Women's Association
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
US	United States
USA	United States of American

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

#### **1.1 Chapter Overview**

This chapter covers the introduction of the study. This study focuses to assess the community perspectives on the persistence of divorce incidents in Tanzania: A case of Kinondoni Municipality. In this chapter consists with a brief in the background of the problem, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, and significance of the study.

#### **1.2 Background of the Study**

Divorce is an individual and social issue becoming a significant source of stress for the parties involved and may sometimes harm everyone (Sears et al 2016). According to this study, Divorce is any formal or informal separation of husband and wife as per established norms and laws of the community. To understand the contemporary the persistence of divorce incidents it is better to examine the historical context in the communities. In recent decades has witnessed a significant divorce incident, a phenomenon that has had sparked considered debate analysis. The concept of persistence divorce is not only a frowned upon but also is considered as social taboo and destroys development in the communities.

Globally, family divorce is becoming a problem of concern in the communities hurting everyone in the neighbourhood, especially married couples, and occasionally generating socioeconomic turmoil (Wolovick, 2018; Mekonnen, Kassa, & Ayalew, 2019). Divorce is a situation where partners get apart from each other. Sometimes

separation of partners is claimed over material possession, jealousy, lack of true love, trust and respect for each other. Others are deemed violent because of social and economic problems, such as beatings and superstitious beliefs based on specific events (Mekonnen, Kassa, & Ayalew, 2019; Olugbenga, 2018; Tolorunleke, 2014). In the communities, different groups are vulnerable and affected by divorce. These groups are unable to understand and process such complex matters of life. The reasons for divorce remain with various groups of people, mainly; children, relatives, and friends closely related to the separated families. The same-day spillover and cross-day contributing factors become more significant, affecting the community. The results underline the significance of distinguishing between the parent-child relationships and show how interdependent, changing, and dynamic patterns of family interactions become more significant in the family as an institution (Gao & Cummings, 2019).

In America, about 50% of Americans are likely to experience marital problems. For instance, about 12% of women and 7% of men are killed by their spouses due to envy (Olga, 2017). However, according to some court judgements, American women kill their husbands when they are hurt at home (Andy, 2021). All these marital problems are mentioned to accelerate to divorce in America. Due to unequal power relations between married couples, most family disputes in affluent nations turn violent (Tasew & Getahun (2021). The U.S divorce rate is among the highest in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, with over one-third Americans in their prime working ages between 25 and 65 years either having divorced or currently divorcing (Mohlatlole, Sithole & Shirindi, 2018). In

Europe, The Star (2020) estimated approximately 3500 divorce rates in Europe, where over 42% (800,000) of marriages end in divorce. In Europe, about 41% of Irish women experience psychological abuse leading to violence in their families and are oppressed by their husbands' family conflicts (Union Fundamental Rights Agency, 2014). Furthermore, the EU reports fewer marriages per 1,000 people in Europe, whereas there were more divorces. Both tendencies, though, appear to have slowed.

In Malaysia, the biggest socio-cultural concern is the rising of divorce rate. The Department of Statistics in Malaysia (2020) reported 50,882 divorce cases in the nation in 2018; in 2019, the department recorded about 56,862 divorce cases as an increase of 12%. Divorce has become as the last option for partners who have frequently domestic disputes. Age was determined to contribute to the divorce rate in Malaysia (Abd Kadir, 2021); in Malaysia partners are allowed to start family at the age of 16. This is not biologically acceptable. Muslims worldwide frequently practice early marriage. Therefore, age contribute to the divorce rate in Malaysia.

In Africa, Divorce has become rampant. The studies report the highest globally, recording 36% of the population. Keith, (2023) asserts that divorce is due to various causes, mainly poverty, drunkenness, post-traumatic stress disorder, and highly traditional gender role beliefs. Low education is also associated with divorce for both women and men, to mention a few. However, in some African areas, the triggers are attributed to the HIV pandemic, unlike Europe and America.

In Tanzania, divorce increase has become a serious issue, and affects many individuals, families and communities. RITA registered Tanzanian divorce rates increased at 49 percent increase in from 2007 to 2009, as a results of gender roles shift, HIV/AIDS awareness increases, and Tanzanians generally become more accepting of single parents. The 2014/15 National Panel Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that the divorce rate has increased from an average of 1.1 percent in 2008/09 to an average of 2.1 percent in 2014/15. This means that for every 100 people of marriageable age in the country, two have been divorced from one in 2008/09. The results of the research published, are in line with those of the 2012 Population and Housing Census, which indicated that 715,447 people were divorced (equal to three people per 100) of marriageable age (NBS, 2015).

Addition to that, statistics shows that up to December 2020, there were 1,847 cases of divorce claims opened in different courts of Dar es Salaam. According to the acting registrar of courts in Dar es Salaam Region, Mustapha Siyani, Kinondoni District is the leading district in having many divorce cases reported in the district and primary courts. A total of 613 cases were opened last year alone, while Ilala district had, a total of 570 divorce cases reported in all its courts, a number that makes the municipality rank second behind Kinondoni municipal, others cases not reported (National Panel Survey, 2021). Reports signify that divorce cases have increased in Tanzania particularly Dar es Salaam region. The Table 1.1 highlights the trend of Dar es Salaam region's district of divorce.

**Table 1.1: Divorces in Dar es Salaam (2020-2022).**

Districts/Years	Kinondoni Dist	Temeke Dist	Ilala Dist.	Ubungo Dist.	Kigamboni Dist	Total/yea
2020	184	177	145	125	98	729
2021	308	296	243	209	163	1219
2022	432	425	341	294	229	1721
Total	924	898	729	628	490	3669

**Source: NPS via Citizens News (2020, 2021, 2022)**

The Table 1.1 show the statistics on divorce for districts of Dar es Salaam region. The statistics show high increase of divorce, from year to year. The total data for the year 2020, 2021, 2022 show that, Kinondoni district had high number of divorced marriages than other districts; with about 924 divorced marriages; followed by Temeke district 898 divorced marriages, Ilala district 729 divorced marriages, Ubungo district 628 divorced marriages and 490 divorced marriages for Kigamboni district. All the same, numerous research studies on family separation conducted by TAMWA (2013); Oswald (2019); Mtaita et al. (2021), assert that divorce is more common at Kinondoni than in other Dar es Salaam districts.

Following the increase of divorce rate in the community, efforts have been put at hand to settle the situation, such as; the Marriage Act 1971, a five-year action plan to lower the rate of divorces by 50 per cent by 2021, traditional and religious leaders, some members of NGOs and social workers are involved in providing education about relationships and marriages to reduce rates of divorces have been put on emphasis. More seemingly, various courts in Tanzania have settled the incidents of family disputes, including that of Magomeni main court has heard incidents of family disputes that escalated into divorce in several communities, particularly in the Kinondoni district. Despite these efforts, the situation has been prevailing. Therefore, the situation calls for this study to assess the increased divorce rates at Kinondoni District.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

In Tanzania, the number of divorces, both registered and unregistered, continues to rise at an alarming rate. Historical data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reveals an increase in divorce rates from 1.1% in 2008/09 to 2.1% in 2014/15 (NBS, 2014). Recent reports further underscore the gravity of the situation, with Citizen News (2022) highlighting that Dar es Salaam alone witnesses an average of 12 divorces daily, amounting to approximately 360 marriages disintegrating each month.

Several studies have attempted to explore the causes and consequences of divorce in Tanzania. For instance, Alphonse et al. (2022) and Zewoldi (2019) identify social and economic challenges, gender role conflicts, and the shifting perception of marriage as contributing factors. Additionally, TAMWA (2013) and Mtaita et al.

(2021) highlight Kinondoni District as a hotspot for divorce cases, citing issues such as infidelity, domestic violence, and financial instability. Despite various efforts, including the enactment of the Marriage Act (1971), the implementation of a five-year action plan to reduce divorces by 50% by 2021, and community education initiatives led by NGOs and social workers, divorce rates continue to rise.

However, a critical gap remains in understanding the underlying causes of the persistent increase in divorce rates, particularly in urban areas like Kinondoni. Existing studies tend to focus on general factors or interventions without addressing specific community dynamics or cultural influences that exacerbate marital instability. Therefore, this study seeks to assess the causes and trends of rising divorce rates in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam, to provide actionable insights for mitigating this growing issue.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

This study is guided by the following objectives

##### **1.4.1 General Objectives**

The general objective of this study is to assess the community perspectives on the persistence of divorce incidents in Tanzania: A case of Kinondoni Municipality with the study population of 386 that were drawn from the wards of kinondoni municipality.

### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

To meet the general objective of study, the researcher was guided by the following specific objectives

- i. To assess the community's awareness of the existence of increased divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality.
- ii. To examine the influence of urbanization in shaping marital dynamics in Kinondoni Municipality.
- iii. To explore the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and the rise in divorce in Kinondoni Municipality.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

To meet the general objective of study, the researcher was guided by the following research questions.

- i. Are the community members in Kinondoni Municipality aware of the increased divorce rates?
- ii. What are the roles of urbanization in contributing to the increased divorce rate in Kinondoni Municipality?
- iii. How do cultural and traditional influences contribute to the increase in divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality?

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study chiefly helps the researchers, other researchers, and the government and policy makers in different ways. Some of them are -

- i. To the researcher of this study, the study may help the researcher to know the trend, causes and impacts of divorce increase in the community. It is possible that, the researcher is not aware on presence of many factors as the contributors of the increased divorce in the country. Therefore, through this research work, the researcher may know how other factors that contribute to divorce. Knowing the factors for increased divorce may help the researcher on how to escape from divorce challenges. The escape from divorce challenges may help the researcher and his family to not be affected by the divorce. Apart from the helping the researcher to know the trend, causes and impacts of divorce increase in the community, the study also will help the researcher to be awarded master's degree of social work of the Open University of Tanzania.
- ii. To other researchers, this research paper will broaden their knowledge and their understanding on causes of increased divorce rate in the community; this may lead them to come up with new research on how to deal with divorce increase in the community, and how they can take measures to engage the individuals, families and communities to reduce the increase of divorces rates and their impacts to the community. Not only that, but this study also allows other researcher to pursue their interests, to learn something new, to hone study problem and to challenge themselves in new ways. On top of that, this research will be a useful reference for the researchers who would plan to make any related study precisely the standard underlying the increased divorced rates in the community.

- iii.** To the government and policymakers, this study may help to understand the proper ways to handle divorce increase issues that affect marriage in the communities. This may help the government to review the marriage laws, policies and regulations used in the social welfare in the communities and whether the rights are violated and victimized by increased rates of divorces in the families and communities. The current divorce law entails that, in essence the courts will only grant a divorce if it is satisfied that the marriage has irretrievably broken down; shown in a number of ways; including proof of adultery, mental or physical inflicted by a spouse on the other or on any children of the marriage. Through this study the government and policy makers may be encouraged to make some reviews.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Chapter Overview**

This chapter consists of different literature review; the literature review based on the general objective of the study. Addition to that, this chapter defines key terminologies of the study (study terminologies), theoretical review, empirical literature review, conceptual framework as well as research gap.

#### **2.2 Definition of Study Key Terms**

This section covers the definitions of conceptual terms including divorce and divorce rate.

##### **2.2.1 Divorce**

Divorce is an individual and social issue becoming a significant source of stress for the parties involved and may sometimes harm everyone (Sears et al., 2016). According to this study, divorce is any formal or informal separation of a husband and wife as per established norms and laws of the community.

##### **2.2.2 Divorce Rate**

The divorce rate is defined as the ratio of the number of divorces to the total number of married couples in a specific population, usually expressed per 1,000 individuals or couples within a given timeframe (Baker-Gibbs, 2020).

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

The study will employ one (1) theory; Attachment theoretical Perspective on Divorce; in following way.

#### **2.3.1 Attachment Theoretical Perspective on Divorce**

This study of an assessment of community perspective on the persistence of divorced incidents in Tanzania; A case of Kinondoni municipality will use the attachment theory that was founded by John Bowlby (26 February 1907 – 2 September 1990). John Bowlby was a British psychologist, psychiatrist, and psychoanalyst born in London. His British psychologist and psychiatrist career started off in the medical direction following his surgeon father. Bowlby studied psychology and pre-clinical sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge, winning prizes for outstanding intellectual performance. During the first six months of WWII, Bowlby worked at the London child guidance clinic in Canonbury, later became a lieutenant colonel. From this experience, Bowlby was able to work with several children at Cambridge who were abandoned from London and separated from their families and nannies. This extended his research on separation that he was focused on pre-war. Bowlby was interested in finding out the patterns of family interaction involved in both healthy and pathological development. He focused on how attachment difficulties were transmitted from one generation to the next. In his development of attachment theory, he proposed the idea that attachment behavior was an evolutionary survival strategy for protecting the infant and loves from predators and separations.

### **2.3.1.1 Arguments of the Theory**

The core arguments in attachment theory are that personal characteristics and marital interaction patterns (socially, economically, culturally and biologically) predict divorce. Either strong or consistent support from an attachment body (partners), combined with trust, encouragement and respect for one's autonomy, and provides the conditions in which one can thrive in marriage. Losing an attachment figure, eliminates these protective functions, and it both creates separation anxiety (divorce) and activates the attachment system. The theory stipulates two important criteria that is trustworthy and respect in marriage. Every individual requires the presence and availability of a trustworthy body who is willing and able to provide enough respect and daily basic needs for the safeness and security of the partner. Again, everyone must be able to maintain trustworthy attachment figure to the partner and collaborate with him or her to maintain a mutually rewarding relationship (Bowlby, 1979). Bowlby added that human beings are happiest and able to organize their ability to best advantage of their marriage when they are confident, when there are trusted persons standing behind them. The attachment theory specifies the characteristics of a trustworthy as it enhances a person's marriage safety and security by providing safety in times of need and security. According to the theory, the one who foster security recognizes and respects the partner's needs and desire for a safe haven and secure base and acts accordingly.

Even if the attachment theory does not particularly outline the factors that contribute to divorce, increase it provides an important foundation for understanding the mechanisms underlying this common increase of divorce in marriages. Attachment

theory provide a foundation for identifying and understanding both intrapersonal and interpersonal processes involved in marital dissolution and post-divorce adjustment. Attachment theory and researchers suggest that everyone needs love, care, and support. When spouses provide favorable conditions for each other economically, socially and biologically each is likely to feel secure and self-reliant, trusting, cooperative, and helpful in dealing with the other, as well as with their spouses. Different to that, spouses who do not provide favorable conditions for each other are likely to be insecurity in their relationship and overwhelmed by feelings of anxiety, hurt, mistrust, anger, resistance to cooperation, and frustrated (Bowlby, 1988).

The attachment theory concludes that, personal characteristics and marital interaction patterns predict divorce. Attachment bonds may be established fairly quickly but are broken slowly (Brown et al., 1980). Regardless of who initiated the divorce, both couple members are likely to be at risk, and the process of detachment is likely to be slow and painful for both.

### **2.3.1.2 Relevance of the Theory**

This theory relates to this study in following ways: On awareness; the theory explains that being aware on the spouse characteristics (wife and husband) and marital interaction patterns (economically, socially and biologically) is very important to predict divorce occurrence (Matemu, 2023). It is better for any individual to have enough time for venting his/her partner's characteristics, to determine how the marriage will be. Knowing the partner's characteristics will decrease the incidences of divorce, though venting is not a guarantee for divorce occurrence. Addition to that, the theory provides an important foundation for

understanding the mechanisms underlying the factors for increased divorce rate in the community. The theory highlighted economic issues, biological, cultural issues, social issues like trustworthiness, love, respect as the factors for divorce cases (Denis, 2022). Therefore, this theory relates with this study.

On top of that, to some extent the theory has explained the way how characteristics and marital interaction patterns (economically, biologically, culturally and social issues) predict divorce. The theory has mentioned the way how social factors, economic and cultural factors lead to the increased divorce rates. The theory mentions that these factors increase divorce through the overwhelmed feelings of anxiety, hurt, mistrust, anger, resistance to cooperation, and frustrations to spouse (Miller, 2023). Therefore, this theory relates with this study. For that reason, through this theory the researcher would know the factors for assessing of community perspective on the persistence divorced incidents of Kinondoni municipality because of perspective of attachment theory of divorce.

## **2.4 Empirical Literature Review**

Nearly every society has faced divorce globally. Numerous studies have been conducted in various countries to analyse divorce incidents. Past studies have been studied in various countries and have employed different methodologies and have obtained different results.

### **2.4.1 Community's Awareness on the Existence of Increased Divorce Rate**

Mohlatlole et al., (2018) conducted a qualitative study exploring factors contributing to divorce among young couples in Lebowakgomo. The study identified sudden

changes in character, poor communication, financial issues, abuse, and infidelity as major drivers of divorce among young couples. Gender-based violence, including physical, verbal, emotional, and financial abuse, can lead to marriage dissolution. A quantitative study utilizing demographic health surveys in Ethiopia found that women who experienced some forms of partner violence had higher odds of divorce compared to their counterparts (Dagneu et al., 2020).

This study emphasizes the influence of abuse, infidelity, and financial issues on divorce incidents. Future research could explore community-specific factors, such as urbanization and cultural dynamics, influencing divorce in Kinondoni Municipality. Freed et al., (2018) argue that the community is aware that the increase of divorce affects children's future life due to unstable egos and unpreparedness to be adults and depend on life experiences. The lifetime of children, whose parents got divorced before they turned twenty-one, their life span is reduced by an average of four years. The mortality rates, for instance, rise particularly when a divorce happens before a child turns four.

This study highlights the community's awareness of divorce's adverse effects on children's life expectancy and mortality rates. Future research could explore how community perceptions in Kinondoni Municipality shape support systems for children affected by divorce.

Dagneu et al., (2020) conducted a study assessing “the factors associated with divorce from first union among women in Ethiopia”. This study used demographic and health survey data which employed a community-based cross-sectional survey

conducted from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The survey used a two-stage stratified cluster sampling technique to obtain a total of 11,646 ever-married women. The results showed that women who experienced some forms of partner violence had higher odds of divorce compared to their counterparts.

This study underscores the impact of partner violence on the likelihood of divorce among women. Future research could investigate similar dynamics influencing divorce incidents of Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania. Spremo, (2020) contends that children's growth depends greatly on their families. Thus, any community is aware of the existence of alterations made as the results of divorce increase after a divorce may have an impact on them. Due to their dependence on their parents and the uncontrollable nature of divorce, children are the sufferer. They cannot forecast the length of time it will take or the result of a divorce, which may involve separating from close relatives, changing school arrangements, moving here and there, changing homes, and changing lifestyles, among other considerations. Children frequently lack the knowledge and abilities to handle the difficulties of divorce. The main barrier that makes it challenging for a youngster to cope with changes in the family effectively is conflicting parent-child connections. Even when parents experience intense emotions, it is preferable to consider children's interests. Therefore, from the above understanding, the researcher finds determining the relationship between divorce and children's development important.

This study highlights the significant impact of divorce on children's development, emphasizing the challenges they face in adapting to family changes. Future research

could explore similar implications of divorce on child development within Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania.

Similarly, a qualitative study by Mweemba and Mann (2020) in Zambia contends that young couples who experienced sexual and physical violence were likely to divorce, and in such cases, the girl's family tends to support divorce. On the other hand, Scott et al., (2013) established that divorce was mainly driven by lack of commitment, infidelity, domestic violence, and substance use. Studies have also found that women experiencing abuse, often linked to factors such as alcohol abuse and male partner violence, are significantly more likely to divorce (Bowlus and Seitz, 2006; Mweemba and Mann, 2020). This study underscores the role of domestic violence, substance abuse, and infidelity in driving divorce. Future research could examine similar factors influencing divorce rates among young couples of Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania.

Parental divorce negatively impacts children in many areas of well-being, and these effects last throughout the child's lifetime (Thabede, 2017; Fearon & Belsky, 2018). Tanzania has devoted efforts to curb the problem of divorce concerning child development. These efforts include the establishment of various policies and Acts. For instance, the Social Welfare Department, Marriage Act 1971, a five-year action plan to lower the rate of divorces by 50 per cent by 2021. Also, traditional and religious leaders and some members of NGOs and social workers have been involved in providing education and support to partners about relationships and marriages to reduce the incidents of divorces. Clark (2013) conducted a multinational study conducted in SSA countries. The study showed that divorced people face challenges

including increased risk of death (ranging from 36% in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to 75% in Kenya) of children from divorced parents. In Ethiopia and Malawi, children whose mothers were in a new union were at a high risk of dying relative to children whose mothers were continuously married.

This study highlights the adverse effects of divorce on child mortality in SSA countries. Future research could investigate similar challenges faced by children of divorced parents of Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania. Suditu (2018) conducted a study from different African countries. The results showed that having divorced parents was associated with a higher risk of under-five mortalities. The remaining surviving children were more likely to be stunted, start school late, and have poor educational attainment compared to children from married parents. Broadly speaking, Zheng, Yuwei, and Ward's (2019) study discovered that the prevalence and use of broadband internet have greatly impacted the likelihood of divorce, and that divorce incidents are higher in regions with lower levels of education and regions with faster rates of wealth rise.

This study emphasizes the link between parental divorce and adverse child outcomes such as under-five mortality and poor educational attainment. Future research could explore similar impacts of divorce on child well-being of Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania. Lund, (2021) conducted a study on the "Impact of Divorce on a Child in the Classroom". The study aimed to understand the impact of divorce on a child in the classroom. The data were collected using questionnaire that was sent to teachers, using qualitative research methods. The participants of the study comprised 25 teachers selected via convenience sampling method. Results showed that parental

separation results from a lack of true love, respect and trust that later accelerate to denial of their welfare, which leads them to become stressed and engage in unwanted behavior in society, such as drunkenness, sexual immorality, armed robbery, becoming drug addicts, abusing substances and many more evils which are against with societal norms and values. The study noted that true love is a challenge in most families as most couples get into marriage due to property wealth. The study concluded that divorce has mostly never been good for anyone involved. Children are the most affected. This study highlights the significant negative impact of parental divorce on children's behavior and well-being, particularly in the classroom setting. Future research could explore how similar factors influence children's educational performance in Tanzania, specifically in Kinondoni Municipality.

#### **2.4.2 The Influence of Urbanization that Contribute to the Marital Dynamic in the Community**

Mohlatlole, Sithole, Shirindi (2017) explored factors contributing to divorce among young couples in Lebowakgomo. The study used a qualitative approach and a case study design. The study used a snowball sampling method where eleven respondents were recruited. Semi-structured interviews were used to collect data where interpretative phenomenological data analysis was employed. The study found that sudden character change, lack of and poor communication, financial problems, abuse and infidelity were associated with divorce among young couples.

This study highlights the key factors contributing to divorce among young couples, including communication issues, financial problems, and abuse. Future research could investigate similar factors influencing divorce in Tanzanian communities,

particularly in Kinondoni Municipality. Malinda (2017) on her study titled “Assessment of Divorce on Child Development in Tanzania: A Case Study of Kinondoni Municipality” asserted that about 273 serious marital conflicts have been reported every three months in Dar es Salaam alone due to the urbanization, the conflict that led to divorce and general family separation. The study found that, there are many factors contributing to the rising divorce incidents, such as cruelty, violence, alcoholism, problems with adaptation, even within cohabiting families, selfishness, infidelity, and other influences on values outside of the homes as well as a lack of role models.

This study emphasizes the various factors contributing to the rising divorce incidents of Kinondoni Municipality, such as violence, alcoholism, and infidelity. Future research could explore the specific impact of urbanization and community support systems on reducing divorce incidents in Tanzania. Saleh and Mukhtar (2015) observed that social media can lead to infidelity and divorce. The study noted that social media usage can adversely strain relationships and lead to divorce when it is viewed as a waste of a couple’s quality time, and when used to access undesirable content. Although social media presents various advantages to individuals, it also comes with various disadvantages for relationships (Konlan, Abdulai, and Ibrahim, 2023). Konlan, Abdulai, and Ibrahim (2023) demonstrated that high dependency on social media has given rise to suspicion, jealousy, and mistrust between couples, straining romantic relationships. This study highlights the negative impact of social media on relationships, emphasizing issues such as infidelity, jealousy, and mistrust

that contribute to divorce. Future research could investigate the role of social media in relationship dynamics and divorce rates in Tanzanian communities.

Similarly, Valenzuela, Halpern, and Katz (2014) showed that using social network sites is negatively correlated with marriage quality and happiness, and positively correlated with experiencing a troubled relationship and thinking about divorce. Similarly, Hamadi, S. (2022) in Iran found a positive relationship between the mobile penetration rate and the divorce rate in both short- and long-term periods. Saleh and Mukhtar (2015) observed that social media can lead to infidelity and divorce. The study noted that social media usage can adversely strain relationships and lead to divorce when it is viewed as a waste of a couple's quality time, and when used to access undesirable content. These studies emphasize the negative impact of social media on relationship quality and the increased likelihood of divorce, highlighting issues such as infidelity, strained communication, and decreased marital satisfaction. Future research could explore the influence of social media usage on divorce incidents in Tanzanian households and its role in shaping marital dynamics.

On a broader perspective, a study by Zheng, Yuwei, and Ward (2019) found that broadband internet penetration and usage have significantly affected the propensity for divorce, and that divorce rates are higher in areas with lower education levels and areas with a higher income growth rate. Similarly, Hamadi, S. (2022) in Iran found a positive relationship between the mobile penetration rate and the divorce incidents in both short- and long-term periods. These studies highlight the influence of technological factors, such as internet and mobile phone penetration, on divorce rates, suggesting that higher technology usage may correlate with higher divorce

rates, particularly in regions with lower education levels and higher income growth. Future research could examine the relationship between technological advancements and divorce rates in Tanzanian communities, particularly in urban areas like Kinondoni Municipality. Mulenga et al., (2023) conducted a study that sought to establish the factors influencing divorce in rural and urban Zambia using the 2018 Zambia Demographic Health Survey dataset. The study made use of descriptive statistics and logistic regression to establish the factors influencing divorce in rural and urban Zambia. The study established that there is a slight difference in the rates of divorce in urban and rural areas with urban areas having 14.8% divorce rate and rural areas having 12.3%. This study provides insight into the divorce rates in both rural and urban Zambia, highlighting a slight difference, with urban areas having a higher divorce rate. Future research could investigate similar urban-rural divorce rate differences in Tanzania, particularly in Kinondoni Municipality, to explore the socio-economic factors contributing to this discrepancy.

Most divorce issues in Tanzania that can be multifaceted. As an area experience urbanization, there are several potential roles that it may play in influencing divorce rates. Here are some roles like, lifestyle changes, cultural shifts, Gender roles and equality (Alphonse et al., 2022). For instance, 44% of women experience partner violence in their lifetime, but most never tell anyone or report their experience. Only 10% seek help in a formal setting. The data from the 20th century indicates a multi-decade rise in parental separation (Damota, 2019). It has been acknowledged as a risk factor for children due to many changes after parents' divorce. No surprise the public feels the same way. Over 80% of individuals in a study of the US felt that

over time. The well-being of children has gotten worse (Freed et al., 2018). Nipashe, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, reported the increased divorce notifying that every hour there is a problem in 13 couple families, the situation that accelerates to divorce. The mentioned reasons included infidelity and alterations in married couples' behavior, growing awareness of women's rights, improvements in women's income and marital sex, and economic issues are some of the primary causes of divorce.

### **2.4.3 Cultural and Traditional Factors Contributes to the Increased of Divorce in the Community**

The Dhaka Tribune, (2022) conducted a study in Bangladesh. The study found that women are victims to various forms of violation and abuse. The forms and intensity of the abuse depend on the circumstances. Physical and mental torture for dowry is also major among other abuses. According to an investigatory report of the Dhaka Tribune, in 2021, a sum of 3703 number of woman and girls were subjected to various forms of violence. Among there 138 females including a minor were subjected to physical torture for illegal dowry demands of the husband or her in-laws and 45 were killed brutally for the same.

This study highlights the severe impact of dowry-related abuse on women in Bangladesh, showing that physical and mental torture, often leading to violence or death, is a significant issue. Future research could examine the prevalence and impact of similar dowry-related abuses in Tanzanian communities, particularly how they contribute to divorce and family dissolution. Ngulya et al (2022) in their study titled “Causes of Divorce among Young Couples: A Phenomenological Study at the Semarang Religious Court” they described that, there are many Cultural and

traditional factors contributes to the increased of divorce in the community such as cruelty, violence, alcoholism, problems with adaptation, even within cohabiting families, selfishness, infidelity, and other influences on values outside of the homes as well as a lack of role models. Also, findings showed that there were various factors that caused divorce among young couples according to mediators' opinions, selfish, unstable emotion, bad communication, and economy. Meanwhile, the young couples said that they filed for divorce because of abuse, infidelity, and unmet needs. The researcher considered exploring the triggers behind persistence divorce incidents in the communities of Tanzania considering the issues mentioned above.

Crivello and Mann, (2020), in their study titled "Young Marriage, Parenthood and Divorce. A Comparative Study in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Zambia" reported that cultural and traditional factors contribute to the persistence of divorce in the community. They added that couple's divorce petitions are submitted due to abuse, infidelity, and unmet demands. The societal standard that applies to women today differs from that of the previous generation when marriage and having children at a young age are the norm. Young couples with limited finances are strained by economic variables such as slow or negative growth and inflationary tendencies. Since everyone's definition of money is unique, financial problems frequently cause marital strife and divorce among young couples. According to data from the Supreme Court's Religious Courts, the most frequent reason for divorce is financial difficulties in the home. Divorce can occur for a variety of reasons. Domestic abuse (KDRT), apostasy or switching religions, polygamy, and other issues are also related to divorce cases. Additionally, divorce might occur in a home since it can be difficult to

keep a husband and wife's relationship harmonious, synergistic, and sustainable (Akbari et al., 2020). Married couples frequently clash over beliefs or ideals. Later, these could develop into arguments that lead to confrontation. The conflict that results from it may culminate in divorce. Because many different things can make a person or partner unhappy in marriage, the causes of divorce are frequently complicated (Bezuidenhout, 2017).

Tarte & Kute (2023) assessed the “causes of increasing divorce rates in India”. The study posits that there is rising divorce rates in India that represent a remarkable departure from traditional cultural norms and values that have long upheld the sanctity and endurance of marriage. Shifts in societal attitudes toward gender roles, individualism, and personal happiness have challenged traditional notions of marital permanence. Different generations may have varying views on marriage and divorce. Younger generations may be more open to divorce as they adopt new social norms, while older generations may have more conservative views that discourage divorce.

This study underscores the shifting societal attitudes in India, where changing gender roles, individualism, and personal happiness are contributing to the persistence of divorce incidents. Future research could explore how similar generational shifts and evolving social norms are influencing divorce incidents in Tanzania, especially in urban and rural areas. Makwanise & Masuku, (2016) on their study titled “African Traditional Views on Divorce: A Case of the Ndebele in the Vukuzenzele Ward” they explained that marriage is seen as a social institution in the sociological perspective on divorce. Therefore, family partners, especially husband and wife, must live together for the benefit of their children. On the contrary, they go astray by

departing from each other, going beyond the agreed principles of living together as husband and wife. The justification is that getting married early and becoming unprepared puts couples at risk for various issues that could end in divorce. Financial stress and consequent divorce are frequently caused by inter-family rivalry and couples who overspend. A partner might, for instance, want to drive an automobile that the couple can not afford since friends or neighbors already own one.

This study highlights the impact of early marriages, financial stress, and inter-family rivalry on divorce within the Ndebele community. Future research could investigate how these factors influence divorce incidents in Tanzanian communities, particularly among younger couples and those facing financial pressures. Similarly, a study conducted in Ethiopia by Asfaw and Alene (2023) found that completing secondary education increased the odds of marital dissolution compared to having no formal education. Similarly, in Ethiopia Dagneu et al., (2020) aimed to estimate the prevalence of divorce from the first union and its predictors among reproductive-age women. The study used the 2016 Ethiopia demographic and health survey data for this analysis. A total of 11,646 ever-married women were included in the analysis. Bivariate and multivariable logistic regression was done to identify the determinants of divorce from the first marriage. A p-value  $<0.05$  was used to declare statistical significance. Results indicated that about 25% (95%CI: 23.4% - 26.6%) ever-married women were divorced from their first marital relationships.

This study underscores the significant role of education and demographic factors in marital dissolution, with a higher likelihood of divorce among women with secondary education. Future research could explore how education and other socio-

economic factors contribute to divorce rates in Tanzanian marriages, particularly in rural and urban contexts.

## **2.5 Research Gap**

Divorce has become a final solution for partners with ongoing domestic disputes. Reviewed literature works, evident that the problem of divorce in communities is a worldwide phenomenon that affects different families at different times and occasions. In Tanzania and all over the world, the rates of divorces have been rising, predominately affecting family members and other spheres of development in life. Given this situation, various studies reviewed by various scholars have centered on. For example, Reuben et al., 2020; Goldman et al., 2020; Damota, 2019; Ezekiel et al., 2017; Gwanyemba et al., 2016 found several issues that relate directly with the causes of divorce. They have mentioned issues like abuse, infidelity, unmet demands, cruelty, violence, alcoholism, and problems with adaptation as the causes of divorce in marriage. On that note, they alerted the government to develop and implement programs to decrease the incident of divorce. But the result has become different, instead of the divorce incidents to decrease; the rate is increasing at high speed. Having reviewed the current literature, it has been observed that scant literature on divorce incidents exist in the Tanzanian context. Therefore, this study will fill the gap of the perspective in divorce incidents specifically of Kinondoni Municipality. The findings from this study will add knowledge to practitioners, policy makers, the theories and to the body of literature.

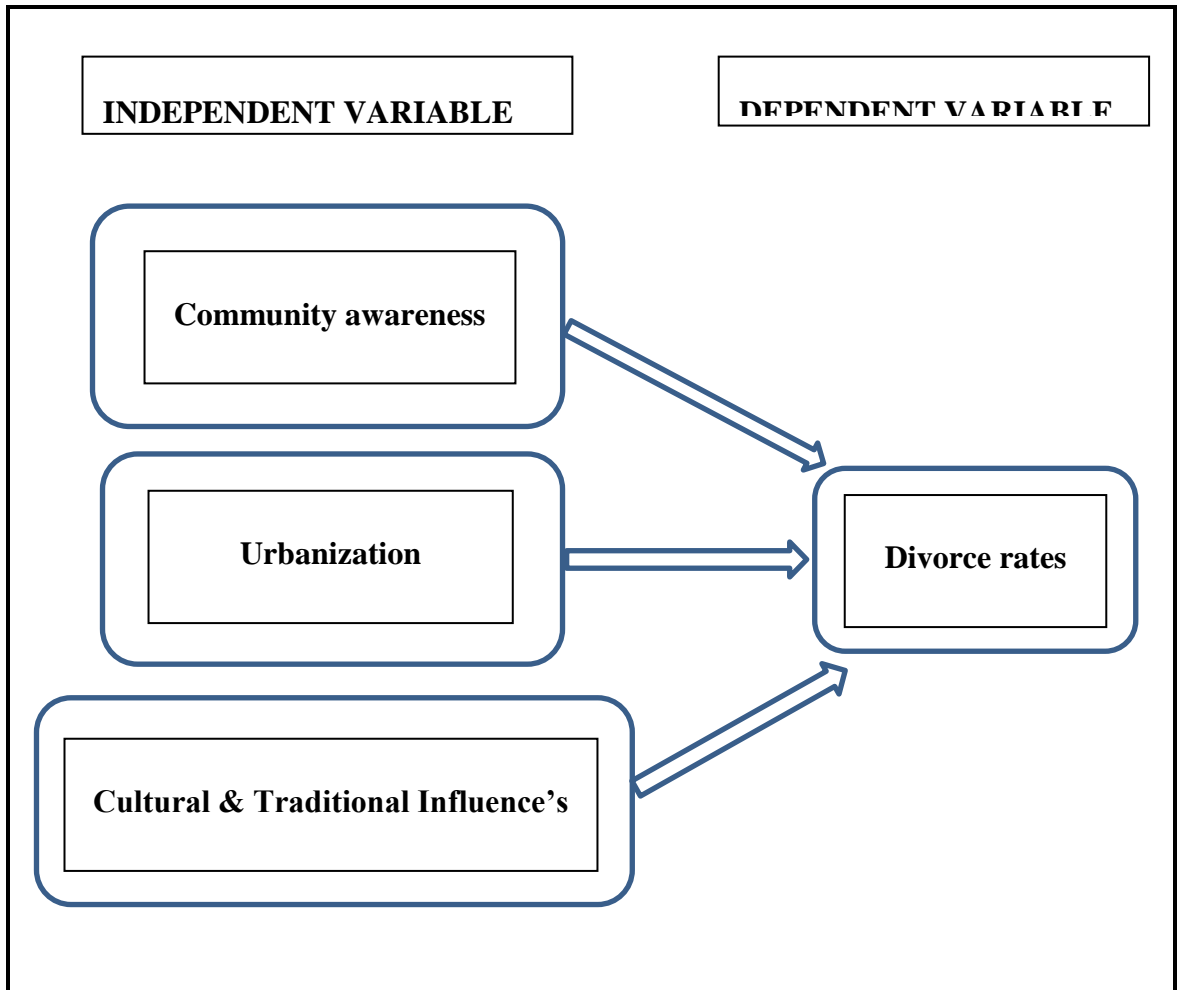


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Chapter Overview**

This chapter identifies the research methodologies that will be used in this study. This chapter specifically describes the research design that will be adopted by the researcher, research approaches, area of study, population of the study, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection method and tools, and data analysis technique.

#### **3.2 Research Philosophy**

A research philosophy was a set of basic beliefs that guided the design and execution of a research study, and different research philosophies offered different ways of understanding scientific research (Kumar, 2011). Due to the nature of the study and the study method that a researcher opted to use, the study was based on pragmatic philosophy (pragmatism). Pragmatism highlighted the significance of using the best tools possible to study phenomena. The main aim of pragmatism was to approach research from a realistic point of view, where knowledge was not fixed, but instead was regularly questioned and interpreted (Saunders, 2013). Pragmatism entailed research designs that combined set decisions based on 'what would work best' in finding answers to the research questions under study (University of Nottingham, 2022). The reason for selecting this philosophy was that pragmatism would help a researcher bridge the gap between how one viewed and interpreted issues, and the reality of the issue (positivism and interpretivism). The second reason was that pragmatic philosophy encouraged researchers to take a flexible and adaptive

approach in solving problems. Pragmatism philosophy emphasized the connection between thought and action.

### **3.3 Research Design**

The study will apply cross-sectional design because it supports to obtain data at single point in a time (Taris et al, 2021). The design is simple, clear and friendly to this study since it allows the collection of data from large pool of subjects and able to make comparison between groups (Wang & Cheng, 2020). Respondents in the study were able to provide reliable data on the factors contributing to increased divorced rates at Kinondoni district for the actions and harmonizing the community for development, also the design is friendly to a time and cost consuming which helped a researcher to perform and afford financial and time resources required to complete the study.

### **3.4 Research Approach**

A research approach is the procedure selected by the researcher to collect, analyze, and interpret data (Rwegoshora, 2006). The research methods used depend on the type of data needed to answer the research questions. This study employed both qualitative and quantitative research approaches to comprehensively address its objectives.

#### **3.4.1 Qualitative Research Approach**

The qualitative research approach was used to gain in-depth insights into the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and the rise in divorce rates. This approach involved the use of interviews to collect rich, detailed data from

participants, allowing for a nuanced understanding of their experiences and perspectives. Specifically, the second objective, "To explore the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and rise in divorce," was addressed using qualitative methods. The narrative analysis was employed to interpret the qualitative data, providing a detailed exploration of the subjective experiences of the respondents.

### **3.4.2 Quantitative Research Approach**

The quantitative research approach was used to quantify the extent of the problem and to analyze its patterns. This approach involved the use of questionnaires to collect numerical data from a large sample of respondents. This enabled the researcher to statistically analyze the data and project the findings to a larger population. The first objective, "To assess the community's awareness of the existence of persistence divorce incidents," and the third objective, "To examine the influence of urbanization in shaping marital dynamics in the community," were addressed using quantitative methods. Descriptive statistics were employed to summarize the data, and inferential statistics were used to examine relationships and test hypotheses.

### **3.5 Area of the Study**

This study was conducted at Kinondoni Municipal in Dar es Salaam based on the assessing the factors contributing the divorced incidents. This topic was selected divorce because is the global challenging phenomenon in today's community (Damota, 2019). Also, there is an increased of marriage separation. Kinondoni Municipal is located in the northern part of Dar es Salaam city; it has an area of

531sq km, estimated with a population of 1,886,940. The population growth is estimated to be 4.7% per annum and the population density is 1,180 people per square km (Tanzania National Census, 2012). Kinondoni district is a leading district having large number of 924 divorce case, followed by Temeke with 898 divorced marriages, Ilala district 729, Ubungo district 628 and Kigamboni district 490 (Table 2.1) according to Mustapha Siyani acting registrar of court in Dar es Salaam.

Demographical and Social-Economic of Kinondoni districts is mixed classes of people affected with divorces quite different from other Districts like Temeke, Ilala, Kigamboni and Ubungo district. Kinondoni municipal as an attractive destination for business and residents alike in Dar es Salaam. With this thoroughly of demographic socio-economic urban development and social-cultural traditional that has contributed to persistence of divorce incidents of Kinondoni districts rather than. Therefore, researcher used this profile to select Kinondoni Municipal as study area.

**Table 2.1: Divorce Rates in Dar es Salaam Region**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Divorce Rates</b>
Kinondoni	924
Temeke	898
Ilala	729
Ubungo	628
Kigamboni	490

### **3.6 Study Population**

Population refers to the entire group of units from which the sample is chosen (Denscombe, 2014). According to the 2022 census report, Kinondoni Municipality is estimated to have a total population of about 1,886,940 people (National Bureau of

Statistics, 2022). The reason for selecting this site is due to the high rate of divorce cases observed in the area. Specifically, Kinondoni recorded a total of 386 divorces in 2022 (National Population Statistics, 2022), making it a relevant location for studying factors contributing to divorce and its implications. The study population for this research includes these 386 divorced marriages residing in various wards of Kinondoni Municipality. This population was chosen because it directly aligns with the focus of the study, which seeks to understand the causes, effects, and patterns of divorce in the region. By focusing on this group, the study aims to gather relevant insights that reflect the local socio-cultural dynamics influencing divorce in Kinondoni.

### **3.7 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size**

All items in any field of investigation compose a universes' population (Kothari, 2013). It is difficult to involve all universes' population in a study. There must be a reasonable number of individuals to represent others (population) in the study, who are normally obtained in a convincing way. Besides all that, this section will analyze the sampling techniques that will be used to get the sample size of the study.

#### **3.7.1 Sampling Techniques**

Sampling is a statistical process of choosing a sample of a population of interest to make observations and inferences about that population (Denscombe, 2014). Sampling technique is a technique of selecting individual members or a subset of the population to make statistical inferences from them and estimate the characteristics of the whole population (Creswell, 2013). The researcher expects to use purposive and random sampling techniques to get the sample size of the study, basing on

probability and non-probability. The purposive sampling will be used to get the participants by their roles and responsibilities as indicated in table 3.1, while random sampling technique will be used to get the divorced respondents.

### 3.7.2 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

Kothari, ( 2019 ) a sample size refers to the number of items to be selected from the universe to constitute a sample. The size of sample should neither be excessively large, nor too small. It should be optimum. The researcher of this study expects to have a sample size of 98 participants from the different wards of Kinondoni municipality. The study will include the following categories of respondents including (75) divorced parents, Seven (7) Ward social welfare officers, Five (5) Municipal social welfare officer, Seven (7) religious leaders and Four (4) magistrates. To get the sample size, the researcher will use adopt the Slovin's formula. The Slovin's formula is a common formula was used to calculate the sample size needed to estimate a statistic based on an acceptable margin of error. The formula is as follows:

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

Where:

- ( n ) is the sample size
- ( N ) is the population size
- ( e ) is the margin of error (expressed as a decimal)

Therefore:

$$n = \frac{386}{1+386(0.05)}$$

$$n = \frac{386}{1.97}$$

$$n = \frac{196}{2}$$

- **n = 98.**

According to Slovin's formula, the study sample size will be  $n = N / (1 + Ne^2)$ , at an error  $\epsilon$  of 0.05. The distribution of sample size of 98 respondents will be as shown in table 3.1

**Table 3.1: Study Population and Sample Size**

Distribution of category	Population	Sample Size	Sampling method
Divorced parents	386	75	Random sampling
Ward social welfare officers		7	Purposive sampling
Municipal social welfare officer		5	Purposive sampling
Religious leaders		7	Purposive sampling
Magistrates		4	Purposive sampling
Total	386	98	

**Source: Researcher plan (2023)**

### **3.8 Methods of Data Collection**

Data collection is the process of collecting and evaluating information or data from multiple sources to find answers to research problems, answer questions, evaluate outcomes, and forecast trends and probabilities (Denscombe, 2014). For the case of this study, primary and secondary data collection methods will be used to obtain the necessary information for research questions.

#### **3.8.1 Primary Data**

The primary data are those which are collected afresh and for the first time, and thus happen to be original in character (Kothari, 2019). Primary data are collected through questionnaires, interviews. Through the participant's experiences and sentiments regarding the study topics, the primary data assist the researcher in enriching the knowledge from the real practice field. This study used interview and questionnaire tools to collect the primary data for the increased divorce rate at Kinondoni municipality in Dar es Salaam

##### **3.8.1.1 Interview Method**

The interview method, involving kobo toolbox questions, allows the researcher to ask standardized questions and record responses either through personal or telephone interviews (Creswell, 2013). For this study, semi-structured interviews were used to gain an in-depth understanding of the research objectives, particularly to explore cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and the rise in divorce. The interview guide enabled participants to express their perspectives on the increase of divorced families within 30-35 minutes. This method was administered to

50% of the study respondents, including divorced parents, religious leaders, welfare officers, and government administrative officers.

### **3.8.1.2 Questionnaire**

A questionnaire is a tool of data collection which consists of several written information supplied directly by people in response to questions asked by the researcher (Denscombe, 2014). The researcher in this fieldwork used both open-ended and close-ended questionnaires. The questionnaires were administered by distributing them to respondents who expressed themselves freely by giving detailed answers. This technique enabled the researcher to collect a lot of information over a short period of time. It was also suitable for large populations, and information was collected easily in writings. This data collection instrument was used for all 81 expected respondents. This method was specifically used to address the objectives: "To assess the community's awareness of the existence of increased divorce rates" and "To examine the influence of urbanization in shaping marital dynamics in the community."

## **3.9 Data Validity and Reliability**

A researcher must pay close attention to the details of the study design, reliability, and validity so as to limit the chances of getting the wrong response (Saunders, 2009). In this study the researcher paid attention to data validity and reliability in following ways.

### **3.9.1 Validity**

Validity is the extent to which the scores represent the variable they are intended to (Creswell, 2013). Method validity is about it's the method accuracy. In ensuring the data collection methods, validity the researcher will ask help to supervisor and other experts in ensuring that the questionnaires and interview guidelines are valid and that they responded to the study's objectives. The content validity was determined by dividing the total number of questions provided by the number of responses.

### **3.9.2 Reliability**

Reliability refers to the consistency and dependability of the data, methods, and findings used in the study (Creswell, 2013). Reliability ensures that the data collected is accurate, consistent and free from bias and data integrity. The researcher used the test re-test reliability approach to see if the same individuals' scores, on the same test are constant across time. In this situation, the researcher will provide the same set of data collection tools to the same group of people twice, while maintaining the same conditions. The researcher compared the scores from the two sets, after administering to see if the results matched.

### **3.10 Qualitative Data Rigor**

Ensuring rigor in qualitative research is crucial for establishing the trustworthiness and credibility of the findings. This study addressed qualitative rigor through dependability, transferability, and confirmability. Dependability was ensured by thoroughly documenting the research process and maintaining an audit trail, allowing for the stability of data over time and under different conditions. Transferability was achieved by providing rich, thick descriptions of the research context, participants,

and findings, enabling readers to determine the applicability of the results to other settings. Conformability was addressed by engaging in reflexivity to acknowledge and mitigate personal biases, employing data triangulation to ensure that findings were shaped by participants' experiences, and conducting an external audit to verify the accuracy and relevance of the data and interpretations. By incorporating these strategies, the study ensured that its findings on the increased divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality were trustworthy and credible.

### **3.11 Data Analysis and Presentation**

It involves the all process of examining, cleaning transforming and moderating data to extract meaningful insights and support decision-making in each specific objectives of the study, and displays data in a manner that is easy to understand and interpret the assessment of the community perspectives on the persistence of divorce incidents in Tanzania: A case of Kinondoni Municipality.

#### **3.11.1 Data Analysis**

Data analysis involves examining, cleaning, transforming, and modeling data to extract meaningful insights and support decision-making. In this study, each specific objective's data were analyzed as follows:

- Objective 1: Assessing the community's awareness of the existence of increased divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality. Data collected through questionnaires and interviews were analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarize the levels of awareness among community members. Qualitative

responses were coded and thematically analyzed to identify key themes related to community awareness of divorce rates.

- Objective 2: Examining the influence of urbanization in shaping marital dynamics in Kinondoni Municipality. Quantitative data from the questionnaires were analyzed using statistical methods to determine the relationship between urbanization factors and marital dynamics. Qualitative data from interviews were analyzed thematically to explore how urbanization influences marital relationships.
- Objective 3: Exploring the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and the rise in divorce in Kinondoni Municipality, both quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed. Descriptive statistics were used for quantitative data, while thematic analysis was employed for qualitative data to uncover patterns and insights related to cultural and traditional impacts on marital relationships.

### **3.11.2 Data Presentation**

Data presentation involves displaying data in a manner that is easy to understand and interpret. In this study, data from each specific objective were presented as follows:

- Objective 1: Assessing the community's awareness of the existence of increased divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality. Quantitative findings were presented using tables, charts, and graphs to illustrate the levels of awareness among community members. Qualitative findings were presented using

narrative descriptions and direct quotes from respondents to highlight key themes and insights.

- Objective 2: Examining the influence of urbanization in shaping marital dynamics in Kinondoni Municipality. Statistical results from quantitative data were displayed using tables and graphs to show the relationship between urbanization and marital dynamics. Qualitative findings were presented through thematic summaries and illustrative quotes to provide a deeper understanding of how urbanization affects marital relationships.
- Objective 3: Exploring the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and the rise in divorce in Kinondoni Municipality. Quantitative data were presented using descriptive statistics, with tables and charts summarizing the cultural and traditional factors influencing divorce rates. Qualitative data were presented through detailed thematic analysis, supported by quotes from participants to capture the nuances of cultural and traditional influences on marital relationships.

### **3.12 Ethics Consideration**

Ethics in research refers to a code of conduct or expected social norm of behavior while conducting research (Gakuu, 2014). Ethical research considerations will be ensured to allow data collection process, in following ways: -

#### **3.12.1 Introduction of the Researcher**

For the case of this study, the researcher had the introduction letter from the Open University Administrative Office; this introduced the researcher to respondents.

Apart from letter a researcher should consider cultural diversity, respect dignity and worth of the person, informed consent and abusive behaviors, rights and all welfare of the research.

### **3.12.2 Informed Consent**

This is full information given to respondent and other participants about the field of study before interring in research practice. Research should brief respondent and seek voluntary participation and how the study was conducted and for how long, the brief should be clear and concise which removed internal doubt on the purpose of the study. Participants should not be relay in commercial attitude and if respondents refused to answer the questions should not use force.

### **3.12.3 Confidentiality**

It is a state where researcher keep secret of data collected from respondent. The researcher should make agreement with respondents about confidentiality of their information including avoiding writing their names in the interview before given question, this contributed freedom to the respondents in answering questions. All information collected from respondents continued to remain as the confidentiality even after this study.

### **3.12.4 Voluntary Participation**

Voluntary participation means that all research subjects are free to choose to participate without any pressure or coercion in the study (Kothari, 2013). Normally any participation in a research study is completely voluntary. In this study participants were free to participate or not participate without prejudicing to them.

The researcher gave them a consent voluntary participation statement that showed the respondent freedom of withdrawing from participating in this study anytime, without giving reasons and without any costs. But to respect their presence and their views, the researcher explained the way how study is going to be used, and how their information as respondents is going to be confidential.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Chapter Overview**

The previous chapter covers the research methodology for this study. This chapter presents the finding of the study in assessing the community perspectives on the persistence of divorce incidents in Tanzania: A case of Kinondoni Municipality. This study specifically covers the assessment on the community's awareness of the existence of increased divorce rates, examination of the influence of urbanization in shaping marital dynamics, and exploration of the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and the rise in divorce in Kinondoni Municipality. The findings are presented as follows.

#### **4.2 Response Rate**

This study used a sample size of 98 respondents including 75 divorced parents, 7 Ward social welfare officers, 5 Municipal social welfare officer, 7 Religious leaders and 4 Magistrates. After making thorough follow ups, all 98 participated in the study giving a response rate of 100%. According to Morton et al., (2012), a response rate of 60% is good of 85% and above is excellent. Therefore, this response rate was excellent for this study for reporting.

**Table 4.1: Response Rate**

Distribution of category	Sample Size	Percentage
Divorced Parents	75	76.5
Ward Social Welfare Officers	7	7.1
Municipal Social Welfare Officer	5	5.1
Religious Leaders	7	7.1
Magistrates	4	4.1
Total	98	100.0

**Source: Field Data, (2024)**

### **4.3 Respondents' Demographic Profile**

This study assessed the respondents' biographic data such as age, sex, and education level. The findings are shown as follows.

#### **4.3.1 Age**

In this study, age of respondents' data was collected. The study found that 34 (34.7%) of all respondents was aged between 18-30, 43 (43.9%) aged between 31-40, 12 (12.2%) were aged between 41-50, while 9 (9.2%) were aged 51 years and above. Most respondents (43.9%) were aged between 31-40, a period often associated with career building and family life responsibilities. This age group may have experienced significant marital strain due to the pressures of balancing work, finances, and family, contributing to higher divorce rates. The relatively lower divorce rate among older age groups could reflect increased marital stability with age or fewer respondents in those categories.

**Table 4.2: Age of Respondents**

<b>Age Groups</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18-30	34	34.7
31-40	43	43.9
41-50	12	12.2
51-above	9	9.2
Total	98	100.0

**Source: Field Data, (2024)**

### 4.3.2 Sex of Respondents

Findings (Table 4.3) indicate the sex of respondents. The relatively balanced distribution of male (55.1%) and female (44.9%) respondents ensures a broad perspective on divorce issues. However, slightly more men participated, which could indicate that men in this community are more willing to discuss divorce or that the sampling process reached more male respondents. Gender dynamics may influence perspectives on divorce, as men and women often experience different causes and consequences of marital breakdown, such as custody battles or financial hardship.

**Table 4.3: Sex of Respondents**

<b>Sex of Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	54	55.1
Female	44	44.9
Total	98	100.0

**Source: Field Data, (2024)**

### 4.3.3 Marital Status of Respondents

The study assessed respondents' marital status. The findings indicate that among all respondents 12 (12.2%) were married, 76 (77.6%) were divorced, 5 (5.1%) were widowed, while 5 (5.1%) were single. The fact that 77.6% of respondents were divorced is crucial in shaping the study's findings. This group offers direct insights into the causes and effects of divorce, which adds significant value to the study. However, it may also introduce bias, as divorced individuals might focus on negative aspects of marriage and divorce due to their personal experiences. Their perspectives could highlight issues like infidelity, economic hardship, or communication breakdowns, influencing the overall conclusions about why divorce rates are increasing.

**Table 4.4: Marital Status of Respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Married/living together	12	12.2
Divorced/separated	76	77.6
Widowed	5	5.1
Single/never married	5	5.1
Total	98	100

**Source: Field Data, (2024)**

### 4.3.4 Education Level

Data shows that all respondents had attained education ranging from primary education to university level. Findings (Table 4.5) indicate that 16 (16.33%) had attained primary education, 24 (24.49%) had attained ordinary secondary education, 6 (6.12%) had attained Advanced Secondary education, 14 (14.29%) had attained

certificate level, 24 (24.49%) had attained diploma level, while 14 (14.29%) had attained university level of education. Education level can affect views on marriage and divorce, with higher education often linked to better communication and problem-solving skills in marriage. Conversely, lower education levels might correlate with financial instability or limited access to marriage counseling, contributing to higher divorce rates. The educational diversity in the sample offers a broad view of how different socio-economic groups experience and perceive divorce.

**Table 4.5: Education Level of Respondents**

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
Primary level	16	16.33
Secondary o-level	24	24.49
Secondary A-level	6	6.12
Certificate level	14	14.29
Diploma level	24	24.49
University level	14	14.29
Total	98	100

**Source: Field Data, (2024)**

#### **4.4 Community Awareness on the Existence of Increased Divorced Rates**

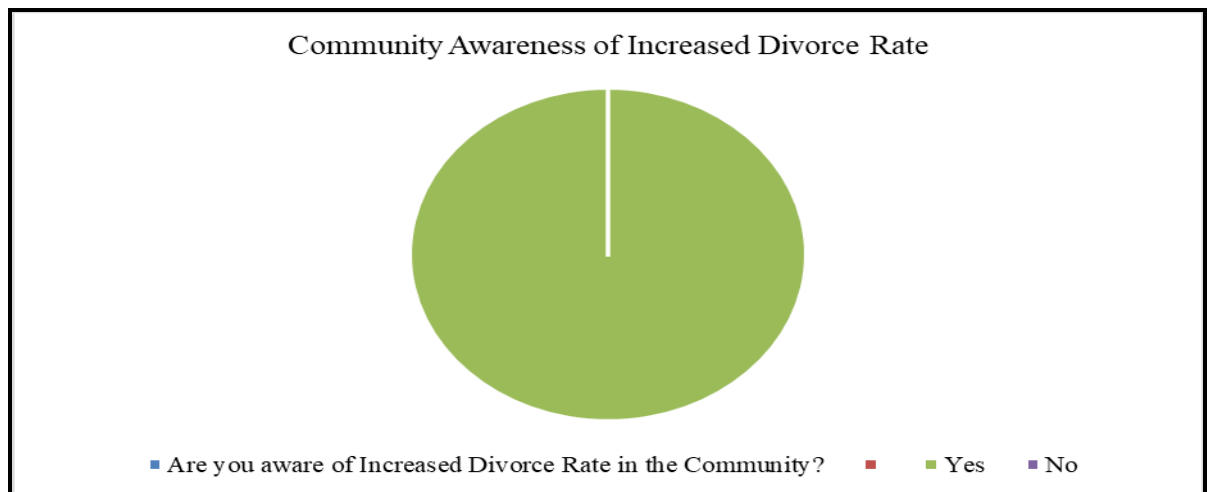
The study assessed the community's awareness of the existence of increased divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality. According to the findings, 100% of respondents were aware of the increased divorce rates in their community, as shown in Figure 4.1. This finding aligns with the theoretical framework of social awareness and the impact of increased visibility of social issues on community knowledge, as discussed by Djawas et al (2021) and Schramm & Becher (2020). These theories suggest that

heightened community awareness of social phenomena such as divorce correlates with increased reporting and recognition of such issues.

#### 4.4.1 Community Awareness on the Existence of Increased Divorced Rates

The study investigated community awareness regarding the rising divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality. All 98 respondents (100%) affirmed their awareness by answering "YES" to the question, "Are you aware of the increase in divorce rates in the community?" No respondent answered "NO," indicating unanimous recognition of the issue.

This finding demonstrates a high level of community awareness about the growing prevalence of divorce, suggesting that it is a visible and significant issue in the area. Such awareness could stem from direct or indirect experiences, social discussions, or media coverage highlighting the increasing divorce trend in the community (Figure 4.1).



**Figure 4.1: Community Awareness of Increased Divorce Rate**

**Source: Field Data (2024)**

#### 4.4.2 Community Awareness on the Causes of Divorce in Dar es Salaam Region

The study identified several causes of divorce, including unfaithfulness, urbanization, and poverty, which are summarized in Table 4.6. The awareness of these causes reflects the theoretical perspectives of societal impact on marital stability, as articulated in theories by Wosowei (2020) and Rajendran (2023). Their research indicates that societal changes and personal experiences significantly influence community understanding of divorce causes, reinforcing the study's findings that the community's awareness mirrors these theoretical perspectives.

**Table 4.6: Community Awareness on the Causes of Divorce in Dar es Salaam Region (n = 98)**

Awareness of the Factors Causing Divorce in the Community	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Unfaithfulness in marriage	74	75.5	23	23.5	1	1.0
Urbanization	75	76.5	18	18.4	5	5.1
Women battering	65	66.3	21	21.4	12	12.2
Lack of intimacy	84	85.7	9	9.2	5	5.1
Poverty (economic instability)	80	81.6	14	14.3	4	4.1
Loss of sexual desire	78	79.6	17	17.3	3	3.1
Irresponsibility	89	90.8	9	9.2	0	0.0
Infertility	89	90.8	6	6.1	3	3.1
Age difference	65	66.3	23	23.5	10	10.2
Culture and traditions	78	79.6	18	18.4	2	2.0

The study explored respondents' awareness of the causes of divorce in Kinondoni Municipality through interviews. Narrative analysis revealed that respondents were well-informed about the diverse causes of divorce in the area. The most frequently identified causes included unfaithfulness, urbanization, poverty (family economic instability), cultural and traditional differences, infertility, irresponsibility, lack of intimacy, sexual dissatisfaction, excessive alcohol abuse, and mistreatment such as physical violence.

During in-depth interviews (IDIs), respondents shared the following insights:

One respondent noted:

*“Actually, according to my understanding, divorce in our community is caused by different reasons. The most common ones include unfaithfulness between couples this is when a husband or wife commits adultery. When one partner discovers that he/she has been cheated on, quarrels begin, and at the end of the day, they file for divorce.” (IDI, Kinondoni, 18th March 2024).*

Another respondent stated:

*“There have been reports of different divorce cases with varied causes. However, in most cases, divorces mainly occur due to lack of intimacy and sexual desires between couples, poverty or family economic instability, different levels of education between couples, cheating, lack of family support (irresponsibility) especially by men, excessive alcohol abuse, and mistreatment (beating).” (IDI, Kinondoni, 20th March 2024).*

A third respondent highlighted cultural and traditional factors:

*“The causes of divorce are diverse, but cultural and traditional differences between couples are a major factor. For example, religious beliefs may allow men to have more than one wife. There are also arranged marriages where couples are forced to marry due to family arrangements, meaning the couples are not in intimate love. Additionally, some families or communities practice rituals such as female genital mutilation all these lead to divorce.” (IDI, Kinondoni, 21st March 2024).*

#### **4.4.3 Awareness of the Challenges Faced After Divorce**

The study found that all respondents were aware of the challenges faced after divorce, including financial difficulties and stress, as presented in Table 4.7. This comprehensive awareness supports the theoretical views on the post-divorce impact outlined by Crivello and Mann (2020), who argue that heightened awareness of these challenges reflects broader societal understanding of the consequences of divorce, thereby confirming the theory's application in the study context.

**Table 4.7: Awareness of the Challenges faced After Divorce (n=98)**

	Awareness	
	Frequency	Percentage
Consequences on children of divorced parents	98	100
Financial difficulties	98	100
Single parent care	98	100
Stress and depression	98	100
Children school dropout	98	100
Mental Health of Divorcees	98	100
Mental Well-being of Child	98	100
Co-parenting challenges	98	100
Use of drugs	98	100
Housing challenges	98	100
Fear and uncertainty	98	100

**Source; Field Data, (2024)**

The study also sought to assess respondents' awareness of the challenges faced by families after divorce in Kinondoni Municipality. Narrative analysis indicated that respondents were knowledgeable about the diverse difficulties experienced post-divorce. The most frequently identified challenges included financial difficulties, single-parent responsibilities, stress and depression, children's school dropouts, mental health issues for both divorcees and their children, co-parenting struggles, housing problems, and feelings of fear and uncertainty.

During the in-depth interviews (IDIs), respondents shared the following insights:

One respondent stated:

*“The most significant challenges that face couples after divorce are financial difficulties and housing problems. Divorce impacts*

*divorcees financially as they often need to adjust their budgets and look for a new job or business. Housing becomes another issue as divorced couples may need to find a new place to live, which is challenging, especially with a limited budget.” (IDI, Kinondoni, 22nd March 2024).*

Another respondent emphasized co-parenting and child welfare:

*“Co-parenting is a major challenge for divorced couples with children. Divorced couples need to arrange how their children will live, which can be difficult. If the single parent left with the children is not responsible, the children might drop out of school, face malnutrition, or even engage in drug use.” (IDI, Kinondoni, 23rd March 2024).*

A third respondent highlighted the mental health effects of divorce:

*“Divorce leads to mental health challenges such as stress, anxiety, fear, and depression. It is a painful process, and those involved often experience feelings of grief and loss as their marriage ends. Many worry about the future and feel unsure about how to move forward.” (IDI, Kinondoni, 24th March 2024).*

The findings confirmed that the community is aware of the rising divorce rates and their causes, such as unfaithfulness, urbanization, domestic violence, lack of intimacy, poverty, loss of sexual desire, irresponsibility, infertility, age differences, and cultural or traditional differences. Additionally, respondents were aware of the challenges faced post-divorce, including financial instability, single-parent caregiving, mental health issues, children’s school dropouts, housing struggles, co-parenting difficulties, and emotional uncertainties.

These results align with previous studies, such as Spremo (2020) and Freed et al. (2018), which found that communities are generally aware of the increasing divorce rates and the associated challenges. This awareness underscores the need for interventions to address these challenges effectively.

**Table 4.8: Influence of Urbanization on Marital Dynamics (n=98)**

Influence of Urbanization on Marital Dynamics	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Changes in lifestyle, values, and aspirations brought by urbanization may have influence on marital dynamics	74	75.5	23	23.5	1	1.0
Through media, education, and increasing contact with varied cultures, urban areas are frequently more exposed to Western lifestyles and values, which alters attitudes regarding divorce.	75	76.5	18	18.4	5	5.1
Economic expansion and a rise in employment prospects associated with urbanization, particularly for women may influence divorce in urban areas	65	66.3	21	21.4	12	12.2
Urban areas often provide better access to education and awareness about individual rights and legal processes	84	85.7	9	9.2	5	5.1
Urban living can be associated with higher stress levels, long commutes, and demanding lifestyles. These factors can strain marriages and contribute to conflicts that may lead to divorce	80	81.6	14	14.3	4	4.1
Urban areas often have greater cultural and religious diversity, which can lead to differing views on marriage and divorce	78	79.6	17	17.3	3	3.1

**Source; Field Data, (2024)**

#### **4.5 The Influence of Urbanization in Shaping Marital Dynamics in the Community**

The data presented in Table 4.8 highlights the profound influence of urbanization on marital dynamics in Kinondoni Municipality. The findings suggest that urbanization

significantly shapes various aspects of marriage, ultimately contributing to increased divorce rates. Beyond the noted changes in lifestyle, values, and aspirations, urbanization introduces stressors, economic shifts, and exposure to diverse cultural norms, which all play a critical role in altering marital stability.

For example, 81.6% of respondents agreed that the high-stress levels associated with urban living long commutes, demanding work environments, and intense daily schedules contribute to marital conflicts that may result in divorce. Similarly, 85.7% of respondents emphasized the role of greater access to education and awareness about individual rights and legal processes in urban settings, further influencing divorce decisions. These insights align with findings from Alphonse et al. (2022) and Akbari et al. (2020), who found that urban centers often provide easier access to legal resources, which empowers individuals, particularly women, to seek divorces when faced with marital difficulties.

Moreover, urbanization also exposes individuals to diverse cultures and values, as evidenced by 79.6% of respondents noting the impact of cultural and religious diversity on marital perspectives. This exposure, often driven by media and education, introduces Westernized views on marriage and divorce, normalizing divorce as a viable option in cases of marital discord. The influence of media, in particular, was underscored by respondents during interviews, where it was observed that Western lifestyle portrayals on television contributed to the normalization of divorce. This corresponds with Lund (2021), who highlighted the media's role in shifting societal perceptions on marriage and divorce in urban areas.

The economic dimension of urbanization also plays a pivotal role in shaping marital dynamics, with 66.3% of respondents acknowledging that increased employment opportunities and financial independence, particularly for women, may influence divorce rates. Economic expansion allows women to be less financially dependent on their spouses, potentially leading to greater assertiveness in marital disputes or a decision to divorce when faced with unsatisfactory marital conditions. This is further supported by Damota (2019), who found that urbanization provides greater financial autonomy, which often shifts the power dynamics within marriages, leading to a rise in divorces.

Thus, it is evident that urbanization, through its multifaceted impacts stress, economic shifts, exposure to diverse cultures, and legal awareness significantly contributes to the dynamics of marriage and increases the likelihood of divorce. Empirical examples from Chapter Two, such as Damota (2019), reinforce these findings by demonstrating that urbanization tends to empower individuals to make more autonomous decisions regarding their marital relationships, further validating the relationship between urbanization and rising divorce rates in Kinondoni Municipality. These findings suggest that urbanization not only reshapes marital dynamics but also provides the social and economic conditions that facilitate divorce, making it a key factor in understanding the rise of divorces in urban settings like Kinondoni Municipality.

**Table 4.9: Cultural and Traditional Influences Impacting Marital Relationships and Rise in Divorce (n=98)**

Cultural and Traditional Influences Impacting Marital Relationships and Rise in Divorce	Agree		Undecided		Disagree	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Arranged marriages may lack compatibility between spouses leading to divorce	84	85.7	9	9.2	5	5.1
Marriages between individuals from different cultural background may lack compatibility leading to divorce	80	81.6	14	14.3	4	4.1
Marriages between individuals from different religious background may lack compatibility leading to divorce	84	85.7	9	9.2	5	5.1
Traditional rituals and lifestyle may impact marital relationships leading to divorce	78	79.6	17	17.3	3	3.1
Lack of privacy for couples from extended families may affect marital relationships leading to divorce	74	75.5	23	23.5	1	1.0
Prevalence of dowry payment may lead to family disputes including dowry harassment and violence, leading to divorce	75	76.5	18	18.4	5	5.1
Prevalence of polygamy may lead to divorce	84	85.7	9	9.2	5	5.1

**Source; Field Data, (2024)**

#### **4.6 The Cultural and Traditional Influences Impacting Marital Relationships and Rise in Divorce**

Results from interviews have also contributed to the understanding of the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and rise in divorce at Kinondoni Municipality. Respondents were asked to identify the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and rise in divorce at Kinondoni Municipality. Results indicate that the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and rise in divorce are diverse including arranged marriages, different religious background, different cultural background, different education levels, and traditional rituals and lifestyle.

##### **(a) Arranged Marriages**

According to the study, 85.7% of respondents agreed that arranged marriages may lack compatibility between spouses, leading to divorce. This issue arises from a lack of mutual consent and emotional connection between partners, often resulting in dissatisfaction within the marriage.

During interview sessions one respondent said.

*“Culture and traditions have a greater influence on marital relationships and rise in divorce. There is an issue of arranged marriages in some of communities. When people are forced to get married without their consent that marriage may not work and can lead to divorce”. (IDI, Kinondoni, 2024).*

In traditional societies, arranged marriages are seen as a means of maintaining cultural continuity or social status. However, in urban settings where individualism and personal choice are emphasized, the pressure of arranged marriages often leads

to friction. The lack of personal agency in choosing a life partner can lead to feelings of resentment, and couples may eventually seek separation or divorce to regain their autonomy. The influence of urbanization exacerbates this, as individuals are increasingly exposed to alternative models of marriage based on love and personal choice.

### **(b) Dowry Payments**

Dowry payments also play a significant role in marital conflict, as 76.5% of respondents agreed that the prevalence of dowry practices can lead to family disputes, including harassment and violence. A respondent commented on this during interviews:

*"Prevalence of dowry payment may lead to family disputes, including dowry harassment and violence, leading to divorce." (IDI, Kinondoni, 2024).*

In many cultures, dowry is seen as a means of securing a marriage, but it often leads to financial pressure and unrealistic expectations. If the dowry is perceived as insufficient or if demands escalate over time, it can create a toxic dynamic in the marriage, resulting in abuse or violence. In extreme cases, dowry disputes can end in divorce, especially as women become more empowered to seek legal protection from abuse. Urbanization further challenges these traditional practices, as exposure to modern values fosters resistance to such financial transactions in marriage, encouraging women to break free from abusive relationships linked to dowry.

### **(c) Religious and Cultural Differences**

Another major factor identified by 85.7% of respondents is the incompatibility between spouses from different religious or cultural backgrounds. This incompatibility often **leads** to misunderstandings, conflicts over child-rearing, and differing expectations in marriage. As one respondent explained:

*"Cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and rise of divorce include education, traditional rituals, and lifestyle and different religious and cultural backgrounds." (IDI, Kinondoni, 2024).*

While marriage between individuals of different backgrounds can be enriching, it can also lead to tension if there is no mutual understanding or acceptance of differences. In some cases, these cultural or religious differences become points of contention, making it difficult for couples to find common ground. This challenge is further exacerbated in urban areas, where exposure to diverse cultures and religious practices may clash with traditional values.

### **(d) Extended Family Dynamics and Lack of Privacy**

Extended family involvement, a common feature in many traditional societies, was cited as a contributing factor to marital breakdown by 75.5% of respondents. A lack of privacy due to extended family members living in close quarters or being overly involved in the couple's affairs can strain the marital relationship. As one respondent stated:

*"Lack of privacy for couples from extended families may affect marital relationships leading to divorce." (IDI, Kinondoni, 2024).*

In traditional settings, families often expect newlyweds to live close by or even within the same household, which can blur the boundaries between the couple and the larger family. This can result in conflicts over decision-making and a loss of autonomy for the married couple. Urbanization tends to shift this dynamic, as urban dwellers prioritize nuclear family structures and individual space, thereby intensifying the friction for those who remain bound to traditional family setups.

**(e) Polygamy**

Polygamy was also highlighted as a significant cultural practice contributing to divorce, with 85.7% of respondents agreeing that polygamous marriages are often unstable. Polygamy can create competition and jealousy among spouses, particularly if one spouse feels neglected or if there are disputes over inheritance or family leadership. As urbanization promotes monogamous relationships and equality between partners, polygamous arrangements may become increasingly untenable for women seeking equal treatment within marriage.

**(f) Traditional Rituals and Lifestyles**

Traditional rituals and lifestyles were acknowledged by 79.6% of respondents as another factor impacting marital relationships. Many communities still adhere to customs that impose strict gender roles and expectations, such as a wife's obligation to care for her extended family or the belief that divorce is taboo regardless of the circumstances. As urbanization and modernization expose individuals to more progressive ideas, these traditional customs may feel increasingly oppressive, leading to higher divorce rates.

**(g) Economic Pressures and Urban Stressors**

Lastly, urbanization itself introduces stressors like long working hours, financial pressures, and high costs of living, all of which affect marriages. Economic pressures were highlighted by respondents, with one stating:

*"Having a lower income can affect the capacities of individuals involved in that marriage, creating discord and raising the likelihood of separation." (IDI, Kinondoni, 2024).*

This aligns with the survey finding that 66.3% of respondents linked urbanization-driven economic expansion and rising employment prospects especially for women to divorce rates. Women in urban areas are increasingly financially independent and may be less willing to remain in unsatisfying marriages. Similarly, 81.6% of respondents agreed that urban living's demanding lifestyles and stress levels can strain marriages, contributing to conflict.

In general, the findings reveal that cultural and traditional influences, compounded by the pressures of urbanization, play a pivotal role in shaping marital dynamics and contributing to divorce in Kinondoni Municipality. Urbanization exposes individuals to new ideas, changing lifestyles, and increasing individual agency, leading to a clash with traditional expectations. As women become more educated and economically independent, they are more likely to challenge the cultural norms that previously sustained marriages, particularly in the face of financial stress, incompatible values, and extended family pressures.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Chapter Overview**

This chapter presents the summary of the findings of the study as presented and discussed in chapter four above. The chapter is organized into three major sections which are summary, conclusion and recommendation.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Study**

This study assessed community perspectives on the persistence of divorce incidents in Tanzania, focusing on Kinondoni Municipality. It specifically examined three areas: the community's awareness of rising divorce rates, the influence of urbanization on marital dynamics, and the impact of cultural and traditional influences on marital relationships that lead to divorce.

The study utilized a cross-sectional research design and a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data. Data was collected using questionnaires and interview guides, and the analysis was conducted through descriptive and narrative methods. The demographic profile of the respondents revealed that most participants were aged between 31-40 years (43.9%), a group that is often engaged in career-building and family responsibilities, which may contribute to marital strain. In terms of sex, 55.1% of respondents were male, and 44.9% were female, providing a balanced perspective on divorce issues. The majority of respondents (77.6%) were divorced, which aligns with the study's focus on divorce

trends. Education levels varied, with respondents having education ranging from primary school to university, offering a diverse socio-economic view on divorce.

Key findings of the study revealed that respondents were highly aware of the rising divorce rates and the underlying causes, including unfaithfulness, urbanization, domestic violence, lack of intimacy, economic instability, infertility, cultural factors, and irresponsibility. Respondents also identified the post-divorce challenges, such as financial difficulties, single parenthood, mental health issues, and co-parenting struggles. Urbanization emerged as a significant influence on marital dynamics, with factors such as lifestyle changes, exposure to diverse values, economic shifts, and urban stress contributing to marital instability. Additionally, cultural and traditional influences were noted to exacerbate tensions in marital relationships, often leading to divorce.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

By concluding the study of assessing the community perspectives on the persistence of divorce incidents in Tanzania: A case of Kinondoni Municipality, the general findings found on chapter four by revealed how respondents responded questions on the study. This study is employed to the government tools to put more effort to minimize or to end the increased divorced rates at Kinondoni wards where community is largely experiencing several challenges faced by children in the communities and caused by unfaithness of the couples, abusive language, unfulfilling human desire, Infertility and traditional cultural aspects. These are some of the factors that increased divorced rates at kinondoni municipality. Therefore, this study intended to assess of the increased divorced rates at the wards of kinondoni municipality by

also employing the Social Welfare and social workers officers, divorced couples along with the religious leaders have to provide a comprehensive counseling and guidance to the couples just to rebuild the new community which makes people in the families as well as community becomes aware with the increased divorced and measures a taken to reduce the rates of the increased divorce rates at Kinondoni municipality in Dar es Salaam region.

### **5.3.1 Community Awareness on the Existence of Increased Divorce Rates**

The study found that the community is largely aware of the rising divorce rates at Kinondoni Municipality. It is important to recognize that the causes of divorce are diverse and vary across different households. While women's empowerment and increased awareness of their rights contribute to rising divorce rates, this shift can be seen as a positive step toward gender equality. Divorce may provide an escape for individuals in abusive or unfulfilling marriages, allowing them to seek healthier relationships. However, it is crucial to address the socioeconomic support systems for women who choose to divorce, such as access to education, employment, and legal protections, to mitigate the adverse effects of divorce.

### **5.3.2 The Influence of Urbanization in Shaping Marital Dynamics in the Community**

Urbanization plays a significant role in shaping marital dynamics. The study revealed that urban areas often expose individuals to new lifestyles, values, and economic opportunities, which can alter perceptions of marriage and lead to higher divorce rates. Urban stressors, such as demanding work environments and long commutes, also strain marriages. Additionally, exposure to different cultures and liberal attitudes

in urban centers has influenced the way people view marriage and divorce. However, urbanization alone does not fully explain the rising divorce rates; socioeconomic status, education, and individual circumstances also play crucial roles. This complexity must be understood when developing interventions.

### **5.3.3 The Cultural and Traditional Influences Impacting Marital Relationships and Rise in Divorce**

Cultural and traditional factors, such as arranged marriages, differing religious backgrounds, and rigid gender roles, were identified as significant contributors to marital conflicts and divorce. Cultural practices like forced marriages and traditional rituals can place undue strain on couples, leading to marital breakdown. It is essential to address these deep-rooted influences to mitigate rising divorce rates, especially as communities become more diverse and exposed to new cultural norms.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

The study recommends the following.

### **5.4.1 Recommendations for Action**

- i. **Community Education:** The Tanzanian government and local authorities should raise public awareness about the challenges faced after divorce. Community education programs should focus on the causes and consequences of divorce and encourage stable marital relationships.
- ii. **Pre-Marital Counseling:** The government, in collaboration with religious and community leaders, should implement pre-marital counseling programs. These programs should address issues such as family background, education

level, lifestyle expectations, and traditional rituals to help couples understand potential challenges before marriage.

- iii. **Post-Divorce Support:** Policies should be developed to support divorced individuals and their children. Legal protections for children, access to education, and counseling services for divorced parents should be prioritized to reduce the negative impact on families.
- iv. **Addressing Cultural Practices:** Harmful cultural practices such as forced marriages and female genital mutilation should be actively discouraged. Policymakers must ensure that traditional practices do not infringe on the rights of individuals in marital relationships.
- v. **Economic Empowerment Programs:** To reduce the economic pressures that lead to divorce, particularly among low-income families, the government should create more employment opportunities and provide financial literacy programs to help couples manage their economic challenges.

#### **5.4.2 Recommendations for Further Studies**

This study recommends further studies as follows;

- i. **Methodological Expansion:** Future studies should consider different methodologies, such as longitudinal designs, to capture the long-term effects of divorce and its causes.

- ii. **Broader Geographic Focus:** Researchers are encouraged to replicate this study in other regions or countries to compare divorce trends and contributing factors in different cultural and socioeconomic contexts.
- iii. **In-Depth Analysis of Divorce Causes:** Future research could delve deeper into specific causes of divorce, such as the role of technology, changes in family structures, or the impact of globalization on marital stability.
- iv. **Policy Implications:** Additional studies should explore the policy implications of rising divorce rates and propose targeted interventions to mitigate the effects of divorce on children, women, and the broader community.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Questionnaires

Dear respondents;

My name is Kelvin Kalangasa, A Master Degree student of Open University of Tanzania; I am undertaking the study on “*An assessment of increased divorced rates in Dar es salaam*”: *A case study of Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam Tanzania*. I kindly request to take part of your time to voluntarily respond to this questionnaire based on your understanding and experience.

This is an academic exercise and all information collected from respondents will be treated with strict confidentiality. This questionnaire is divided into sections that may take only a few minutes of your time to complete. Please respond by following the instructions provided under each section.

.....

Kelvin Kalangasa,

Thank you.

**Part A: Respondents characteristics Street.....Ward: .....**

Please put a tick where it is appropriate

Please indicate your Age group	18-30	
	31-40	
	41-50	
	51-above	

Please indicate your gender	Male	
	Female	

Please state your Marital status	Married/living together	
	Divorced/separated	
	Widowed	
	Single/never married	

Please state your level of education	Primary level	
	Secondary o-level	
	Secondary A-level	
	Certificate level	
	Diploma level	
	University level	
Do you know anything about divorce?	Yes	
	No	

**Objective One: Community Awareness of the Factors Causing Divorce in the Community**

Rate your awareness on the causes of divorce in your community

Awareness of the Factors Causing Divorce in the Community	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
Unfaithfulness in marriage			
Urbanization			
Women battering			
Lack of intimacy			
Poverty (economic instability)			
Loss of sexual desire			
Irresponsibility			
Infertility			
Age difference			
Culture and traditions			

**6. Rate your awareness on the Challenges faced After Divorce**

Challenges on children of divorced parents	Awareness	
	Aware	Not Aware
Financial difficulties		
Single parent care		
Stress and depression		
Children school dropout		
Mental Health of Divorcees		
Mental Well-being of Child		
Co-parenting challenges		
Use of drugs		
Housing challenges		
Fear and uncertainty		

**Objective two: The Influence of Urbanization in Shaping Marital Dynamics in the Community**

Use Agree, Undecided or Disagree to rate your agreement on the Influence of Urbanization in Shaping Marital Dynamics in the Community

Influence of Urbanization on Marital Dynamics	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
Changes in lifestyle, values, and aspirations brought by urbanization may have influence on marital dynamics			
Through media, education, and increasing contact with varied cultures, urban areas are frequently more exposed to Western lifestyles and values,			

which alters attitudes regarding divorce.			
Economic expansion and a rise in employment prospects associated with urbanization, particularly for women may influence divorce in urban areas			
Urban areas often provide better access to education and awareness about individual rights and legal processes			
Urban living can be associated with higher stress levels, long commutes, and demanding lifestyles. These factors can strain marriages and contribute to conflicts that may lead to divorce			
Urban areas often have greater cultural and religious diversity, which can lead to differing views on marriage and divorce			

**Objective three: The Cultural and Traditional Influences Impacting Marital Relationships and Rise in Divorce.**

Use Agree, Undecided or Disagree to rate your agreement on the Cultural and Traditional Influences Impacting Marital Relationships and Rise in Divorce

Cultural and Traditional Influences Impacting Marital Relationships and Rise in Divorce	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
Arranged marriages may lack compatibility between spouses leading to divorce			
Marriages between individuals from different cultural background may lack compatibility leading to divorce			
Marriages between individuals from different religious background may lack compatibility leading to divorce			
Traditional rituals and lifestyle may impact marital relationships leading to divorce			
Lack of privacy for couples from extended families may affect marital relationships leading to divorce			
Prevalence of dowry payment may lead to family disputes including dowry harassment and violence, leading to divorce			
Prevalence of polygamy may lead to divorce			

## **Appendix I: Interview Guideline**

### 1. Objective One:

What do you understand about the term divorce?

Do you have any experience on divorce?

How divorce occur?

Why divorce?

Are you aware on the increase of divorce rate in the community?

### 2. Objective Two

What is the influence of urbanization in shaping marital dynamics in the community?

### 3. Objective Three

What are the cultural and traditional influences impacting marital relationships and

### **Appendix II: Study Duration Plan**

Duration of study means a period/duration for a student to fulfill all the requirements in his/her study for the degree concerned (Tromps. The study expects to cover the duration of several months as shown below. Rise of divorce?

### **Appendix III: Study Duration Plan**

Duration of study means a period/duration for a student to fulfill all the requirements in his/her study for the degree concerned (Tromps. The study expects to cover the duration of several months as shown below.

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>WEEKS</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
Aug to Sept, 2023	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup>	Preparation of proposal and questionnaires
September, 2023.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Distribution of questionnaires
October 2023.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Data collection
November, 2023.	1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup>	Data analysis
December, 2023	6 weeks	Submission of the first draft report
Dec to Jan, 2024.	8 weeks	Editing and submission of the final report

**Source: Researcher, (2023).**

#### Appendix IV: Research Budget

Research budget is a detailed financial statement of estimated project costs to cover the researching process. The researcher expects to have the budget as plotted below to cover all its costs in accomplishment of this study.

S/N	ACTIVITIES	ITEMS	COST (TSH)
1	Proposal Preparation	Internet services	100000
		Typing and Printing	80,000
		Photocopies	60000
		Binding	10,000
		Subtotal	140,000
2	Data Collection	Printing and Photocopies	80000
		Transport	150,000
		Subtotal	200,000
3	Processing and Report Writing	Printing and Photocopies	150,000
		Transport	50,000
		Binding	20,000
		Subtotal	220,000
	Grand Total		1,260000

Source: Researcher (2023)



# THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA



Ref. No OUT/PG202002144

28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

Regional Administrative Secretary,  
P.O.Box 5429,  
DAR ES SALAAM.

Dear Regional Administrative Secretary,

**RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR MR. KELVIN KALANGASA, REG NO: PG2020021 44**

2. The Open University of Tanzania was established by an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007. In line with the Charter, the Open University of Tanzania mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.

3. 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 **Mr. Kelvin Kalangasa, Reg. No: PG202002144**), pursuing **Master of Social Work (MSW)**. We here by grant this clearance to conduct a research titled **“An Assessment to Increased Divorced Rates**

in Dar es salaam: **A Case Study of Kinondoni Municipality**". He will collect his data at your area from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

4. 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 thank you in advance for your assumed cooperation and facilitation of this research academic activity.

Yours sincerely,

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA**



Prof. Magreth S. Bushesha

For: **VICE CHANCELLOR**

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
OFISI YA RAIS  
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA

MKOA WA DAR ES SALAAM  
Anwani ya Simu  
Simu: 2203156/2203158  
Fax: 2203213  
Barua Pepe: ras@dsm.go.tz  
Unapojibu Tafadhali taja:  
Kumb. Na. EA.260/307/02D/224



OFISI YA MKUU WA MKOA,  
3, Barabara ya Rashid Kayunga,  
S. L. P. 5429,  
12880, DAR ES SALAAM

5 Machi, 2024

Mkurugenzi wa Manispaa,  
Halmashauri ya Manispaa ya Kinondoni,  
S. L. P. 31902,  
DAR ES SALAAM.

YAH: KUMTAMBULISHA NDG. KELVIN KALANGASA  
REG. NO. PG2020021 44

Tafadhali husika na mada tajwa hapo juu.

2. Ofisi hii imepokea barua isiyo na namba ya kumbukumbu ya tarehe 28 Februari, 2024 kutoka Chuo Kikuu Huria - Tanzania ikimtambulisha na kumuomba kibali cha kufanya utafiti katika Halmashauri yako Ndg. Kelvin Kalangasa.
3. Mwanachuo huyu anafanya utafiti kuhusu "*An Assessment to Increased Divorced Rates in Dar es Salaam: A Case Study of Kinondoni Municipality*" kuanzia kuanzia tarehe 21 Februari 2024 hadi tarehe 30 Machi, 2024.

Kwa barua hii, tafadhali mpeni ushirikiano atakaohitaji.

John J. Ngonyani  
Kny: KATIBU TAWALA MKOA  
DAR ES SALAAM

Nakala: Makamu Mkuu wa Chuo,  
Chuo Kikuu Huria - Tanzania,  
DAR ES SALAAM.

" Ndg. Kelvin Kalangasa.



## JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

OFISI YA RAIS,  
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA

HALMASHAURI YA MANISPAA YA KINONDONI



*Unapojibu tafadhali taja:*

Kumb. Na. HB.345/520/01

Tarehe: 06 March, 2024

Watendaji wa Kata,  
Kata zote,  
S.L.P 31902,  
**DAR ES SALAAM.**

### YAH: KIBALI CHA KUFANYA UTAFITI

Kichwa cha habari hapo juu cha husika.

2. Ofisi ya Mkurugenzi imepokea barua toka Ofisi ya Katibu Tawala Mkoa isiyo na Kumbukumbu Namba ya tarehe 05 March, 2024 ikitambulisha kwa ajili ya kufanya utafiti.
3. Kwa barua hii, *Kibali kimetolewa cha kufanya utafiti kuhusu "An assessment to increased divorced rates in Dar es salaam." Kutoka katika Chuo Kikuu Huria utafiti huu Utafanyika 21 Februari, 2024 mpaka 30 March, 2024.*
4. Nawasilisha.

  
Maria Masimbusi  
MKURUGENZI WA MANISPAA  
MANISPAA YA KINONDONI  
DAR-ES-SALAAM

Kny: **MKURUGENZI WA MANISPAA**

### Nakala:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Mkurugenzi wa Manispaa | - Aione kwenye jalada |
| - Ndg Kelvin Kalangasa   | - Kwa Taarifa         |

Barua zote zitumwe kwa Mkurugenzi wa Manispaa Manispaa ya Kinondoni, S.L.P. 31902, 2 Barabara ya Morogoro,  
14883 Dar es Salaam, Unaweza pia kuwasiliana nasi kwa Simu: +255 2170173 Nukushi: 2172606,  
Barua pepe - [info@kinondonimc.go](mailto:info@kinondonimc.go)