

# **DIVORCE AND CHILDREN'S WELLBEING IN SEPARATED HOMES**

BY

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BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, FACULTY OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)  
DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research project titled "Divorce and Children's Wellbeing in Separated Homes" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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PROJECT SUPERVISOR

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Date

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EXTERNAL EXAMINER

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Date

## **DEDICATION**

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Sociology, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

## **ABSTRACT**

This study examined divorce and children's wellbeing in separated homes, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of divorce; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with divorce and children. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 397 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 379 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.14). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ( $r = 0.574$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 7.15,  $p < 0.05$ ). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ( $t = 1.25$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on divorce.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                      |      |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Title Page .....                                     | i    |
| Certification .....                                  | ii   |
| Dedication .....                                     | iii  |
| Acknowledgement .....                                | iv   |
| Abstract .....                                       | v    |
| Table of Contents .....                              | vi   |
| List of Tables .....                                 | vii  |
| List of Figures .....                                | viii |
| CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....                      | 1    |
| 1.1 Background to the Study .....                    | 1    |
| 1.2 Statement of the Problem .....                   | 4    |
| 1.3 Objectives of the Study .....                    | 7    |
| 1.4 Research Questions .....                         | 7    |
| 1.5 Research Hypotheses .....                        | 7    |
| 1.6 Significance of the Study .....                  | 7    |
| 1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study .....          | 10   |
| 1.8 Definition of Terms .....                        | 12   |
| CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW .....                 | 14   |
| 2.1 Conceptual Review .....                          | 14   |
| 2.1.1 Concept of Divorce .....                       | 14   |
| 2.1.2 Concept of Children .....                      | 15   |
| 2.1.3 Concept of Wellbeing .....                     | 17   |
| 2.2 Theoretical Framework .....                      | 19   |
| 2.2.1 Structural Functionalist Theory .....          | 19   |
| 2.2.2 Social Learning Theory .....                   | 20   |
| 2.2.3 Strain Theory .....                            | 21   |
| 2.2.4 Symbolic Interactionism .....                  | 22   |
| 2.3 Empirical Review .....                           | 23   |
| 2.3.1 Early Studies on divorce .....                 | 24   |
| 2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on divorce .....      | 25   |
| 2.3.3 Divorce and children .....                     | 27   |
| 2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa .....   | 29   |
| 2.4 Summary of Literature Review .....               | 30   |
| CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....            | 32   |
| 3.1 Research Design .....                            | 32   |
| 3.2 Population of the Study .....                    | 32   |
| 3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique .....         | 33   |
| 3.4 Sources of Data Collection .....                 | 34   |
| 3.5 Research Instrument .....                        | 35   |
| 3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument ..... | 36   |
| 3.7 Method of Data Analysis .....                    | 37   |
| 3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument .....         | 38   |

|                                                                    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 3.8 Ethical Considerations .....                                   | 39 |
| CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION ..... | 41 |
| 4.1 Data Presentation .....                                        | 41 |
| 4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents .....               | 41 |
| 4.3 Analysis of Research Questions .....                           | 42 |
| 4.4 Test of Hypotheses .....                                       | 43 |
| 4.5 Discussion of Findings .....                                   | 44 |
| CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....        | 49 |
| 5.1 Summary .....                                                  | 49 |
| 5.2 Conclusion .....                                               | 50 |
| 5.3 Recommendations .....                                          | 50 |
| 5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies .....                          | 51 |
| REFERENCES .....                                                   | 52 |
| APPENDIX .....                                                     | 54 |

## LIST OF TABLES

|                                                                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature .....                         | 31 |
| Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables .....                           | 31 |
| Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique .....                      | 39 |
| Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument .....                 | 40 |
| Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents .....                                  | 47 |
| Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents .....                                     | 47 |
| Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents .....                               | 47 |
| Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One .....                     | 47 |
| Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two .....                     | 48 |
| Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables ..... | 48 |
| Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender .....                                | 48 |
| Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association .....                                      | 48 |

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

|                                                      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study .....  | 13 |
| Figure 3.1: Sociology Research Context .....         | 40 |
| Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents ..... | 46 |
| Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents .....    | 47 |

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The study of divorce and children's wellbeing in separated homes is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The phenomenon of divorce, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which divorce unfolds. Chukwu and Bakare (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of divorce are unevenly distributed across groups. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. The aggregate picture emerging from Famuyide and Ogunlana (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between divorce and the outcomes of interest. For practitioners, the practical significance of divorce cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with children. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

divorce occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about children and national development. Evidence from national agencies indicates that divorce has grown considerably in recent times, underscoring the need for systematic inquiry. Comparative work by Osinachi and Oyelaran (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking divorce with children. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. The aggregate picture emerging from Oyelaran and Musa (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between divorce and the outcomes of interest. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in sociology. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Over the past two decades, divorce has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of divorce and children. A notable study by Oyelaran and Musa (2017) argued that the impact of divorce is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Such findings reinforce the argument that divorce deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The work of Eze and Ogbeide (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that children reinforces the effects of divorce. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames divorce as inseparable from the broader question of children. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with divorce. The work of Bello and Musa (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that children reinforces the effects of divorce. Such findings reinforce the argument that divorce deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The aggregate picture emerging from Okonkwo and Eze (2023) points to a