DIVORCE AND CHILD SOCIALIZATION: THE CASE OF GARISSA COUNTY,
NORTH EASTERN KENYA

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DECLARATION

This Project Paper is my original work and has not been presented to any study program by me in any other University.

Signature Wilkister Were. Date 12/11/12

This Project has been submitted with my approval as the University Supervisor

Signature Dr. Charles Owuor Olungah Date 12/11/2012
Dedication

To

Rich, Sellah, Benta, John and most especially Natallie for your immense support and encouragement.
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<tr>
<td>C.REAW</td>
<td>Center for Rights of Education and Awareness</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>GDSP</td>
<td>Garissa District Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female Genital Mutilation</td>
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<td>FPE</td>
<td>Free Primary Education</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organization</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effects divorce has on child socialization, in Garissa, North Eastern Kenya. The research had 3 specific objectives. First, it sought to establish the high divorce rate in Garissa. Secondly, it sought to investigate the social effects of divorce on children, and thirdly, to establish the link between divorce, child socialization, and academic performance in Garissa.

The study found out that, divorce affects the socialization of the child in the study area in several ways. These include: Drug and substance abuse, AIDS and STI’s due to lack of parental guidance, stigmatization of children, mostly without fathers, feeling unloved by the absent parent, lack of trust in people due to the lies given by custodial parent when asked about the absent parent, school drop-out due to lack of fee and other basic needs, low grades due to absence from school or low concentration span in class, and child labor to make ends meet.

The recommendations made include: Government and stakeholders strengthening existing divorce laws on children, parents being devoted to their marriages, parents agreeing on divorce terms to avoid custody tussles, and empowering pastoralists by reinforcing local conflict resolution experts.
CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage contracted between a man and a woman, by the judgment of a court of a competent jurisdiction, or by an act of the legislature (Lectric Law Library’s Lexicon, divorce). The word divorce originated from the word divert, meaning to leave one’s husband. Divorce rate is increasing at an astounding rate in the United States of America and close to 5% of children are growing up in single parent environments (Cherlin, 1991). Every year, some 1.25 million marriages in the U.S.A end in divorce, plunging over a million children under the age of 18 into life in a broken family, thereby, breaking the bond between the parent and child, and leading to negative and traumatic consequences for a child (Noshi, 2010). This can, socialize the child to be less trusting.

Divorce has a long history, with its beginning in ancient times. It is mentioned in the code of Hammurabi, the oldest known written compilation of law recorded around 1700 BC (Nicholson, 2009). According to the law, a man could divorce his wife if she went out doors uncovered, or persisted in acting foolishly, or belittled the husband.

In Kenya and the world at large, family members have different goals and values that result in conflict, marriage and family problems and, go through stresses and strains of modern society. Today, it is just as likely that a man and woman would stay together, then get married and have children, but ultimately end up getting divorced (Gottfried and Gottfried, 1994). Parental loss, where contact with one parent is lost, leads to the children also losing knowledge, skills and resources of that parent. More life stress, living situations such as changing schools, child care, homes, among other things, lead to children having to make adjustments to changes in relationships with friends and the extended family (Kelly & Emery, 2003)

In the United States of America, 60% of all marriages end in divorce and two-fifths of the children experience the break-up of their parents’ marriage before they are 18 years old (Barringer, 1989). The divorce rate has also accelerated over the last several decades in most industrialized countries except for Japan and Italy (Cherlin, 1992., Goode, 1993). Divorce is a stressful experience for parents and mostly children regardless of age or development. It is
complex and emotionally charged. Most of the feelings of divorce are negative and involve anger (Hetherington & Hogan, 1995).

The stress of divorce places both men and women in difficulties (Lansdale, 1996). Most parents are usually inadequately prepared for it. According to Lisa (2010), the divorce rate globally is very high today. She attributes this to the fact that divorce is more socially accepted by people, views supported by Cotran (1968, 1987). Cotran says that it was difficult to divorce in the past because of the tough conditions put in place. He gives an example of the Luo where divorce only became effective if there was a serious offence like witchcraft or incest and only became effective if the cattle used for bride-wealth were returned and the children remained with the husband. Among the Kikuyu, divorce would be considered on the same grounds, but was effective when the husband agreed to keep the children.

Other factors contributing to high divorce rates according to Lisa (2010) are the increased awareness of human rights, unlike before when people stayed in situations considered abusive, fewer people follow rules of religion even though they go for prayers regularly, childlessness, and people mostly marrying thinking they are in love when in actual fact it is infatuation and, therefore, end up marrying people who are not their best friends, an important factor in marriage.

In Kenya, cases of divorce are on the rise though it is hard to come by any statistics indicating exactly how many marriages end up in divorce. In an article in the Saturday Nation of April, 2010 Gikonyo et al., reported that a total of 152 divorce cases were filed at Milimani Commercial Court in 1991. By 2010, the annual figure had more than doubled to 386 cases. The Nairobi High Court had 163 cases filed in 2005 and 183 in 2010. Some fathers and mothers see divorce as 'their' issue not realizing that it has far reaching ramification for children (Marguardt, 2005). She reports that 44% of children from divorced families felt physically or mentally unsafe in their homes.

While society attributes the failure and success of a child to the mother, it should not be forgotten that the father’s positive family involvement assumes special importance in developing children's social competence. This is because, he is the only male the child encounters on a regular day-to-day basis (Biller, 1993). Although motherhood is associated with positive images such as warmth, selflessness, dutifulness and tolerance (Matlin, 1993; Rollins, 1996), when father and
mother equitably share child rearing responsibilities, it is easier for them to cope with changing family circumstances. For proper all rounded socialization, a child needs a father and mother at the same time so as to be adequately nurtured for the future.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

In Garissa, like among other Muslim communities, when a woman gets three talaks, meaning "I divorce thee", the fate of the child is in limbo and there is never a forum for discussion between the parents and the child(ren) in courts (Kamran, 2010). The child's voice is killed and decisions made for them with the assumption that they are fine with those decisions. Talak is the divorce pronouncement among the Muslim which is a preserve of the men to pronounce to their wives when they are no longer interested in the marriage. Today, there is a growing trend of married Muslim women leaving their husbands due to physical, emotional and sexual abuse (Kamran, 2010). According to Kamran, wife abuse stretches across all ethnic, racial and socio-economic lines in Muslim community leading to severe emotional and physical pain for many Muslim women. The women, who are blamed for the abuse, leave their husbands, with the help of women activists who counsel them and devote resources to help them start income generating projects. Children, who are caught in the middle of all these, wish that parents would respect their rights not to choose sides between parents, not to be told bad things about the other parent, not to lie to one parent from another, among other things (Gross, 1999).

Children should grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality. Most children in Garissa are not privileged to grow up in such an environment. This study therefore, intended to establish whether this lack of a proper matrimonial arrangement affects the children's socialization in any way, more so, regarding their schooling and social lives. The study was guided by the following key research questions:

1) What reasons do people in Garissa advance for their divorces?

2) What social effects does divorce have on children in Garissa?

3) Is there any connection between divorce, socialization, and academic performance in Garissa?
1.3 STUDY OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE
To explore the effects of divorce on child socialization in Garissa County.

1.3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
1) To establish the reasons for the high divorce rate in Garissa County.
2) To investigate the social effects of divorce on children.
3) To establish the link between divorce, child socialization and academic performance in Garissa.

1.4 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY
The study findings will, in a broader perspective, inform policy makers either in the schools or in the government ministries on how to socialize the vulnerable members of society, especially the products of divorce. This study has looked at the relationship between divorce and its effects on children and has yielded a better understanding of the subject of study. In addition, it has also provided literature in the field of divorce and child socialization for academic purposes.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY
The study was conducted in Garissa County in North Eastern Kenya. The respondents were people who are products of divorce aged 18 years and above. A group of divorced parents were part of the focus group and gave their views on the effect the divorce has had on their children. The study also talked to key informants like school/youth counselors, child’s rights advocates and religious leaders dealing with the Kadhi’s Court.

In the process of gathering data, some informants felt uncomfortable dealing with an ‘outsider’. This was overcome through the process of proper introduction and rapport creation. Informants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity. However, given the conservativeness of the local cultures, some informants did not trust strangers with sensitive personal information in the focus group discussion because the information was shared by other group members. The research team and the participants in the focus group tried their best through setting ground rules before the session began to ensure that what was discussed in the group was not taken outside.
However, one could still observe some fears and lack of openness in some participants and informants.

1.6 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

**Divorce** – Dissolution of marriage contracted between men and women under a complete court jurisdiction.

**Talak** – To untie matrimonial knot by articulating a word denoting divorce.

**Child** – A human being below the age of eighteen years.

**Socialization** – The process of learning one's culture such as inheriting norms, customs and ideologies and how to live within it.
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the most frequently asked questions about family life is whether divorce is harmful to children. Most studies have reported at least some negative consequences, one being their having difficulties adapting to single-parent families. Parents can make the divorce process and its effects less painful for the children by providing stability in the home and attending to their physical and emotional needs.

2.2 THE END OF A MARRIAGE

The end of a marriage is a sad event, but it is not the end of the family. Divorce usually brings about departure of one parent, mostly the father from the child’s household (Amato, 1999). When divorce takes place, even if the marriage has been miserable, the parents experience the loss of a dream, and the children are confronted with a parental loss that they have not chosen (Wallerstein, 1989). The children usually feel rejected and abandoned and go through grieving denial, guilt, anger and despair. They may draw close to the parent they are living with who is also experiencing loss (Goldstein, 1995 cited in Vishner and Vishner 1997). Both parent and child will enter into an unexceptionally close and over-determined relationship. The fact that a child is a part of two parents underlines the strong feelings of being split apart which most children feel at the time of a divorce. With divorce, a family dies and hearts break.

Unlike the case of death of an individual, there is no funeral to comfort the family. In divorce, sacred vows are cut, trust is betrayed, and husband and wife each take back their half (Wallerstein, 1989). With divorce the home, security, belonging and a predictable future, all die and, children generally do not receive support commensurate with the intensity of these issues and tend to bury their grief. Wallerstein stresses that children cannot adequately mourn their parents’ divorce at the time it takes place and later, regardless of custody arrangement the child is always missing someone and, that depriving a child of either parent drains the child's spirit as a lingering emptiness emerges in times of quiet (Wallerstein, 1989).

The number of couples willing to file divorce petitions in Kenya is on the increase (Gikonyo and Hart, 2010). They however, say that the high legal costs (in most cases a minimum of
KES500,000) often see many such cases ending in a separation by verbal agreement or cancellation of the divorce. Divorce cases filed at Milimani Commercial Court in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 were 101, 115, 206, 296 and 295, respectively. In 2007 and 2008, the numbers rose to 357 and 369 respectively. Fida Kenya, a legal organization that champions the rights of women, handled 142 cases in 2008, 149 in 2009 and 69 cases between January and March 2010 (Gikonyo and Hart, 2010). According to Fida’s Head of Programmes, Maingi (2010), the statistics imply that there is a divorce case in court every day and adds that the national divorce figures could be higher given that Fida mainly assists clients who cannot afford legal fees. She attributes the high divorce rate partly to the fact that, women no longer hold onto failed and abusive marriages.

2.3 REASONS FOR HIGH DIVORCE RATES

Many theories have been given as reasons for high divorce rates today. The affective disorder theory blames divorce to inability of parties to separate their childhood issues from their relationship with their spouses and therefore not getting what they want from their spouses (Frolick, 2010). The women’s biological re-engineering theory blames the rising testosterone levels in women for creating divorces (Florick, 2010). These are the hormones that stimulate the sex aggressive drive and rise when one is dominant as opposed to subjugated, a position more working women find themselves in as they continue becoming bosses. The urban anomie theory argues that urbanization weakens and destroys kingship bonds and severes extended family ties leading to alienation and anonymity of every individual. This has put enormous strain on long-term family commitments (Frolick, 2010). According to the structural incompatibility theory, 80% of all couples are fundamentally unhappy with each other because they are structurally and emotionally incompatible, making real compromise impossible (Raleigh, 2008). Abuse is one of the justifiable reasons for divorce. No woman or man wants to stay with somebody who physically or emotionally abuses them. Women no longer hold onto failed and abusive marriages. Burns and Scott (1994), however, think that marriages are faced with turbulence as societal norms and values are changing. Quoting the U.S Census Bureau, they say that it is the mother rather than the father with whom the children reside after divorce as men, who tend to benefit more from marriages, particularly in terms of resources, run away. Maingi and Shauri
(2010) on the other hand attribute the increasing divorce rates to changing society and, that women are out to prove a point.

Divorce can also be passed from divorcing parents to their children. Among adult children of divorced parents, only 60% marry, with 40% eventually divorcing, compared to 80% of adult children from intact families who marry and only 9% end up divorcing (Wallerstein, 1989). Whereas pressure plays a big role in divorce, where men and women are increasingly aping the separated and divorced peers, 40% of divorces are due to childlessness (Gikonyo and Hart, 2010), who also argue that the more children you have, the less likely you are to divorce and the more sense it makes to stick together. Other common reasons attributed to high divorce rates include lack of communication where couples do not keep the channels of communication open with their spouses, and extra marital affairs, normally compounded by the attempt to hide it, and unwillingness to talk about it (Florick, 2010). Emotional and physical abuse where one spouse inflicts either, verbal, emotional, physical or a combination of abuses can eventually lead to divorce (Raleigh, 2008).

The African Muslim divorce rate is on the increase and stood at 31.14% in the early 1990s (Yunus, 2000; Majid, 2000). Reasons for divorce among Garissa couples are numerous, varying from infidelity, early marriages, incompatibility, desertion, cruelty, insanity, rape, breakdown of communication, among others (Kattman, 1989). Couples in Garissa, despite their religion (Islam) encouraging parents to have as many children as they can since “Wealth and children are an adornment of the life of this world” (Koran 18:46), the divorce rate is still very high.” Aphia 11 assessment of Kenya Sexual Network in Garissa, (2005) attributes 78% of divorce to religion. Forty four percent of couples in Garissa are either divorced or separated (Kahutho et al., 2005). This could be attributed to the fact that Koran 65.1 and 5 allow men to divorce their wives as long as they abide by what is acceptable in the Koran. After getting three talaks, a woman can never go back to the husband (Koran 2:230).

The women are divorced when they commit an ‘open indecency’, which could mean different things for individuals. A woman can get married and at the end when she gets a divorce, she does not get her rights (Osman, 2009). The mother is allowed to remarry four months after giving birth if she is divorced while pregnant (Koran, 2:228). Talak is given by the Kadhi’s courts and this is the final authority (Koran, 11:65). Women too have a right to divorce if they have genuine
reasons such as a husband who is not religious, desertion, cruelty or one not providing for the family but she has to have two witnesses. The woman, however, has to pay the man half of what she owns. If she has nothing, the family (parents or relatives) can pay on her behalf (Koran 2:229, 2:231)

Chapter 65.1 of the Koran allows a man two witnesses for him to divorce his wife. Sura LXV “Talak” verse 2 says, “Two just persons from amongst yourselves shall bear witness to the evidence before God when a divorce is settled”. One can, therefore, divorce without necessarily going to the Kadhi's courts but there must be two responsible people as witnesses. The Koran also supports polygyny (Koran IV: 128). One can marry as many as four wives on condition that he treats all of them equally as stipulated in the Koran 43, (Maudid, 1979). This is, however, a challenge because men tend to love the youngest wives. Arranged marriages also contribute to high divorce rates. Here, parents from different families pick potential wives for their sons and early engagements are done (Karaya, 2009). Both the girl and the boy grow up knowing they are engaged to each other and should other requests come their way, they are turned down. The two end up in a marriage not out of love but forced by cultural practices (Cohen and Savaya, 2003). The marriages take place at an early age (normally around fifteen years) to avoid promiscuity (Hussein, 2009). Some girls are forced into early marriages since it is a way of getting wealth like camels and goats, this, especially practised among parents who do not value education of girls. These girls get married to spouses they do not love leading to lack of commitment to the marriage (Cohen and Savaya, 2003).

Education is not mandatory among the Garissa Somalis (Kahutho et al, 2005). For instance, boys start doing business such as selling ‘miraa’ at an early age to start planning on how to fend for their potential families. According to Karama (2010), approximately 40 million shillings are used a month on miraa. The effects manifest themselves in high divorce rates normally initiated by women on grounds of lack of social responsibility by their husbands, who have shunned them because they spend most of their time in the company of their friends chewing miraa. ‘Miraa’ has become the greatest obstacle to development as users waste their time at the expense of things that matter in the community (Karama, 2010).
Educated girls and women in Garissa do not entertain gender-based violence and opt out of their marriages to emphasize the goal of personal happiness (Knox & Schacht 2006). This, according to Knox is because of civilization and the fact that they know their rights and can use the right channels to free themselves of different forms of violations other girls may be going through. Income generating projects including the selling of ‘Miraa’ has boosted the economy of the area tremendously. Women thus feel they can survive without financial support from men (Kitsun and Sussman, 1982). Increasing economic independence of women in Garissa could also be contributing to the high divorce rates (Knox & Schacht, 2006). A Muslim man is supposed to take care of his wife unconditionally (Koran, 4:34). This means that even when she is economically independent, the man still provides for her. In the past, unemployed wives in Garissa were dependent on their husbands for food and shelter and no matter how unhappy their marriages were, many stayed married since their husbands literally represented their lifelines. However, finding gainful employment outside the home has made it possible for the wives to afford to leave their husbands if they want to (Cohen and Savaya, 2003). Fewer and fewer wives are trapped in unhappy marital relationships. The women’s employment in Garissa has provided an avenue of escape for women in unhappy or abusive marriages. Women are beginning to value religious goals of happiness in marriages and when these goals are not met, they sometimes feel that there is no reason to stay married.

2.4 EFFECTS OF DIVORCE ON CHILDREN

Locke (1869), talking of the nature-nurture issue of children, argued that a newborn was in a blank state (tabula rasa) because the individual experience of the child can be written from scratch. This is because the environment acted as the sole influence on development of the infant. Young children’s responses to divorce are mediated by their limited cognitive and social competence, their dependency on parents and possibly, their day care (Hetherington and Hogan, 1995).

The cognitive immaturity that creates considerable anxiety for children who are young at the time of their parents’ divorce may benefit the children over time. Ten years after the divorce of their parents, approximately one third of children affected continued to express anger about not being able to grow up in an intact -never- divorced family. Those who were adolescents at the
time of their parents' divorce were more likely to remember the conflict and stress surrounding the divorce some ten years later in their early adult years (Wallerstein et al, 1988).

After divorce, all children learn different tasks as they go through different developmental stages. Pfeffer (1981) has stated that a period of grief by the children can be expected. She also said that after separation and divorce, the growth of the child's personality may be promoted when parents become more proficient role models and ego supporters of the child. Wongs (1985), while sharing the same views, says that younger children must learn the following:

- To understand the immediate changes and the differences in fantasies and reality.
- To control fears of their abandonment or being put to a foster home.
- To show their interest in and provide help to parents and siblings.
- To get focused on something besides the divorce and getting back to their own interests, pleasures and relationships.
- To deal with rejection and blame for the divorce.
- To deal with the loss of an intact family and absent parent and this is the most difficult part.

Two main models have been proposed to explain how divorce affects children's development (Hetherington and Hogan 1995). These models are as follows:

1) The family structure model which states that any differences in children from different family structures are due to the family structure variations such as the father being absent in one set of family. The family structure such as father present versus father-absent is only one set of family. This is only one of many factors that influence children's development and adjustment.

2) The multi-factor model of divorce takes into account the complexity of the divorce context and examines a number of influences on the child's development including not only family structure but also strengths and weaknesses of the child prior to the divorce, the nature of the events surrounding the divorce itself, the type of custody involved, visitation pattern, socio-economic status and post divorce family functioning. It is believed that availability and use of support systems such as relatives, friends, housekeepers, an ongoing positive relationship between the custodial parent and ex-
spouse are among factors in how a successful adolescent adopts to divorce (Hetherington and Hogan, 1995).

Many separations and divorce are highly emotional affairs that immerse the children in conflict. Conflict is a critical aspect of family functioning that often outweighs the influence of the family structure on the development of a child (Hetherington 1995). Specifically, escape from conflict that divorce provides may be a positive benefit for children in the year immediately following the divorce. However, the conflict does not decline but increases and at this time, boys show more adjustment problems. During the first year after divorce the quality of parenting the child experiences is often poor. This is because parents seem to be pre-occupied with their own needs and adjustment like anger, depression and emotional instability and these may inhibit their ability to respond sensitively to the needs of the children (Hetherington and Hogan, 1995; Hetherington and Cox, 1982).

The sex of the child and that of the custodial parent are important considerations in evaluating the effects of divorce on children. One research directly compared 1-11 year children living in father and mother custody families on a number of measures including videotaped observations of parent-child interactions. The findings showed that children living with the same-sex parent were higher self-esteem and more mature than children living with opposite sex parents (Santrock and Warshak, cited in Lamb, 1986).

An evaluation of children and adolescents six years after the divorce of their parents, found that, adolescents adjust poorly in father-custody families (Maccoby and Dornbusch, 1998). It also established that, living with a mother who did not remarry had long-term negative effects on boys’ right from kindergarten to adolescence (Hetherington and Hogan, 1995). At the onset of adolescence, early maturing girls from divorced families engaged in frequent conflict with their mothers, behaved in non-complicit ways, had lower self-esteem and experienced more problems in heterosexual relationships. The competent child elicits from the parents what the child needs. The competent child gets from the world of mothers and that of fathers what experiences it needs while a child without a father is often seen as the product of a promiscuous relationship (Erickson, 1950). Childhood experiences are important in determining adult characteristics.
Children in a divorcing family have fear of parental loss. They know that nothing will ever be the same again and their previously secure world is in a state of change. Many things will change, not just that the mother or father will not be around. They have a realistic fear that if they lose one parent, they may lose the other. Twenty percent of children have no contact with their fathers 2-3 years after divorce (Kelly and Emery, 2003). They may also lose contact with the extended family members on one side or the other. Their bed and meal-times, and after school routines may change. It is a state of upheaval (Visher and Visher, 1997).

Children also have the fear of being abandoned when mother and father are at odds and are either separated or considering separation. The concept of being alone in the world is a very frightening thing for a child (Parker, 2010). In addition, children who have a natural attachment for their parents also fear losing that attachment including that of friends, pets, siblings, neighbors and their surroundings. Moving into new surroundings can cause an understandable negative reaction.

The children also fear coping with parental tension (Kelly and Emery, 2003). Even though many divorces follow years of tension between a husband and wife, the tension level typically increases during and shortly after a divorce. Parents who try to turn their children against the other spouse create an absolutely impossible situation for that child. Children also fear economic loss after divorce. This is because there are limited economic resources. Custodial parents, mostly mothers, have less income than the two parent family. The children may be forced to change residence, school, friends and diet among other things (Kelly and Emery, 2003).

There is excessive fear and worry which they are unable to express in an appropriate way. They may wake up but do not want to get up. The children may also suffer from anger and may take out their anger on innocent people especially teachers and other people in authority. They might fight with brothers, sisters or friends more than the usual spats associated with sibling rivalry. They may look sad because their parents are hurting each other or the other children. They feel their parents are not physically with them. They cannot stop thinking about their parents' divorce. They cry over both little and big things, and do not laugh, joke or enjoy anything they are doing (Hughes, 1996).
Signs of withdrawal and little or no interest in playing or being with friends could also be signs of affected children. This is because they could be thinking more about the past than the present. They want to stay alone all the time because they do not want to burden friends by talking about their feelings and do not think the friends can keep their confidence. Some children suffer from lack of trust and love (Hughes, 1996).

They may have a problem communicating with a parent because they feel the parents have not been honest with them. This develops into feelings of emptiness, lack of support, direction, motivation or trust in others. They may appear “stuck” due to self-blame believing that they are responsible for the divorce and that they must have done something wrong. They might therefore, believe that they are responsible for the well being of the custodial parent and other siblings if there are. In particular, the children may act out in inappropriate ways and engage in crimes such as stealing, drug trafficking or consumption. Youth in Garissa will in addition engage in banditry activities like pirating, cattle rustling and joining outlawed groups such as Al-Shabaab (Karama, 2010).

2.5 DIVORCE, CHILD SOCIALIZATION AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Research on the children of depressed parents clearly documents depression in parents is associated with problems of adjustment (Wallerstein, 1989). Depressed mothers especially adopt less effortful control strategies with their children and sometimes act hostile and negative towards them. This is because parental depression or marital turmoil could be a key factor to children’s adjustment problems (Hammer, 1993). ‘Life Stress children’ in single parent families are likely to drop out of school or become pregnant during the teen years (Crowder and Teachman, 2004). They have more difficulty in school, more behavioral problems, more negative self concepts, more problems with peers and getting along with their parents. Sometimes the children drop in performance because they cannot concentrate. Some play truant because to them school is meaningless. The drop could also be attributed to stress and anxiety (Hammer, 1993).

Around 70% of divorced families in the USA have children (Friedman, 1985). A study by Kim (2010), determined that children whose parents divorced often ranked lower in both social development and academic performance than their classmates. This proved to be especially true
in the area of Mathematics. Kim (2010) determined that the impact on academic and social skills did not begin to manifest itself until after the parents had initiated divorce proceedings and identified primary reasons for the decreased school performance as anxiety associated with fighting parents, unpredictable living arrangements, economic insecurity and time spent apart from each parent as the likely culprits for the decreased performance. The impact of divorce and remarriage on children’s progress in school has in particular become a major policy issue and a major focus of research, because success or failure in school has enduring consequences for the quality of life people get, the kind of jobs they work at, who they marry and how much they earn (Evans and Jonathan, 1995), both of whom support the argument by people believed to be pessimists that, disorganization, loss of parental control, and financial restrictions associated with divorce will reduce the effectiveness of parents’ socialization thus, that children from divorced or separated families will not get full benefits of their parents’ resources. Such children will have lower educational attainment than children from intact two parent families. Moreover, the difficulties that a sole parent faces in raising children increase the risk that a child will do poorly in school. Divorce has a small but statistically significant cost to the child’s education and job prospects (Biblarz and Raftery, 1993; Cherlin, 1992). Lauglo (2008), states that children of divorced Norwegians do not perform as well in school as do children of married Norwegians. A study of grades given over a year to classes of 16 year olds, showed that the children of married parents achieved higher grades than those of parents who do not live together. The children themselves thought that constant moving between divorced parents’ homes distracts them from school work (Lauglo, 2008).

In the North Eastern Province of Kenya, less than 20% of girls are ever enrolled in school (Malini and Zainab, 2006). Parents prefer marrying their girls off to older men in exchange for animals. Women and girls are seen as “inferior” to men. A woman can get married but at the end when there is a divorce, she does not get her right. People marry and divorce anyhow leading to many divorces and neglected children (Osman, 2009). The children of divorced parents among Muslims are usually split according to gender. The wife takes the girls and the husband the boys. A child needs both parents for both social and academic attainment. Many women in Garissa, and North Eastern Province of Kenya, have been left destitute after divorce and any of them succumb to threats and hostility and live in abject poverty, and cannot afford to take their children to school (Center for Rights Education and Awareness, 2011),
2.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.6.1 CONFLICT THEORY

Conflict theory was originated by Marx (1871). Conflict Theory as applied to families, challenges the myth that families are harmonized and instead focuses on the ability of the family to deal with differences, change and conflict since the family members have different goals and values. The theory begins by asserting that conflict in families is the normal state of affairs and that family dynamics can be understood by identifying the sources of conflict and establishing better communication, developing apathy and understanding and being motivated to change. It stresses that conflict is inevitable between social groups like that of parent and child (White and Klein, 2002). The theory therefore states that conflict is necessary for change and growth of individuals, marriages and families and that spouse abuse is sometimes the expression of one partner trying to control the other through fear, intimidation, or force. The theory became popular during 1960's when feminist and African Americans challenged the current family theories.

The theory assumes no human society or group exists which does not possess conflicts of interest and deduces civilization as a fight or authority linking groups that are struggling for limited means. It also assumes that conflict is necessary for growth and social change. Its goal is to manage conflict so that it does not escalate to damaging levels to totally separate individuals. Often times, this is what happens in a divorce with chronic un-resolved anger and conflict. The theory therefore, develops a model of household formation and dissolution in which it may be rational for individuals to marry fully anticipating that they will subsequently divorce. The theory has been developed by researchers such as Wilson (1940), where he argues against social isolation, and Jie (2004) who says, not all marriages are durable and the partner you marry is of great significance in determining your prosperity. Divorce for example may have a positive outcome for spouses in turmoil but negative outcome for children (Jie, 2004). In recent years the theory has taken a great variety of forms notably the World Systems Theory proposed by the comparative theory of revolutions put forward by Skopol (1980).
2.6.2 Relevance of the theory to the study

The theory is relevant to this study because it recognizes that family members have different goals and values that result in conflict. From family feuds to labour strikes and international warfare, human conflict is an ever present and universal social problem and the methods to manage it are a challenge for everyone from average citizens to policy makers and social theorists (Ernest, 2002). Ernest wrote a book blending theory and practical application on why conflict erupts and under what conditions it can be managed. Conflict theory provides a lens through which to view these differences. Concepts such as negotiation, cooperation and bargaining should be considered to resolve family conflict.

2.7 STUDY ASSUMPTIONS

- There is high divorce rate in Garissa.
- Divorce has social effects on children in Garissa.
- There is a link between divorce, child socialization, and academic performance in Garissa.
CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The methodology include the following sections; description of research site, research design, population universe, sample population and unit of analysis, sampling procedures, data collection methods, data processing and analysis, and ethical considerations.

3.2 STUDY SITE

Garissa County is in North Eastern part of Kenya. It is one of the 4 counties in North Eastern Kenya. It is the headquarters of North Eastern. It boarders Isiolo County to the Northwest, Wajir to the north, Republic of Somali to the east, Tana River County to the west and Ijara to the south. Garissa’s population was 460,215 in 1999 population and housing census. The county currently has a population of 623,060, with the male population being 334,939 and female 288,121 (2009 census). The population growth stands at 4.7% annually, this being higher than the national population growth rate of 2.8%. Tana River flows through the city. Garissa has 3 Constituencies, Dujis, Fafi and Lagdera. Except for ages 70-74 and 80, females outnumber males (NCPD, 2010). Garissa covers an area of 33,620 km2 with only about 1% being arable. The climate is arid and annual rainfall is 434.8mm. Nomadic activities are the most common land use in the region (FAO 2007). Drop-out rates for primary schools is 43% for females and 31% for males, while in secondary schools is 15% and 22% respectively. According to 2002 estimates, the district had a labor force of 191,367 people, out of which only 20% were literate.
Map of Garissa County

Map courtesy of www.flickr.com/photo/albertkenyaniime/5211427516
The district has a large number of poor people both in town and rural area. Poverty has been increased tremendously since 1994 due to the presence of long drought. The population living under absolute poverty can be estimated at 68% of the total district population. The poor are heavily dependent on relief from government and other organizations (FAO, 2007).

Major problems in families in the district include family instability, increased number of single parents, high rates of separation/divorce and poverty levels and minimal participation of women in developmental decision making. There is preferential treatment mainly in education leading to disparity in literacy between boys and girls. Female life expectancy is generally higher than that of males (Kahutho et al 2005).

After the introduction of Free Primary Education (FPE) 5 years ago, the enrollment in schools, especially of girls, continues to lag behind in Garissa. Most communities are nomadic and semi-nomadic and depend on livestock for their livelihood. The nomadic life favours only boys to be in school whereas girls are required to look after animals (Nur 2005). The parents leave the boys under the care of relatives to ensure they go to school. Girls move around with their parents in search of pasture for their livestock (Nur 2005). According to statistics from Garissa District Education office, the enrollment rate of girls was just half of boys in 2003 when FPE was introduced (11,397 boys compared to 5,539 girls). To improve girls' enrollment, the schools have been established at water-points where families can get water and pasture and also introducing mobile schools and having flexible timetables where schools move with the families (Adan, 2005). Other than the nomadic life, early marriages, which are widely practiced in the area also keeps girls out of school. Parents pull their girls out of school, some as young as 10 years to marry them off to old men in exchange for cattle and goats (Nur, 2005).

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopted an exploratory design. It employed a retrospective cohort study in which people who divorced sometimes back and their children were the objects of study. The study was majorly qualitative with in-depth Interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions as the main methods. Data collection exercise took 4 weeks. Data was later pieced together to form comprehensive picture of the informants collective experience, then it has been presented after interpretation according to the emerging themes.
3.4 STUDY POPULATION

The population comprises of all adults who met the characteristics of the study. The adults must have been in a marriage that ended up in divorce or separation and the offspring of such marriages who have now attained the age of consent (18 years and above).

3.5 SAMPLE POPULATION AND UNIT OF ANALYSIS

The sample population consisted of 20 informants aged 18 years and above raised by single parents. In addition, the study conducted focus group discussions with divorced parents and held key informant interviews with a select group of key people who interact with divorce cases and take care of children from such situations. The individual persons raised by single parents was the unit of analysis.

3.6 SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Snowball sampling method was used. It has been used by Richardson (1981) to locate single or divorced women who were in long-term relationships with married men. Beardsworth & Keil (1992) used snowball to find and interview 76 vegetarians in Britain. It is a non-probability sampling method used to represent the target population.

The potential informant is asked whether they know of anybody with the same characteristics the researcher is looking for. It is dependent upon “Who knows who”. It was easier for the already selected informants to refer the researcher to other informants with relevant information on who are the divorce victims. With the help of local assistants and the children’s officers, it as possible to locate some few informants who then were be requested to assist in locating the others with similar characteristics. Some cases of divorce and separation are common and therefore locating the divorcees and the children from such unions was not very difficult.

3.7 DATA COLLECTION METHODS

3.7.1 IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

Twenty individuals raised by single parents were subjected to an in-depth interview using an in-depth interview guide (Appendix 1). This guide had questions regarding the informant’s demographic profile, their views on their parents’ divorce and the different ways the divorce
affected them. The researcher probed and used open ended questions to encourage free open responses in order to elicit rich detailed data (Lofland & Lofland 1995).

3.7.2 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS
Two focus group discussions of divorced parents were conducted. One focus group discussion was composed of 10 men and the other 9 women. Focus groups gather together people from similar background or experiences and involve both interviews and observations of participants. The instrument used was a focus group discussion guide (Appendix 2). Group dynamics and interactions was used to generate data and insight. Participants had the opportunity to express themselves exhaustively on issues such as divorce experiences, shortcomings in the socialization of children, and remedies that can reduce the negative effects of children from such marriages.

3.7.3 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS
Eight Key Informants were chosen through purposive sampling. These were people who will have dealt with divorce cases directly and were therefore knowledgeable enough to provide unique information related to the topic. The researcher found out from 2 Kadhis about the worst case scenarios they have handled and got explanation on how they handled the cases; from one youth counselor they were told of how they help youth from such homes; and from one school counselor, the researcher heard about the academic performances of children from divorced unions. Others were the 2 children’s officers who reported on parental adherence to settlements agreed upon, and 2 members of Children Legal Action Network (CLAN) who reported on what further interventions are necessary for children from divorced homes. All the information was gathered using a key informant interview guide (appendix 3).

3.8 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS
Qualitative method of data analysis was employed in the research. This consisted of rearranging the raw information according to the themes for the purpose of explaining and describing the patterns that emerged from the data collected. The themes were identified by bringing together components or fragments of ideas since experiences are meaningless viewed alone (Leininger, 1985). The researcher went through the data required and looked for recurring patterns, running through the data to form topics and sub-topics within the content and thematic analysis style. Data has therefore been presented along the emerging themes, giving accounts of
individual experiences. In selected situations, verbal quotations have been used to amplify the voices of informants.

3.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

A letter of introduction was obtained from the Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies to the administrative and local leaders such as religious leaders, counselors, and individuals above 18 years. The letter indicated the overall objective of the study and the channel through which the results of the study will be shared. The researcher also got informed consent and support from the informants and handled them with utmost respect, as per requirements of their customs. These included going by their greetings where women and men do not shake hands and dressing as per the customs of the locals, mostly long clothes and completely covered hair. Confidentiality of those who took part in the study and voluntary information giving was emphasized as well as anonymity where only pseudonyms have been used in the report.

The researcher also explained that the study was purely for academic purposes and could only be able to meet the transport re-imbursements to the FGD participants. As promised, the results of the research will be shared with informants beside the wish to publish it for the consumption of the larger scientific community.
CHAPTER 4: IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON CHILD SOCIALIZATION

4.1 Introduction
The purpose of this chapter is to outline the findings of the study and provide discussions based on these findings. This section gives information on the participants, provides major reasons for divorce in the study area, its effects on children and its contribution to academic performance in the study area. It also provided participants’ views on how to reduce the high divorce rate in the region. Through the school counsellors, the students were more willing to open up compared to other cadres of informants. Most of the respondents were between the ages of 18-20 years. All respondents however, were below the age of 60.

4.2 REASONS FOR DIVORCE

Several reasons were advanced by the informants and FGD participants as being responsible for the many divorce cases. The following are some of the reasons:

4.2.1 Early, Pre-arranged and Forced marriages
Marriage in the Somali community takes place at an early age especially for girls. In the women’s focus group, 8 of the 10 female FGD participants reported that their marriages were pre-arranged. One 29 year old woman said her divorced husband used to be their neighbour at Eastleigh in Nairobi, while the other, a 49 year old mother said, she met her husband originally from Somali, when he was trying to buy land in Kenya, through paternal uncle. In the men’s FGD, 6 out of the 9 participants had pre-arranged marriages, with only one participant having courted the wife he met through a friend and eventually parents from both sides gave in to their marriage request.

One FGD participant reported that he is in his third marriage and blames his parents for the position he finds himself in since they did not like his first wife and forced him into a second marriage with a cousin.

"Although my parents were against my relationship with my first wife because my wife’s father was an Arab, they later accepted her, but kept interfering in our affairs thereafter saying she was rude. We started quarrelling because she thought I was taking my parents’ side. We later divorced and I got married to my 17 year old cousin who accused me of
being promiscuous because she disapproved of my visiting my children from the first wife, and later, she asked for a divorce. Now I am in a third marriage”(said the 32 year old man who remarried recently).

A 32 year old man in the focus group, whose marriage was by consent, and now in his second one said he eloped with a girl because there were barriers from the girl’s parents, but the wife later left him for reasons he did not understand.

“My wife had just dropped out of school at class 6. I was 20 and just completed fourth form. One day when I came from work, she was not there. I learnt that she had gone back to her parents. I tried to pursue her but she said she was not interested in the marriage anymore, she told her parents that I was not taking good care of her “(the man said).

Both the male and female FGDs noted that the girls get married at the age of between 14- 18 years and men between 18- 24. The marriages are pre-arranged customarily by the parents basically for material gain especially camels, and one is made aware of the fact so that they do not look elsewhere. It therefore, means that one does not get married to someone he/she is in love with. There is no courtship. After marriage, the couple soon discovers that they got married to someone they do not share the same values with. This brings about misunderstandings, confrontations, and quarrels among the couples: At the Garissa Kadhis Court, there are two conspicuous groups, that of very old men and the other of very young girls. A court clerk who did not wish to be named says the divorce cases here are initiated mostly by the young girls who accuse their husbands of denying them conjugal rights.

“These old men cannot function, and instead use their fingers to derive pleasure from their wives,” (the clerk said).

Two young girls (co-wives) were at the court seeking divorce from their husband because he could “not satisfy them in bed.” The elder wife who was 21 years complained that despite putting up with her husband to avoid causing him embarrassment since his first wife had divorced him for what she later learnt was the same problem, the husband showed no appreciation and even married another wife, only 3 months into their marriage.
"My co-wife and I realized we could not continue living a lie all our lives since our conjugal rights were being denied," (said the 21 year older wife).

An old man whose young wife was divorcing him, on being asked why he thought the wife was divorcing him only managed to say. "I love her and even you, I love you," referring to his wife and my research assistant.

4.2.2 Desertion/Neglect

Desertion is common with both men and women complaining of having been deserted. A 31 year old informant said the mother left them with their 2 stepmothers who were too busy with their own children.

"My mother was the third wife I do not know why she and my father divorced since I hardly saw them quarrelling but I later understood that she was not happy with my father being away most of the time," (said the father of 4).

According to a 49 year old key informant, there is a trend of men going out of the country, mostly Dubai, U.S.A and Canada to work or study. They come back rich, and get married to young girls whose parents are attracted to the man’s wealth. They later supposedly go back to complete studies before coming back to settle for good, but on going back, he terminates communication. Some men say they are going back to continue with business/work promising that the wife would join him abroad later, while some say they are going to wind up business/resign and come back.

"These men never come back, and by then the wife is either having a baby or is expectant," (adds the counsellor).

Most husbands in the Somali community, who are also the breadwinners, are pastoralists and some abandon their families completely when they move to new locations in search of pasture, settle in these locations and marry other wives. Women who have been abandoned complain of lack of conjugal rights which then leads to divorce. They are forced to look for other means of taking care of the children. The most popular businesses are those of selling milk, vegetables, and "miraa". Husbands also complain that women desert them while they are engaged in either pastoralist activities or livestock trading.
"I am a livestock trader. I left my wife with one child and took livestock to Nairobi. After 3 days, I came back. My wife had left me to her parents and left my clothing in the house," (said a 47 year old member of men’s FGD.)

A 21 year old man whose marriage only lasted 6 months said his wife who was staying in Nairobi while he was in Garissa was having an affair and he had evidence but when he confronted her, she packed and left. "I was admitted at a mental hospital for 2 weeks, I am still on drugs," he said.

"My husband got married to another woman and abandoned his children even after a lot of discussions from the elders took place. He decided to divorce me. I remained with 3 girls," complained one participant from the women’s focus group. She added that even though divorce should be according to Islamic laws, some are just walk-outs.

A 28 year old banker said he got married to his first wife in the village at 20 years while his wife was 16. After his wife’s second child, sex was no longer exciting. He attributes it to lack of medical attention at birth in their village, which he says contributes to poor hygiene. He divorced after 3 years and the wife went abroad two years ago but left the children behind. He is now remarried and happy.

"When I got married to my first wife, sex was exciting but after my wife gave birth to our second born, it was no longer exciting, however much I tried," (said the banker).

4.2.3 Physical/Emotional and Economic abuse

Most women complained of cruelty from their husbands prior to the divorce. This ranged from their husbands wanting to control them, stalking them, and making inquiries about their whereabouts thereby denying them the freedom of association. Some husbands beat up their wives to a point of near death, yet there does not seem to be a solution to such problems. The Kadhi at the Garissa Law Courts says that some women cited lack of financial support (Basic needs) for self and children after being deserted. The women complained that no assistance is provided by the government as the offices are far from them.
A 32 year old woman in an FGD who does milk business in town said her parents forced her to marry a 78 year old man despite her brother who was working in town trying to stop them. They refused to listen to him because they wanted camels. The marriage did not work.

“He beat me physically and called me useless almost every day. I am now suffering with my child because of them,” she adds.

Despite the beatings, her parents insist she should not have left her husband and blame her for everything. A female participant, who is a mother to two boys and four girls, said her husband turned home late every day and never cared about her and the children. He instead beat her up every day on reaching home.

“I was forced to get a divorce because the man did not care about what happened to us or what we ate, and when he came home late, he beat me up and left the following morning without even leaving a cent to buy food for his children,” she recalled.

One 18 year old informant said the father abused the mother every night calling her useless and good for nothing. Even though the father was rich and took them all to a private school in Nairobi, there was a lot of tension in the house. “My mother finally left leaving me with my siblings. I had to play the role of a parent and when we could not cope with all the challenges, my father brought us to stay with our grandparents,” (added the form 1 girl)

4.2.4 Interference from parents- in-laws
Quite a number of FGD participants, both female and male blamed their parents- in-law for interfering in their marriages causing the divorce. Five men in the FGD said that their in-laws caused the divorce. Two of the men were still bitter about their divorce despite the fact that they took place many years back.

“’My wife became intolerant, later I found out that the father was pushing her to divorce me. When our case went to the chief’s office, the father told me that he would rather slaughter his daughter than let her come back to me!,” said a middle aged participant in the men’s FGD.
A 24 year old man says his parents-in-law caused their divorce with an agenda of taking his wife abroad. "Her parents said I was a young man and not qualified to marry their daughter. We quarreled about it many times and soon they forced her to divorce me," (said the young man who is still single 2 years after his divorce).

In the women’s FGD, a 25 year old participant whose husband walked out on her just 3 months after her second son, blames the mother in-law for insisting that the son whose origin is coast should marry a girl from there and not North Eastern. "She put too much pressure on him and one day he left never to come back. He later got married to a lady the mother had identified for him."

“My father’s relative organized his marriage to another woman with children from a previous marriage. My mother tried to question her parents—in law but they became too hostile towards her eventually making it impossible for her to continue staying at home,” (said the 22 year old college student). He adds that the mother later got married to non-Muslim as a second wife.

4.2.5 Religion

The offices that are supposed to help in divorce matters are all occupied by men, according to an informant from the women’s focus group.

“There is lack of intervention from the Kadhis court because all these offices are occupied by men who are not sensitive to the plight of women, the laws lack intervention for reducing the high divorce rates,” (said the single mother of 4).

A visit to the Kadhis court confirms that there’s not only lack of sensitivity, but privacy as well. The court is full with relatives of those seeking divorce, and those wishing to collect documents like marriage certificates. My assistant who was a few months into her marriage as a second wife, also wanted to collect her marriage certificate. A divorce case was going on between a young lady who wanted to divorce her husband, who obviously looked much older than her. The Kadhis’ questions were blatant and embarrassing to the girl.

"Was she a virgin when you married her!?" the Kadhi asked the old man being divorced.
Such questions in public can completely embarrass anybody, more so, the women. Further probing by us from an assistant in the court reveals that most divorce cases handled are initiated by women.

“The men being asked for divorce are normally unwilling to give it because they find complaints by their wives a norm and feel the wives should stay put.” This, the court assistant says is culture that may be very difficult to kill.

Islam religion does not allow family planning because it is “going against God’s will”. Women give birth to as many children as is the will of God. The many births and children leave the mothers fatigued and looking aged, turning their husbands to younger girls,” said a female FGD participant. A Sheikh who was a key informant confirms this.

“Contraceptives are “haram”(illegal) and have bad side effects,” the Sheik stressed

During marriage ceremonies, or later, a husband can make an agreement with the wife giving her the authority to divorce him without necessarily going to court, and this powers cannot be revoked. The reason for divorce must however hold water. According to the Sheik, some women take advantage of this provision and asked for divorce whenever they feel aggrieved.

Kenya Sexual Network in Garissa (2005) attributes 78% of divorce to religion. This could be attributed to the fact that Koran 65.1 and 5 allow men to divorce their wives as long as they abide by what is acceptable in the Koran. After getting three talaks, a woman can never go back to the husband (Koran 2:230). The women are divorced when they commit an ‘open indecency’, which could mean different things for individuals. A woman can get married and at the end when she gets a divorce, she does not get her rights (Osman, 2009).

The Deputy District Children’s officer in Garissa thinks the marriage bond among the Muslims is very loose and divorce granted very fast. The Koran allows men to get married to more than one wife. Some men neglect their elder wives after marrying the young ones. Some women also get jealous and prefer to divorce.
4.2.6 Changing Lifestyle

Changing lifestyle was blamed by some informants for the high rate of divorce. They cited lack of proper awareness on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, where a spouse discovers the other is infected and has infected them as well. It is difficult to redeem such a marriage.

"Some infected men move from home to home looking for a girl they think can give them children, thereby infecting them and their wives as well," (said one male FGD respondent) who adds that if there was more sensitization on STIs, this would not be going on.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is still practised among women, who normally find sex both dreadful especially, their first experiences due to the tightened virginal opening. It involves the removal of clitoris followed by stitching which leaves only a small opening large enough to allow the flow of urine or menstruation. After FGM, de-infibulations, (the cutting open of a woman’s genitals), previously closed by stitching to narrow the virginal opening, is widened on the first night of marriage to allow the husband to penetrate. The preferred mode of de-infibulations however, is by the husband’s penis. Attempts at forcible penetration by the husband may cause rupture of scars and sometimes, tears, severe bleeding, shock and infection. The men who fear being called names if they fail in this process might take a knife and cut the woman himself. A female FGD participant said that some women are cut again during childbirth because the virginal opening is too small to allow the passage of the baby.

"At times the raw wound caused by childbirth is saturated recreating a small virginal opening (re-infibulations). Women who fear going through this pain after having gone through FGM opt out of their marriages," (said the 41 year old woman).

Another participant in the FGD supports the same sentiments and adds that the re-infibulations widen the virginal entrance making them feeling loose and lose interest in sex. The men who fear being called names if they fail in this process might take a knife and cut the woman himself.

"Some women due to fear of sex after infibulations, run away from their husbands, some run away because the mutilation decrease their sexual desires," (complained a 27 year old female FGD member).
This process is proof of the woman’s virginity and the man’s manliness. It is normally done to ease intercourse and delivery. According to the Garissa Deputy Children’s Officer, a large number of cases they handle are based on what the women call “rape.” This, the women say, is because they expect men to be gentle when having sex with them, especially the first time, due to the narrowed virginal opening. Most men are instead brutal and demanding in bed. To these men, consent from their wives does not exist. According to the officer, men believe they need to prove their worth, and the bride wealth they so dearly paid for their wives justifies this.

4.2.7 Drug and Substance Abuse

Drug and substance Abuse has also led to the increase of divorce according to the deputy children’s officer. This he says is because some men spend all their money on it at the expense of their families. He adds that some women complain that it increases their husbands’ libido leading to sexual based violence while others say the husbands are sexually inactive because of the drugs. A 47 year old woman in the female FGD complained that the husband never had sex with her for 3 years as a result of drug abuse.

“Most of us do not get along with our husbands because they are irresponsible. Mine for example chewed khat everyday causing the family financial stress,” she lamented.

In the men’s FGD, a young man whose wife left with their two sons, confessed to having been divorced by the wife because he was addicted to khat. Even though his parents tried to intervene, the wife could not put up with his behaviour and one day when he came back from the khat chewing sessions, she was gone.

“I was an absentee father and also irresponsible. Now it’s too late for me because she is married elsewhere. I miss my two boys,” he said emotionally.

4.2.8 Emancipation of women.

Islam law allows women to work only in Muslim cultural atmosphere. The women FGD reported that Non-Governmental Organizations together with government of Kenya have strived to empower women in Garissa and Northern Kenya at large, some of whom have embraced wage employment and are supporting themselves as well as their families. Womankind for example, is an NGO in Garissa that has committed to improving the living standards and the level of
decision making of women in the region. It addresses issues of Education, Agriculture and livestock management as well as civic education to empower women. These NGOs have also built confidence in women as well as raising their self-esteem.

"We are encouraged to participate in our own decision making to facilitate community based projects, confront ignorance, disease, poverty and backwardness so that we can stand on our own in the long run without necessarily relying on men," (said one FGD member of Madogo women Group). Other than this, they are also encouraged to embrace any opportunity that can initiate food self-sufficiency strategies.

CARE Kenya trains women in healthier techniques of boiling and storing milk so that it neither goes bad quickly nor emits toxins. Other programmes that ensure the women create their own source of income are, mat making using diversified patterns, making of plastic ropes made from recycled plastic bags, and using drama to educate the women on their rights.

"We have benefitted from capacity building trainings that have really helped us learn how to keep records for our businesses and how to improve our production," (said a female FGD participant).

Women who did not complete their primary and high school education are given special classes on life skills. NGOs are generally concentrating at programs that aim at emancipating the women in the region.

"With all these empowerment, most women can sustain themselves and therefore do not hesitate to file for a divorce when abused or unhappy in their marriages," (said a young female FGD participant)

4.3 SOCIAL EFFECTS OF DIVORCE ON CHILDREN
All informants who talked of their parents’ divorce were between 3-18 years when the divorce took place. According to the Garissa Deputy District Children’s Officer, going by the impromptu swaps they undertake once in a while, ages 15 and below are the most affected by divorce. More girls are affected by divorce than boys. Parents whose cases they handle are made to sign promissory notes stating that they would observe peace especially where children are concerned. The most common social effects are the following:
4.3.1 Drug and Substance Abuse
The deputy children’s officer attributes drug and substance abuse to lack of parental guidance leading to HIV and AIDS and STIs. The most sort-after drug is “khat” (miraa), whose addiction leads to crimes like theft, insecurity and joining of outlawed groups such as al-shabab. Most youth will turn to drugs as the easiest way out when faced with challenges. Some Key informants in school concurred with these sentiments saying most of the disciplinary cases handled in schools involve students from single parent homes, especially single mothers who seem to be overwhelmed by child-rearing responsibilities. One such youth who completed fourth form in 2010 said he turned to drugs before joining form one after being introduced to them by his friends. He added that during the school holidays, he used to be more cautious especially on the quantity to avoid upsetting the mother, although she was too busy to realize he took drugs.

“My father chewed khat a lot and I would at times steal a few sticks without his knowledge before he divorced my mother. When I joined form one, the school watchman could sneak in drugs for us at a price,” (the 19 year old youth recalls).

A form three student who was on holiday says he got into drugs in form two. He blames the stress both at home and school for his continuous abuse of drugs, yet nobody seems to realize people like him need help. He says the current Career Guidance and Counselling in schools should have comprehensive topics on drugs and substance abuse to help students like him.

“We need guidance and love especially from teachers, who look at us as deviant,” (he adds).

4.3.2 Lack of trust in people
All except one male informant who was 12 at the time of the divorce were not involved in any discussion concerning the divorce prior to its taking place and even then, his mother still left them even after he helped the father to persuade her not to leave.

“All our efforts to persuade her not to leave were in vain,” said the informant.

The rest of the informants were too young to be involved or no one cared to ask how they felt. This led to initial reaction of confusion, frustrations, worries, irritation and stress among other things. Fifteen of the informants want their families back together from responses they gave when asked what they would tell the absent parent.
"I would ask my father to come back to us so that we can live the happy life we lived before," (said a 19 year old female student).

"I would urge my father to have a re-union again such that their children can have a better life," (stated a 23 year old female). Two informants did not want their parents back but seemed to still harbour grudges with them.

One informant whose mother had remarried thought the mother was irresponsible,

“What mother leaves her children behind without considering their welfare? I think I am better off without her?” (said the seemingly distressed 30 year old man).

Other than the common challenges both genders face, girls tend to suffer more, according to the Garissa District Children's Officer. This is because as mothers move into their next marriages, their husbands tend to defile their step-daughters when their mothers have gone for business mostly getting milk from the bush. These girls are left wondering whom to turn to since their mothers either do not believe their stories or choose not to do so as a means to preserve their marriages. Only 2 of the informants said their mothers, who were the custodial parents, gave a genuine explanation on the father’s absence. According to some informants, the fact that they did not have one parent and the explanations given were not convincing, made the already difficult situation worse. The explanations given varied:

``He is on a journey and is not expected to come back soon”, one informant was told by his mother.

Two informants said that any time they asked about their fathers, they were told that they were on a business trip and would delay, while another was told that the father was busy but he needed not worry since he (the father) would come to see him when he got time. Other explanations given were that the absent parent was dead or for some, silence was the response. The custodial parents who were truthful, told the informants what really happened. One such informant was told that the absent parent had disappeared from them and had another family, while another was told that, the father was not a responsible parent thereby making the divorce inevitable among other explanations.
4.3.3 Feeling unloved

Children from divorced homes in Garissa are affected socially by the absence of one parent in many ways. This research has established that, they feel unloved because they imagine parents who love their children should stick with them despite the challenges. They also feel they have been deprived of certain privileges enjoyed by other children from functional homes, such as tender love and care. Some children barely survive with poor nutrition and less food. They also have lost trust in people since the parents they trusted most betrayed them by divorcing. Some have turned to abusing drugs due to frustrations. Children from divorced homes in Garissa are affected socially by the absence of one parent in many ways. This research has established that, they feel unloved because they imagine parents who love their children should stick with them despite the challenges. They also feel they have been deprived of certain privileges enjoyed by other children from functional homes, such as tender love and care. Some children barely survive with poor nutrition and less food. They also have lost trust in people since the parents they trusted most betrayed them by divorcing. Some have turned to abusing drugs due to frustrations.

Out of a total of 20 informants who talked of their parents’ divorce, 6 informants were still nursing psychological effects of their parents’ divorce.

“My father other than marrying a second wife also abused drugs. He and my step-mother made my life a living hell,” said a 19 year old form 2 boy who now stays with an uncle.

Fifteen informants blamed their fathers for the divorce. Only 2 of the informants had or continue to have their fathers as the custodial parent. Seventeen informants stayed with their mothers with one informant having been brought up by the grandmother.

“Islam allows men to divorce, not women, women look for solutions,” (said one middle aged participant in the men’s focus group).

One male informant could not understand how their mother could just leave them. “She left her house and joined her family. She did not consider us, did not care for our future and said we remain with our father,” (the male informant lamented)

A bitter informant from one of the schools said he did not care about his father, when asked on his whereabouts.
"I do not know where my father is and I care less since he doesn’t take care of my needs. (Said a 21 year old male trainee in an “Out of school” youth workshop)

Three informants said that their fathers visited them once in a while but when asked to stay by the children they always declined and neither did they allow the children to go and live with them. Most informants rarely or never saw their absent parents as they grew up. One informant wanted to see the father to ask him what crime he had committed as a small boy of eight years to make the father run away from him. All who never saw their absent parents as they grew up still do not know where they are, some have heard of the absent parent’s whereabouts but are not sure they are actually where they are purported to be. “I hear my mother is at her parent’s place,” (said a 22 year old informant). A 17 year old school girl said she was told by some friends that the father used to live in the same village as she but was now dead.

“I was told my father lived in the same village as us, yet he never looked for me, but is now dead,” said the form one student, who added that she would have wished to ask the father whether he hated her.

A 20 year old boy who married recently said he wondered why the mother left them, but appreciates the father for taking care of them.

“Even if she went away to her parents, I have a father who understands and loves me,” he said sounding bitter with the mother.

One girl whose mother is a Muslim from Western Kenya and currently in form three said she supported the mother for divorcing her father since he had lost respect for both the mother and the children by bringing ladies with him when the mother was away.

“My dad used to come home with different ladies whenever mum travelled or went upcountry. He would then ask me to cook supper for them. Later, they would sleep on their matrimonial bed,” (complained the girl looking annoyed). She however misses her father now that the parents have divorced despite what he did to them.

A 27 year old mother of 5 said she did not object to early marriage when an old suitor was brought home since she felt life was meaningless at home without her mother who had been
divorced by the father. The step mother stayed in Nairobi with the father while she was left in the village with her old grandmother to fend for her and her 3 siblings.

"I felt like I needed to run away from the hard life at grandmothers even though I felt sorry for my 2 young brothers and a sister," added the mother.

4.3.4 Stigma

Majority of the informants felt that their peers were more comfortable and happy unlike them. An informant said he felt inadequate most of the time and lost confidence especially when asked where the father was by his peers.

"I was asked, 'Where is your father, why is he not with you to support you?'" (recalls the now married father of 2).

All the 17 informants who stayed with their mothers as the custodial parent reported that there was a lot of stigma against them. An 18 year old informant who was often asked if he was "orphaned" said he did not have answers and what angered him is that it was all mockery. Children from single parent homes were thought to come from dysfunctional families. According to a young female informant, neighbours, friends and even relatives try to dig out more about your absent parent's whereabouts when they suspect you do not have a father, to satisfy their curiosity or so that they can ridicule you.

"My friends had all they needed, full economic and social life, but I did not, I felt I was missing something but was not able to get proper answers,"( a secondary school teacher lamented).

Almost all the informants were forced to lie about the absent parent by claiming they had both parents, giving the same excuses given by the custodial parent for their absence.

"I told them I had both parents but I had only one," said one informant currently on attachment at a local radio station. He said such questions as "What is your father’s/mother’s name?” should be avoided by teachers if possible and also done away with in the lower primary school social studies. "What do teachers expect children to say when asked this question and the rest of the class is listening, that they do not have a father?” he wondered
Three secondary school In-depth informants said they were forced to go for counselling because they could take the ridicule no more.

"I felt shy trying to answer questions on my father’s whereabouts, and explaining to others why they do not see him," (said a 19 year old form four girl).

"I could not handle the questions since I was not told the reasons he left," (said a form three male school prefect).

He added that the humiliation he suffered during registration of his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education where others used their fathers’ names while he could not, made him try to get to meet the father, who is well known, through face book. The father assumed the mother had initiated this and sent a warning to her through her friends, to keep away from him.

"I felt lonely and would cry when asked." (a form one male student said), talking of his primary school experience.

One male informant said he told the truth at times and other times lied by saying his father was dead, especially to those who did not know his family background. His response on his father’s whereabouts would depend on the situation he found himself in.

"I could not handle such cases, they disturbed my mind." (complained a 27 year old boy whose mother divorced the father when he was 9 years old and went back to her parents).

Some informants simply kept quite when asked about their fathers. Most mothers felt their children were lonely and missed their fathers yet as mothers, they had no answers to the children as to why they were abandoned, this, affected the children.

Another 30 year old informant, now a parent, stressed on the need for parents to put the children’s interest first before theirs to avoid affecting the welfare of their children,

"I was a young baby and an only child when my parents divorced. I have never understood why they divorced but I do not want my children to go through the humiliation I went through in school because of not having a father," he continued, looking at me straight in the face. He further said that he was called a bastard by some of his playmates in primary school.
4.3.5 Socially deprived privileges
Whereas children are the most affected by divorce, their parents, focus on their own well-being, and not that of the children. A parent from the women’s focus group said she could easily get into another marriage and the husband could also get into another. Majority of the participants in the FGD however, especially the women regret the divorce and wish things were different.

“I wish there was no second wife, I could be living a better life and caring for our children” (said a 37 year old divorced mother of 5).

One 23 year old informant who was six months old into her marriage stressed on the importance of spouses being there for each other and their children.

“When one of the parent’s support is not there, the love and tender care of couples for their children is missing,” the lady said

Seven of the men in the focus group claimed not to have been for the divorce, and regret not being the healthy family they would have wished to be. They regretted that all efforts passed through in marriage ended up being fruitless. Some of the social privileges children are deprived of as a result of divorce according to parents from both focus groups include:

Privilege of having both parents is denied. Every child has a right to have two parents to support and guide them, children require this all the time especially during their teenage years when there are so many changes that they do not understand taking place in their bodies and surroundings.

There is also poor child nutrition because they cannot afford to eat the right food, and the right quantities like their peers who have their fathers providing for them. Some of the children survive on one “anjera” (A Somali pancake) a day, which consists of wheat flour and sugar which is basically carbohydrates.

“My children go to school hungry at times when business is bad. As a mother this really hurts me,”(said a 29 year old divorced mother of 6).

Quite a number of children from single mothers suffer from nutritional deficiencies such as marasmus and general ill health. This is because the mothers who are mostly the custodial parents do not get any support from their former husbands even though the Koran requires that this is done. A 31 year old female FGD participant said her children were deprived of privileges
other children of their ages had as a single mother with no formal education, getting a job was
difficult.

"I struggled with my small milk business which was hardly enough to sustain us and
mostly survived on anjera," the mother of 4 added.

A 22 year old informant said his 2 year old brother suffered from malnutrition before dying a
few months after his parents’ divorce. “My mother could hardly feed us after our father left, it is
only later that my aunt loaned her money to start some small business that things improved a
bit,” explained the form four student. A 23 year old secretary in an NGO who recently got
married as a third wife said she has no regrets being a third wife since the husband is well to do
and has already bought her mother a plot and built her a big house as well.

“Even though I had a boyfriend before I met my husband, I knew he could not take good
care of my mother like my husband is. My mother had put up with extreme poverty for
very long time after she and my father divorced,”( the young secretary calmly adds).

The urge of meeting the parent who was absent in some of the informants’ lives was still strong.
"Despite being an adult now, I still want to meet my biological father. I always feel this
emptiness within me which can only be filled by my meeting my father,” said a 23 year old
boy now working as a peer educator in an NGO. He admits to lack nothing material since the
mother and aunties have ensured he is comfortable.

4.4 DIVORCE, CHILD SOCIALIZATION AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The informants who talked of their parents’ divorce reported they were negatively affected both
socially and academically, most of them attributing it to the absence of their fathers. Most
informants still held grudges with their absent parents blaming them for the dismal performance
they had at school. Some FGD participants also felt that their children missed the love of their
absentee parent. A female FGD participant complained that the son used to be lonely and kept
asking her where his father was. A number of participants said their children felt unwanted by
their fathers and their communities.
4.4.1 School Drop-out

Some informants reported that they were forced to abandon school at primary level while others dropped out at secondary level as a result of their parents’ divorce because of lack of fees. This they say is because fathers are the ones who mostly provide financial support to their families. One male informant reported that he abandoned school due to poverty.

“I abandoned school and developed a negative attitude towards education because some of the things required were not in my home,” he said.

Nine out of the 20 informants said they were forced to stay out of school most of the time since the custodial parent (mothers in most cases), were working to keep them going and somebody had to take charge of the house. In addition, there was no proper guidance from anywhere to offer support in educational matters.

A 21 year old boy who sat his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education in 2010 was still bitter with the mother for having left him and his siblings when still very young to get married to a chief as a second wife. He says the mother took them near his father’s village from their rental place in the market and abandoned them. The relatives distributed the children among themselves for fosterage. He and the sister ended up in an aunt’s house where life was full of challenges ranging from lack of fees to food. The sister got pregnant after class eight and later got married to a young boy in the next village.

“I managed to reach form four but even in third term, I was sent home for fees. A teacher later paid for me and I scored a B plain, I think I would have done better if I was living with my parents,” (the boy added).

“I stopped going to school and playing with my class and schoolmates because I was worrying over how to get basic needs as I was out of school most of the times due to lack of money,” (said a female informant).

Some parents get jealous when children identify with the other parent. One such parent refused to pay school fees for his son whom he heard had been seen at the mother and step father’s place. The boy however, admits to having visited the mother without his father’s knowledge, because he loves both of them and would not wish to be forced to decide which parent is good or bad. He
assistance. When the money was not enough for fees, her brothers were always given priority by her mother.

"Sometimes I would stay home for almost a whole term and by the time I go back, catching up was not easy. Whereas I used to be amongst the top three in class before these problems started, my performance went down. There was a time I was second last in class seven," (the mother emotionally lamented).

School counsellors were unanimous in their responses to the question on poor performance by children from divorced homes. The teachers reiterated that, save for a few cases, most children from single homes posted low grades, most being just average. Similar observations have been made by Kim (2010) whose study determined that children whose parents divorced often ranked lower in academic performances than their classmates. A young female informant blamed her poor performance in school to her parents’ divorce. The father who was a Muslim from Kendu in Nyanza and the mother fought almost on a daily basis.

"I was admitted to a national school after having passed my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education well. Though I used to be among the top 5, my performance started dropping after the divorce of my parents, and despite counselling from the teachers and the school counsellor, nothing seemed to improve," (said a 22 year old informant), who now leaves with the mother after failing to get along with the step-mother.

Some students, according to the teachers, have problems concentrating in class, while some are too hyper, probably to cover-up for something according to one male teacher-counsellor. Lack of completion of homework for these students is more pronounced than is the case with those from functional homes. These findings prove that parents’ divorce affect the child’s normal functioning in school and the effects manifest in different ways including the dropping of academic performance.
CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

In this section, the findings are interpreted to show how divorce affects child socialization. The discussions compare the findings from the research and what exists in the literature review. The conclusions are drawn from findings of the research and recommendations made from the different views given by both the informants and participants. In this research, some of the findings show lack of commitment by fathers who are supposed to remit allowance to their children because they know the authorities concerned lack the means (mostly funds) to follow them up. Some men resign from work when compelled to pay the children's allowances.

5.2 Discussion

Findings of causes of divorce in Garissa is largely similar to those existing in literature on divorce among Muslims in North Eastern Kenya and Muslims the world over. These causes include: Early marriages, where girls' marriage is given priority to education and most hardly go beyond primary level of education. According to literature by Malini and Zainab (2006), less than 20% of girls in North Eastern Kenya are ever enrolled in school because parents prefer marrying them off to older men in exchange for animals. Similar views are shared by (Cohen and Savaya, 2003), who say that some girls are forced into early marriages since it is a way of getting wealth like camels and goats.

Religion, (Islam) that allows divorce and men marrying a maximum of four wives at a go, has been taken advantage of by some men. These men have abused this privilege because as they move into their next marriages, they tend to favour the newly married wives ignoring the other(s). Aphia 11 assessment of Kenya Sexual Network in Garissa (2005), for example attributes 78% of divorce to religion. This report supports the findings of this research, where most women in the FGD also blamed the lack of intervention by the Khadhis' court as it is the same men occupying those offices. A similar assessment by Kahutho et al (2005) indicated that 44% of couples in Garissa are either divorced or separated. The fact that Islam allows marriages to be arranged among relatives and other personalities known to the family could be a contributory factor to the high divorce rates.
Whereas desertion cuts across as a cause of divorce among couples, it is pronounced in Garissa due to increasing cases of men going abroad in search of greener pastures, getting into new marriages, and ultimately forgetting their wives back at home. Existing literature shows both physical and emotional abuse of women from men is contributing to the rising divorce rates, though educated girls and women are opting out of their marriages because of civilization and exposure to their rights (Knox & Schat 2006), similar to the findings of this research, where most women in the female FGD confirmed that they have been empowered by both the government of Kenya and NGOs and they have now embraced wage employment as well as engaging in their own businesses. The women say they do not have to rely on men like they did before with this economic independence, they can stand on their own even after divorcing (Madogo FGD).

Outside interference in marriages mostly from in-laws, especially from the girls’ side is one of the major causes of divorce in Garissa according to findings of this research. The urban anomie theory (Florick 2010) however, blames urbanization for destruction and weakening of the family bonds thereby severing family ties. This has encouraged divorce due alienation and anonymity of every individual.

Most men feel the bride wealth normally paid during marriages is normally very high. They justify their abusing women claiming they paid dearly for them in terms of hard cash, and animals, mostly camels which are highly valued according to an informant in this research. It can be concluded that most men are usually unhappy with the bride wealth they pay and pay back by abusing their spouses once married. A woman after being married is treated like the man’s property and he can therefore treat her as he pleases, like he treats any other property he owns. It can be concluded that most men are usually unhappy with the bride wealth and pay back by abusing their spouses once married. The men therefore think that reducing the amount of bride wealth during marriage can help reduce divorce rates.

Divorce cases have exposed children to embarrassing, belittling, and intimidating situations making them feel as social misfits. Children from divorced homes have found themselves in uncomfortable environments mostly in institutions and social places as they are labelled, mocked, ill-treated leading to their silent suffering as a result. Children dislike custody tussles between their parents and restrictions on interaction with the absent parent from the custodial
parent. It was generally agreed by the teachers, and bula (village) counsellors that it is men who mostly trigger the divorce idea but the women mostly initiate the divorce process. Whenever a decision on the custody of the children has been made, the parent denied the custody of the child(ren) will always look at the case as being bias and even threaten those presiding over the case. This is because both parents want the ruling to favour them and when this does not happen, suspicion crops in with the losing parent imagining the person presiding over the case was "seen aside," meaning bribed or unduly influenced. This is why some men refuse or delay to remit allowances agreed upon as a way of punishing the wife. From these findings, it is clear children fall victims of circumstances as their parents try to hurt each other. Given that at times there are no means of following up the cases due to lack of funds, vehicles, or fuel to enable them go and arrest the law-breaker, some men take advantage because they know following them is an uphill task. Some even resign from their places of work if they were working, so that they do not pay child maintenance.

Women empowerment has also largely contributed to the increasing divorce rate from the research finding. Although wage and self employment has been an avenue for escape of women in unhappy marriages the world over, this research has established that NGOs have empowered many women in Garissa, who now initiate divorce when unhappy in their marriages since they can economically sustain themselves. At the same time, there are women who have resisted change and accepted their fate as women who must be submissive no matter what. Lack of material and moral support from the government has discouraged even the village elders who settle marriage conflicts, and they would like intervention to make their working environment more conducive.

The research findings also show that children of divorced live in fear and worry, which they may be unable to express, a factor that is supported by Kelly & Emery (2003). In addition to these, they suffer anger, sadness, withdrawal and conflict on which parent to side with. An example of conflict is seen where a father refuses to educate his son who sneaked to go and see the mother he had divorced, and even calls him names. Literature also shows limited economic resources affecting children especially those having mothers as custodial parents. "Children also fear economic loss after divorce. This is because they are limited to economic resources,"(Kelly & Emery, 2003). This research findings show that Garissa children suffer the same fate, where some
miss school for lack of school fees which in turn affects their performances, while some transfer to cheaper schools, or even drop out.

5.3 Recommendations
Parents should be devoted to their marriages and get education on good child care, protection and maintenance of the child so that they can counsel, mentor and answer questions from their children truthfully as well as involving them in decision making other than what is taking place currently. This will ensure that children do not feel betrayed and unloved as is the case currently. Government needs to empower pastoralists by giving grants, loans, scholarships, especially to single women so that their children are not deprived of privileges enjoyed by children from functional families, such as education, food and shelter. What is there now is mostly from NGOs, and is not enough.

There is need for reinforcement on efforts to resolve marriage conflicts through education during “barazas”, where an informed elder or two in every village can talk on divorce effects and conflict resolution in marriages. Workshops or school functions and religious gathering such as mosques, can also be used to reach parents where an expert can be invited to give a talk on how divorce affects children. This will help in proper care and giving affection to children in the future.

Government and all other stakeholder should strengthen existing divorce laws touching on children especially Islamic ones and intervene by creating public awareness, on the effects of divorce on children, stressing on it being the last resort after all other channels like counselling and reconciliation have failed. These efforts should reduce the high divorce rates and ultimately alleviate the suffering of the innocent children affected by divorce.

Divorce terms should be agreed upon by both parties for the sake of the children to avoid custody tussles, and ensure maintenance is provided especially to the mothers who are mostly affected and end up with the burden of taking care of children. A mutual agreement for example can be signed by divorcing parents compelling the fathers to keep providing for the family.

School guidance and counselling teachers should identify children affected by divorce and possibly have a forum with both parents where possible to persuade them to support their child(ren) despite their differences. Reconciliation efforts through recognized institutions or community elders should be put in place to support families going through divorce by offering
counselling. There should also be guiding measures to take against parents abusing their children’s rights and those not adhering to court rulings in favour of the child, like a jail term.

5.4 Conclusion

From the study, it is evident that children from divorced families are on average worse off than children who have lived in intact families because they have more difficulties in school, more problems with peers, more behavioural problems, and more problems getting along with their parents. Their problems have been majorly contributed to by the loss of contact with one parent, and by extension parental knowledge, skills and resources of the parent. The study also found that exposure to conflict between parents undergoing divorce leads to changes in children’s living situations, such as changing schools, homes, and childcare, forcing the children to make adjustments in relationships with friends and extended family members may also have substantial effects on the children’s well being.

The study has shown that children do not want to be asked to take sides or love one parent more than the other. They want their parents to stay involved in their lives, avoid saying bad things or blaming about each other, and involve them in discussions related to the divorce so that they can have a say.

Strong laws/policies regarding child support irrespective of the sex of the child until the age of 18 years have been suggested as some of the measures that can significantly reduce the effects of divorce on children. Other than material support, government compelling divorced parents to provide emotional/psychological support to their children will greatly reduce the impact of the divorce on the child.
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8. Did/do you harbor any bitter feelings towards the absent/custodial parent? Explain

9. What explanation was given to you about the absent parent?

10. Which Parent according to your view caused the divorce/Separation? Explain

11. What kind of support if any do/did you get from the absent parent?
12. Do you think your friends/peers from functional families had an edge over you? Explain


13. How did you handle questions on the absent parent when asked?


14. What would you tell the absent parent given the chance?


15. Do you know where your absent parent is? (Elaborate)


16. How best do you think divorce cases should be handled so that children are least affected?


17. How should parents support their children affected by divorce emotionally / psychological?


18. Did/Do you spend time with your non- custodial parent? (Give reasons for your answer)


60.
APPENDIX 3: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE (SINGLE/REMARIED PARENTS)

1. Kindly let’s introduce ourselves.
2. At what age did you get married
3. Was your marriage pre-arranged or by consent? (Explain)
4. After how many years of marriage did you divorce?
5. Explain the nature of your divorce (Was it according to Muslim laws or you just walked out?)
6. What were the reasons for your divorce?
7. Did you consider the well being of the child prior to the divorce?
8. Were your children’s views sort prior to the divorce?
9. What was the reaction of your children to the divorce?
10. Who determined custody of the children? (Explain)
12. What impact has the divorce had on your children?
13. Did the children ask for explanations concerning their being raised by one parent? (Expound on the above answer)
14. What privileges (if any) have/were your children been deprived of?
15. How do/did you make up for the absence of the absent parent?
16. Do you regret the divorce? (explain your answer)
17. What do you contribute the high divorce rate in Garissa to?
18. Explain how best children's interests can be taken care of during divorce so that they are least affected
APPENDIX 4: KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Kindly introduce yourself

2. What are the major causes of divorce you deal with?

3. Who mostly between fathers and mothers initiates the divorce according to your assessment?

4. What effect has the high divorce rate in Garissa had on the:
   (i) School going children

5. What age group of children is most affected by divorce in your view?
   (i) Below 13 ________________________________
   (ii) Above 13 ________________________________

Give reason for the above response


6. Do you try to intervene in the cases you come across? If so how do you go about it?

7. Which gender do you think is most affected by parents’ divorce? Female / Male - (Explain)

8. How do you help the children affected?

9. What are some examples of the worst divorce case scenarios you have handled?

10. How do you think the high divorce rate in Garissa can be reduced?

11. Do you get any assistance from the government? If so what is the nature of the assistance?

12. What challenges do you face in the course of your duty?
RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on "Divorce and child socialization: The case of Garissa, North Eastern Kenya," I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in North Eastern Province for a period ending 31st December, 2012.

You are advised to report to the District Commissioner and the District Education Officer, Garissa District before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf of the research report/thesis to our office.

DR. M.K. RUGUTT, PhD, HSC
DEPUTY COUNCIL SECRETARY

Copy to:

The District Commissioner
The District Education Officer
Garissa District