FAMILY CONFLICT AND SOCIAL CAPITAL DYNAMICS IN KENYA TODAY

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DECLARATION

THIS RESEARCH PROJECT IS MY ORIGINAL WORK AND HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED FOR A DEGREE IN ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY.

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THIS RESEARCH PROJECT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED WITH MY APPROVAL AS THE UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR.

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my God who has been my strength and guided me through it all, he has been my Ebenezer. To my dear parents Shadrack Otieno Mkok and Judith Mkok. To my loving siblings (Irene, Bethwel, Rose, Barbara, Jesse and Christine) and to my dearest nephews Adeshina and Jeremy.

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Abstract

Inevitably, every marriage will face conflict. There are many sources of conflict, but fundamentally the individuals' background, philosophies, perspectives, personalities and thought patterns determine how conflict is handled in marriage. If it is handled negatively, it ends up in abuse and hurt. However, conflict handled maturely strengthens the marriage and the individuals. Couples in marriage need to adjust and understand that the adjusting process may take years. If frustration builds up during the initial years of marriage, it makes ground for abusive conflict and separation. Western cultures have evidently influenced our thought processes today as the statistics have reflected a growing number of divorce cases relative to media influence and westernization.

This study therefore confirmed factors that cause conflict in families and the outcome of the conflict. There are obvious concern what impact there is in social network and capital on both the man and woman and more so if there are children involved after a separation or divorce in a family. This research paper established how the man and woman relate to their former social network (extended family, friends, in religious setup), will the investment to the former relationship got to waste or will it be sustained.

The objectives of this study was to establish factors that cause conflict in families, explore the outcome of conflict in families and analyse the impact on the divorced/separated individuals on their social network and social capital.

Marriage expands the social capital of both parties. The financial status improves as the study has established attributed to combined income and or shared ideas on financial planning. The marriage introduces new family members to the husband and wife through in-laws. They also gain new friends as a result of their relationship.

Marital separation on the other hand diminishes the social capital. The study confirmed that the affected parties loose the relationship they once enjoyed with their in-laws and the friends they gained during their relationship. The financial capital is also adversely affected as the individuals have to make adjustments that degrade an earlier solid financial status.

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1. CHAPTER ONE

1.1. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Most sociologists view families as social groups whose members are related by ancestry, marriage, or adoption and live together, cooperate economically and care for young. According to Hughes M., & Kroehler J. C. *(2005)* family members are related by descent, marriage, remarriage or adoption.

Definition of conflict according to the oxford dictionary is a serious incompatibility between two or more opinions, principles, or interests. In a family, conflict can be between the wife and husband, between siblings or be between parents and their children. In this study the main focus of conflict will be between wife and husband. When two people join forces so totally that they merge every aspect of their lives as we do in marriage, conflict is inevitable. When man and woman join in marriage, they not only join their two persons but their families, their training, their backgrounds, their values and priorities. With every human being so different in all of these areas, it is inevitable that these different aspects of life will create conflict. When the different backgrounds and traditions meet one another in real life, conflict occurs. The main forms of conflict in a marriage are physical violence, sexual violence, economic control, and psychological assault. The most obvious and common causes of conflict can be culture, political and economic.

Conflicts are inevitable in a marriage, what is important is how they are resolved. If they are not resolved positively this can be destructive leading to divorce. Divorce is increasing at an alarming rate in Kenya, according to statistics from Nairobi High Courts, from the year 2001 to 2008, the number of divorces rose from 101 to 368, respectively. This rise of divorce cases could have an impact on social network and thus finally impacting social capital.

A social network is a social structure made up of individuals (or organizations) called "nodes", which are tied (connected) by one or more specific types of interdependency such as friendship, kinship, common interest, financial exchange, dislike, sexual relationships, or relationships of beliefs, knowledge or prestige. When a couple gets married they increase and expand their social networks, by gaining friends and relatives from each other's sides. This network can either be strengthened or weakened depending on the harmonious co-existence between the primary individuals as a husband and a wife. If there is no harmony between the wife and husband then the social network is likely to be weakened but if there is harmony it is expected there is order and a strong social network. The value of social network is broadly categorized economically, culturally, physiologically and sociologically. The network is used to measure social capital – the value that an individual gets from the social network.

Social capital according to L.J. Hanifan (1916), "social capital" refers to those tangible substances [that] count for most in people's daily lives namely, goodwill, fellowship, sympathy, and social intercourse among the individuals and families who make up a social unit. While Mahyar Arefi (2003) defines social capital as "identifies consensus building as a direct positive indicator of social capital. Consensus implies "shared interests" and agreement among various actors and stakeholders to induce collective action. Collective action is therefore, an indicator of increased social capital". With the above definition of social capital its impetrative to note that social capital cannot exists without an individual having a social network. In a marriage setup an individual social network in most cases increases after getting married and thus the individual social capital in normal circumstances should increase but it depends if the social network of the couple if it has either weak or strong tie. If the tie is strong then the social capital increases and if it's weak then the social capital remains the same.

1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

For many years, people have debated the reasons why marriages fail and why divorce rate is on the increase. One of the leading marriage counsellors Clark (2010) attributes physical abuse, persistent alcoholism or adultery if present in a marriage it can lead to divorce. According to a Gallup Poll, only 5% of marriages are dissolved due to physical abuse; 16% of divorces were attributed to alcoholism, and 17% to adultery. The overwhelming cause of divorce is incompatibility (47%) and arguments over money, family or children (10%).

However, with the above statistics in mind, some couples will still choose to remain in relationships that are abusive. A study in Kenya reported on why some individuals remain in abusive relationships some of the reasons are children, pressure from relatives and religious values of the family.

There are obvious contradictions why some people chose to remain in abusive marriages while other opts for separation and divorce. This calls for fresh investigation on both the cases in the fast changing dynamic society and the new manifestation of family conflict.

This research paper was therefore to confirm factors that cause conflict in families and the outcome of the conflict. There are obvious concern what impact there is in social network and capital on both the man and woman and more so if there are children involved after a separation or divorce in a family. This research paper established how the man and woman relate to their former social network (extended family, friends, in religious setup), did the investment to the former relationship got to waste or was it sustained. The paper addressed the following question below:

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What factors cause conflict in families?

2. What are the divorce/separation outcomes?

3. What is the impact on the divorced/separated individuals on their social network and social capital?

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the research study are to:

1. Establish factors that cause conflict in families.

2. Explore the divorce/separation outcomes.

3. Analyze the impact on the divorced/separated individuals on their social network and social capital.

1.5. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The study was done in Nairobi, focusing on both separated and divorced people. The study was done on a focus group of a church that has a group of both separated and divorced people who gathered weekly for a meeting.

The study explored the outcome of conflict which will be limited to divorce and separation, however the paper did not factor in outcomes such as death, injuries, suicide etc. The study focused on social aspects paying attention to the religious and cultural factors of the divorced /separated individual. The study also focused on the economical aspect examining the purchasing power and debt payment of the divorced /separated individual.

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2. CHAPTER TWO

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.1. Family:

The definition of a family according to Murdock (1949) is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction, including adults of both sexes, at least one of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children, own or adopted, of the sexually cohabiting adults."

The Family is one of society's main and arguably most important, social institutions as it serves to socialize individuals to be productive members of society. We all look to our family for guidance, support, and a sense of belonging. Some believe that the Family is the most important social institution as it is our first encounter with socialization processes. From a sociological perspective, the Family is not only viewed as an institution, but also as a social system and a social group (Eshleman, 2000). As with all institutions, the Family has within its boundaries a set of norms, values, statuses, and roles which are organized to meet specific goals for the overall society. The institutionalized norms, values, statuses, and roles within the Family are designed to guide sexual activity and social relations within a sexual union of individuals.

As a social system, the family is viewed as an entity which consists of various interrelated parts (or statuses) that perform particular functions (roles). Further, the family as a system is part of a larger system (society) and contributes to the functioning of society. Within the family system, the statuses and roles interact with one another to form a system of relations amongst the members who hold a specific status and perform a specified role. The operation of the family system is dependent upon

the effectiveness of these status-role interactions. As a social group, the focus is on the individual members (the people) of the family in question. What each person brings to the family and how each person contributes to the relationships with other individuals in the family determines the reality within each family.

2.2. SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE FAMILY:

• **The Functionalist Perspective.**

Functionalists identify a number of functions families typically perform:

reproduction; socialization; care, protection, and emotional support; assignment of status; and regulation of sexual behavior through the norm of legitimacy.

• **The Conflict Perspective.**

Conflict theorists have seen the family as a social arrangement benefiting men more than women. Some conflict sociologists say that intimate relationships inevitably involve antagonism as well as love.

2.3. MARRIAGE

Marriage is a legal binding of two individuals of opposite sexes to each other until that union that has been dissolved legally. This is the current minimum meaning of the term (Clayton 1979).

Forms of marriage: Two types of marital regulations define the right spouse: endogamy and exogamy. Incest taboos are rules that prohibit sexual intercourse with close blood relatives. Societies further structure marriage relationships in one of four ways: monogamy, polygamy, polyandry, and group marriage.

People marry for many reasons, including one or more of the following: legal, social, libido, emotional, economical, spiritual, and religious. These might include arranged marriages, family obligations, the legal establishment of a nuclear family unit, the legal protection of children and public declaration of commitment. Marriage is usually recognized by the state, a religious authority, or both. It is often viewed as a contract. Civil marriage is the legal concept of marriage as a governmental institution irrespective of religious affiliation, in accordance with marriage laws of the jurisdiction.

Marriage is uniquely beneficial to society because it is the foundation of the family and the basic building block of society.

- It brings significant stability and meaning to human relationships.
- It remains the ideal for the raising of children.
- It plays an important role in transmitting culture and civilization to future generations.

Marriage is not merely a private contract, but a social institution of great public value and concern.

2.4. MARRIAGE CONFLICT:

Definition of conflict according to the oxford dictionary is a serious incompatibility between two or more opinions, principles, or interests. In a family, conflict can be between the wife and husband, between siblings or be between parents and their children. In this study the main focus of conflict will be between wife and husband. When two people join forces so totally that they merge every aspect of their lives as we do in marriage, conflict is inevitable. When man and woman join in marriage, they not only join their two persons but their families, their training, their backgrounds, their values and priorities. With every human being so different in all of these areas, it is inevitable that these different aspects of life will create conflict. When the different backgrounds and traditions

meet one another in real life, conflict occurs. The main forms of conflict in a marriage are physical violence, sexual violence, economic control, and psychological assault. The most obvious and common causes of conflict can be culture, political and economic.

2.5. DIVORCE:

Divorce is the legal and social dissolution of a marriage/pair-bond, and the legal division of any shared property and obligations. The sociological imagination allows us to go beyond personal experiences and observations to understand broader public issues. Divorce, for example, is unquestionably a personal hardship for a husband and wife. However, C. Wright Mills advocated using the sociological imagination to view divorce not simply as the personal problem of a particular man or woman, but rather as a societal concern. From this perspective, an increase in the divorce rate serves to redefine a major social institution, the family.

Divorce has three eras namely;

1. The era of restricted divorce

The time of this era was until about the middle of the 19th century. Divorces were usually granted only on the ground of adultery or dissertation and in generally it was only given to men. (Cherlin, 2002: 417-422)

2. Era of Divorce Tolerance

The time of this era was from the middle of the 19th century until United states 1970 the ground for divorce were widened and divorce was made more accessible to women. (Cherlin, 2002: 417-422)

3. Era of Unrestricted Divorce

The time virtually unrestricted access to divorce from in the United states to the present divorces are usually granted without restriction to any married person who wants one. (Cherlin, 2002: 417-422)

2.6. FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DIVORCE

Women's Independence

Over the years women have gained in independence due to their often developing a career in the work setting. Ermisch (1986) felt that marital disillusion often occurred when women had the experience of working and following their own career. This influenced women's earning capacity and gave considerable risk to marital disillusion especially when there were other problems present as well. A Japanese study by Ogawa and Ermisch (1994) found that in Japan the divorce rate had more than doubled since the mid1960s. This was attributed to female paid employment which had increased rapidly in the past few decades. This was especially the case for women who took up fulltime employment. Hence it was found by Heath and Ciscel (1996) that many women remained in marriage merely because they had no alternative but to do so having no earning power, and opportunities to be economically independent from their spouses.

Ruggles (1997) found the rise of female employment in non-farm-type occupations was closely associated with growth of divorce and separation. Moreover, higher female labor-force participation among black women and lower economic opportunities for black men accounted for race differences and marital instability before 1940, and for more of such differences in subsequent years.

Many women who took up careers frequently lacked the career support from their spouses. This was noted by Dolan and Hoffman (1998).

Divorce or separation between partners frequently affected their total earnings which is one of the reasons why many partners remained together, to prevent this from occurring (Ressler & Waters, 2000). It was also noted, however, that increases in female earnings significantly increased divorce rates, undoubtedly due to the fact that the woman in an unhappy marriage now found herself capable of sustaining herself and possibly her family on her own wages.

An interesting phenomenon over recent years is that women file for divorce more often now than men, despite deep attachments to their children who they know are being harmed by such divorces. Many women in retrospect report the fact that they are happier being single than when they were married (Brinig & Allen, 2000). Many women also file for divorce for the purpose of having sole custody of the children.

Sayer and Bianchi (2000) explored whether a wife's economic independence destabilized marriage and heightened the risk of divorce. There was an initial positive association between a wife's percentage contribution to the family income and divorce, but the relation was reduced to non-significance as soon as variables measuring gender ideology were introduced into the model. The analysis indicated that measures of marital commitment and satisfaction were better predictors of marital disillusion than measures of economic independence. The studies of the influence of women's work on the risk of divorce were carried out by Poortman and Kalmijn, (2002) in a Dutch study. Of particular importance were the factors that led to divorce due to the intensity of the wife's work, the status of the wife's work and the potential success she achieved on the labour market in comparison with her husband. The result showed that working women had a 22% higher risk of divorce than women who did not work.

Too Early Marriage and Arranged Marriages

A study that was concerned with early marriage done by Zeng et al. (1992). It demonstrated that the level of divorce in China was extremely low, in comparison with other developed and developing countries. Similar findings from other studies indicated that the risk of divorce for women who married before the age of 18 was higher than those married after 20. Arranged marriages had a risk of divorce which was about 2.5 times as high as the non-arranged marriage. It was also noted that divorces were higher in urban than rural areas. Other things being equal, women with more children had a lower risk of divorce. Son-preference exerted an effect on marriage dissolution. Women with no son had significantly higher risk of divorce than those with at least one son.

Economic and Financial Factors

A study by Whittington and Alm (1997) showed that women and men respond to tax incentives in their divorce decisions. It must be said that the couples involved in this rather mercenary approach to divorce were a small proportion of those seeking divorce. Most couples tended to find themselves in financial difficulties from one side or the other, or in some cases, both sides as a result of separation and divorce. Frequently it results in unemployment and the reliance on state benefits in Great Britain. In most cases there is an association between emotional factors and subsequent partnership breakups (Kiernan & Mueller, 1998). The authors summarized that people who embarked on partnerships at an early age, cohabitants, those who had experienced parental divorce, and those who were economically, somatically and emotionally vulnerable had higher risks of divorce.

An international study of regional differences in divorce rates was carried out by Lester (1999). The author explored social correlates of regional divorce rates for seven nations: Finland, France, Hungary, Japan, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the USA, finding little consistency. The most consistent

social correlates were found to be unemployment and, to a lesser extent, population size, homicide rates, percentage of elderly people, birth rates, death rates, and crime rates.

A study of young Americans who wished to divorce showed that economic factors played an important role in many who sought separations and divorces (Burgess et al., 1997). Similar results were obtained by Waters and Ressler (1999). Finally a study done by Finnas (2000) showed that in Finland an increasing level of income of the husband also decreased the divorce risk, whereas the trend was the opposite one in respect to the wife's income. It was also found that tenants in this study ran a 50% higher risk of divorce than home owners.

Poor Intellectual, Educational, and Social Skills Preventing Separation Due to Better Selection of Spouse

According to (Hoem, 1997) found that divorce risks decreased as you moved from groups with little education or social capital to groups with more. This negative educational gradient fits with the notion that people with more education are better at selecting spouses and better at making a marriage work. Similarly, Dronkers (2002) in a Dutch study found a relationship between intelligence and divorce risk during the early 1990s for two different Dutch longitudinal cohorts, for which intelligence measures during their childhood were available. A positive relation between intelligence and divorce risk was found for 50yearolds born around 1940: Divorced respondents had a lower average intelligence than respondents who stayed together. A negative relation between intelligence and divorce risk was found also for 30year olds born around 1958: Divorced respondents had a lower average intelligence than respondents who stayed together.

Liberal Divorce Laws or the Ease of Obtaining Divorces

Several studies have shown that the ease of gaining a divorce through liberal laws has undoubtedly increased the likelihood of divorce. This has been shown to be the case in postwar growth of divorces in Great Britain (Smith, 1997). The rising incidence of divorce was explained chiefly also by the growth in the real earnings of women, which had increased post-divorce welfare by providing a measure of financial independence. This coincides with section l, the greater power of women in their role in society.

Similar results were obtained in the United States as noted by Friedberg (1998). Most states in America switched from requiring mutual consent to allowing unilateral or no-fault divorce between 1970 and 1985. Since then the national divorce rate more than doubled after 1965. A later study by Smith (1998) noted that while in England and Wales the emphasis was initially on fault divorce decrees, no-fault divorce decrees dominated in Scotland. The paper proposed an explanation for this remarkable contrast based on cost incentives generated by procedural and legal interventions with the respective legal systems. The introduction of the Simplified Procedure in Scotland and the reduction in the time bar to divorce in England and Wales were seen as causal factors for a greater number of divorces occurring. The introduction of liberal no-fault divorce laws, therefore, had a significant effect on the divorce rate in England and Wales (Binner & Dnes, 2001).

Role Conflicts

Role conflicts frequently lead to marital disharmony. According to Abdel Hameed Al Khateeb (1998) in a study of Saudi Arabian families, including 95 Saudi working women, suggested that Saudi families had changed to some degree. Marital aspects such as housing and bride price had changed faster than cultural ones. One important change, however, that had taken place in a Saudi family, was the dynamic of marital relationships. Whereas originally this relationship was

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characterized by the exaggerated respect wives were expected to show their husbands in their daily interactions, now mutual respect and understanding were increasingly evident in the marital relationship. Women's attitudes to equality between the sexes tended to be more progressive than those of men and different expectations had caused role conflict in the family and an increase in the divorce rate. Although men had lost some of their social and religious authority in the family, their economic and genera! authority remained intact. The Saudi family was a male dominated institution with important decisions being made by men. Cultural norms, civil roles, and judicial legislations supported men's authority in the family and society. An American study also found that incongruencies between spouses and gender beliefs, expectations, and behaviors affected marital stability through negative marital interactions, causing identity disruption, and resulted in distancing, marital instability, and in some cases divorce (Pasley et al., 2001).

Religious Factors

A Swiss study by Charton and Wanner (2001) indicated that Switzerland had more than 25% of marital unions end in divorce. This high prevalence of divorce was thought to be linked to the fact that marriage was a forced ritual for many Swiss partners. Factors modifying the probability of divorce were discussed in the paper on the basis of the 1994/95 Family & Fertility Survey data. Survival models allowed for measuring factors influencing the risk of divorce. Among individual factors, the absence of the practice of religion and a former divorce of parents seemed to have a positive effect on the risk of divorce. Other factors included age of the spouses and having had a premarital union. The presence of children in the union also had an impact in preventing separation and divorce. It seemed that the meaning of divorce was increasingly linked to the significance and positive attitudes attributed to marriage.

An interesting study by Broyles (2002) examined the religiosity and attitudes towards divorce. Researchers had shown that religion played a role in predicting whether there was a greater likelihood of obtaining a divorce when marital problems arose. Although the research in this area was quite intensive, little research existed about how religiosity affected one's attitudes towards divorce. The results indicated that there was intact a significant negative correlation between religiosity and attitudes towards divorce, which suggested that religion does play a role in one's consideration as to whether or not to seek to obtain a divorce.

2.7. ATTITUDES TO DIVORCE

A study by Kim and Kim (2002) found that a once-divorced person may hesitate to divorce again as is the case in Asian countries, due to the fear of being labelled as pathological or abnormal. This contradicted the view that multiple divorces were likely to occur in certain individuals.

In Ireland divorce was banned under the Irish Constitution. Despite there being thousands of separated people in Ireland in the early 1980s, the proposal to introduce divorce was vociferously opposed in referenda in 1986 and 1995. The campaign also claimed that divorce would open the floodgates to marriage breakdown. The availability of divorce in Ireland since 1997 had not, however, borne out these dire predictions (Burley & Regan, 2002).

2.8. TREND OF DIVORCE WORLD WIDE

The global divorce rate statistics reveal that many marriages are collapsing at a faster rate nowadays compared to a decade or two previously. What could be responsible for this? Is this a by-product of civilization, of modernity? Are humans getting more independent nowadays than in the days of their forefathers?

Divorce rate statistics in some countries across the globe:

United States of America

According to one online reference resource, the current divorce rate in the United States of America show that "50% of all marriages in the United States end in divorce." Continuing, the same reference states that, 64.2% of American women who got married before the age of 25 end up in divorce, while for women who got married between the ages of 25 and 35, 24.9% end up in divorce. On the other hand, only 10.9% of women who married above 35yrs of age end up in divorce. As for their male counterpart in the United States, the rate of divorce further reveal that American men who married between the ages of below age 20 and 25, 50.5% of them end up going through divorce.

Similarly, among men who got married between the ages of 25 and 35, 33.9% end up in divorce. On the other hand, only 15.1% of men who married above the age of 35 end up in divorce.

In the same vein, 50% percent of first marriages, 67% of second and 74% of third marriages end in divorce, according to Jennifer Baker of the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, Missouri.

This report show that the saying "once bitten, twice shy" does not hold true in all cases. Thus, going through a previous divorce is no guarantee that the next marriage will be successful.

It might seem from the above analysis of the divorce rate statistics in the United States that age and maturity play a role in the propensity of divorce in that country because a large chunk of the divorce rate is among couples who married below the age of 25.

Another factor which has been found to be responsible for divorce is childlessness. According to discovery channel, couples with children have a slightly lower rate of divorce than childless couples.

"Sociologists believe that childlessness is also a common cause of divorce (in the United States). The absence of children leads to loneliness and weariness and even in the United States, at least 66 per cent of all divorced couples are childless."

United Kingdom

According to divorcerate.org, the divorce rate in the UK has been rising steadily since the '80s. The online reference resource continues: "There were 160,000 divorces in England and Wales in 2002, an increase of almost 2% from 2001 figure of 157,000. In seven out of 10 cases, it was the first divorce. So 70% divorces in UK are fast divorce. The average age at which couples split in UK is 42 for men and 39 for women. Half the couples who divorced have at least one child aged under 16. Divorce rates have risen over the last two decade since falling back from the level reached in 1996, the Office of National Statistics said. The total number of divorces in England and Wales last year was 153,490, working out at 13.9 divorces per 1,000 married people. This rose from 13.4 in 2008. In almost seven out of 10 cases, the divorce was the first for both husband and wife. The average age at which couples split is increasing, at almost 42 for men and 39-and-a-half for women. Couples are also staying together for slightly longer, with the average up from 11.1 years in 2002 to 11.3 years before they part company.

Africa:

South Africa

Show that the number of registered marriages has generally been increasing over the last ten years (1999–2008). In 1999, 140,458 marriages were registered. This number had increased to 186,522 in 2008 showing an annual increase of 2,9% since 1999. The 2008 186,522 shows an increase of 3,492 (1,9%) from 183 030 marriages recorded in 2007.

The distribution of couples divorcing by population group shows that there were more divorces among the African population group compared to the other groups. Despite the general fluctuations, the proportions of divorces from the mixed and the African groups have been increasing whilst that of the White group has been declining in the past ten years.

In 1999 the African, Indian/Asian, White and mixed groups made up 18,4%; 5,3%; 39,9% and 1,0% of the number of divorces respectively. However, in 2008 the contribution of the African, Indian/Asian and mixed groups increased to 35,0%; 6,2% and 3,1% respectively whilst that of the White group declined to 32,8%.

Despite the above divorce statistics in South Africa, it was found that couples who divorced spent a long time together - the median duration of marriage in 2008 being 9 years - unlike in the UK where first two years of marriages have the highest divorce rates in the UK. Additionally, the largest number of divorces (7,859 or 27,2%) lasted five to nine years.

This group is followed by marriages that lasted less than five years (6 143 or 21,2%). Thus, almost half (48,4%) of the 28 924 divorces in 2008 were from marriages that lasted less than 10 years. As the duration of marriages increased the number of divorces decreased. Irrespective of the population group of the divorcees, the distribution of divorces continues to be skewed towards earlier years of marriage.

Kenya

Divorce and separation are not as prevalent in patrilineal societies as they are in matrilineal, since in the latter the woman does not lose much in divorce (Kayongo-Male Onyango, 1984, pp. 28-29). In Kenya the percentage divorced, according to the KDH.S, is slightly over 4 for those ever married. Study of the Kikuyu shows the percentage of those ever married who are either

separated or divorced to be just over 7 (KDHS, 1994, p. 61; Mburugu & Adams, 2001, p. 28). As the Kilbrides note, divorce is a growing phenomenon in East Africa, especially in Nairobi (1990, p. 222).

Fida Kenya, a legal organisation that champions the rights of women, says urban women are leading the walkouts. According to statistics from the organisation, Fida Kenya handled 142 cases in 2008, 149 last year and 69 cases from January to March this year. This implies there is a divorce case in court every day. Fida Kenya's Deputy Executive Director and Head of Programmes Kimani (2010) says 70 per cent of women seeking divorce are from urban centres. Statistics of spouses who can afford to file divorce proceedings in court are also on the increase. Last year, 569 cases were filed in Nairobi alone, up from 458 in 2005. Furthermore, the Milimani Commercial Court, which handles divorce cases of marriages conducted in churches in Nairobi, handled 387 matters last year. The High Court registry recorded 182 divorce cases from civil marriages conducted at the Attorney General's chambers last year. Some couples prefer to move out of their marital homes and opt not to undergo the traumatic divorce procedures in court under the glare of the public.

Kimani (2009) said unlike in the past, women no longer hold onto failed and abusive marriages," The national divorce figures could be higher as the women's rights organisation mainly assists clients who cannot afford legal fees. Sociologists say an increasing number of young couples are affected. One in every seven couples aged between 25 and 35 years may end up in divorce.

Experts attribute the increasing premature end of marriage to the extinction of the alpha male, the increasing independence of women and abandonment of cultural traditions.

According to University of Nairobi's sociology lecturer, Kiemo(2009), marriages are faced with turbulence as societal norms and values are changing. Kiemo quotes the consensus theory and says

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women could be running away from marriages the more they get exposed to the inequalities in the union as men tend to benefit more from marriage. This is particularly so in terms of control of resources. "More women are refusing to 'serve' their husbands and the men are feeling threatened, which is resulting in conflict,"

The rate of divorce in Kenya is on the increase, and could be higher still were it not for the prohibitive legal costs. Even though there has been a marked increase in the number of divorce cases filed in court, many couples often resort to seeking legal advice and settling their divorce in private, away from court, due to the high legal costs.

Nation newspaper took a spot check with several city law firms indicates that cases of couples willing to file divorce petitions is on the increase. However, high legal costs often see many such cases ending up in a separation by verbal agreement, or a cancellation of the divorce bid altogether. Latest statistics, however, point to a steady rise in the number of divorce cases.

Hundreds of couples are seeking legal advice, with some law firms handling as high as 26 cases, and others up to 50 cases, in a year. However, a majority of the cases never make it to the courts due to prohibitive costs. Law firms, which declined to be named for fear of jeopardising their businesses, and to protect the privacy of their clients, say in 2009 there was a steady rise in the number of people inquiring on legal advice about divorce. Although a few divorce cases could cost as "little" as Sh200, 000, in most instances a divorce suit could deprive one of a minimum of Sh500, 000. This is determined by the nature of the case and the intricacies involved. "The Advocates Remuneration Order, 2009, prescribes the minimum amount of fees an advocate should bill for services rendered. This amount is not subject to the success or otherwise of the suit," said Gikonyo Gitau, an Advocate of the High Court."However, depending on quality representation, experience, seniority, standing, time and skills of the advocate one engages, cost varies from Sh300,000 upwards." The high rate of

failed marriages, a phenomenon viewed as western in origin, is slowly building up in the Kenyan society.

Shauri (2009) of Kenyatta University's Pwani Campus attributes the increasing divorce rates to a changing society. "Society has re-invented itself as women are out to prove a point. Men, on the other hand, measure success in terms of the money they make. All else is secondary,"

Some reasons cited for divorce include infidelity, desertion and cruelty. Though infidelity is the most likely catalyst, interestingly, inquiries with lawyers show cruelty tops the list. Other causes are insanity, rape and sodomy. Sociologists say cruelty has many faces, and studies show that women and men in Kenya experience various forms of abuse by their spouses. According to Njoka (2010), "Yet, many people remain in abusive relationships citing different reasons such as the children, pressure from relatives and religious values of the family, some cruelty is very harsh as in the case of battering and near-killing. Other people cite cruelty as an excuse for well-orchestrated plans to leave for other reasons like money, failed sexual life and unfulfilled promise. It is therefore not clear what the connection between cruelty and divorce is, hence it remains an interpretation of the law on a case-to-case basis."

The Nation newspaper had a glance at some of the divorce judgments delivered in the previous years. Some date back to 1987, and some to 2005. One case is still ongoing after nine years, a testimony of the bundle of emotions that a divorce case could weave together. In a judgment signed and read by Koome (2010) on July 14, 2006, the petitioner and respondent, who cannot be named for legal reasons, experienced problems after two years of marriage; the relationship was characterized by total breakdown of communication. "There was total breakdown of communication and it became very difficult for the parties to agree on anything, and this was followed by mistrust and suspicion of adultery," the judgment read. The judgment also acknowledged that the two parties

had irreconcilable differences and hence the dissolution of the marriage was inevitable. "From the evidence before me, I am satisfied that this petition was not brought through the conclusion but for reasons that the parties relationship broke down and it was not possible for them to stay together due to breakdown of communication and suspicion, and mistrust of one, another," read the judgment, pronouncing the decree of divorce.

Cynics think relationships are breaking down; sociologists refute claims that social relationships are on the edge, but raise unequivocal concern over the high rate of divorce and separation in the society explaining that relationships are being redefined. "Young people, especially women, are today finding fulfillment living alone as opposed to the yesteryears when being married was not only culturally mandatory but also an indication of good social standing," said Njoka (2010), the sociologist.

The sociologist said high awareness of legalities involved in marriage plays a major role in the surge of divorce cases. "Peer pressure is playing a big role where men and women are increasingly aping their separated and divorced peers and behaving similarly," said Njoka (2010).

According to Hart (2010), a Nairobi-based psychologist, statistics collected around the world show 40 per cent of divorces are between childless couples. "The more children you have, the less likely you are to divorce. The more children you have, the more sense it makes to stick together and rear them,"

The Impact of divorce/separation in social capital

The reasons that have been adduced for the seemingly lower rate of divorce in Africa than in the UK and elsewhere are as follows:

1. Marriage is seen as a lifetime commitment, thus couples are very reluctant to leave no matter the myriad of problems they may be having;

2. strongly-entrenched extended family ties that are called upon to assist the couple in resolving whatever problems they may be having;

3. inter-communal existence of folks in a neighborhood - in other words, everyone has got everyone's back; thus you find neighbours, relatives and friends offering words of advice, often unsolicited, to the couple about whatever problem they may be having;

4. there is often the mistaken notion that all African men are born cheats or cannot be sexually faithful to their women, perhaps as a result of the widespread acceptance of polygamy; thus, women are reluctant to leave their men even when they are guilty of marital infidelity;

5. Single parenting is not encouraged in Africa and where this is inevitable, the children eventually search out the other parent when they are of age.

2.9. THEORETICAL THEORY

2.9.1. SOCIAL CAPITAL:

Social Capital describes circumstances in which individuals can use membership in groups and networks to secure benefits. This formulation follows the definition offered by Pierre Bourdieu (1986): "Social capital is an attribute of an individual in a social context. One can acquire social capital through purposeful actions and can transform social capital into conventional economic gains. The ability to do so, however, depends on the nature of the social obligations, connections, and networks available to you." Bourdieu does not propose an investigation of social capital using economic methodology, but his definition of social capital fits easily into strategic models of

economic behavior. (Glaeser, Laibson, and Sacerdote 2000), This formulation treats social capital as an attribute of an individual that cannot be evaluated without knowledge of the society in which the individual operates. The extent to which an individual has access to resources through social capital depends on the person's connections (whom they know, but also connections through common group membership), the strength of these connections, and the resources available to their connections. Individual choice can to some extent determine the strength and extent of connections, although not all of these connections are subject to choice.

Sources of Social Capital:

This view of social capital is influenced by network theorists and reflects both egocentric and sociocentric perspectives (Lesser, 2000).

The egocentric perspective focuses on the connections that individual actors have with one another in a network. Sandefur and Laumann (1998) define social capital from an egocentric perspective, in which "an individual's social capital is characterized by her direct relationships with others and by the other people and relationships that she can reach through those to whom she is directly tied (p. 484)."

The sociocentric approach, meanwhile, suggests that social capital is based on a person's relative position within a given network, rather than the individual's direct relationship with people in it (Burt, 1997).

Burt (1992) has argued that the concept of 'structural holes' explains how social capital is a function of brokerage opportunities in a network. For him, "the structural hole is an opportunity to broker the flow of information between people and control the form of projects that bring together people from opposite sides of the hole (Burt, 1997: 340)." This argument suggests that social capital is created by a network in which people can broker connections between otherwise disconnected segments (Burt,

2001). That is structure is permanent but may be mediated by human agency.

Bourdieu and Coleman argue that a network tends to reproduce an inherited pattern of relationships via individuals' efforts to preserve social capital. Coleman (1988), in particular, argues that a closed social network-- the existence of strongly interconnected and mutually reinforcing relations between different actors and institutions — maintains the existence of effective norms and the trustworthiness of others, hence strengthening social capital. By contrast, a more open structure is less likely to allow individuals within it to detect a violation of norms, which may result in less trust among network members and thereby weaken social capital.

Putnam (1993) argues that dense networks in community foster norms of reciprocity facilitate communication and strengthen trust, which results in citizen cooperation for mutual benefit. Lin (2001) defines social capital as "resources embedded in a social structure which are assessed and mobilized in purposive actions (p. 12)." Thus for Lin, structure itself serves as a source of social capital. He proposes that access to, and use of social resources (resources embedded in social networks), that are in part determined by positions in the hierarchical structure, can lead to higher socioeconomic status.

Nahapiet and Ghoshal (1998) define social capital as the "sum of the actual and potential resources embedded within, available through and derived from the network of relationships (p. 243)." Hence, for these researchers, social capital is an attribute of networks.

A number of theorists argue that social capital is based on shared norms, mainly generalized reciprocity. Generalized reciprocity is based on the assumption that today's good turns will be repaid sometime in the future and is directly contrary to rational-choice theory. Putnam (1993), for example, argues that each individual act in a system of reciprocity is usually characterized by a combination of "short-term altruism (benefiting others at a cost to the altruist)" and "long-term self-interest (making every participant better off) (p. 172)." He believes that reciprocity can resolve

problems of collective action and reconcile self-interest and solidarity. Portes (1998) sees social capital as "primarily the accumulation of obligations from others according to the norms of reciprocity (p. 7)." He divides reciprocity into consumatory motivation that is bounded by the limits of specific community and instrumental motivations that emphasize reciprocal exchanges (Portes, 1988).

Reciprocity can bind the community via shared interests, create the environment that encourages voluntary collective behavior and generate the good will necessary for peaceful resolution of conflict (Newton, 1997).

Shared belief is another source of social capital. Portes (1998) refers to it as "bounded solidarity", a sense of community solidarity which results from collective shared experiences of community. "Identification with one's own group, sect, or community can be a powerful motivational force (p.8)." Nahapit and Ghoshal (1998) suggest that this shared cognitive dimension serves as a resource and provides shared representations, interpretation, and systems of meaning among parties (p.123). The shared ways of thinking and interpreting events support the generation of social capital that helps people exchange ideas, understand each other better, and more effectively share views and expectations. These together, meanwhile, facilitate joint action in communities.

Adler and Kwon (2000) argue that formal institutions and rules which help to shape network structure and influence norms and beliefs, have a strong effect on social capital. Transparent governments that are responsive to people's needs are a key factor in establishing formal community rules and institutions in government. As Levi (1996) has argued "governments provide more than the backdrop for facilitating trust among citizens; governments also influence civic behavior to the extent they elicit trust or distrust towards themselves (p. 51)."

Trust

Trust involves risk taking; that is, both parties know that the actions of one party can materially affect the other, but both share ideas, concerns or issues candidly notwithstanding. The sociological literature conceptualizes trust as either the property of individuals, social relationships, or the social system with disproportionate attention to behavior based on actions at the individual level (Misztal, 1996).

These three different levels of trust are interconnected. On the individual level, you trust an individual to do something based on what you know of his disposition, his ability, his reputation and so forth not merely because he says he will do it. On the collective level, if you don't trust an agency or organization with which the individual is affiliated, you will not trust him to fulfill an agreement (Dasgupta,1988). In addition, individuals consider the background, culture, and social system of another when seeking to determine whether to trust him. It is the interconnectedness that suggests how building trust on the micro-level contributes to the determinant of a more abstract form of trust on the macro-level (Luhmann 1988).

A number of researchers offer different arguments on the relationship between trust and social capital. One school of thought considers trust a precondition of social capital while a second one regards trust as a product or a benefit of social capital. For many researchers, social capital depends on trust. The relationships, communities, cooperation, and mutual commitment that characterize social capital could not exist without a reasonable level of trust. Without some foundation of trust, social capital cannot develop. While Bourdieu (1986) does not specifically mention trust, it is clearly implicit in his argument concerning social reproduction -- "the reproduction of social capital presupposes an unceasing effort of sociability, a continuous series of exchanges in which recognition is endlessly affirmed and reaffirmed (p. 250)" -- people must base their commitments on trust to expand their useful connections. Both Coleman (1988) and Putnam (1993) define trust as one key component of social capital. Trust also plays an important role in Fukuyama's concept of social

capital. He defines trust as a basic feature of social capital, "social capital is a capability that arises from the prevalence of trust in a society or in certain parts of it (Fukuyama 1995: 26)." Likewise, Francois (2003) argues that trustworthiness is the economically relevant component of a society's culture and hence comprises its social capital. Trust is considered to be a precondition of healthy social capital for these researchers.

A number of analysts, however, doubt whether trust should be treated as an integral component of social capital. They argue that trust itself is a complex and varied phenomenon. For these analysts, the integration of trust, network, and norms make the concept of social capital an extremely complicated one. Misztal has accused Putnam of adopting a "rather circular" definition of social capital and lacking theoretical precision by incorporating the concept of trust into his definition of social capital (Misztal 2000: 121).

In Putnam's model, trusting relationships among economic actors evolve from shared cultures and become embedded within a localized economy, which then forms the possibilities and result in the fact of networks of civic engagement. This thought "takes for granted" the "causal link that connects trust and a rich network of associations (Sztompka 1999: 196).

Cohen & Fields (1999) have argued that this form of trust might be a superior form and can be extended to people from other places and other cultures, and even to people with different ideas. "Putnam's concept of social capital obscures the specific nature of the social capital on which the Silicon Valley was built and through which it continues to construct itself (Cohen & Fields, 1999: 109)." Similarly, Coleman equates mutual trust with social capital and defines it in functional terms as the reduction of transaction costs in risky social interactions. But it appears that both Putnam's social capital and Coleman's rational choice descriptions of social capital underspecify the causal

mechanisms between its origins and its presumed benefits for political and economic performance (Farrell and Knight, 2003, p. 338).

Unlike Coleman, Putnam and Fukuyama, Woolcock (1998) has argued that definitions of social capital should focus primarily on resources rather than consequences. "Trust and norms of reciprocity, fairness, and cooperation are 'benefits' that are nurtured in and by particular combinations of social relationships; they are undeniably important for facilitating and reinforcing efficient institutional performance, but they do not exist independently of social relationships. Consequences may be one indicator of the types social capital that are present, but they are not to be confused with social capital itself (Woolcock, 1998: p. 185)."

Woolcock (2001) proposes that trust may better be seen as "a consequence of social capital rather than as an integral component of social capital (p.13)." Axelrod (1984) reinforces this view by relying on game theory to suggest that even where trust is very limited and the opportunities for communication very slim, cooperation may still evolve for other conditions obtain. Axelrod has argued that trust should exist in societies and groups that are successful because of their ability to cooperate, and should consist in nothing more than trust in the success of previous cooperation (p. 225). Similarly, Field (2003) has argued that trust may not be treated as a component variable because many relationships can operate perfectly well with a minimum of trust, including many of those which rest on institutional sanction (p. 64). In his view, trust is best treated as an independent factor, which is generally a consequence, rather than an integral component, of social capital (p. 65).

2.9.2. Conflict Theory:

In sociology, conflict theory states that society or an organization functions so that each individual participant and its groups struggle to maximize their benefits, which inevitably contributes to social change such as political changes and revolutions. The theory is mostly applied to explain conflict between social classes, proletariat versus bourgeoisie; and in ideologies, such as capitalism versus socialism. While conflict theory successfully describes instances where conflict occurs between groups of people, for a variety of reasons, it is questionable whether this represents the ideal human society.

Marx and Conflict Theory:

A family is a social group; it goes without saying that there will always be a conflict. According to Karl Marx's definition of conflict, in all stratified societies there are two major social groups: a ruling class and a subject class. The ruling class derives its power from its ownership and control of the forces of production. The ruling class exploits and oppresses the subject class. As a result there is a basic conflict of interest between the two classes. In a marriage set up it's a party of two and if one party feels superior according to Karl Marx's theory that will be the ruling class then the ruling class will want to control the subject class that will bring a conflict in the marriage. Such situation brings a lot of conflict because most people don't want to be dominated and when that happens it brings a lot of confrontation in a marriage which can lead to divorce or separation of not dealt with in a proper way.

Weber and Conflict Theory:

Max Weber refined Marx's conflict theory. Weber stated that more than one conflict over property existed at any given moment in any given society, which is more nuanced than Marx's theory that

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the only struggle of importance was that between owners and workers. Weber included an emotional aspect of conflict as well:

It is these that underlie the power of religion and make it an important ally of the state; that transform classes into status groups, and do the same to territorial communities under particular circumstances (ethnicity); and that make "legitimacy" a crucial focus for efforts at domination.

Weber's conclusions on conflict theory are similar to those reached by thinkers such as Emile Durkheim, Sigmund Freud, and Nietzsche, namely that beyond emotionality, some particular forms of social interaction create strongly held beliefs and solidarity among members of groups.

Feminists and Conflict Theory:

Conflict theory has been used by feminists to explain the position of women in society. Feminist conflict theorists argue that women have traditionally been oppressed so that men can benefit from positions of power, wealth, and status. These theorists would argue that the conflict over limited natural resources is what led men to relegate women to domesticity. This interpretation of conflict theory also leads to the idea that men cannot be trusted to give power to women because this gift would conflict with their inherent nature.

2.10.   CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│   Factors that cause conflict in     │
│         marriages/families           │
│                                      │
│   •   Infidelity                     │
│                                      │
│   •   Ethnicity,                     │
│                                      │
│   •   Method of  raising the         │
│       children                       │
│                                      │
│   •    Incompatible                  │
│       Personalities                  │
│                                      │
│   •   Financial Problems             │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘
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Unresolved conflict ────►   ◄──── Resolved conflict

```
┌──────────────────────────────┐   ┌──────────────────────────────┐
│     Outcomes of conflict      │   │   •   Maintain the same       │
│                               │   │       friends                 │
│   •   Divorce                 │   │                               │
│                               │   │   •   Cordial relationship with│
│   •   Separation              │   │       the relatives/ in-laws  │
│                               │   │                               │
│   •   Move to different houses│   │   •   Attend the same place of │
│                               │   │       worship                 │
│   •   Move to different schools│  │                               │
│       if you have children.   │   │                               │
│                               │   │                               │
│   •   Cost of living changes  │   │                               │
└──────────────────────────────┘   └──────────────────────────────┘
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┌──────────────────────────────┐   ┌──────────────────────────────┐
│   High/Low Social Capital?    │   │     Stable Social Capital     │
└──────────────────────────────┘   └──────────────────────────────┘
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3. CHAPTER THREE

3.1. METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter deals with the description of the methods applied in carrying out the research study. It is organized under the following sections: research design, population, sampling techniques, research instruments, and data collection procedures and data analysis.

3.1.1. Research Design

A research design is used to structure research, to show how all the major parts of the project proposal will work together to try to address the central research questions.

Thomas Kinnear (2007) defines research design as a basic plan, which guides the data collection and analysis phases of the project. It is a frame work, which specifies the type of information to be collected, the resources of data collection procedure.

This study employed descriptive design which is defined as a method of collecting information by interviewing or administering a questionnaire to a sample of individuals (Kombo and Tromp, 2006).

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006) the purpose of descriptive research is description of the state of affairs as it exists and it can be used when collecting information about people's attitudes, opinions, habits or any of the variety of education or social issues. In descriptive research both quantitative and qualitative methods will are employed in data collection. The study described factors that cause conflict in families and the outcome of the conflict. It also studied the social network and capital on both the man and woman. This study show the man and woman relate to

their former social network (extended family, friends, in religious setup), will their investment to the former relationship got to waste or will it be sustained.

3.1.2. Target Population

Target Population for a survey is the entire set of units for which the survey data are to be used to make inferences. Thus, the target population defines those units for which the findings of the survey are meant to generalize Paul J. Lavrakas (2008). Establishing study objectives is the first step in designing a survey. Defining the target population should be the second step. Target populations must be specifically defined, as the definition determines whether sampled cases are eligible or ineligible for the survey. The study targeted both men and women who are divorced or separated. It also targeted marriage counselor and pastors who deal with cases for divorce and separation.

3.1.3. Sampling Design

The research was carried out in two churches which are protestant churches, located in Nairobi City, namely International Christian church and Nairobi Baptist. The sites were purposively selected. The selection of the study sites was motivated by two main reasons; First, the availability of study subjects, bearing in mind that divorce is a sensitive issue, and the possibility of hostility from respondents and secondly, the study was particularly targeting subjects who had prior experience of divorce or separation within a current or former relationship, a group required the researcher to do background investigations of places where willing respondents would be found. As a result of these two factors, it would not have been possible for the study to achieve any geographical representation through a random selection of study sites. The nature of the study necessitated background work, which involved visiting social service agencies (churches, religious centers). A combination of all these factors led to the selection of study sites.

3.1.4. Data Collection Techniques and Tools

The data techniques used in this study are interviews. While data collection tools to be used in this study are questionnaires, interview guide and secondary data that will review documented materials.

Questionnaires were administered to individuals who are either separated, divorced or going through separation or divorce. The questionnaires contained both open and closed ended questions. In closed ended questions, respondents choose from a fixed set of answers while in an open ended question, respondents answer in their own words and this gives them freedom to express their personal views on the subject.

An interview schedule is a measurement instrument that provides instructions and questions which the researcher verbally administers to informants and records their responses in order to gather data for analysis. Interview guides will be used on key informants pastors and marriage counsellors. In this study, structured interviews were used. A structured interview (also known as a standardized interview or a researcher-administered survey) is a quantitative research method commonly employed in survey research. The aim of this approach is to ensure that each interview is presented with exactly the same questions in the same order. This ensured that answers can be reliably aggregated and that comparisons can be made with confidence between sample subgroups or between different survey periods.

3.1.5. Data Processing and Data Analysis

Both secondary and primary data were used in this study. Secondary data was obtained from existing literature from libraries, internet and The Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). Research instruments were administered to the respondents to obtain the primary data. The researcher obtained a research permit before embarking on the study. Data analysis is a practice in which raw

data is ordered and organized so that useful information can be extracted from it. The process of organizing and thinking about data is key to understanding what the data does and does not contain. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics in form of averages, percentages and frequency tables among others. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) will be used to analyze the data.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data analysis and interpretation of the research findings. Data analysis consists of examining, categorizing and tabulating the evidence to address the initial propositions of the study (Yin, 1994). The research study aimed at the following objectives Establish factors that cause conflict in families, Explore the outcome of conflict in families and Analyse the impact on the divorced/separated individuals on their social network and social capital. The data was analysed by use of SPSS package using descriptive statistics. Frequency tables, graphs and charts were used to describe the data

4.2 Sample Demography

The researcher begun by identifying the demographics of the research sample this involved identifying the number of male and female respondents, based on the following characteristics divorced, separated, remarried and widowed individuals in Nairobi. The total sample was 85 respondents of whom 5 are considered spoilt.

4.2.1 Gender Distribution

The study sought to find the gender of the respondents and table 4.1 below shows the response of number of male and female.

Table 4.1: **Gender Distribution**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	39	36%
Female	46	64%

The above table 4.1 illustrates that the sample population consisted of 36 percent male and 64 percent female respondents. This demonstrates that female respondents were more willing to openly talk about this issue. According to Browne 2009, women are socialised to express their feelings more than men, thus explains why women were more willing to talk about divorce. The other reason would be that men tend to remarry faster than women; this according to studies conducted by North of Huffington post (2011) stated that some men feel the need to replace a marriage quickly because it is their only real source of social support.

4.2.2 Age of respondents

The age of the respondents was also considered in the study, which reveals that majority of the respondents (16%) are in the 31 – 35 and 41 – 50 age groups, followed by 21 – 25, 36 – 40 and over 55 as shown in figure 4.1 below.


Age Distribution

38
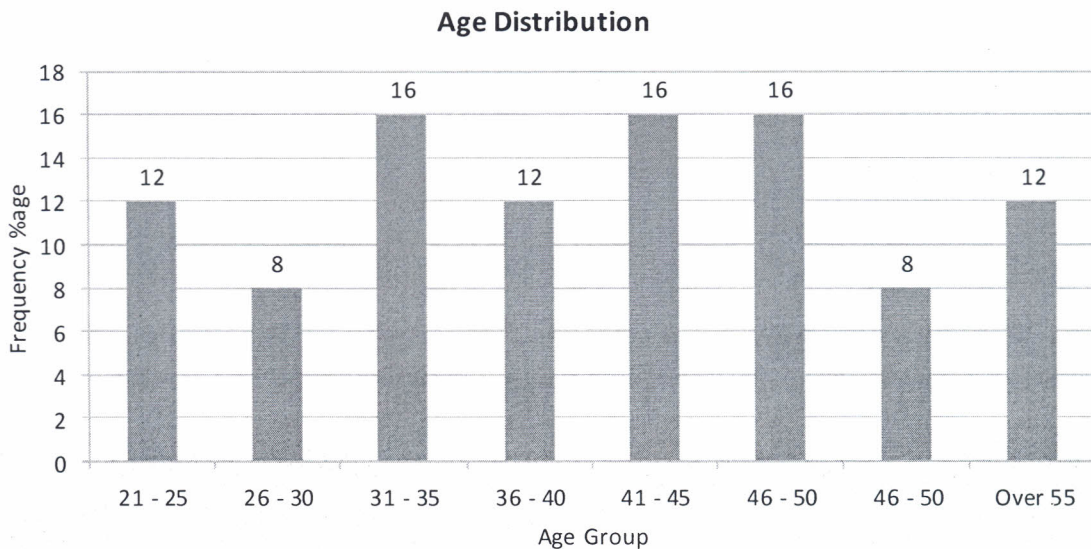
According to figure 4.1 above majority of the 31 – 35 age group got married in their 20's and after 10 – 15 years, they started to discover more about themselves and what they wanted in life, thus giving possible reasons why they opted for divorce or separated at that age gap. In the 41 – 50 age groups, a possible midlife crisis experienced by couples may have facilitated the separation or divorce, especially if the individuals in the marriage did not support each other and or work together in this developmental stage of their individual lives and marriage.

4.2.3 Current Marital Status

This study sought to know the current marital status of the respondents at the time they filled the questionnaire, figure 2 below shows the marital status of the respondents.

Figure 4.2: Current Marital Status
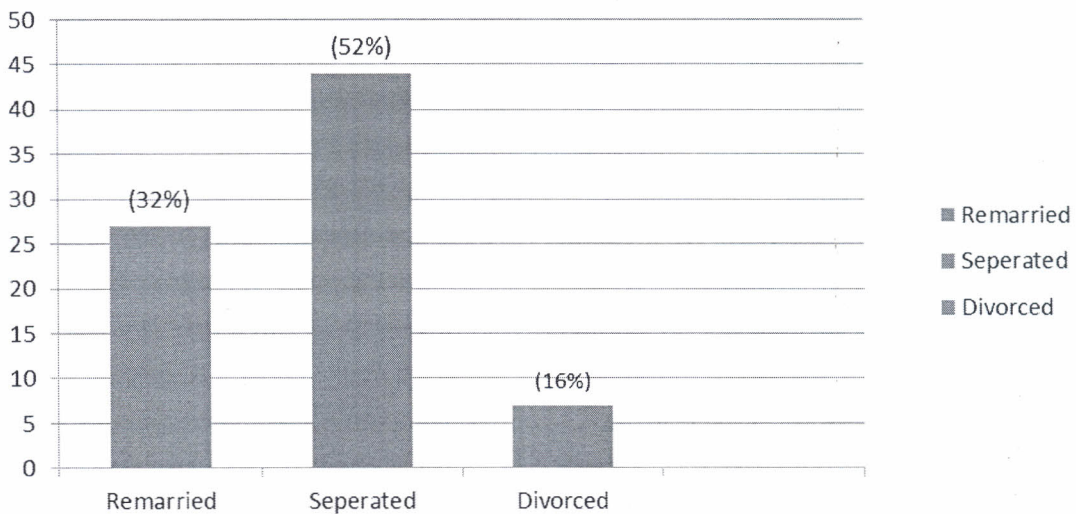
The data collected shows that majority (52%) of the respondents are separated and most of the separated couples, after cross tabulation, as shown in table 2 below, majority of the respondents were women. The separation meant they were either thinking of reconciling or taking a further step

of divorcing. The second highest were remarried couples at 32 percent which meant that they had been divorced initially.

*Cross tabulation table 4.1: showing the relationship between the current marital status and gender*

	Remarried	Separated	Divorced	
Gender				
Female	5%	47%	12%	64%
Male	30%	4%	2%	36%
Total				100%

Most of the respondents who were remarried were men which reflect that most men prefer to remarry after divorcing and they settle faster than women according to Sam Roberts (2007) he stated that Single women often have a good support system with other women. Men usually don't do that kind of networking. Women are more into making social arrangements than men. Men can become more dependent because they often lack the skills to keep a social life together. In marriage men might find relief from domestic responsibility and daily living decisions, leaving all that *sissy* stuff to their wives whereas women often feel put upon in taking up more and more tasks.. The last marital status were divorced respondents at 8 percent who had gone through the divorce and were living their lives as single men or women; most of these were women, The last category were widows and widowers at 8 percent who had lost their spouses through death.

4.2.4 Children in Marriage

In relation to children in their marriage, figure 4.3 below shows the number of couples with children and those that did not have any children.

Figure 4.3: Children in Marriage

18 (32%)

27 (68%)

Yes
No
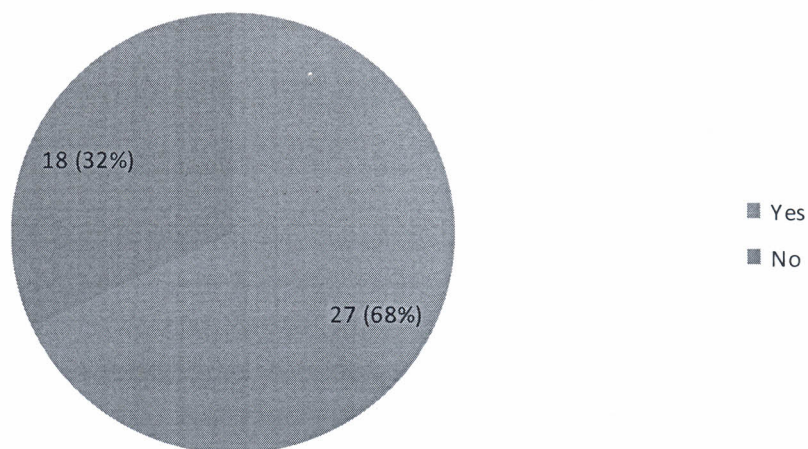
The above figure 4.3 shows that most couples were bringing up their children by themselves and thus bringing up single parenthood perceptive. The young men and women react in slightly different ways to their parent's divorce, according to Fagan et el (2012) who states the following:

Girls: Young women from divorced families will feel a need for love and attention and yet fear abandonment; they will also be prone to both desire and anxiety. Women whose parents' divorce are likely to be hampered or even overwhelmed by anxiety when it comes time to make decisions about marriage, though some "women with no ill effects from paternal divorce, may develop [the] security of friendship-based love quite well." One study linked parental divorce to lower relationship commitment and confidence in women but not in men.

Boys: While parental divorce affects the child's view of marriage, girls may be less influenced in their attitudes towards divorce "because they have more role models of intimacy and marriage as the ideal in their environment than boys do, especially in the media." By contrast, boys have fewer role models of intimacy outside of their families. Hence a father's modelling if interpersonal skills are more important for boys. Men from father-absent homes also experience less masculine sexual identification and more feminine sexual identification. Men whose parents divorced are inclined to be simultaneously hostile and a "rescuer" of the women to whom they are attracted, rather than the more open, affectionate, cooperative partner, more frequently found among men raised by parents of an intact marriage. By contrast, the problem of being overly meek or overly dominant is much more prevalent in the romantic relationships and marriages of the daughters of divorced families than it is among daughters of intact marriages.

Figure 4.4: Where do the children live after separation

No doubt, children are deeply affected by separation in marriage. An objective of the study was to investigate how separated individuals handled the issue of children in the separated state.
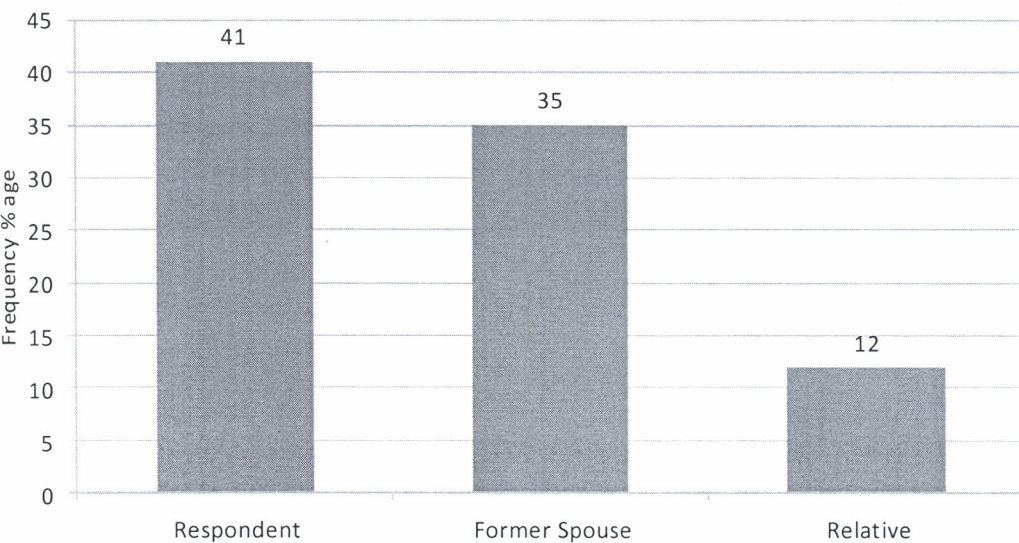
Majority of the respondents (41%) live with their children. This can be attributed to the fact that most of the respondents were women at 64 percent. The society normally views women as the gender that should live with children since they are the caretaker of the family and understand children's' needs.

Cross tabulation table 4.2: showing the relationship between the where the children live after separation or divorce status and gender

	Respondent	Former spouse	Relatives	
Gender				
Male	4%	28%	4%	36%
Female	50%	10%	4%	64%
Total				100 %

Custody and rights of children act (2000) it stipulates that "The welfare of the child is the paramount consideration. The court considers which parent will be able to pro-vide the best shelter, health, education and upbringing. The court normally awards custody to the mother, for she is considered best able to take care of very young children". Table 4.2 above shows that most female stay with the children and it normally locks out the father and it starts with the law especially in cases where the parents are not given joint custody.

According to Cathy Meyer (2009) the majority of child custody cases are not decided by the courts. In 51 percent of the cases, both parents agreed that mom be the custodial parent. In 29 percent of the cases, the decision was made without any third party involvement.

Only 11 percent of custody cases were decided during mediation with as few as 5 percent being decided after court order custody evaluations. In cases where both parents decided, without involvement from a mediator or the court 83 percent of the time the mother ended up with custody because the father chose to give her custody. What do these statistics tell us?

1. Fathers are less involved in their children's care during the marriage.

2. Fathers are less involved in their children's lives after divorce.

3. Mothers gain custody because the vast majority of fathers choose to give the mother custody.

4. There is no Family Court bias in favor of mothers for the majority of fathers who divorce. Feminism theory divorce is a positive thing for women and children as only men benefit from family life. They believe that female single parent families are better than nuclear families for women.

Child custody with the former spouse at 35 percent may be attributed to the fact that the other spouse was not financially stable to take care of the children or they were just not interested with the children. On the flip side the respondents may be a man who is taking care of the children.

Relatives at 12 percent have custody of the children; this may be attributed to a possibility that both parents are not financially stable. Another possible scenario is the parents' emotional and mental state that may not allow them to safely take care of the children. In other cases if the separation was due to one parent's physically abuse the courts may give the relatives custody till one or both parents are in the right state of mind to take care of the children.

4.2.5 Period of Marriage before Separation

Depending on the dynamic of the relationship the couple are likely to reach a point of saturation, the table below shows the period of time that the couple reached the saturation point and opted to separate or divorce.

Figure 4.5: Period of marriage before separation
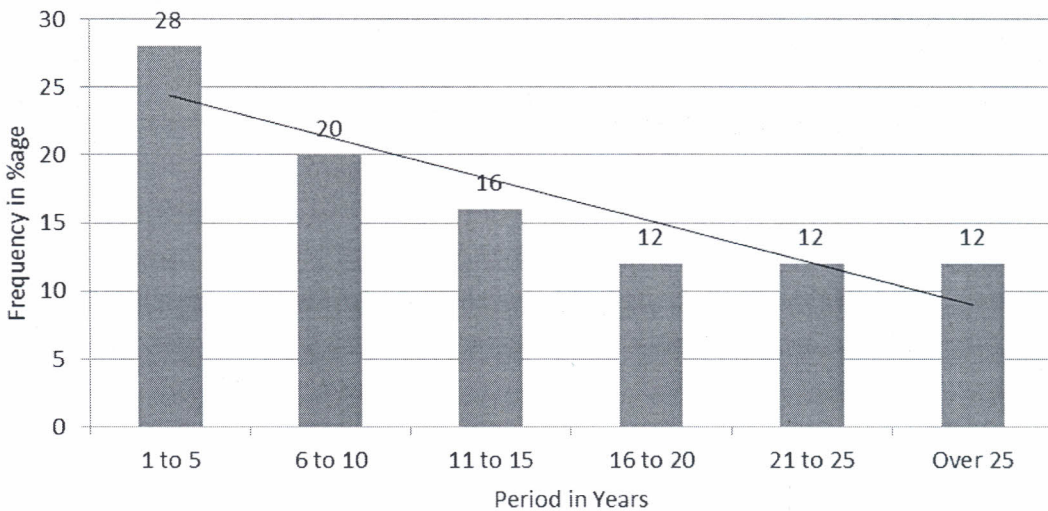
The period of marriage before separation in this study reveals a potential generational divide. Majority of the respondents (28%) separated between 1 – 10 years in marriage.

As shown in figure 4.5 above marriages are most susceptible to divorce in the early years of marriage. After 5 years, approximately 10 percent of marriages are expected to end in divorce - another 10 percent are divorced by about the tenth year after marriage. However, the 30 percent level is not reached until about the 18th year after marriage while the 40 percent level is only approached by the 50th year after marriage.

According to Kitoto 2009 in his book, The Marriage Dance, conflict in marriage, arise from differences in opinions, values, philosophies and ways of approaching issues. Therefore, this study suggests that the initial years of marriage would be more challenging as the two individuals adjust to each other's perspectives and learn much more about each other than they did before their marriage relationship. This period could be termed as critical and foundational to the marriage as the future of the marriage is greatly determined by the decisions made at this time.

This finding also hints that the younger generation is familiar with divorce. Western cultures and the media probably influence the divorce rate in younger couple, so divorce is an easier option for resolving marital conflict.

THE MAIN FINDING:

The main findings are derived from the objectives listed below:

1. Establish factors that cause conflict in families.
2. Explore the outcome of conflict in families.
3. Analyze the impact on the divorced/separated individuals on their social network and social capital.

4.3 Establish factors that cause conflict in families

4.3.1 Nature and Frequency of Abuse in Marriage

When two people join forces so totally that they merge every aspect of their lives as we do in marriage, conflict is inevitable. When man and woman join in marriage, they not only join their two persons but their families, their training, their backgrounds, their values and priorities. With every human being so different in all of these areas, it is inevitable that these different aspects of life will

Table 4.2: Nature of abuse in the marriages

Nature of Abuse	YES		NO	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Physical	35	60%	17	28%
Emotional	38	72%	16	24%
Financial	35	60%	15	20%

Table 4.3: Frequency of abuse in marriage

Conflict Manifestation	Frequency						NO	
	Daily		*Weekly*		*Monthly*			
Physical suffering or bodily harm(hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing, burning)	7	9%	7	9%	37	47%	27	35%
Being deprived from sleep or other functions necessary to live e.g. eating food, not talking	7	9%	10	12%	37	46%	27	33%
Being forced to engage in drug/alcohol use against his/her will	7	8%	10	12 %	37	44%	31	36%
Forced to engage in sex, against your own will	7	14%	7	14%	10	20%	27	52%
Humiliation privately or publicly	14	19%	7	10%	37	52%	14	19%
Withholding information from the victim,	20	27%	7	9%	41	55%	7	9%
deliberately doing something to make you feel diminished or embarrassed,	20	26%	3	4%	41	52%	14	18%
Being isolated from friends and family	20	25%	3	4%	37	46%	20	25%
Verbal abuse using abusive language	24	29%	7	9%	41	50%	10	12%
Preventing a spouse from resource acquisition	14	19%			41	54%	20	27%
Limiting the amount of Resources(money) to use	14	18%			48	64%	14	18%
Exploiting economic resources(money) of the victim	14	17%			48	59%	20	24%

create conflict. The table below shows the nature of abuse in marriage and it further discusses the frequency of abuse in marriage.

Table 4.2 (Nature of abuse in the marriages) and Table 4.3 (Frequency of abuse in marriage) above have been combined together because they explain the nature and frequency of abuse in marriage and are discussed interchangeably.

The study sought to find out the nature of abuse experienced in the marriages. On a broad aspect, the majority of respondents (72%) cited emotional abuse, while physical and financial abuse came second at 60 percent. One of the respondents admitted to be the abuser.

Emotional abuse has been variously characterized as "the use of verbal and nonverbal acts which symbolically hurt the other or the use of threats to hurt the other" (Straus, 1979, p. 77); further to this definition (Shepard & Campbell, 1992, p. 291); defines emotional abuse as a "behaviors that can be used to terrorize the victim. . .that do not involve the use of physical force"the "direct infliction of mental harm" and "threats or limits to the victim's well-being" According to (Loring, 1994, p. 1) The essential ideas, feelings, perceptions, and personality characteristics of the victim are constantly belittled."

Types of emotional abuse include yelling, insulting the partner, swearing at one's partner or calling him or her names, belittling or ridiculing the partner or berating one's partner in front of other people, putting down the partner's physical appearance or intellect, saying things to upset or frighten one's partner and acting indifferently to one's partner's feelings. The frequency table above shows that emotional abuse tops the list with the highest abuse in daily, weekly and monthly frequencies.

Relating it to physical abuse emotional abuse often precedes, occurs with, and/or follows physical or sexual abuse in relationships (Koss et al., 1994; Stets, 1991; Tolman, 1992; Walker, 1984). Sexual and non-sexual physical abuse also co-occur in many abusive relationships (Browne, 1987; Mahoney & Williams, 1998; Walker, 1984), and, as with emotional abuse, sexual and non-sexual abuse often are combined elements of a single abusive incident (Bergen, 1996; Browne, 1987; Finkelhor & Yllo, 1985; Russell, 1990; Walker, 1984).

Emotional abuse is never obvious, and the injuries it inflicts can be invisible which can take much longer to heal than a fracture bone. Some victims bury their hurts so deep that they never get to fully recover. Because it is hard to recognize, emotional abuse is also easy to deny. Words can be twisted and distorted to justify and excuse. The effects of emotional abuse are isolation from others, low self-esteem, depression, emotional problems, illness, increased alcohol or drug use and withdrawal from real life into an internet alternative reality.

Physical abuse is in form of bodily harm either in form of slapping, hitting or kicking. There are factors thought to influence the actions of an abuser; many of them have suffered physical, emotional or sexual abuse themselves. Jealousy is a common reason why physical abuse begins.

The effects of physical abuse include anxiety (simplistic blanket term which covers a wide range of problems from the temporary effects of stress to panic attacks, compulsions, phobias or debilitating, nervous illness previously known as 'nervous breakdown'. Common in all these complaints is the overwhelming effect of the body producing too much adrenaline resulting in physical symptoms which affect daily life.), isolation from others, repetitive nightmares or flashbacks, difficulty staying at school or keeping a job, children may run away from home, aggressive behavior, drug or alcohol abuse and eating disorders (eating disorders are extremely common, however can be serious and even life threatening if not treated appropriately. Millions of people are affected by eating disorders

every year and unfortunately thousands die because their disorder has gone unrecognized for too long. Approximately 1% of people aged between 10 and 20 suffer from anorexia each year and 4% aged 16 - 25 suffer from bulimia). The main characteristic of an eating disorder is the individual's obsession with their weight; these obsessive thoughts can lead to severe consequences in both their health and their actions.

Financial abuse can be in the form of a spouse denying money or is not transparent with the financial status of the family. The short and long term effects of financial abuse can be devastating. In the short term, access to assets is imperative to staying safe. Without assets, survivors are often unable to obtain safe and affordable housing or funds to provide for themselves or their children. With realistic fears of homelessness, it is little wonder that survivors sometimes return to the battering relationship.

4.3.2 Factors that led to conflict in marriage

The study investigated factors that led to conflict in marriage the figure 4.5 below shows the factors such as money, rising of children, relatives' interference, friends' interference, political differences, wok holism, ethnicity, infidelity, sexual inhibitions and other (irreconcilable difference).
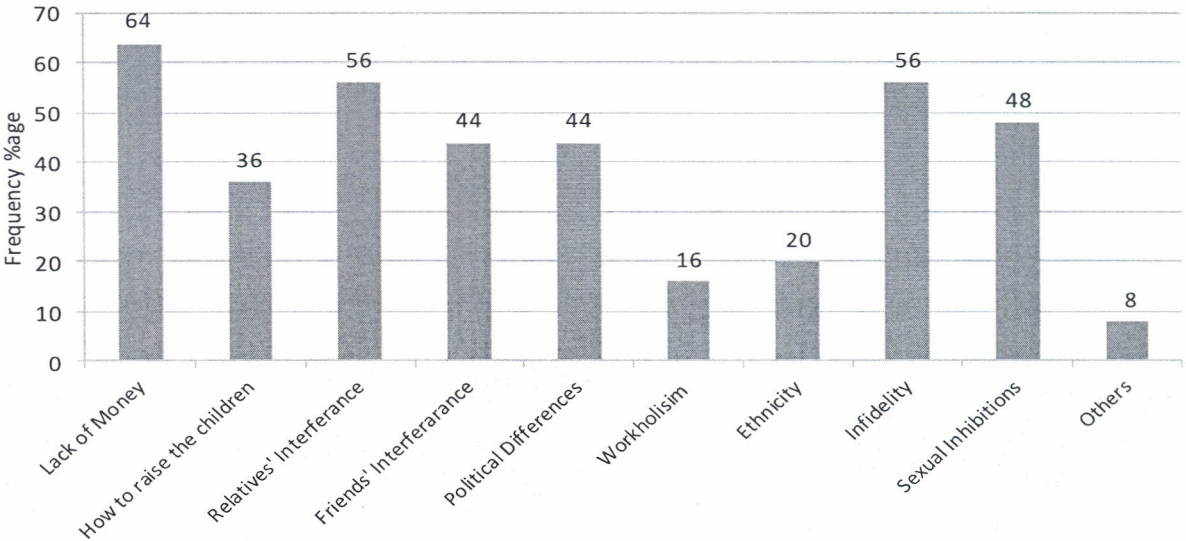
Figure 4.6: Factors that led to conflict in marriage

The research reveals that money (64%) is the leading cause of conflict in marriage. This is closely followed by relative's interference (56%) and infidelity (56%). Kitoto (2007) further explains that conflicts initially exist as feelings, discomfort, unfulfilled needs or some form of condition in the heart. Says he, "The easiest way out of conflict would be to run away, immerse oneself in work or travel, engage in sport or other activities, at the expense of being with the spouse."

Financial issues at 64 percent is the major reason for conflict, money becomes a tool by which the abuser can control the victim, ensuring his/ her financial dependence on the abuser. An abuser may deny his or her partner money. One way this is done by forbidding the partner to be employed. This makes the non-working partner dependent upon the abuser for money. Financial abuse includes withholding money from the victim or controlling money very tightly. The victim is not allowed to have any of his/ her own money and has to account for every cent. Often, an abuser gives the spouse insufficient funds for meeting his/ her needs; this amount too, has to be accounted for in detail. Or, he/ she may refuse to share equally in financial expenses. They may give a small amount as their share and expect their partner to manage. They may chide their partner to lower expenses, but refuse to take on the responsibility of doing so.

Many financial abusers will put all of the family bills on their spouse's name. Moreover, the abuser will not permit his/ her spouse to see bank records, bills or credit records. Often, financial abusers are not good with money and end up destroying the credit of their spouse.

Infidelity and interference from relatives came in second at 56 percent. Types of infidelity include:

a) Opportunistic Infidelity: This type is motivated by lust.

Opportunistic infidelity occurs when a partner is in love and attached to a spouse, but succumbs to their sexual desire for someone else. Typically, this type of cheating is driven by situational circumstances or opportunity, risk-taking behaviour, and alcohol or drug use.

b) Obligatory Infidelity: This is the result of fear of rejection.

This type of infidelity is based on fear. Fear that resisting someone's sexual advances will result in rejection. People may have feelings of sexual desire, love and attachment for a spouse, but still end up cheating because they have a strong need for approval. In addition, their need for approval can cause them to act in ways that are at odds with their other feelings. In other words, some people cheat, not because they want to cheat, but because they need the approval that comes along with a having the attention of others.

c) Romantic Infidelity: This occurs when the cheating partner has begun to experience diminished affection for his or her spouse.

This type of infidelity occurs when the cheater has very little emotional attachment to his/her spouse. They may be committed to their marriage and making it work but they long for an intimate, loving connection with a member of the opposite sex. More than likely their commitment to the marriage will prevent them from ever leaving their spouse. Romantic infidelity means pain for the other man/other woman and the cheating spouse.

d) Conflicted Romantic Infidelity: This type describes the actions of a person who has developed strong romantic and/or sexual attachments to multiple partners simultaneously. This type of infidelity in marriage is distinct from an open relationship. In an open relationship, both partners are fully aware that the other is pursuing lovers outside the marriage.

e) Commemorative Infidelity: This can be viewed as a more advanced form of romantic infidelity, a final stage, if you will. This type of infidelity occurs when the cheater has fallen completely out of love with the spouse, and is remaining in the marriage purely out of a sense of commitment or obligation.

The above infidelities lead to distrust and may give way to separation or divorce.

In-laws are a common source of conflict in marriages. When partners are first married, there is always a period of adjustment when interacting with a spouse's family. Everyone is raised differently and miscommunication with in-laws, if not overcome, can lead to strife between partners as they learn to endure and discover ways to adapt to new family members. Interference from relatives can be in form of being intrusive, for instance on how to raise children, where to live and even how to clean and cook food for their spouse. Relatives' interference can also be on how the couples' perspective on relatives. This is either in form of one spouse still being dependent on his/her relatives, assuming that the extended family is still part of their families without any boundaries while the other spouse is interdependent and perceives the nuclear family as the only family without any interference from the relatives.

Sexual inhibitions category is the third at 48 percent. This can either be too much or too little sex, thus making one spouse unhappy in the marriage and opt for a divorce or have extra marital affair.

Political differences and friends interference comes at 44 percent. Political difference is experienced if couples in a marriage support different political parties or party leaders. This can also steam from ethnicity or gender of the candidate(s) a spouse is supporting. For example, in the 2007 general elections, there was a heated race to the various political seats and a particular couple supported different parties, for instance ODM or PNU.

Raising children can often create stress for parents. Parents want the best for their children. Each spouse may have a very specific idea of what his or her child should be taught. A slight change in course can often result in couples not being able to maintain a united front. If compromises cannot be made, this difference in vision can be a major disruption.

The study further reveals that work holism is a minor cause of conflict in marriage at 16 percent. A workaholic spouse is more likely to neglect family obligations as they spend all of their time at work or working at home. The spouse and children of workaholics may understand at first then, but it slowly degenerates to unmet expectations and conflict.

4.4 Explore the outcome of conflict in families

4.4.1 Move to matrimonial home

After the separation/divorce there is a physical separation the study sought to find out where the respondent place of resident was if it they lived in a rental house or they had built their own home. Also how it affected the respondent in terms of them moving to a research sought to find out if the respondent moved to a house of the same status, lower status or same status.

Figure 4.7: Move to matrimonial home
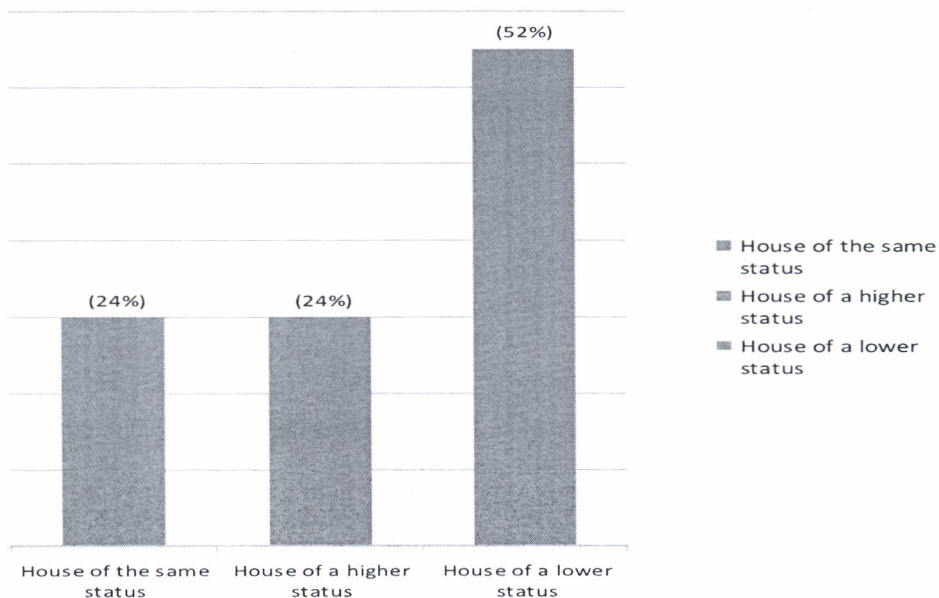
One of the questions was the current house in which they live in and 52 percent stated that they live in a house of a lower status than was the case in marriage. This suggests that marriage elevated their economic status possibly due to their combined source of income. If affected individuals move to a house of lower status, it affects their self-image. For example if a couple lived in the leafy suburb of Karen and the separation resulted in a move to a house in estates like South C, this lowers self-image by the affected party since they feel poor and adjusting to a new neighborhood becomes hard and can lead to low self-esteem. However, 24 percent moved to a house of a higher status. Cross tabulation revealed that most couples who did not have children managed to move to better houses because they lacked responsibility of taking care of children and taking care of the other spouse. In cases where they had children, the relieved responsibility of the partner and children enabled them to save income earlier diverted to the marriage, to their lifestyle.

Cross tabulation table 4.3: showing the relationship between the movement to matrimonial home after separation or divorce status and gender

|	House of the same status	House of higher status	House of lower status	
Gender				
Male	12%	18%	6%	36%
Female	6%	10%	48%	64%
Total				100%

On the flip side since most respondents were women this means that the houses/home they lived were owned by their husbands and since Africa is a patriarchy society most properties when

acquired in the family are under the name of men. Under the Matrimonial Property Bill in Kenya passed in Parliament in 2011 this legislation states that, matrimonial property means the matrimonial home or homes, household goods and effects in the matrimonial home or homes, immovable property owned by either spouse who provides the basic income for the sustenance of the family; any other property acquired during the subsistence of a marriage, which the spouses expressly or impliedly agree to be matrimonial property. Ownership of matrimonial property shall be deemed to vest in the spouses in equal shares irrespective of the contribution of either of them towards the acquisition thereof, and shall be divided accordingly upon the occurrence of divorce or dissolution of the marriage provided that in appropriate circumstances a determination can be made during the subsistence of the marriage. These makes it easier for the couples who get divorce to share the property equally and not like before that men would benefit more because our society is a patriarchy and benefit seemed to benefit more since most property were on the male names.

4.4.2 Cost of living

The study objective was to find out the social-economic status of the individuals after the separation. The respondent where asked to state their cost of living in three category (bearable, fair, unbearable)

Figure 4.8: Cost of living
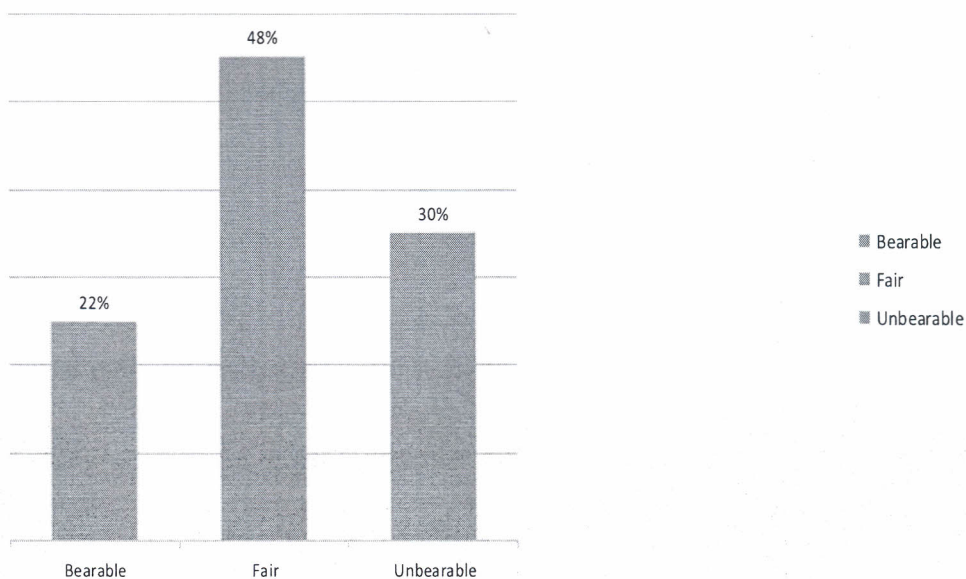
On the cost of living post the separation, a majority (48%) stated it was bearable, possibly attributed to the factor that the other spouse was helping. 30 percent stated that the cost of living was unbearable and this may be because the other partner was the bread winner in the family. Another possible factor could be that the other partner is none supportive in post separation expenses, thus a huge burden falls onto one partner and thus could cause stress. The data above show that the affected parties with unbearable living expenses are the one who are paying loas individually and had children.

On the issue of joint loans, 60 percent of the respondents indicated that they took joint loans while in marriage and 36 percent indicated they did not. Of the 60 percent who had joint loans 40 percent indicated that they were paying the loan jointly even after the separation, 20 percent were paying alone and 40 percent indicated that the former spouse was paying for the loan.

4.5 Analyze the impact on the divorced/separated individuals on their social network and social capital

Social capital according to Pierre Bourdieu, social capital is the sum of the resources, actual or virtual, that accrue to an individual or a group by virtue of possessing a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition. In this section the research seeks to find what the social capital of the divorced spouse is after separation in terms of friends, relatives and social gathering they shared before the divorce.

4.5.1 New friends introduced by the marriage partner

When people first separate from a marriage, one of the most upsetting and unexpected aspects are losing dear friends. The aspect of friends introduced due to the marriage and the status after the separation, figure 4:9 below depicts the response

Figure 4.9 New friends introduced by the marriage partner

Are you still Friends with the friends introduced to you due to the marriage?
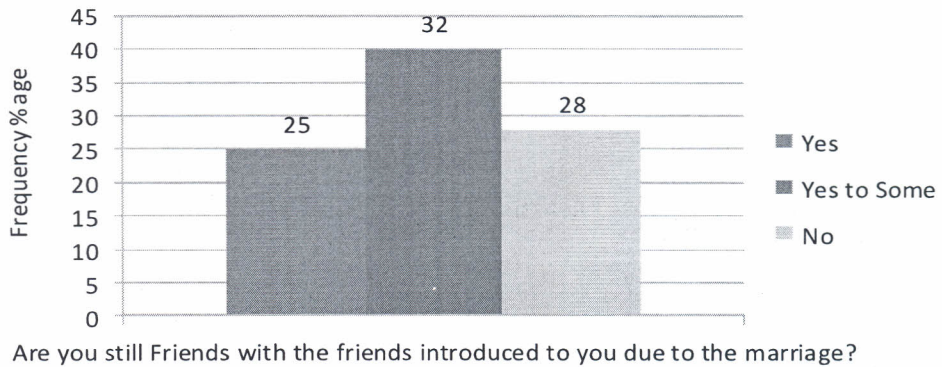
Those who responded 'Yes' to still enjoying a relationship with their former spouses' friends are the ones who indicated that the relationship did not break up because of friends interference. In addition, the same category indicated that they are living with their children, indicating the possibility that they could be sharing playgroups for younger children and still live in the same residential area after the divorce.

Respondents who answered 'No' are the spouses who stated that friends' interference was one of the reasons they had separated or divorced. These respondents were also not living with their children or had no children. The same respondents also indicated that they had moved from the residential area they lived after the separation. This indicates that the social capital of the respondent went down after investing in those relationships over a period of time. The respondents also have to start a new social network because they have lost the network they enjoyed during their marriage life. Thus, they have to create new social network because of their social attributes as a separated couple.

Cross tabulation table 4.4: showing the relationship between your former spouse's friends after separation or divorce status and gender

	Yes	Yes to some	No	
Gender				
Male	24%	8%	4%	36%
Female	16%	8%	40%	64%
Total				100%

Table 4.4 above shows that after divorce most female lost their friends this might be explained by when people get married male are normally the ones who bring friends into the relationship because men lead and women follow after the divorce the woman may not feel obligated to have the friends the husband had introduced her too. Since most of the friends were introduced into the relationship by the husband then they will still continue to have that friendship because they knew each before they even got married.

4.5.3 Relationship with former spouse's relatives

The aspect of Relationship with former spouse's relatives due to the marriage and the status after the separation, the table below shows the response

Figure4.10: Relationship with former spouse's relatives:
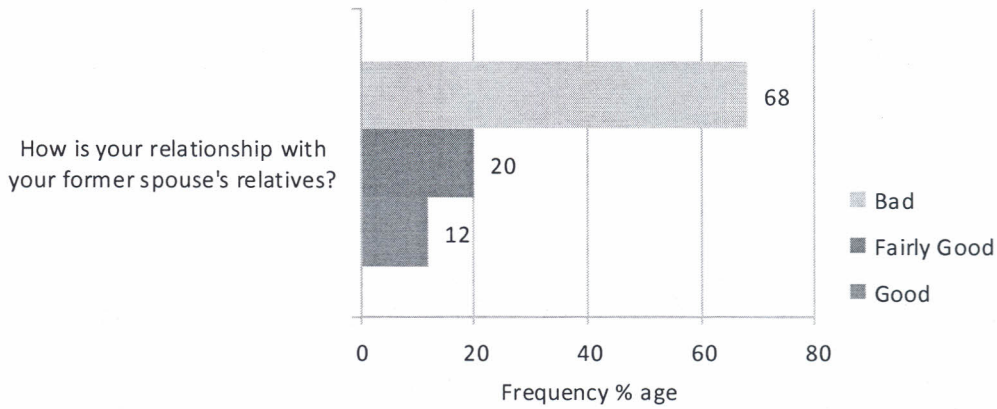
The majority (68%) of respondents indicated that they are no longer invited by their 'former in-laws' to family functions while 32 percent mentioned that they are still in touch through family functions as weddings and funerals.

These who responded 'Yes' to still having a relationship with their former spouse's relatives are these who indicated that their relationship did not break up because of relatives' interference and they had a cordial relationship. In addition, the same category indicated that they are living with their children, which indicates that they have a cordial relationship such that former spouse's relatives could be in-touch with the children. The social network of respondents who maintain a cordial relationship with the other spouse relatives increases their social network especially if they remarry.

Respondents who answered 'No' are the spouses who said that relative interference was one of the main reasons they had separated or divorced and the same respondents were not living with the children or had no children. So the relatives did not solidify the relationship with the former spouse as they had no children. This means that the social network of these respondents has decreased so

they had forgone the social capital that they had invested with the relatives. Meaning the respondents have to form new social network with other relatives especially if they remarry.

Cross tabulation table 4.5: showing the relationship between with your former spouse's relatives after separation or divorce status and gender

	Bad	Fairly	Good	
Gender				
Male	20%	10%	6%	36%
Female	4%	18%	42%	64%
Total				100%

The above shows that the relationship with the relatives former spouse is good with female this can be attributed to that most female remain with the children after the divorce and in order for the relatives to have a relationship with the children they must sustain a good relationship with the former in-law. So the social capital of the female was not affected as much as the male respondent who have not maintained a good relationship with the their former relatives because they don't have custody of the children so the former relatives see no reason of having a relationship with them.

4.5.4 Alteration of place of worship because of the separation:

Alteration of place of worship due to the marriage and the status after the separation, the figure 4.11 below shows the response

Figure 4:11: Alteration of place of worship because of the separation
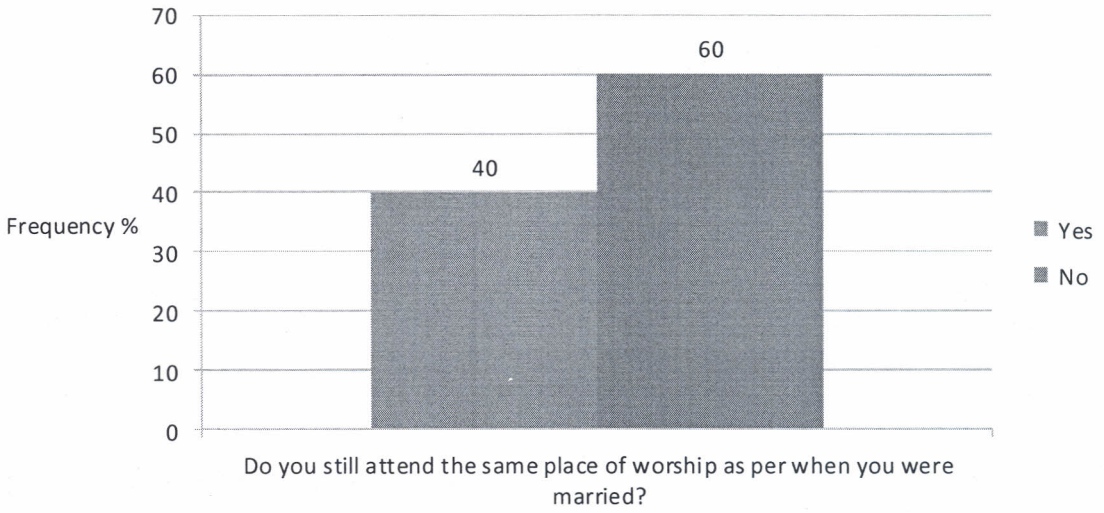
The finding above in figure 4.11 is the related to the social status support from religious gatherings. The study reveals that the separation affected the individuals attendance to the place of worship, for example moved to a different church or stopped attended altogether. This means that they lost the social capital they once enjoyed after the separation because if they had to move to other religious center they had let go of relationships they had invested in the previous place of worship. The respondents who responded 'NO' and still go to the same place of worship did not lose their social capital and they did not have to move places of worship so their relationship in place of worship is stabilize.

Cross tabulation table 4.6: showing the relationship between attend the same place of worship as per when you were married after separation or divorce status and gender

	Do you still attend the same place of worship as per when you were married?		
	Yes	No	
Gender			
Female	60%	4%	64%
Male	6%	30%	36%
Total			100%

The female respondent maintained the same place of worship this can be attributed to since most female remain with the children they do not want to the children to move to different places of worship. According to (Batson, C. Daniel, Schoenrade, Patricia, and Ventis, W. Larry. 1993) states that there is considerable evidence that women are more likely to be interested and involved in religion than men. Women rate their religious beliefs as important more than do men, and they are more likely to report having had a religious or mystical experience. More women than men report having attended religious services than men that explains why women still attend the same of services compared to men.

CHAPTER FIVE:

5.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the study findings. The section also presents the recommendations and conclusions. The data was analysed by use of SPSS package using descriptive statistics. Frequency tables, graphs and charts were used to describe the data and draw conclusions on the findings. This study was guided by the following specific objectives of the research study are to:

1. Establish factors that cause conflict in families.

2. Explore the outcome of conflict in families limited to divorce and separation.

3. Analyze the impact on the divorced/separated individuals on their social network and social capital.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study revealed that a majority of the respondents were in their middle ages; 31 – 35 and 41 – 50 (46%). Majority of those separated or divorced (28%) were separated in the first 1 – 10 years of marriage. This demonstrates a direct relationship between age of getting into marriage and probability of separation. But this finding also shows that once coupes go through the initial years of marriage, the likelihood of separation diminishes.

The greater fraction of those who were married for over 25 years were separated due to loss of the spouse through death (8% out of 12%). This research established several causes of conflict in families as listed below Money, Infidelity, Relative Interference ,Sex, Friend's interference ,Political Differences, How to raise children, Ethnicity, Work holism

The study established that one of the results of conflict in marriage is abuse with the leading nature of abuse being emotional (72%), which was manifested in varied ways including public humiliation, verbal abuse and lack of communication. This is followed by physical (60%) and financial abuse (60%).

The emotional disconnect seems to steam from a lack of 'enduring adjustment' to the married life that breeds resentment and bitterness, which then lead to abuse and hurt. This is reflected in the earlier findings (Graph 3.3) that those who stay longer in marriage have less chances of separation.

Other common outcomes of conflict is physical abuse which occurred daily (8%), weekly (8%) and largely on a monthly basis (44%).

Financial conflict is not only the leading cause of conflict, but its abusive manifestation through limiting resources from spouse or exploiting spouse's resources was a common trend with 56 percent of respondents attesting to this.

Anther outcome of conflict is the loss of children's custody. 35 percent of respondents who had children in marriage lost custody of their child to their former spouse. Another 12 percent lost custody to their relatives, representing a total of 47 percent, higher than the 41 percent who maintained custody of their child (ren) after the separation.

This study revealed that marriage brought a significant difference in the lives of the individuals in the family. That 52 percent of the respondents live in a house of a lower status than was the case before separation and that 30 percent describe their financial status after separation as unbearable suggests that marriage elevated their economic status possibly due to their combined source of income. Hence, majority of the respondents took a step lower in their financial status while adjusting to the separation.

However, the study also reveals that 24 percent moved to a house of a higher status. This also presents the possibility, on a lower degree, of an upward adjustment on the financial status.

According to the data collected 60 percent indicated they took joint loans during the marriage. However, as a result of the separation, 40 percent indicated that they were paying the loan jointly even after the separation, 20 percent were paying alone and 40 percent indicated that the former spouse was paying for the loan. A majority (60%) have had to pay the joint loan without the former spouses' input due to the separation, which makes the burden heavier on the one paying.

The researcher also established that marriage increased the friendship network of the family. The research states that 72 percent of the respondents gained new friends as a result of the marriage. However, the separation also had an adverse effect as this network was reduced. Data collected states that 28 percent stated that they lost their friends gained from the marriage due to the separation, while 40 percent stated that they maintained some of the friends.

This is also confirmed by the social status based on families gained through the marriage, 68 percent of respondents indicated that their relationship with their former in laws had gone bad.

The researcher also established 60 percent no longer enjoyed support from the place of worship they went together with their former spouse. This would include loss of fellowship and social network once enjoyed as the prior married couple attended their place of worship together.

5.3 Conclusion

Inevitably, every marriage will face conflict. There are many sources of conflict, but fundamentally the individuals' background, philosophies, perspectives, personalities and thought patterns determine how conflict is handled in marriage. If it is handled negatively, it ends up in abuse and hurt. However, conflict handled maturely strengthens the marriage and the individuals. Couples in

marriage need to adjust and understand that the adjusting process may take years. If frustration builds up during the initial years of marriage, it makes ground for abusive conflict and separation. Western cultures have evidently influenced our thought processes today as the statistics have reflected a growing number of divorce cases relative to media influence and westernization.

Jack and Carole Mayhall in their book 'Opposite Attack' state, "The success of a marriage comes not in finding the 'right' person, but in the ability of both partners to adjust to the real person they inevitably realize they married. Some people never make this adjustment, becoming trapped in the endless search after an image that does not exist."

Philip Kitoto in the Marriage Dance book further elaborates that a marriage will have endless conflicts when those involved fail to realize that marriage is a 'WE' and not an 'I' affair, the couple fails to process the data available as fast as possible from and objective point of view, the couple does not focus on the subject at hand and drags into conflict of other unrelated issues, the couple seeks ways to intimidate and ridicule each other, the couple fails to turn up their listening dial (sensitivity) and when the couple refuses to surrender and practice a 'give-and-take' attitude.

Marriage expands the social capital of both parties. The financial status improves as the study has established attributed to combined income and or shared ideas on financial planning. The marriage introduces new family members to the husband and wife through in-laws. They also gain new friends as a result of their relationship.

Marital separation on the other hand diminishes the social capital. The study confirmed that the affected parties loose the relationship they once enjoyed with their in-laws and the friends they gained during their relationship. The financial capital is also adversely affected as the individuals have to make adjustments that degrade an earlier solid financial status.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the study findings and conclusions, the researcher proposes the following recommendations:

Imbalance Socialization:

Perhaps the most significant effect of divorce on children is the loss of a positive adult role model in their life because of the physical departure of one parent the father is the one who is likely to leave. Both mothers and fathers represent indispensable assets for the healthy development of children, as parents naturally provide the emotional support, time, guidance, protection, supervision, and affection that children need. However, when divorce breaks a family, both the quality and quantity of contact between the noncustodial parent and children diminish, often resulting in fragile emotional ties to parents, especially fathers. After divorce the father should have visitation right in order to create a bond with his children and for the children to have a male figure in their lives.

Marital Counseling:

As the study revealed that conflict is inevitable in marriage, we cannot rule out that the conflict can be intense and may need intervention of a third party. Married couples should have mentors (older married couples) who can guide them in the different seasons of marriage as well as marital counseling in cases who are freely accessible and they do not charge any amount of money to make it easier for couples who cannot afford marriage counselors. This will help in alleviating extreme manifestations of conflict. Married couples will also find sound counsel from married couples and thereby avert negative advice from friends who are not in marriage.

Financial Training:

Mature, responsible conversations about money are a sign of a marriage that's going to be healthy and wonderful and enduring. In order for couples to lessen conflict about money they should be able to do the following:

Disclose Financial Records such as Swap statements for your bank accounts, credit cards, student loans, retirement accounts and so on.

Discuss Financial Goals (Discuss short-term goals, such as paying off credit card debt, and then craft a budget that sets you clearly on a path toward your goals).

Budget Your Spending failing to create and stick to a mutually agreed upon budget can lead to marital strife.

5.5 Recommendations for Further Research

Further research might explore the following areas:

- How remarried couples stay married and explore their relationship with their former spouse.

- How the children in divorce homes view marriages and how divorce affects both the male and female children after the parents' divorce/separation.

- The reason why male still have a good relationship with the friends introduced to them by their former spouse and it's not vice versa for the female.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Family Conflict and Social Capital Dynamics in Kenya Today

Dear Sir/ Madam,

This is part of a research project report on *Family Conflict and Social Capital Dynamics in Kenya Today,* to determine variables in family conflict and social capital. You are kindly requested to take part in this study, through filling in this questionnaire, to help in the success of this research. I am a Master of Arts (MA) student at the University of Nairobi. This is an educational report; the information will be used purely for academic purpose and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your participation is highly appreciated.

Date _____

☑ Please tick where appropriate

1. What is your gender?

    ☐ Male   ☐ Female

2. Please state your age

    ☐ 21 – 25   ☐ 41 – 45

    ☐ 26 – 30   ☐ 46 – 50

    ☐ 31 – 35   ☐ 51 – 55

    ☐ 36 – 40   ☐ Over 55 years

3. What is your current marital status?

    ☐ Remarried   ☐ Divorced

    ☐ Separated   ☐ Widow/widower

4. How long had you been married?

☐ 1 – 5 years   ☐ 16 – 20 years

☐ 6 – 10 years   ☐ 21 – 25 years

☐ 11 – 15 years   ☐ Over 25 years

5. In your former relationship did you experience any form of conflict?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes, what was the nature of abuse? *(Please tick)*

Nature of Abuse	YES	NO
Physical		
Emotional		
Financial		
Others *(Please feel free to explain)*		

6. How was conflict manifested in your marriage relationship?

Conflict Manifestation	YES	Frequency of conflict in your marriage			NO
		Daily	*Weekly*	*Monthly*	
Physical suffering or bodily harm(hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing, burning)					
Being deprived from sleep					

or other functions necessary to live e.g. eating food, not talking				
Being forced to engage in drug/alcohol use against his/her will				
Forced to engage in sex, against your own will				
Humiliation privately or publicly				
Withholding information from the victim,				
deliberately doing something to make you feel diminished or embarrassed,				
Being isolated from friends and family				
Verbal abuse using abusive language				
preventing a spouse from resource acquisition				
limiting the amount of resources(money) to use				
exploiting economic resources(money) of the victim				
Others *(Please feel free to explain)*				

7. Which of the following factors would you say led to conflict in your marriage? (*Tick the one that apply*)

☐ Lack of money   ☐ Infidelity

☐ How to raise the children   ☐ Sexual inhibitions'
(Parenting)

☐ Relative's interference

☐ Friend's interference   ☐ Work holism

☐ Politics differences   ☐ Ethnicity

□ Other *(Please feel free to state   other cause(s) of conflict)*

_____

_____

_____

8. Do you have children from your former relationship?

   □ Yes   □ No

   If yes, who do they live with currently?

   □ You   □ Former Spouse   □ Relative

   Do the children still go to the same school *(as was during the marriage)*?

   □ Yes   □ No

9. If the divorce/ separation required a move from your matrimonial home what kind of house did you move?

   □ Moved to a house of the same status

   □ Moved to a house of a higher status

   □ Moved to a house of a lower status

10. Since your divorce how would describe your cost of living?

    ☐ Bearable   ☐ Fair   ☐ Unbearable

Please explain the reasons for the above choice

_____

_____

_____

11. While in marriage, did you take joint loan(s) together?

    ☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes how was the repayment plan?

    ☐ Jointly   ☐ Former Spouse paying   ☐ only me

12. Did your former spouse introduce you to his/her friends?

    ☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes, are you still friends even after the separation?

    ☐ Yes to all   ☐ Yes to some   ☐ No

13. How is your relationship with your former spouse's relatives?

    ☐ Good   ☐ Fairly good   ☐ Badly

Depending on your answer, do they invite you to share in their events such as weddings and funerals?

    ☐ Yes   ☐ No

14. While in marriage did you and your spouse attend church/ mosque/ temple together?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes, do you still attend the same place of worship as per when you were married?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Do you still enjoy fellowship with your religious group *(shared while in marriage)* such that you can ask for encouragement and support?

☐ Yes   ☐ No

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Family Conflict and Social Capital Dynamics in Kenya Today

Dear Sir/ Madam,

'Social Capital' refers to tangible substances that count for most in people's daily lives namely, goodwill, fellowship, sympathy and social intercourse among the individuals and families who make up a social unit. Social capital is expanded by an individual's social network. In a marriage setup an individual's social network in most cases increases and the individual social capital in normal circumstances should increase, depending on the social network and the marriage relationship.

I am a Master of Arts (MA) student at the University of Nairobi, required to submit as part of my course work assessment a research project report on *Family Conflict and Social Capital Dynamics in Kenya Today.* To achieve this you are one of those selected to participate in the study. Kindly fill this questionnaire to generate data required for this study. This information will be used purely for academic purpose and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your participation is highly appreciated.

Date _____

☑ Please tick where appropriate

1. What is your profession?

2. How long have you been in this field?

3. According to your observation in the years you have been in this profession, has conflict in family increased or decreased?

4. What are the major contributions of conflict in a marriage?

5. In cases where conflict in marriage leads to abuse, what are the most common causes of abuse?

6. Are there common circumstances in which divorced couples share common commitments aside care if their children e.g. repayment of loans?

   i) And if they do they honor the agreement that they had before the divorce?

7. During your counseling sessions, do divorced individuals keep in touch with their former in-laws and if they do how would you describe their relationship?

8. Do divorced couples maintain common friends?

9. Do divorced attend the same social gathering e.g. church, weddings, funerals?

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