

# The Psychological Impact of Divorce on Children in Manado City, North Sulawesi

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## Abstract

Divorce is a complex life event that often has significant impacts, especially on the psychological well-being of children. This research aims to deeply explore the psychological impact of divorce on children in Manado City, North Sulawesi. Through a qualitative approach, we conducted in-depth interviews with 20 informants, including children, divorced parents, and judges from the Manado Religious Court. The results of the study indicate that divorce affects not only the physical and social aspects of children but also significantly impacts their emotional state. Children who are victims of their parents' divorce often experience deep feelings of loss, uncertainty about their family's future, and confusion about the causes of the divorce. Emotional conflicts also arise in children who are victims of divorce, such as feelings of guilt, anger, sadness, and prolonged anxiety. These psychological impacts are then reflected in various aspects of the child's life, including a decline in academic performance, lack of motivation to study, and deviant behaviors such as drug use or engaging in promiscuous activities. In facing these challenges, it is crucial for children to receive adequate social and psychological support. Therefore, the roles of family, government, schools, and the surrounding community in providing appropriate support and facilitating children's adaptation to their parents' divorce are very important. Support from various parties can help children who are victims of divorce in their psychological recovery.

**Keywords:** Divorce, Muslim Community, Children, Psychology.

## Abstrak

Perceraian merupakan salah satu peristiwa kehidupan yang kompleks dan seringkali menimbulkan dampak yang signifikan, terutama terhadap psikologis anak. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi secara mendalam dampak psikologis perceraian pada anak di Kota Manado, Sulawesi Utara. Melalui pendekatan kualitatif, kami melakukan wawancara mendalam dengan 20 informan meliputi anak, orang tua yang melakukan perceraian, dan para hakim Pengadilan Agama Manado. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perceraian tidak hanya mempengaruhi aspek fisik dan sosial anak, tetapi juga memengaruhi keadaan emosional mereka secara signifikan. Anak-anak yang menjadi korban dalam perceraian orang tuanya sering kali mengalami perasaan kehilangan yang mendalam, ketidakpastian tentang masa depan keluarga mereka, dan kebingungan tentang penyebab perceraian tersebut. Konflik emosional juga muncul dalam diri anak korban perceraian, seperti perasaan rasa bersalah, marah, sedih, dan kecemasan yang berkepanjangan. Dampak psikologis ini kemudian tercermin dalam berbagai aspek kehidupan anak, termasuk penurunan prestasi akademik, kurangnya motivasi untuk belajar, serta perilaku menyimpang seperti konsumsi obat-obatan terlarang atau pergaulan bebas. Dalam menghadapi tantangan ini, penting bagi anak-anak untuk mendapatkan dukungan sosial dan psikologis yang memadai. Oleh karena itu, peran keluarga, pemerintah, pihak sekolah, dan masyarakat sekitar dalam memberikan dukungan yang tepat dan memfasilitasi proses adaptasi anak terhadap perceraian orang tua menjadi sangat penting. Karena dukungan dari berbagai pihak dapat membantu anak-anak korban perceraian dalam pemulihan psikis.

**Kata kunci:** Perceraian, Masyarakat Muslim, Anak, Psikologis.



## Introduction

A happy and harmonious household life is the main goal for every married couple, where maintaining the integrity of the family is a top priority.<sup>1</sup> However, along the journey of life, many couples are faced with obstacles and challenges that threaten the stability of their relationship. When efforts to resolve conflicts and overcome difficulties reach an insurmountable point, divorce is often considered as a last choice.<sup>2</sup> In Indonesia, this phenomenon is increasingly relevant with the significant increase in the number of divorce cases in recent years, peaking in 2022 with 516,334 cases, which marks an increase of 15.31%. However, a change in trend occurred in 2023, which the number of divorce cases decreased by 10.2% to 463,654.<sup>3</sup> While this number is still high, the decline suggests there is potential to improve domestic stability and happiness, perhaps through increased awareness of the importance of good communication and support from the institutions or marital counseling programs.

Such harmony and stability in household life has significant impacts on children. Children who grow up in a happy and harmonious environment tend to experience better development emotionally, socially, and academically.<sup>4</sup> In contrast, instability and conflict in the household can negatively impact children's well-being, increasing their risks of developing psychological problems such as anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems.<sup>5</sup> Divorce becomes a life-changing issue for children, with the potential to cause profound stress, confusion and grief.<sup>6</sup>

There are several studies that review the relationship with this research. For example, research by<sup>7</sup> reviewed the psychological and social impacts of divorces on attitudes towards divorce and gender roles. They found that the impacts of divorces can vary depending on factors such as age at divorce, gender, and gender roles. They found that divorce can improve the risks of psychological problems such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem, especially in children. However, the research also shows that these psychological impacts do not take place simultaneously, and some individuals may even develop more resilience after experiencing divorce. Meanwhile, a book by<sup>8</sup> explores marriage and divorce trends in the United States, providing a comprehensive overview of the factors that influence marital stability. Cherlin presents historical data and analysis on how marriage and divorce patterns have changed over time in the United States. In addition, Cherlin also identifies various factors that contribute to marital stability, including cultural, economic, and social changes.

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<sup>1</sup> Catherine Earl, "The Modern Happy Family: Discursive Contests The Loving and Harmonious Family in Vietnam Is Central to Identity, Belonging and a Sense of Stability (Marr 2000: 795). An Influential Discursive Layer in the Vietnamese Cultural Landscape Involves the Remnant," *Routledge Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia*, 2014, 101.

<sup>2</sup> Rosdalina Bukido et al., "Settlement Of Marital Disputes Efficacy Through Mediation In The Manado Religious Court," *Jurnal IUS Kajian Hukum Dan Keadilan* 7, no. 3 (2019): 374–83.

<sup>3</sup> BPS, "Nikah Dan Cerai Menurut Kabupaten/Kota 2020-2022," 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Dimitrios Papadopoulos, "Parenting the Exceptional Social-Emotional Needs of Gifted and Talented Children: What Do We Know?," *Children* 8, no. 11 (2021): 953.

<sup>5</sup> Kristina Lovato et al., "The Impact of Deportation-Related Family Separations on the Well-Being of Latinx Children and Youth: A Review of the Literature," *Children and Youth Services Review* 95 (2018): 109–16.

<sup>6</sup> Siti Hikmah, "Mengobati Luka Anak Korban Perceraian Melalui Pemaafan," *Sawwa: Jurnal Studi Gender* 10, no. 2 (2015): 229–46.

<sup>7</sup> Amato & Booth (1991)

<sup>8</sup> Cherlin (2010)

Furthermore, some of the literature that actively highlights the issue of divorce and its consequences in Indonesia shows an in-depth discussion of the dynamics of divorce in society, and explores its social and psychological impact, especially on children. For instance,<sup>9</sup> explains the various aspects involved in the divorce process, including the social, economic, and cultural factors that influence it. Besides,<sup>10</sup> also highlighted the importance of understanding the psychological impact experienced by individuals, especially children, in the context of parental divorce. Thus, researchers found that the dynamics of divorce began to reveal, especially in terms of adequate social services, necessary psychological support, and individual post-divorce adaptation.

Based on these explanations, further research and efforts are needed to explore a more comprehensive understanding of how divorce affects individuals and families and find more effective solutions to overcome its negative impacts. The main objective of this research was to investigate in depth the psychological impacts experienced by children due to parental divorces in Manado City, North Sulawesi. In achieving this goal, the research has identified various psychological aspects affected by divorce, such as feelings of loss, confusion and uncertainty about the future of their family. In addition, the research also explored emotional conflicts that children may experience, such as guilt, anger, or sadness. In addition, the impact on children's behavior and academic performance was also analyzed.

The researcher's rationale for conducting this research was to better understand the psychological impact of divorce on children, particularly in the context of Manado City, North Sulawesi. With a deeper understanding of this impact, more effective interventions and programs can be developed to help children overcome the challenges they face and promote their well-being. Moreover, this research is also important to provide a better understanding to the community, especially parents, about the importance of providing extra support and protection to children during the divorce process.

## Methods

This research adopted a qualitative approach in the research model to explore the psychological impacts of divorces on children in Manado City, North Sulawesi. By referring to the methodological framework introduced by Creswell<sup>11</sup> and Merriam & Tisdell,<sup>12</sup> this research was designed as a case study that explored the experiences and perceptions of various parties involved, including divorced couples, children who were victims of divorces, officials of the Manado Religious Court, as well as Heads of the Religious Affairs Offices (KUA) in Manado City. The choice of a qualitative approach as the research method was consistent with approaches often used in research on subjective experiences and the complexity of interpersonal relationships in the context of divorce.<sup>13</sup>

Primary data in this research were obtained directly from the informants involved, such as 10 divorced married couples, 5 children of divorce victims, Manado Religious Court officials, and Manado KUA officials. This primary data explored their experiences, perceptions, and opinions regarding the psychological impact of divorce. Meanwhile, secondary data were in the form of relevant information or documents obtained from other sources such as related

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<sup>9</sup> Sadhi et al. (2018)

<sup>10</sup> Alimuddin & Rahmi, (2021) dan Garriga & Pennoni (2022)

<sup>11</sup> Creswell (2014)

<sup>12</sup> Merriam & Tisdell (2015)

<sup>13</sup> Michael Quinn Patton, *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods: Integrating Theory and Practice* (Sage Publications, 2014).

literature, divorce statistical data, or official documents issued by relevant institutions in Manado City.

The data collection techniques used included focused interviews, observation, and documentation. Focused interviews were conducted to obtain in-depth information from informants regarding the psychological impacts of divorces. Observation helped researchers understand the context and dynamics of divorces that occur in the surrounding environment. Meanwhile, documentation was used to record important relevant data, such as official documents or records related to divorces.

The data obtained were analyzed thematically.<sup>14</sup> Theories of children development psychology, theories of social psychology, as well as theories related to the dynamics of divorces and post-divorce individual adaptations were used as a foundation for analyzing data.<sup>15, 16, 17, 18</sup> These theories assisted researchers in understanding and explaining the various psychological aspects associated with divorce, both from the perspective of the children and the adults involved.

### Factors causing divorces in the muslim community in Manado city

The research revealed that the motives for divorce of married couples in the Muslim community in Manado City included economic factors, the presence of throuples, domestic violence (KDRT), religious differences, and lack of cares from the husband or wife. Economic factors were often triggers for divorce, especially in difficult financial conditions that exacerbated conflict in the relationship. Throuple involvement also often lead to a loss of trust and security in the marriage, while domestic violence, both verbal and physical, caused deep trauma to the couples. Religious differences were also a major challenge, while a lack of cares between spouses could trigger dissatisfaction that eventually lead to the decision to divorces. These findings demonstrate the complexity of factors that influence marital stability, and emphasize the importance of deeply understanding these motives to develop appropriate interventions and support couples in maintaining marital harmony.

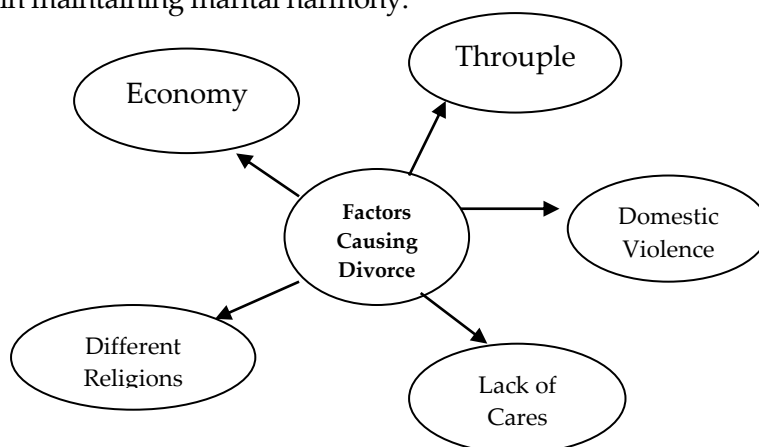


Figure 1. Causes of Divorce  
Source: Data processed

<sup>14</sup> Ashley Castleberry and Amanda Nolen, "Thematic Analysis of Qualitative Research Data: Is It as Easy as It Sounds?," *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning* 10, no. 6 (2018): 807–15.

<sup>15</sup> Masganti Sit, *Psikologi Perkembangan Anak Usia Dini Edisi Pertama* (Kencana, 2017).

<sup>16</sup> Intan Rahmawati, *Pengantar Psikologi Sosial* (Bumi Aksara, 2022).

<sup>17</sup> Hadari Nawawi, *Metode Penelitian Bidang Sosial* (Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press, 1998).

<sup>18</sup> Sadhi, Mersa, and Mazaheri, "Sociological Explanation of the Effects of Social and Cultural Factors Affecting Attitude toward Divorce in 2016 (Case Study: Couples Referring to Guilan Welfare Centers)."

The phenomenon of divorce is a serious concern that affects family dynamics and individual well-being. Research by Matemu<sup>19</sup> reveals the main motives behind married couples' divorce decisions, which provides deep insights into the factors affecting marital stability. From economic factors to religious differences, these motives reflect the complexity of the challenges faced in maintaining relationships in an increasingly diverse and dynamic environment.

This research also has found various motives that encourage married couples to divorce and the impact on families and individuals. These motives are also relevant to what happens in Manado City. For example, research by Esere<sup>20</sup> highlighted that one of the significant factors is effective communication between husband and wife. Less effective communication often leads to misunderstandings, disagreements, and unresolved conflicts, which in turn can reduce marital satisfaction and improve the divorce possibility. The findings emphasize the importance of effective communication, social support and adjustment to social change in maintaining marital integrity.

Research by Mahoney<sup>21</sup> highlighted the role of religion and culture in understanding the motives for divorces in Muslim communities. The results showed that differences in the interpretation of religious and cultural values are often a source of conflict in husband and wife relationships that can potentially lead to divorce. This finding underlines the importance of considering cultural and religious contexts in understanding the dynamics of divorce among Muslim communities. When cultural values and religious beliefs do not align between spouses, this can lead to deep disagreements and increase the risk of unresolvable conflict. Understanding the role of religion and culture in the context of divorce is not only important for identifying contributing factors but also for designing more effective interventions to keep marriages intact. Premarital education and counseling that take into account cultural values and religious teachings can help couples to better understand their differences and build deeper understanding.<sup>22</sup> In addition, efforts to facilitate intercultural and interreligious dialog within society can also strengthen tolerance and appreciation of diversity, thereby reducing the likelihood of conflict leading to divorce.<sup>23</sup>

Besides the aforementioned factors, the research has also highlighted the significant psychological impacts experienced by individuals involved in divorce, especially children. For instance research by Schaan<sup>24</sup> explored the impacts of divorces on children's psychological well-being, highlighting the importance of social and psychological supports in helping them cope with the trauma and stress associated with parental divorce. On the other hand, research by Ojukwu and Obiji<sup>25</sup> conducted in Nigeria, highlighted the role of mental health in conjugal relationships and its impact on marital stability. They found that mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety, can exacerbate domestic conflict and increase the risk of divorce.

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<sup>19</sup> Matemu (2023)

<sup>20</sup> Esere et al. (2014)

<sup>21</sup> Mahoney (2005)

<sup>22</sup> Herli Antoni, "Konsekuensi Hukum Dan Perlindungan Hak Dalam Perkawinan Beda Agama Di Indonesia," *Depositi: Jurnal Publikasi Ilmu Hukum* 1, no. 2 (2023): 13–30.

<sup>23</sup> Giancarlo Anello, *Global Religions and Interreligious Dialogue Today: A Legal Perspective* (Cedam, 2022).

<sup>24</sup> Schaan et al. (2019)

<sup>25</sup> Ojukwu & Obiji, (2016)

Research by Bainah<sup>26</sup> conducted in Long Ikis Village, Paser Regency on factors causing divorce, found that the dominant factors causing divorce are educational factors, age factors, economic factors, domestic violence factors, psychological factors, and cultural factors, in addition to disharmony between married couples in a household couple. In other words, the findings of this research related to the causes of divorce for married couples in Muslim communities in Manado City are in line with the findings of previous research.

The relevance of the research findings above shows that the factors that cause divorce are common symptoms and become the dominant trigger for divorce. Therefore, the steps that need to be taken to overcome divorce are to conduct pre-marital coaching, socialize regulations on marriage, improve education, increase economic empowerment through equitable welfare for all citizens, prevent child marriage, and provide education to the public about the negative effects of divorce, especially the psychological impact on children.

In relation to the issue of education, for example, Bainah's research findings shed light on this issue. Bainah found that an individual's level of education shows a significant tendency to influence divorce. Individuals who have a low level of education, namely those who only complete the highest level of education at the junior high school level, have a greater chance of divorce compared to individuals who have a higher level of education, namely the high school level and above. This also shows that the higher the level of education, the less likely individuals are to divorce.

Similarly, the factor of ages at marriage, the research results of conducted in the United States showed that marriages conducted by teenagers in their teens,<sup>27</sup> the possibilities of divorces are twice as likely as marriages that take place between couples in their 20s. Furthermore, it is said that the divorce rate decreases among those who marry for the first time in their 30s. Glick and Norton's research findings are reinforced by Parker<sup>28</sup> who found that women who marry at a more mature age are less likely to divorce.

Related to the issue of age, Bainah found that the age factor that is too far apart between husband and wife or the husband's age is younger than the wife's age can also cause problems in the household because of the lack of maturity of one of the partners that makes these problems arise, for example, such as irresponsibility, there is a sense of still wanting not to be serious, and so on. Similarly, inadequate economic factors that cause income not to be able to meet family needs can trigger divorce.<sup>29</sup> Bainah further explained that the domestic violence factor (domestic violence) is also a cause of divorce in the household, especially the most victimized is the woman.<sup>30</sup>

Meanwhile, related to the issue of different religions, research findings of are relevant in explaining this factor.<sup>31</sup> In this research, it was found that this factor of different religions is one of the factors that contribute to the occurrence of divorce cases. What can be stated here is that there is no smoke without fire. So is a divorce, it will not just happen without being preceded by various problems behind it or its triggers. Based on the research results found in Manado City, that not a few divorces that occur in Manado City are caused by

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<sup>26</sup> Bainah, "Faktor-Faktor Penyebab Perceraian di Kelurahan Long Ikis Kabupaten Paser," *EJournal Sosiatri-Sosiologi* 1, no. 1 (2013): 74–83, <http://ejournal.sos.fisip-unmul.ac.id/>.

<sup>27</sup> Van Roost et al. (2022)

<sup>28</sup> Parker et al. (2022)

<sup>29</sup> Fachria Octaviani and Nunung Nurwati, "Dampak Pernikahan Usia Dini Terhadap Perceraian Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Ilmu Kesejahteraan Sosial HUMANITAS* 2, no. 2 (2020): 33–52.

<sup>30</sup> Bainah, "Faktor-Faktor Penyebab Perceraian di Kelurahan Long Ikis Kabupaten Paser."

<sup>31</sup> Smith (2021)

religious differences, both religious differences before marriage and religious differences after marriage caused by one of the parties choosing to apostatize or leave Islam.

It is almost certain that someone who enters the world of households hopes to make their household a very happy place of love between husband, wife, and children. However, the facts often say otherwise, the ideals that are owned must deal with facts that are not very expected. Various household problems from various layers are encountered and in the aftermath divorce becomes one of the most common paths taken.

The issue of divorce that is increasingly prevalent in the family life scene has led to a worse life order for children, and there has been no concrete policy in terms of minimizing the occurrence of divorce, especially in Manado City and the wider community in general. Relevant institutions or agencies have not shown systematic and programmatic efforts to reduce the high divorce rate, which data shows an increasing trend from year to year.

Whereas Law Number 1 of 1974 on Marriage is based on making divorce difficult, in line with the hadith that divorce is an emergency exit that is only in an emergency. However, now that the rate of divorce is increasing, it is necessary to take action to find a solution in order to reduce the number of divorces that occur in the surrounding community. This is important because divorce is an alternative way, also based on the Prophet's hadith, which says that divorce is an act that is lawful but hated by Allah, and considering the impact it has, of course it should not be protracted in Muslims in particular, because this concerns the benefit of the people, because the family is an asset for the development of Islam and the nation.

### **The impacts of divorces for muslim couples in Manado city**

The results showed that the divorce of Muslim couples in Manado City resulted in complex and multidimensional impacts. This is also the case in several countries such as Egypt, and Pakistan, causing complex and serious psychological impacts on children. They often experience feelings of loss, confusion and emotional conflict including guilt, anger, and sadness. This impact is reflected in various aspects of the child's life, such as decreased academic performance, lack of motivation to learn, and promiscuous deviant behavior. This means that divorce in Muslim societies not only affects the lives of the divorcing couple, but also carries significant consequences for the psychological and behavioral well-being of the children involved.

In addition, divorce also has an impact on the economic well-being of the family. Post-divorce, especially if one party is the main breadwinner, divorced families often experience a decline in income and overall economic well-being. This leads to difficulties in meeting the family's basic needs, such as housing, education, and health. This economic impact can also worsen the psychological state of the family members involved.

The psychological and economic impacts of divorces on families can be explained through several significant theories. First, the Stacked Stressors theory suggests that divorce brings piled-up psychological and economic stressors to family members, which can result in significant negative impacts.<sup>32</sup> Second, Socio-Economic Integration theory emphasizes the interrelationship between social and economic aspects of family life, which divorce can disrupt family structure

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<sup>32</sup> Kandauda A S Wickrama, Eric T Klopack, and Catherine W O'Neal, "Stressful Family Contexts and Health in Divorced and Married Mothers: Biopsychosocial Process," *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 39, no. 11 (2022): 3436–57.

and function as well as the economic resources available to family members.<sup>33</sup> Both of these lead to spouses often facing pressure from the surrounding environment, as well as difficulties to engage in social or community activities due to the stigma attached. This can disrupt the post-divorce healing process and prolong the recovery period.

It is also important to recognize that the impact of divorce is not only felt by the family members directly involved, but also has effects that extend to society as a whole. For example, children who experience the negative impacts of divorces may be at risks of developing behavioral problems at school or even engaging in criminal behavior later in life. These impacts can lead to significant social and economic costs to society, including healthcare, rehabilitation, and law enforcement costs.

For example, children who experience the negative impacts of divorces, such as feelings of loss or emotional conflict, have a higher risk of experiencing behavioral problems at schools or even engaging in criminal behavior later in life.<sup>34</sup> These impacts do not only affect individuals and their families, but also impose social and economic costs on society as a whole. This means that there are the complexity and breadth of the impacts of divorces. There is a need for measures to be taken to assist families in overcoming the crisis and restoring their well-being.

Steps that can be taken to assist families in overcoming the crisis and restoring their well-being after divorce may include several approaches. First, providing psychological and emotional supports to family members affected by divorces, such as through counseling or family therapy.<sup>35</sup> This can help them cope with feelings of loss, confusion and emotional conflicts that may arise. Second, providing financial resources and assistance for families experiencing economic difficulties post-divorce, such as social assistance programs or skills training to increase income. Third, promoting social and community supports for families experiencing divorce, including through support groups or social activities that can help them feel supported and connected to others experiencing similar situations.<sup>36</sup> Fourth, improving awareness and education about divorce and its impact, both at the individual and community levels, to reduce stigma and improve understanding of how to cope with the post-divorce crisis.

### **The impacts of divorces on children**

The impacts of divorces on children in the cases of Muslim communities in Manado City do not only touch the psychological aspects of children but also physical ones. The psychological impact is characterized by the outpouring of every child from a divorced family. The child, who has not been able to express his feelings verbally, has experienced behavioral changes. Disappointment, sadness, and longing for the integrity of an intact family are revealed through aggressive behavior (loud and tends to damage) and withdrawal behavior.

The research findings show that the impacts of divorces on children are in the forms of negative and positive impacts. The negative impact is the impact on behavior, namely aggressive, discouraged, often daydreaming, and preferring to be alone; and on psychology, namely shyness, sadness, and anger. Positive impacts are more independent, closer to parents,

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<sup>33</sup> Glenn Sandström and Maria Stanfors, "Socio-Economic Status and the Rise of Divorce in Sweden: The Case of the 1880–1954 Marriage Cohorts in Västerbotten," *Population Studies* 77, no. 3 (2023): 417–35.

<sup>34</sup> Paisa Paisa, "Dampak Perceraian Orang Tua Terhadap Psikologi Anak (Analisis Hukum Islam Dan Undang-Undang Perlindungan Anak)." (IAIN Parepare, 2020).

<sup>35</sup> Hikmah, "Mengobati Luka Anak Korban Perceraian Melalui Pemaafan."

<sup>36</sup> Alimuddin and Rahmi, "Peran Bimbingan Konseling Islam (BKI) Dalam Menangani Dampak Psikologis Remaja Akibat Perceraian."



experiencing freedom from conflict, enjoying a better/beautiful life, being more mature, and experiencing greater freedom.

Taxonomically, the impacts of divorces on children in Manado City cases are generally in the forms of behavioral and psychological impacts. Psychological impacts include aggression, discouragement, daydreaming, and preferring to be alone; and psychological conditions such as shyness, sadness, and anger. Another negative impact is a decrease in learning achievement for children, and for adolescents/adults tend to be introvert. The following is a diagram of the impacts of divorces on children:

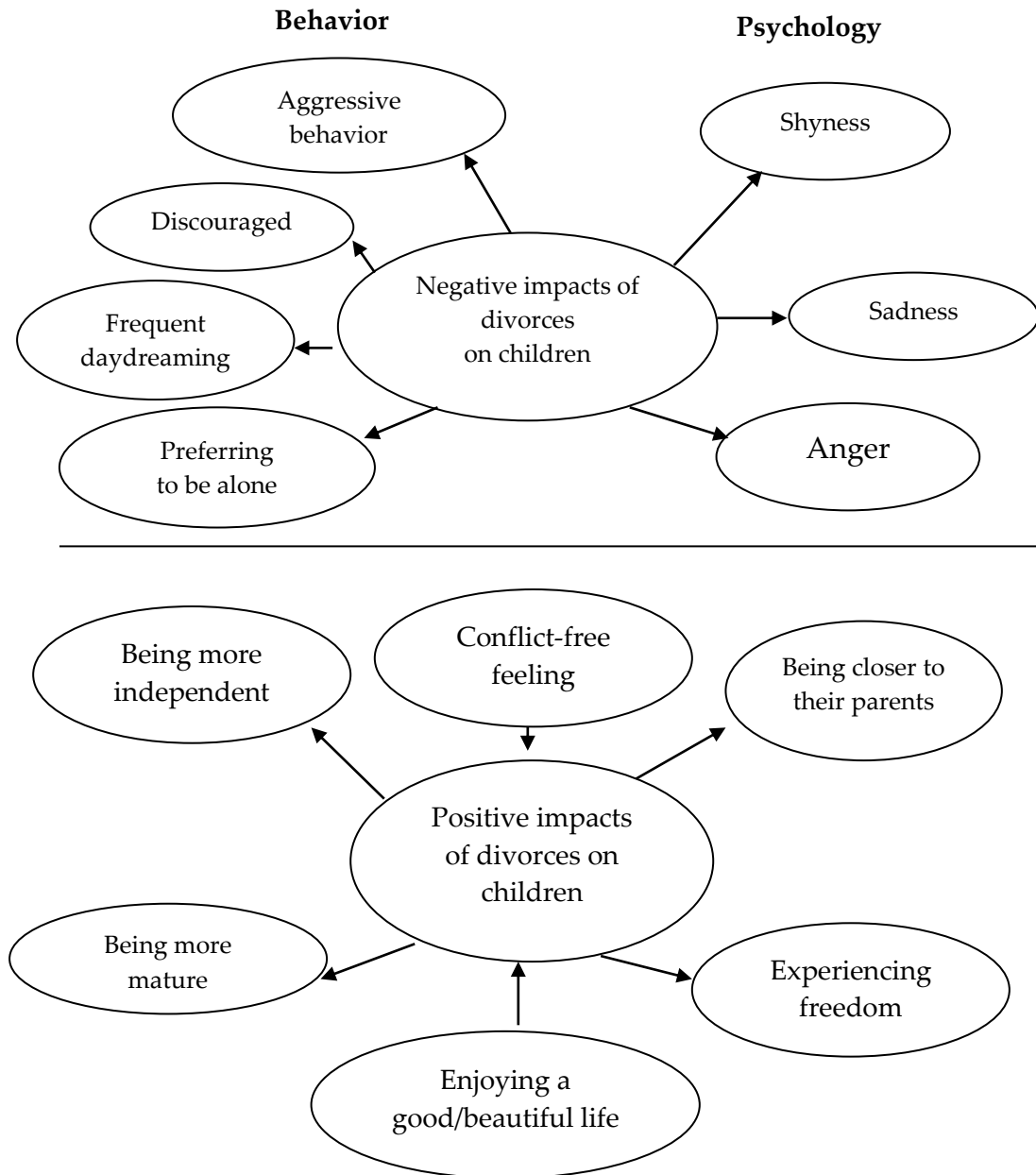


Figure 2. The Impacts of Divorces on Children

Warmth and happiness are expected by children from their families and loved ones.<sup>37</sup> Divorce in the family makes children lose hope in obtaining happiness even though theoretically and in reality, in the midst of a family, a child ideally gets the warmth of love, guidance and protection.<sup>38</sup> Divorce suddenly deprives the children from these needs.

In families that have broken up due to divorce, the interactions that can lead to affective experiences in children's lives are also reduced. Children should be able to understand attitudes of sympathy, affection, solidarity, loyalty, but divorce - especially violent divorce - teaches antipathy, suspicion, disappointment, disloyalty, and indifference.<sup>39</sup> Divorced families have the potential to form problematic personalities because this is the first environment faced by the children. Starting from the family, a child learns to adapt to their social environment. They also learn to recognize norms and rules of life, as well as cultural values. Divorce can hinder this learning process.

If the family falls apart due to divorce, or one of the couple (read the children's parents) "leaves the family", then there will be a series of new problems for their children. The infighting between the mother and father when the family is "fractured" until the divorce process can disrupt the children's emotional condition. Parents who are frantic and angry with their spouses often display immature and emotional behavior. This behavior will serve as a model for children. This condition happened to T, A and W who experienced emotional problems after their parents' violent divorce process.<sup>40</sup>

Furthermore, AR's case shows that the presence of parents in the development of a child's personality is very important. AR has felt the bitterness of losing her mother's function and she experienced maternal deprivation or loss of maternal guidance. As a result, AR felt that she had never learned to be a real female figure. All of the above cases can even be said to experience parental deprivation or loss of parenting function, even though Tia; and A were raised by the mother.

For AR, who witnessed the breakup of family harmony, she also felt emotional insecurity, losing a behavioral model. Meanwhile, S may feel a loss of confidence in social interactions as a result of feeling ashamed of having an incomplete family. In addition, because S also witnessed his parents' violent disputes, he imitated the incident and then transferred it to his relationships with his friends. It is feared that children like A, W, and S will experience impaired intellectual development, socio-emotional development, and even spirituality, all of which will be evident in the child's behavior as a teenager and adult if without the guidance of one of the parents or substitute parents.<sup>41</sup> AR and her siblings are still lucky because the father figure and other family members provide reinforcement so that the psychological impact of the divorce of her parents is not too heavy for AR.

The divorce rate tends to increase in Manado City from year to year, making divorce cases that were once an extraordinary occurrence. Nowadays, it is a common thing. The children of divorce victims are increasing, and most divorces today involve families with children. Estimates suggest that divorce may affect 15 percent of children born in 1955 in UK

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<sup>37</sup> Cherlin, *The Marriage-Go-Round: The State of Marriage and the Family in America Today*.

<sup>38</sup> Amato and Booth, "The Consequences of Divorce for Attitudes toward Divorce and Gender Roles."

<sup>39</sup> Lovato et al., "The Impact of Deportation-Related Family Separations on the Well-Being of Latinx Children and Youth: A Review of the Literature."

<sup>40</sup> T.O Ihromi, *Bunga Rampai Sosiologi Keluarga* (Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 1999).

<sup>41</sup> Nawawi, *Metode Penelitian Bidang Sosial*.

and US.<sup>42</sup> This has also been the case in Manado City. Currently, the percentage of divorces filed for divorce has doubled. The divorces involve children under the age of 18.

S's case shows a child who tried with conviction to save his parents' marriage even though his efforts were in vain. It illustrates that S has the potential to become immature due to longing for a father figure. Meanwhile, A became self-centered (egocentric) and worrisome because he was often rude and aggressive to his peers. Another case with the victim AR who was more able to understand her parents' case because she learned about the incident after growing up. AR was better able to understand that her parents' divorce and knew the origin of the cause of the divorce.

Children of divorce are likely to develop a selective view of others as part of their personality. They learn about personalities with characteristics that seem negative in his mind to be rejected and untrustworthy. AR in this case has placed her mother as a person who is less trustworthy. She perceives her mother as unresponsive or frustrating for not being loving.

## Conclusion

There is a complexity of psychological impacts experienced by children involved in parental divorce. A profound sense of loss reflects a longing for family stability and wholeness that has been disrupted by divorce. Uncertainty about their family's future generates anxiety and confusion, causing prolonged emotional and psychological insecurity. The emotional conflicts that arise, such as guilt, anger and sadness, indicate the great psychological burden they face. In addition, declining academic performance and deviant behaviors such as drug consumption or promiscuity show the far-reaching impact of the psychological pressure they face.

Researchers highlighted the importance of comprehensively understanding the psychological consequences of divorce on children and the implications for their lives. By understanding these impacts in depth, policy makers, mental health practitioners and other concerned parties can develop more effective and appropriate interventions. There must be more focused efforts on providing social, psychological and educational support to children affected by divorce. In addition, there is also a need for preventive efforts to help couples experiencing conflict in their marriages to address the issue before it reaches the point of divorce. Thus, this deeper analysis confirms the need for serious attention to the well-being of children involved in parental divorce and the need for holistic and sustainable intervention strategies.

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<sup>42</sup> Jason E Swango, "How Marriage & Divorce Have Changed Since The 1950s," *The Firm For Men*, 2023.

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