

CHAPTER 8

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The divorce rate in India has increased over the years. Though Indian culture does not accept divorce, it gives couples the right to decide whether they want to live with each other or not. In a family, it is believed to be the duty of the husband and wife to protect the rights of their children by giving them attention, care and love. Divorce emerges as the outcome when one partner, or the couple sees the futility of continuing in a relationship that is proving to be stressful and difficult to negotiate. Divorce becomes traumatic for all the individuals concerned because of the social stigma attached to the phenomenon.

The focus of this research study was to locate the reasons for divorce, to understand the adjustment made by divorced families, and to look at the outcomes on the family in the post-divorce phase. The study was conducted in Ernakulam, Kerala. The findings shed light on the perceptions of divorce. The study illustrates the stigma attached to divorce and the effects of divorce on men, women and their adolescent children.

There is discussion in Kerala through the medium of television shows and other mass media about the emerging trends in the family, cultural changes, the reasons for divorce and marital dysfunctions in the couple's life. There have been TV shows with participants from Kerala society with discussions on divorce in 2014 and in 2016. There have been three Malayalam television channels which have taken the initiative for discussing the trends in divorce. 'Kairali People TV' on July 24, 2014 had a discussion called "*Vivaha Mochanagal Vardhikkunnu!*" (*Rise of Divorce in Kerala*); 'Mediaone TV' on October 2, 2016 had a programme named "*Mochanam*

Kaathu Vivaham” (expecting divorce from marriage), and ‘Flowers TV’ on October 19, 2016 aired a feature named “*Mochanathinaayiee Vivahamo*” (*Is the marriage for divorce?*). Though these discussions were peripheral in nature where some of the participants shared their experiences, there were no professionals who worked with divorce, such as mental health practitioners with experience in family interventions or marital therapy, or family court counselors and advocates. But the discussions were based in identifying some of facts related to divorce in contemporary Kerala.

In Ernakulam unlike in the past, more women are being educated and becoming increasingly aware of their constitutional rights, while men are not ready to allow or accept the equal status for women. While educational rates in Kerala have increased over the years, this has not translated directly into participation in the workforce. However, in metropolitan cities like Ernakulam there is an increase in the range of jobs available for women, from private sector companies and small-scale industry offering jobs, to opportunities in the IT sector, more schools and colleges, hospitals and medi-cities. It is today much easier for educated men and women to get a job.

The Present Study

The research study gives an account of varied aspects of divorce recorded from 71 respondents (20 custodial parents, 11 noncustodial parents, 20 adolescents and 20 key informants) from different parts of Ernakulam district. The adolescents were in the age range of 12 to 17 years at the time of the study. The divorce had been finalized 2-5 years before the commencement of the study.

The study aimed at understanding how adolescents and their parents perceived the reasons for the divorce, the effects of the divorce on parenting issues, couple

relationships, effects on the self, and relationships with the extended family, peers and others, school and academic performance were investigated. The study explored the perception of divorce and its antecedent and consequent factors from marriage counsellors in Ernakulum city, Principal Counsellors and advocates from the Family Court, and Child Welfare Committee members. The above-mentioned key respondents in the research helped in two ways, i.e., for identifying the sample and by providing their experience and understanding of divorce. Data was collected over a period of eleven months primarily through in-depth interviews.

Summary of the Findings. Thematic analysis of the data showed that over involvement of the families of origin, domestic violence, substance abuse, and out of marriage relationships, were the main causes of divorce. The intersectionality of gender, education and occupation emerged through the data. From these findings, one could understand the effects of divorce on men, women and their adolescent children.

The researcher, on the basis of observed findings of the study has the following observations about divorce:

It is rare to have one thing alone that causes a divorce. While there are many factors that contribute to the breakup of a marriage, an interplay of these elements can exaggerate the outcome. The contributing factors include over involvement of family members, domestic violence, substance abuse, couple's emotional and psychological stress, high expectations about the marriage and the family life, lack of preparation for parenting, and poor communication and negotiation skills.

The effects of divorce were complex; divorce did not have just two outcomes: 'winning' or 'losing'. There was winning, losing, and everything in between. Both men and women suffer. Although men may have fewer economic

problems than women, they often have severe emotional and physical reactions after the separation. Families and individuals take time to make proper adjustments after the event. At first, divorcees experience acute psychological symptoms, and these symptoms do not disappear overnight.

Adolescents may suffer more in the long run than either of their parents. The most critical factor for children's adjustment is the custodial parent's ability to provide consistent positive parenting, discipline, and nurturing. An involved, supportive, firm custodial parent can counter adverse effects of poverty and absence of the non-custodial parent. After the divorce developing a proper child custody arrangement and decision making by the parents is the most important tasks of divorce. Because custody arrangements profoundly affect both children's and parents' lives. There is no single type of custodial arrangement that is best for all families.

The findings of the study shed light on the general perceptions of the people of Ernakulam city and illustrates the stigma attached to divorce and effects of divorce on men, women and children. People make hasty, often erroneous judgments about divorced individuals, and doubt their character and behaviour. Unmarried people fear and distrust the character and behaviour of a divorced person. It is easier for a divorced individual to get married to another divorced individual or for a widower to get married to a divorced individual; but unmarried people will rarely choose a divorced person for marriage. Divorced individuals are not respected by society; they are socially excluded and are seen with questioning eyes. They often get negative looks from others. Divorced women were seen as more vulnerable than divorced men due to patriarchy.

The data indicated that women experienced the negative effects of divorce

more than the other participants. Women found it more difficult to shed the pain of divorce, were seen to be more vulnerable and less able to move on after the event. The inability to move on was irrespective of whether they were custodial or non-custodial parents. While men also experienced divorce negatively, they seemed to find it easier to navigate a path for themselves after the event. The adolescents felt the pain of divorce more than the men, but less than the women. Divorce left a deep impact on minds and existence as a whole was affected.

The impacts of divorce may be felt more by women as compared to men due to the influence of patriarchal worldviews. Divorce was doubly disabling for the women; firstly, because they were women, secondly, they were divorced women. The major challenge for women was financial stability and security, especially if they had custody of their children. Working women were able to manage financially, but for non-working women, survival became a major issue, having to fall back on support from their family of origin. Irregular payment of maintenance by husbands aggravated the financial load for the women.

Societal changes have reduced legal, moral, and social restrictions against divorce. Many of the functions of the family have been taken over by external institutions, and the focus of family life has shifted from economic production and interdependence to emotional fulfillment. The daily lives of contemporary couple are more complex, both spouses engaged in work outside the home, and the demands of work and household increases the stress in individual life, especially for women.

Demographic factors such as age at the time of marriage, socioeconomic status, religiousness, and the presence of children can also contribute to a couple's divorce risk, as do individual and relationship factors. Certain personality issues and

behaviors, i.e., substance abuse and alcohol use, and poor communication skills can upset the stability of family relationships.

The participants in the study were very expressive about discussing their own divorce and their own parents' divorces. The thought about the divorce that each of them had given and their willingness to talk about it was impressive. The figure 4 shows the divorce impact based on the present research;

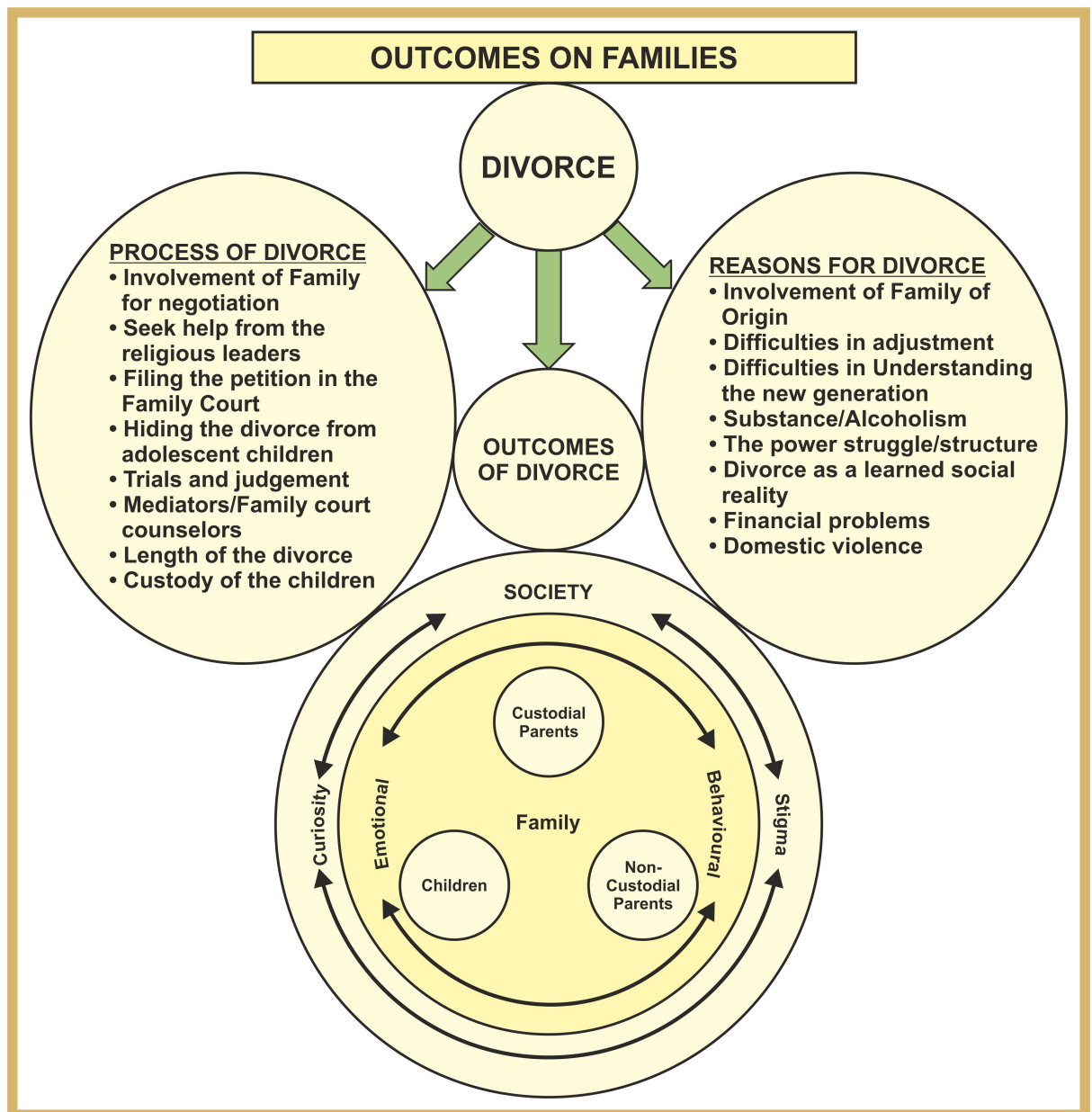


Figure 4

Divorce effect based on the present research

The above model explains three broad perspectives on divorce; viz. the causes for divorce in families, the process of divorce, and finally the impact of divorce on family and society.

Further in the societal impact the curiosity of the people towards the divorced and their family, the social stigma prevalent in the contemporary society were explored in detail. In the interviews, it was revealed that the adolescents were often emotionally unprepared for the divorce, and their parents provided inadequate explanations that made it harder for them to cope. Most of the couple lost the home and lifestyle they were accustomed to before the divorce. The quality of parents' care was likely to deteriorate after divorce, as single custodial mothers experienced stress and depression themselves.

Reactions to divorce varied widely, within families. The responses to divorce were influenced by the perception that conditions would be "better" or "worse" after the divorce. Few of the adolescent participants mentioned feeling relieved when their parents divorced. They were tired of seeing the fighting and tense conditions between their parents. Another interesting implication of these findings has to do with those who had negative and mixed reactions with the divorce experiences. A few common reactions in these categories were fear and feeling upset in the society. The different reactions could be related to the age of the children and their relationship with each of their parents.

Bronfenbrenner's (1979) ecological model explains the relationships and levels of interaction between the individual, the family, and society and culture at large. The model consists of five systems, "micro, meso, exo, macro, and the chrono systems". Bronfenbrenner describes the model as having bi-directional influences, which are at their strongest within the inner systems, but may still impact the outer systems.

In this research, the ecological framework can be applied in understanding divorce and families. After the divorce, the families begin to develop relationships with other systems, which enable adjustment.

The microsystem represents the individual with attention given to age, sex, health, special needs, intelligence, personality, and motivation. The family before and after divorce are also part of the microsystem, with the custodial parent assuming a dominant role. After the divorce the non-custodial parent shifts out of the microsystem to the mesosystem, having an indirect role in the care and socialization of offspring. The interactions between parents and children, impact the outcomes. Continuity of home, school, neighbors and peers after divorce are all part of adjustment process. Applying Ungar's doughnut model of resilience here, the microsystem contributes to internal system of the individual helping to build self-efficacy, self-esteem, and awareness of internal resources (Worsley, 2014).

The mesosystem is the second level of the hierarchy of systems and it comprises the inter-relations among two or more settings in which within the divorced families actively participate. It is the relation between the microsystems. For an adolescent, the relations among his/her natal home, new school, and the neighborhood or the peer group come into play. The trust and comfort of approaching the teachers are seen at the mesosystem. For the divorced couple, the mesosystem is represented in the new family atmosphere, new work settings, and social life. Aspects such as support from family of origin, the employer and the work environment are constructs that are important. The flexibility to attend to court hearings and caring for children affect the family and workplace dynamics. The negotiated settlement arrived at impacts the microsystem.

At the Exosystem level, it is a complex situation, which is external to the adolescent and to the family as a whole. However, the system indirectly influences the family as a whole. The court process indirectly affects the adolescents, where only parents are expected to appear in court. Other exosystem influences can be the parent's workplace, the friends of family, neighbours, mass media all of which influence on the adolescent and on the family.

The macrosystem, “the outermost layer in the families’ environment and while not being a specific framework, this layer is comprised of cultural values, customs, and laws” (Berk, 2000). The macrosystem has a cascading influence throughout the interactions of all other layers. Cultural beliefs and values about marriage, divorce, the secrecy of divorce, the role of women in society are subsumed under the macrosystem. All of these elements affect the stigma experienced by divorced families and adolescents.

The Chrono-system (Bronfenbrenner 1979) refers to the dimension in time relating to the individual’s life. It examines the internal physiological and psychological changes that occur within a family after the divorce, which is different for each family. Elements within this system can be external, such as the timing of parental divorce; or internal, such as the developmental changes that occur over time. As children grow older, they react differently to changes after divorce, and may be more able to determine how that change will influence them. The other element of the chronosystem is the larger historical context. A vexing question is whether unhappy parents should stay together “for the sake of the children”. Just as divorce has negative effects on children’s well-being, so does living in an intact family fraught with conflict.

There is no clear division in the ecological system model between one layer and the next. These layers are interconnected; and change in one system affects all other systems, in the same way that change in one family member will affect the whole family and the family's experiences change after divorce. Divorce brings about changes in the family and the relationships of parents, children and others.

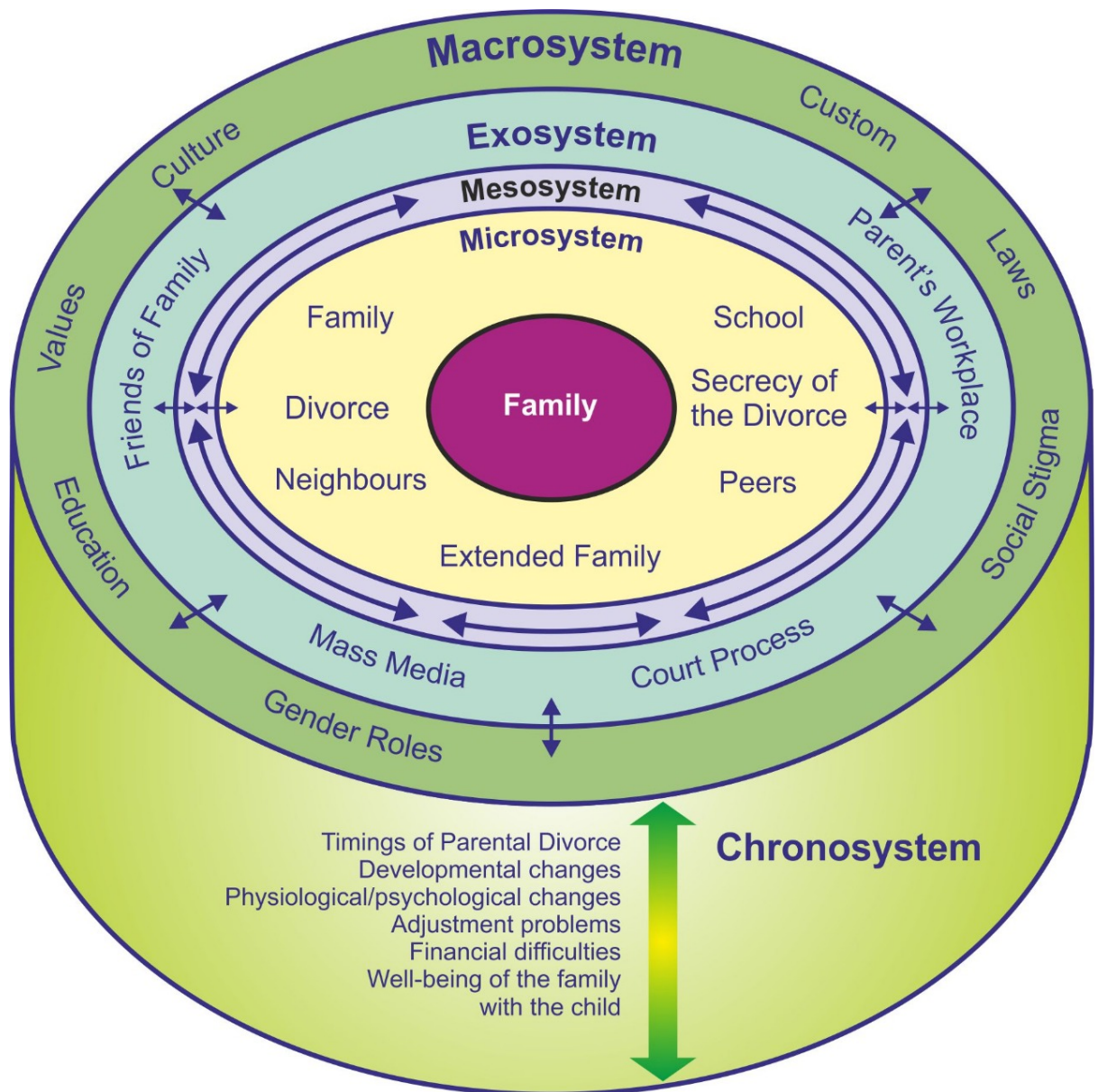


Figure 5

Theoretical Understanding of the Families of Divorce

The model allows an examination of the dynamic influences of divorce on families and individuals within the family, specifically the parent–child dyad. The extraneous influences on families can be seen playing a role on how families negotiate the outcomes of divorce.

The present study has brought up certain key findings that are important to consider. These are:

- The secrecy of the divorce; though there is an increase in divorce the silence about divorce is still prevalent.
- In the context of Kerala more women are filing for divorce, because there is family support for women who are filing for the divorce, accompanied by awareness of women's rights.
- Mental health concerns such as depression are seen among divorced individuals and their children, and there are few services available for providing assistance to these individuals. Counselling during the process of divorce and after the event were negligible.
- The importance and necessity of pre-marital counselling has been brought up repeatedly during the course of the study.

To sum-up, the study concentrated on the reasons for the divorce and the effects of the divorce. In the divorced families the individual experienced both the antecedent factors and consequent factors. The antecedent factors of divorce were mutually connected and within themselves they had a circular connection. The consequent factors were interrelated to each other but the degree of impact on custodial, noncustodial parents and adolescents in the family varied according to their resilience. The life event of divorce stands as a mediating occurrence for the antecedents and consequences.

The model that emerged from the study is illustrated and depicted in the figure below;

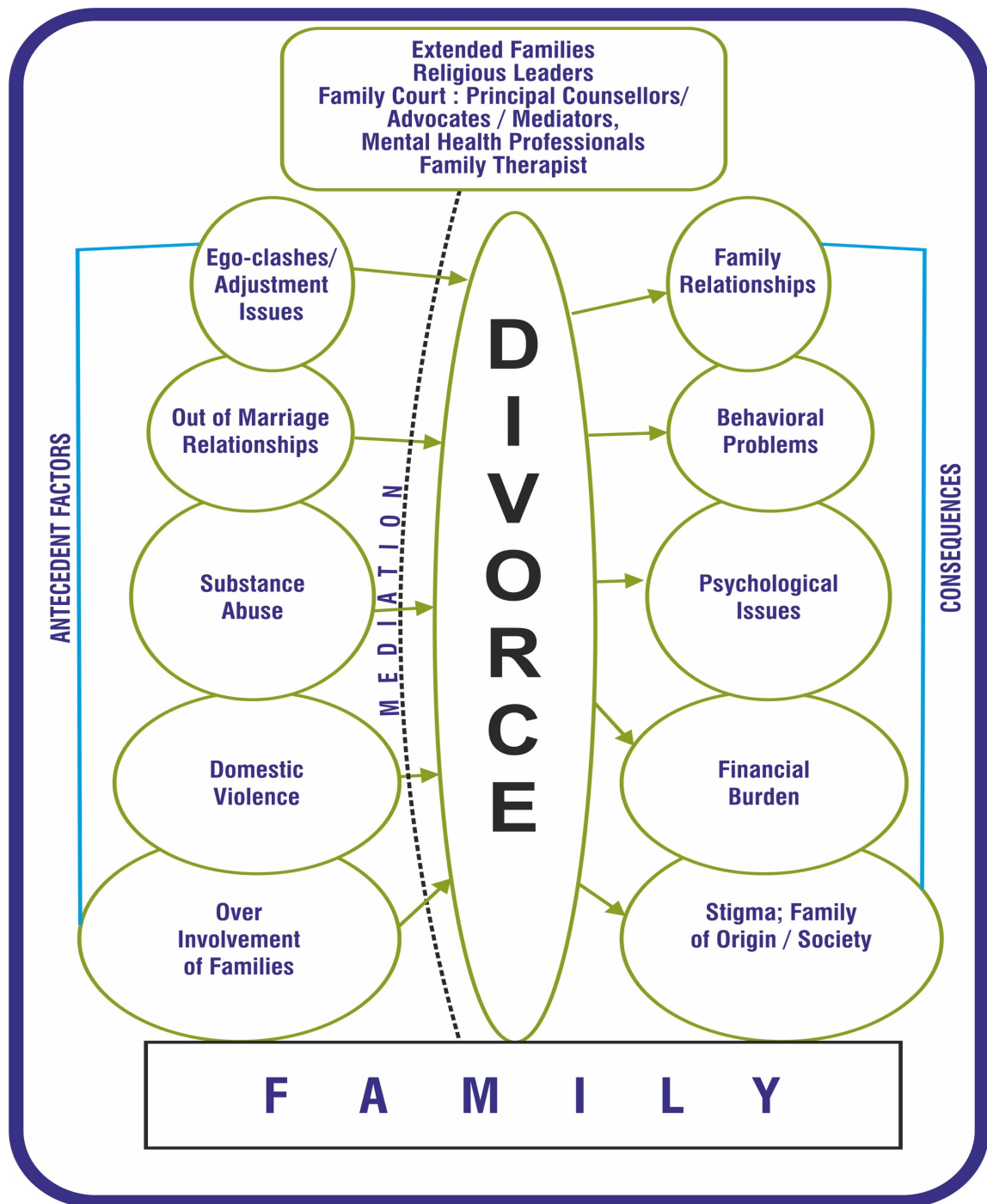


Figure 6

Exploring Divorce

The above model explains how the family was affected by the different reasons and effects of the divorce. Individuals were guided by family, religious leaders, family court counselors, advocates, mediators and other mental health

professionals on how to best utilize their life with dignity and responsibly. After the divorce the parents may also be in the unfortunate circumstances of having to enforce their responsibilities to their children. As a result of the divorce the couple may have to perform deal with the issues with which they were not familiar, and encountered situations they were afraid of, or found difficult to manage. Divorce becomes harder for the husband and wife, as their integrated life was lost and they began to fully understand the negative implications of the decision for marital dissolution. In order to move from the storm of divorce there should have proper attention to post divorce details and planning to overcome the different effects of the divorce.

Implications of the Research

Premarital counselling is essential to discuss roles, building trust in new relationship, acknowledge their weaknesses. It ensures that couple to have a peaceful, happy, healthy and strong relationship. Divorce is a complex issue, it impacts all individuals, it affects the families, the school and workplaces, and society as a whole.

It is important to recognize the increase in divorces handled by the Family Courts every year; the number of families opting for divorce is on the rise. The present study has implications for professionals such as family court marriage counsellors, lawyers and advocates, and all professionals who work with families and children. As the custodial and noncustodial parents in the study illustrated, there were many struggles and considerations in the divorce process. The long duration of divorce process may affect in various levels of change in family relationships and fluctuation in decisions. The long period of process of divorce may enhance the stress levels experienced by the divorcing couples and their children.

The mental health needs of the affected families should consider properly, as it is seen to be quite prevalent in this study. The emotional impact of divorce was negative. The willingness to seek help from professionals differs for men and women. Women seemed to have stronger supportive networks and better emotional support as compared with men. Considering the self-esteem of the individuals it is worth considering to increase the availability of self-help booklets including practical needs, i.e., precise and concise legal awareness, allowance for single parents, housing benefits, life skill trainings and adjustments, support group information's, etc. Mental health needs of couples and children going through the divorce process have to be addressed. In the present study, help seeking for emotional distress was negligible. Mental health professionals were not mentioned as possible sources of information or support.

Mental health professionals should address the multiple issues of the custodial and noncustodial parents and their needs along with their children and sympathetically evaluate their emotional pain and make awareness and insights to the individual about the unresolved feelings from the divorce experiences, i.e., anger towards the ex-spouse, low self-esteem, feeling of lose, alienation from the children should be elicited.

School as a Strategic Partner. Specific school-based programs should be given importance for children of the divorced parents, especially for children with emotional and behavioural issues. The school-based programs should aim to promote a supportive system and it should be an environment of safety where the children can share their stress, their emotions, and improve their self-esteem. The components of the school-based program can include problem-solving skills, peer group interactive

sessions to increase self-confidence and social skills and intellectual skills. School counsellors trained to address the feelings of betrayal, anger, and guilt that adolescents commonly feel after divorce are important for the success of school-based programs.

Every school playing an important role in their students' life, and can be a strategic partner for managing the increasing number of children of divorce. Policy makers can explore the opportunities of improving and increasing resources for schools to arrange after school care service for the needy family. This not only promotes labor participation availabilities for single parents, but also serves to prevent criminal behavior and other social issues of the children. When we considering the children from divorced families, the school teachers and professional can be more specific to the needs of these children and their particular parents. Again, it is evident that stigmatizing and bullying issues may happen in school. The after-school care services should be available in primary to secondary schools. Ensuing the children in a safer place allow the single parents for job and other income generating initiatives. Effective time of child-care may also allow these parents will help them for jobs with stable hours, and develop their likelihood to find full-time engagement and work. Single parents carry many responsibilities as a primary care-taker, and also as a breadwinner. Flexible job environment and work time balance will be ideal for parents to be able to manage both responsibilities as care-taker and breadwinner.

Pre-Marital Counseling. Pre-marital counseling needs to advocate as requirement of public education. Not only couples with religious believers and background need to go attend pre-marital counseling. It should arrange for couples and it should mandatorily go through pre-marital counseling in advance to prepare

and entering marriage. Other topics such as communication and conflict management that are usually included, strong highlighting should also be given to the issues of family of origin, power dynamics in relationships, family values that are particularly relevant to Kerala families. The pre-marital can impact a role in preventing issues and problems from rising to a point beyond salvage. Pre-marital counselling should focus on different expectations of the couple from the marriage. Premarital counseling should be implemented through different sessions and the certificate in attended pre-marital workshop must be a mandatory criterion for the marriage by the government law.

The premarital counselling sessions should be offered by professionals, i.e., family court principal counsellors, mediators in the family courts, clinical and counselling psychologists, and psychiatric social workers. The premarital counselling should start with the adolescents' and it should continue in the courtship period with ample space for equipping the individual to prepare themselves for a better family life. There should have a format for the premarital counselling course and the uniformity in the course also provides the couple to understand the culture of each family.

Combating Stigma through Public Education. There are increase in the number of divorces in the country at the same time stigma about the divorce is very prevalent problem in the community. There should have proper public education about the divorce and Programmes like on anti-stigma campaigns should be organised. In order to reduce the stigma, society from its progressive culture have an openness to accept the divorced families and should avoid amplifying the negative

side of the problems brought by divorce. The media have an initiative to show the resilience of the divorced families rather than just focusing on its negative sides.

The government departments can make some awareness programs among the public through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), i.e., distribute and produce different brochure designs based on research to create awareness among the general public targeting different age groups. The NGOs can take initiatives to work among the divorced couple and their children, they can arrange counselling services through the mental health professionals and also free helpline services for both children and parents. There can be different websites, mobile applications, audio and video tapes, and books in different vernacular languages inserting awareness about the divorce and family. Some of the guidelines or booklets can be linked to the SSC, CBSE and ICSE Educational Unit, being broadcasted over MHRD TV media. Consulting with the divorced children should be considered as an aspect in terms of policy formulation. Government can initiate free follow up assistance, i.e., funds for children, counselling support, career guidance etc. to the children of divorced parents through the school or through the Anganwadi in state and panchayath level.

Awareness about the family court act and study of divorce should be included in the curriculum of social work training. There are topics of understanding the effects of divorce, divorce procedures, needs of single parent families etc. are to be incorporated in to the syllabus of the mental health practitioners. Through these the mental health professionals can be better equipped and handle to manage the climbing numbers of divorces in Kerala and India. Social workers, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists and general practitioners should be enhanced with sensitivity to the needs of the divorced individuals and their children.

Marital Counselling. Marital counselling should cover the topics such as: understanding what marriage entails, communication skills within the family, relevance of gender roles and different expectations, understanding power dynamics, understanding the spouse's family of origin, how to live with extended family members keeping the subsystem boundaries, how to transition successfully into a new life stage i.e., new born baby, school going children, retirement, financial problems, etc. Living with in-law parents seems to be as big a challenge as relating with one's spouse; marital counselling targeting in-law parents may be a new direction to consider.

Beliefs about domestic 'violence' have to be challenged. In the family, men and women often have tolerance towards violence. Verbal, physical and emotional violence was common among the families; and the couple used to see these forms of violence in the family from their childhood onwards. Many women and men believe that abuse towards the spouse is acceptable, because they have seen and learned it from their own families. This understanding of the couple needs to be changed and psycho-education is required to increase respect for the other.

The institution of each marriage and to build a new family is lifelong hard work. The new couple who are entering in to the marriage should be educated about the adjustments in the families, the boundaries around the different subsystems in the families, the power struggles between the couple and with the parents in the family. Couples have to become acquainted with psychological techniques like problem-solving and negotiation skills, communication skills. The understanding that trouble in a family is a systemic problem to which all members contribute is important to communicate. The problem is never that of one person alone.

Policy makers can implement interventions, like post-divorce counselling, organized to support single parents to deal with their own emotions and life demands and alter and reconstruct their parenting skills. When the marriage and divorce - breakdown is happening, specific interventions, such as education for divorced couples, organized for children and parenting experiencing divorce can be considered. Education for divorced couples increases parents' insights about children's issues after divorce. It generally coming up with information-based and skills-based education that aims to minimize the issues and challenges needed to be settled in the court. Professionals supposed to guide against alienation of the parents by help the parents control their aggression and plan for better interest of their children (Bernet, 2015; Neilson, 2018).

Programs through the Family Court

The Family Court can contribute new steps in divorce counselling and implement new role to the family court marriage counsellors to prevent divorce and help the couple during and after the divorce. Mandatory family therapy sessions are necessary to help couples before the divorce is finalized. Such sessions will work towards reconciling couples by helping them look at their marriage. The Family Court can develop different programs with community agencies with the same purposes, i.e., projects for divorce intervention, residential reconciliation centers concentrating on multiple schedules including communication skills workshops and family counselling. There can also be interactive programs to explore issues of divorce with children.

Post-Divorce Counseling. Family courts need to become active is post-divorce counseling to help families and children adjust to the changes. Developing

parenting plans jointly with the family would be great support for their sustainability after the divorce. The work of the family court ceases once divorce has been awarded. Subsequent contact only happens if there are custody and maintenance issues. So, the family court can suggest a module for managing the difficulties of the divorce and conflict management skills to the families and also provided guidelines to follow the modules for the consecutive time for establishing a new life. Mandatory post-divorce counselling by the Family Court, and other agencies, to ensure transition should be developed.

The principal counsellors should be trained plan for the, individual and group work with children who are victims of divorce and also include a post-court-order parenting workshop mainly focusing to help parents with adequate parenting skills and also to help them on co-parenting with less issues, challenges and conflicts. In greater conflict and custody cases, this will facilitate the parent with access rights to reinforce the connection between them and their children. The court is also paying attention to the instant financial requirement for some families, mainly those who waiting for maintenance hearings. The court can recommend rehab and counselling.

The overburden of the Family Court has enlarged continuously and the judicial and administrative support to the Family Court needs to be developed. It should add on the data collection from the divorced couples for better understanding of the situation, monitoring divorce trend and also its improvements. It will help policy construction in meeting the issues and challenges occur from the increase of divorces. Service evaluation is essentially regarding mediation services. Divorce is not only an interaction between two people; it is including the whole society as it disturbing the family dynamics. Such change bears social cost, some seen, and some

unseen, on society, and on meal concerned. It is the duty of each member in the society contributes to minimize the negative impact emerged by divorce.

In order to minimize the stress level of the divorcing individuals there should have easier procedures for applying for the divorce. Through the family court informative and educational brochures about the divorce, process of divorce, legal rights of both the couples, custody arrangements etc. should be make available to the concerned parties. The couple should get an emotional confidence and supportive help from the family court for their rights and the needs, i.e., assistance in form filling, information about the proceedings of the court, free legal advice from the advocates.

Child Focused Resolution Setup. There could be a Child Focused Resolution set up which is moderated by the Counsellors as part of the Family Court counselling. It should provide compulsory counselling and mediation sessions for the couple those who have minor children and are filed for divorce. It can influence and help the decision-making process of the divorcing couple to think about child focused decision making. It will be effective if these sessions are conducted early in the initiation of cases in the family court and that will lessen the emotional stress among the family. During the counseling sessions the counsellors can make awareness among the couple about the child custody and also legal perspectives about the divorce case and if possible can build an agreement about the structured counselling about developing relationship between parents and children.

Family Counselling Centers. Family therapists have a vital role in dealing with divorce issues in their counselling as well as in therapy. The findings of the study have a relevance in clinical setting, i.e., marital therapy, mediation and divorce

therapy. Most of the couple have inconsistencies to take an appropriate decision during the divorce process, unfortunately the delay or the wrong decisions about the future life make failure and ends abruptly. Family counsellors could be extremely helpful to the couple who are undergoing the process of divorce and assisting them to have a proper decision. The counsellors can also help the parents to understand the presenting problems about their children and psycho-educate them about the possible parenting issues in future.

Limitations of the Study

The study is limited only to one out of fourteen districts in Kerala. It is limited to the period after the legal divorce has occurred and the period between separation and during the process of divorce is avoided. The ratio of custodial and noncustodial is not equally distributed. The sample only included children who were 12 years old or older, and the effects might be different for younger children. The present study had respondents from the middle and upper middle income groups. The results of the study may have been very different if conducted in another social class group. As the interview guide was used, there was flexibility in adding new aspects to study depending on data collection. The interview guide was lengthy consisting of several aspects relating in adolescents and their parents' point of view to perception about the reasons and impact of divorce on children. Therefore, it required long time to collect the data.

Future Research

In India, the phenomenon of divorce, its associated risk factors, associated impacts, and needs of divorced families have to be initiated by vigorous researches. Through this study a proper understanding of different issues associated with divorce

can create future directions for government policies for empowering family, followed by larger samples, comparing intergenerational experiences of divorce. A larger study can be designed to research the long-term effects of divorce of families, across the country. Examining the divorce process using a larger sample, from different part of the study will throw light on the differential understanding and application of the laws related to divorce. A wide age group would allow for a more accurate representation and a longitudinal study may facilitate how parental divorce affects young adults. The post-divorce experiences including the divorce process is memorable life event for a family with short term effects and long-term consequences.