



**ASSESSMENT OF FAMILY BREAKDOWN AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE
FAMILY MEMBERS: THE CASE OF SHEDDER REFUGEE CAMP FAFAN
ZONE, SOMALI REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA**

BY

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ASSESSMENT OF FAMILY BREAKDOWN AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE FAMILY MEMBERS: THE CASE OF SHEDDER REFUGEE CAMP FAFAN ZONE, SOMALI REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO St. MARY'S UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work, prepared under the guidance of Mosisa Kejela (PhD Cand), my thesis advisor. All sources of materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged. I further confirm that the thesis has not been submitted either in part or in full to any other higher learning institutions for the purpose of earning any degree.

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ENDORSEMENT

This thesis has been submitted to St. Mary's University for examination with my approval as a university advisor.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ARRA	Administration for the Refugee and Returnee Affairs
DICAC	Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
IRC	International Rescue Communities
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SES	Socio-economic status
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee

ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate Family breakdown and its Effects on the family member. The study was conducted in the Shedder Refugee Camp, Fafan Zone, Somali Regional State, Ethiopia. The study had five specific objectives aligned with research questions. The study focused particularly on the family members whose family had experienced divorce/separation in the Shedder Refugee Camp. Qualitative research approach was used. Data collection methods included an in depth interview, documentary analysis and focus group discussions (FGD). The sample of the study included eight (8) female and six (6) family members from divorced/separated families and six (6) from three different offices including children and women affairs, Social Affairs and Refugee Community Leader's offices". Data were analyzed thematically and presented in the form of narrative. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the participants. The findings of the study indicated that the effects of divorce/separation on children regardless of sex had economic, social, psychological and academic problem among them. Besides, divorce had effects of internal behavioral impact on female children and external behavioral impact on male children, and majority of the parents in shedder camp has been 1-2 years and 3-4 respectively and there is strong relationship between the prevalence broken families social and economic status of the family members. With regarding the methods or the ways in handling the problem, the study found out family support, social support and governmental and non-governmental support (economic support, resettlement program offer). The study also recommends that maintaining the role and function of the family's securing the smooth function of the society. Being aware and keeping stability of family.

Key Words: Family, prevalence, Family breakdown, Social effects and Economic effects

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CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter one, which is an introduction part of the study is comprised of background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions of the study, significance of the study , scope of the study , limitations of the study, operational terms of the study and organizing of the paper.

1.1. Background of the study

There is no universally accepted definition of the term family. But many scholars tried to define the term family in different ways. In these the most important definition which has been given to the term family is as follows:

Different perspective uses of the word family in research indicate that it was often defined as ‘spouse and children’ or ‘kin in the household’. Thus ‘family’ as defined in economics, sociology and Psychology often been used household and kin. An exception to this standard definition of family is a major institution in every society its where people have basically relationship, it could be through marriage, birth, or legal adaptation, who share a common kitchen and financial resources as daily basis (Sharma, 2013).

Social work perspective on families is formed as a way of meeting various needs such as physiological needs, emotional needs, safety needs and other needs that can met by the family. Apart from these needs, families are also formed to provide emotional sustenance and social support for the members of the family. Families also serve as a linking force and pathway to the future as a result of socialization that goes on it.

According to United Nations (UN, 1948), the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state. On the other side, family is the building block of society (Fagan and Churchill, 2012). Thus, family is a formally developed social institution that exists universally. It is the primary socializing unit of society. It is an important function of an individual's identity and personality. It meets the needs of survival, security, love and affection.

As to Serkalem (2006) family formation is dependence on the society life, which differs according to their socio-economic and cultural situation. It is important for reproduction, production and socializing function. Family undergoes many changes to meet its functions and sometimes this creates stresses and pressure that lead to family breakdown. Depending on the culture and tradition of society, family problems have been solving with different means. Unfortunately, some of families could not escape the fate of family breakdown.

Family has important role for societal policies, and over all development .So even if we define it differently, what is important for us to know is that a family is in between two or more persons who share an intimate environment. By this we can say it an environment that is full of shared goals, commitment and also some sorts of trust and responsibility to one another (Constable, 2016).

In all societies, the family has been the most important of all social institution. It produces new generations, socializes the young, provides care and affection, regulates sexual behavior, transmits social status and provides economic support (Sheppard green, 2001).

Family breakdown, in all its forms, is occurring at a greater rate today than ever before. Family stability has been in continues decline for recent times. In these Patterson and Gatwick state

members can no longer agree sufficiently on the rules of their relationship. The structure became uncoupled and the two separate family units' result (Patterson J. and Gatwick, 1994).

It has a profound effect on children, spouses and also the society at large. When spouses decide to get a divorce, it's considered to be a means to end misery and discomfort. However, this is far from the real outcome, especially when one looks at the adverse problems that people here faced in the past due to family breakdown. Family breakdown is associated with lowered well-being among both young children and adult children of the broken family. The effects of family breakdown on individuals are very grave and people who have experienced family breakdown feel loneliness, depression, anxiety, incompetence, and show low work efficiency (Venture, 2006)

It is associated with diminished social and economic well-being in children and adult offspring of divorced parents, including greater unhappiness, less satisfaction with life, a weaker sense of personal control, anxiety, depression and greater use of mental health services, according to statistics on family breakdown in the same source indicates that 40% to 50% percent of families will end up in family breakdown if the existing trends proceed at the same pace. It has been observed that the family breakdown rate in the US for the families as compared to the second or further marriages is 50% for first marriages, 67% for the second and around 74% for further marriages (Barone, 2012).

Africa village settlement in central Tanzania that 59% of those families had experienced a family breakdown. Although women may be able to initiate the family breakdown proceedings through the courts to end an intolerable marriage, they are the ones who suffer by the family breakdown (Benezeri, 2010).

It has many and varied effects and few of them are beneficial to the individuals, their wider family, or society at large. “Conflict and dysfunction within families’ pose a far greater risk of adult mental health problems than the type of family within which a child was raised” (Earls and Jung, 1987). Marital and parental conflict has been associated with an array of adjustment problems in children, for instance; poor peer interaction, eating disorders, substance misuse, ill health, depression and anxiety, low-esteem, and poor attachment (Cummings and Davies, 1994).

The family became a common place of different controversies ranging from facial expression, insulting, lack of education, physical attack and socio-economic problems by family members. In such family breakdown has a major effect on family members especially children and adolescence who are not able to support themselves when their parents separate or their family breakdown (Patterson, 2004).

Yohanes (2015), tried to identify the economic and social impacts of divorce on divorced women. Many of the divorced women were seen to be depending on agriculture and insecure income source such as activities to generate income for their survival mainly preparing local bears to make their living.

Meanwhile, Factors which drive family breakdown is varied and complex. They exist at personal and family level and are impact by a wide variety of external social factors. There are many households that live without harmony in their home in Ethiopia especially in Somali region particularly in Shedder refugee camp. Thus, given the importance of family for all members of the society and individuals survival in the communal society and the up increasing and prevalent family breakdown as argued in the aforementioned studies in this paper and particularly in Shedder refugee camp of Somali regional state, the researcher comes to develop great interest to investigate the socio-economic impact of family breakdown and its prevalent family breakdown

in Shedder camp and provide an empirical data of the situation as it might contribute for understanding the prevalence of family breakdown. In addition, it is the intension of the researcher that to bring in light the existing patterns of the family breakdown in the study area and forward recommendation for possible solution of the problem in the study area.

2. Statement of the Problem

Family is a group of individuals sharing some roles as of mother, father and children. It's the most important institution from where we can find affection, protection, emotional support and education for our children. Families are regarded as basic unit of every community which are responsible for making and maintaining human resources for every nation (Okaye, 2017).In some cases however, relationships in families may fail more severely into broken families .Breaking down of families are more likely to occur in the modern society compared to the traditional times is an observable event that is on the increase(Lines,2011).

Family is where the vast majority of us learn the fundamental skills for life; physical, emotionally and socially. It is the context from which the rest of life flows. However, family life in recent year is changing such that adults and children of today are increasingly faced with the challenges of family breakdown and fractured (George, 2012).

In Ethiopia definitely, family violence is institutionalized within the family member, stereotypes about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women in the family reinforce the view that there is the self-contained unit deserving privacy at the expense of others rights and freedom. Parents with such problems struggle to manage the demands of a family. Interaction with other family members can be severely limited and negatively impact on children, partners and surrounding communities (Ashagrie, 2008).

In Somalia many families are breaking down, one of the reasons that marriages ends divorce or separation is often girls and boys are getting married at young ages 12 up to 15 years old. In Somalia child marriages is widespread and there are conditions of transactional marriage where young girls are married off often to older men in exchange of financial resources mostly in the form of cows, camels or sometimes those are living in the city cash. This traditional practice prevents young girls to realize their full potential in life, limiting their social and economic development (Nur, 2016).

According to Tilson and Larsen (2000) in Ethiopia, approximately 45% of all first marriages end up in divorce within 30 years; 28% of first marriages end up in divorce within the first 5 years, 34% within 10 years, and 40% within 20 years.

Many researchers (Ambert, 2009; Amato, 2005; Cathy, 2013; Fagan, 2012; Makara, 2009; and Serkalem, 2006) have done studies on the related topic of research. The empirical studies which were done in Europe, America, Asia, Africa and other East African countries including Ethiopia indicate that the effect of family breakdown on social and economic wellbeing of every member of the family is challenged by, Family relation broken, Poor learning attitude Declining living standard, Violence, Frustration, Financial crisis, low self-concept, lower academic achievement.

Researches carried out about the effect of family breakdown and its prevalence as well as its impact on family members done especially by (Sisay, 1997; Fagan, 1991; Seblewongel, 2009; Tilson& Larson 2000; Mehari, 2013; Daniel, 1994; Bogale, 2008;) have reported its impact on different members of the family.

Aster (2015) conducted the effect of divorce culturally, psychologically and emotionally and other related problems. However, it was unfortunate to find that there were more important roles

that are ignored by divorced couples. The current study, researcher wanted to find out how the effect of divorce effect on social and economic wellbeing of children.

There is no adequate research done on family breakdown in Sheder Refugee Camp and there is a limited knowledge on family breakdown as a social problem by the community. Many children in the area also became vulnerable to this problem. Thus, this study emphasized on the effect of family breakdown; on children world congress of family; cause of family breakdown and its consequence; family breakdown common cause and socio-economic costs; social and economic problem of family breakdown. But the current study will investigate the prevalence of family breakdown and what are the effects of it on both children and women of the family in Sheder Camp, in Somali Regional State.

Hence the main significance of this study is to fill the gap of the knowledge and try to find methods to handle this problem by attempting to identify and analyze the prevalence and socio economic effects of the family breakdown in Sheder Refugee Camp.

3: Objectives of the Study

3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to assess the prevalence and socio economic effects of family breakdown on members of family of Sheder Refugee Camp Fafan Zone, Somali Regional State- Ethiopia.

3.2 Specific Objectives

- To identify the major social effects of family breakdown on the family members.
- To assess the major economic effects of family breakdown on the family members.
- To investigate academic effects of family breakdown on the members of the family

- To explore behavioral effects of family breakdown on the family members
- To find out the way or methods in reducing this problem.

4. Research Questions

- What are the major social effects of family breakdown on family members?
- What are the major economic effects of family breakdown on family members?
- What are the academic effects of family breakdown on the family members?
- What are the behavioral effects of family breakdown on the family members?
- What are the appropriate techniques in reducing the problem of family breakdown?

5. Significance of the Study

This study throw light on the nature of the current family problems and with their social and economic impact among family members of Sheder refugee camp particularly in these following ways: First It's important for building knowledge on social and economic effects of family breakdown as it benefits the stakeholders such as: couples who encountered family breakdown, children, custody, family counseling, key informants like lawyers, administrators, and the head of Women and Children's affairs, the social service agencies, NGO's, policy makers, Zone, Woreda, kebeles. The public policy makers also deserve to hear what research suggests about effects of family breakdown and its consequences on individual's members of the family in order to reform the weak side of the family in a way that strengths family and reduces the family breakdown in Ethiopia overall.

Moreover, it is expected that the findings would also help informing the administration of the refugee camp and the administration of the Somali region of what is going on about the prevalence of family breakdown on the inhabitants of Shedder camp. The expectation is that the concerned administrative body could see the better strategy and the need of acting accordingly in

making sure that all goes well in order towards the achievement of the decreasing the high rate of family breakdown divorce.

In addition, it also creates an aspiration for the future researchers who are interest in family breakdown Moreover; it will provide information about family breakdown.

6. Scope of the Study

The study has been conducted in Shedder Refugee Camp on the assessment of the prevalence and socio economic impact of family breakdown on members of the family to increase the knowledge gap in the study area and other this research outputs users. The researcher observed that this research would be used for improving the prevalence and effects of family breakdown on the socioeconomic of members of the family who encountered a family breakdown in Shedder Camp. Additionally, the researcher considered that by covering the above aspects, the information obtained is used to address the issues of the effects of family breakdown on the socioeconomic of members of the broken family to reduce family breakdown, in Shedder Camp, in Somali Regional State.

7. Limitation of the study

As far as study under taken limited to prevalence and socio economic effects of family breakdown, the researcher has not been included to those who don't have experience on family breakdown .And also didn't include the causes of family breakdown the study faced challenge while collecting data due to COVID -19 pandemic, shortage of time and finance.

8. Operational Definition of Terms

Family: - is defined as two or more persons who love and care for each other. These share resources, responsibility for decisions, values and goals and have a commitment to one another over time (American Association of family and Consumer Sciences, 2004).

Family breakdown: - when family member can no longer agree sufficiently on the rules for their relationship and usually happens due divorce or separation from one or both parents through conflicts, war, disaster or ill parent. And it became a major problem worldwide has negative impacts on the family members growth and development particularly on children including social and economic effects (George, 2012).

Social impact: - After the family breakdown, the social capital and networks will not function as positively as before. This is because divorced parents with children will not able to raise the social capital after divorce with all many responsibilities in and outside home. Although there is considerable heterogeneity in outcomes, children whose parents separate or divorce are on average, more likely to exhibit problematic behavior, have poorer mental health and academic performance and have more social difficulties and lower self-concept than children whose parents remain married (Morison and Coiro, 1999)

Economic impact: - are financial crises and a standing situation with most of the family members face. It becomes difficult in meeting the basic needs of family such as food, clothing, school fees, maintaining the earlier living standard and meet individual expose (Nidhi and Bharti, 2009 as cited in (Weldegabreal, 2014)

9. Organization of the Paper

The study of this paper contains five chapters in which the first chapter deals with the introduction of the study, statement of problem, objective of the study, basic research questions, significant of the study, scope of the study, limitation of the study and operational definition of the terms, the second chapter also deals with literature review which has different sub topics like theoretical literature, empirical literature and conceptual literature. The third chapter deals about description of the study area, different research methods which are research design, research method, population or universe data collection tools/instruments, sampling procedure, sample frame, sample size, data analysis and ethical consideration. Forth chapter also presents the analysis and interpretation of the data collected .Finally, the last chapter shows the summery, conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Meaning of Family

How family is defined has important in social and economic consequences. The definition also varies from society to society (Cherlin, 2007). A family is defined as a set of people related by blood, marriage or who share the primary responsibility for reproduction and caring for members of society (Schaefer, 2003).

The sociological nature of the family is important to understand because virtually every person in the world is a member of a family group, and because in most cultures, the family is a small primary group that plays a key role in socialization. The family teaches children a culture's beliefs, norms, values.

In early days of social work, scholars were more involved in case work (individual) treatment which was the traditional social work role. This later changed and social workers started the treatment of the family as unit because they found it more effective in handling problems that arise in the family (Nichols, 2013). Seeing family members together is helpful because it gives the social workers an opportunity to observe various family patterns as members interact around the problem. This will enable social workers to have complete picture of the family and also the problem (Sexton, Datchi, 2014).

2.2 Family Structure and Relationship

All societies contain families but exactly whom people call their kin has varied through history and varies today from one culture to another. From an individual point of view, families change

as we grow up. People leave the family into which they were born and go to form a family around marriage legal relationship usually involving economic cooperation, sexual activity, and child and bearing. Today two thirds of children are born to married couples, but one third is born to single women who may or may not live with a partner (Macionis, 2007).

Family has no viable substitute (George, 2012). It remains an institution where a child finds love, warmth, care, acceptance, support, and personal development. A family consisting of parents and children as well as other kin is, sometimes called the consanguine family because everyone includes is a blood relation. Industrialization; and increased social mobility and geographical migration have given rise to the nuclear family, a family composed of one or two parents and their children. The family has traditionally been viewed in very narrow terms as a married couple and their unmarried children living together. However, this is but one type of family that sociologists refer to as a nuclear family. The term nuclear family is well chosen since this type of family serves as the nucleus or core upon which larger family groups are built (Reniers, 2003).

Marriage in the African context is the bedrock of any given society. It is a union between a man and a woman as husband and wife for life. As Caramazza(2015) states that an inherent problem in Africa marriages is that the extended family members are seen as integral members of the marriages. In certain African cultures members of the husband's family see the wife of their brother or son as an addition to their family and those in some cultures expect the wife to serve and respect every other male member of the family including the youngest child of that home. In some of these cultures the wife is expected to relate to every other members of the family as her husband which means that she is to marry not only her husband but the whole family (marriage missions international, 2014). The word family ideally refers to the basic social unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group whether dwelling together or not.

Further, the Collins English dictionary (2012) describes a family as a collective body of persons who form one household under one head and one domestic government, including parents, children and servants. Carmaazza (2015) observes that for African peoples the family has a wider circle of members than the word suggests in Europe and North America. Family includes parents, children, grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters who may have their own children. The difference in the understanding of a family in these regions would be that it is really question of the nuclear in the west and of the extended family in Africa. In both cases, a family in its natural setting would still comprise parents and children natural or adopted in the traditional setting. It's clearly understood that the foundation of a family is marriage. The supreme purpose of marriage according to African peoples is to bear children and to build a family, to extend life and hand down the living torch of human existence Mbiti(1992).

The practice of marriage in Ethiopia has different forms traditional, cultural, religious, and civil. Still the traditional and religious marriages are widely practiced were civil marriages is becoming more common (Tilson and Larsen, 2000).

2.3 Function of the Family

- **Reproduction:** - for society to maintain itself, it must replace dying members. In this sense, the family contributes to human survival through its function of reproduction (Schaefer, 2003).
- **Protection:** - unlike the young of other animal species, human infants need constant care and economic security. In all cultures, the family assumes the ultimate responsibility for the protection and upbringing of children (ibid).

- **Socialization:** -is the institution of a child's knowledge, giving its physical as well as intellectual needs and acting as the teaching foundation for its moral growth (George, 2012).
- **Regulation of sexual behavior:** - sexual norms are subject to change both overtime and across cultures. However, whatever the time period or cultural values of society, standards of sexual behavior are most clearly defined with the family circle (ibid)
- **Affection and companionship:** - ideally, the family provides members with warm and intimate relationship, helping them to feel satisfied and secure (Schaefer, 2003)
- **Provision of social status:** - we inherent a social position because of the family background and reproduction of our parents and siblings.

2.4 Effects of Family Breakdown

Family breakdown, even when encountered by both partners, is almost always accompanied by considerable psychological, social, emotional and financial strain. According to William (2008) the impact of family breakdown is especially great for women, who often have to both and care for children without adequate economic and psychological help from their partners. Because more jobs are open to men, it is only well-educated women who are better able to cope with the effects of family breakdown. In fact, women with less or little education have more limited options. Most husbands do not continue to support their families after family breakdown although they are often legally required to pay at least child support. Divorced mothers therefore are frequently forced into poverty and dependent up on public assistance.

William (2008) states that the majority of family breakdown occur in marriages of less than ten years duration, and as a result, young children who are most dependent and vulnerable are especially likely to feel the impact of family breakdown. Although family breakdown has

become a common event and children of divorced parents may no longer feel the stigma they once did, there is no question that in the vast majority of families in which family breakdown occurs, and it is an extremely difficult for children as well as for adults. Children may experience divorce as the end of life as they knew it, as a falling apart and severe disruption of their existence. The children are likely to feel fear, anger, depression and confusion. Often the children blame themselves for contributing to their parents' difficulties. Economic problems and fear of being sacked results to most parents toiling for many hours thereby having little time for family. This increases the pressure to family life leading to family breakdown which results to dramatic changes in family structure, from a two parent family to a lone parent, step family or blended family. Repeated family changes may impact unconstructively on a child's teaching (Mooney et al., 2009).

Numerous studies suggest that single parenting have effects on the child. Harrison-Hale, McLoyd and Smedley (2004) emphasize that single parents often have less time for general supervision and daily monitoring of their children. Parents and children from single parenting households may also communicate less about the children's needs than children in traditional two parent families (Copeland, 2010; O'Connor & Scott, 2007; Roska & Potter, 2011; Thwala, 2011; Cavanagh & Fomby, 2012). Studies on single parent families link father or mother absent households as a causative factor in numerous social problems (Pharaoh, 2004; Symeon 2007; Waldfogel, 2010; Davis, 2011; Cavanagh & Fomby, 2012). The overall relationship between a parent and his or her child is likely to affect the psychosocial well-being of the child. Symeon (2007) notes that children of single parents are more likely to display risky behaviors: smoking, drinking, delinquency, violence, unsafe sexual activity and suicide attempts. If a child is unhappy, he/she is more likely to smoke or drink; children need to feel secure and that may be difficult in single parenting households according to Copland (2010). (Mebuza, N., Thwala, K.,

Okeke,2014)According to Mebuza, N., Thwala, K., Okeke, 2014 a study by Salami and Alawode (2000) found that a child from homes where the father and the mother are present will be taken care of and socialized in the best way possible. This is due to the fact that the process of.

2.5 Socio- economic effects of Family Breakdown

Family breakdown has strong negative consequences for the mental, physical, health and socio-economic lives of both spouses and their children. These negative effects include an increased fatalities, an increased incidence of physical illness, suicide, violence, homicide, and mortality from diseases. Regardless of couple's social and personal standing in terms of cultural, economic and other variables, family breakdown creates change in all aspect of members of the family divorcees, and their children lives Mehari, 2013).

Brenda (2015) observed that children from families with low socio-economic status (SES) are less likely to have successful school careers than children from high (SES) families. According to Dian, (2008) research 25% of children from broken family reach adulthood with serious social, economic, emotional or psychological problems, whereas, of 10% of children with the same problems from a functioning family. Although women appear to fare better than men in dealing with the psychological trauma of family breakdown, the economic consequences are often disastrous for women in united states as well as globally.

Linda (2015) shows that in the first year of the break up, 1 in 5 women enter into poverty as compared with 1 in 3 men, and women are at a higher risk than men for chronic poverty. African-American and white women divorce increases a woman's financial burdens in two important ways. These are that child support payments do not match the expenses of maintaining the family, and women must work outside the home, often in lower salary jobs, a situation compounded by both race and gender discrimination.

Linda (2015) states that women who are more financially secure adjust better to single parenting, feel better about their family and their jobs, and have better child care options. Their children tend to have better educational outcomes and fewer behavioral problems. Single women perched on the poverty line, however experience chronic life, strain, which has an impact on their physical, social, economic and psychological well-being, their economic status as measured by access to food, housing, and financial ability to access health care services and access to education children in good atmosphere. Children living with divorced parents are exposed to many stressful experiences. For one thing, they tend to be economically disadvantaged 37% of children living with an unmarried mother and 16% of children living with an unmarried father live in poverty, (Amato,2010).

Because their parents are struggling to maintain the household, these children often receive poorer parenting. Losing contact with one parent or observing conflict and hostility between parents can produce emotional insecurity. In many cases, moving to a new neighborhood, and changing schools, can be upsetting. Children living with married parents tend to have more daily interaction with their parents, are read to more often, progress more steadily in school, and participate more in activities than children living with a single parent Aster, (2015).

However, negative outcomes for children in one parent families are far from inevitable. The child's age and level of development, the family's financial circumstances, whether there are frequent moves and the quality and amount of a nonresident father's involvement make a difference. Because single parents often lack the resources needed for good parenting there are potential risks to children in these families, but these might be reduced or eliminated through increased access to economic, social, educational and parenting support.

Macionis (2007) observed that growing up in a one parent family does put children at a disadvantage; some studies indicate that a father and a mother each make a distinctive contribution to a child's social development, so either parent alone cannot do as complete a job as two working together. Two parents can provide greater attention to children than one. Children in one parent families begin with one in three chances of being poor and on average, end up with less education and lower incomes.

Fagan (2012) notes that children in divorced families receive less emotional support, financial assistance and practical help from their parents, Homes with one divorced parent in them show a decrease in language stimulation, affection, stimulation of academic behavior, encouragement of social maturity, and warmth directed towards the children.

The effects of socio-economic status (SES) on self-esteem are variable. Generally, low SES students have lower- self-esteem than high SES, students and the effects of SES appear to be stronger with increasing age. Kim (2008) notes that this occurs so much that teenagers view themselves harshly because they are poor, rather than thing that they are actuality doing poorly in school because of their economic situation. Economic hardship reduces affective parental support which may into interpret by the adolescent as a negative appraisal of him or her there by lowering his/ her self-esteem.

Kim (2008) states that one study of 2,154 North Dakota high school students between the ages of 14 and 19 reveled that, as the number of negative life events increased, the level of self-esteem decreased. Kim (2008) further states that negative life events included the divorce of parents, the death of a close family member, change in one's school, or residence, and family changes such as gaining new family members.

The loss of financial resources and a loss of parental involvement are generally associated with a divorce or separation, while parental involvement is known to positively affect a child's educational achievement (Park & Kim, 2011). The growth in the number of divorced or single parent families implies that many children are confronted with the negative effects of single parenthood every year, such as economic deprivation, a decrease in the quality and quantity of parental contact, and a decline in parental support and effective control according to Amato (2000). Not only do divorce itself and the difficult period following it have negative consequences for children, but also already prior to the divorce, such families are often characterized as having a smaller amount of financial resources, and more conflicts, (Fischer, 2007). Fischer also states that divorce has a detrimental effect on child's well-being and development and, accordingly, on his or her performance at school. These findings are significant because if the stresses as related to divorce have a negative impact on self-esteem, lowered self-esteem in turn affects many aspects of the lives of children.

2.6. The Appropriate Techniques in Reducing the Problem

2.6.1. Family Support

Family members need adjust the problem of family breakdown as much as it's possible. However, it can be achieved patient and time that involves suffering and that requires an open minded person and dedication. There are several techniques that booth parents and children can to ease their family adjustment to divorce/separation. Nonetheless, Most of them are not aware of these appropriate ways so that they can overcome by their new living condition that they forget about their options. These more family they suffer, the more it leads to them to come up appropriate techniques that can help family members to understand their current living conditions, and think in different solutions to their concerns about their family breakdown,

divorce/separation. Referring this, Blackstone-Ford et al (2006) argues that the engagement of children and parents in multiple active-positive-fulfilling activities can lead to an increase in the self-worth of children. This believes that parents should acknowledge their offspring achievements and they must set time aside to join their children in their special events.

In this context, these techniques could still support children and all family members to actively let themselves and to adapt as well as to make good decisions from the information about divorce/separation and to adopt the techniques that help them to cope. As revealed with Children Research Center /CRC (2002) many parents and children actively helped themselves to adjust and to adapt, making better choices about whom to talk to about their family situation and adopting techniques that helped them to heal.

They need treatment that would help them reduce their depression, calm their anxiety and rebuild their self-concept and self-esteem. These relationships augment children self-esteem and help them gain confidence in their abilities to overcome the difficult situations that will emerge after their parents' divorce. Teyber (2001) considers that consistency and effective discipline are crucial elements in helping children of divorce build a sense of predictability and control over the new environment that surrounds them.

2.6.2. Social support

Families are often unable to get enough support their children and for the other members of the family when family breakdown happens due to their own distress and children often seek and gain support from those outside the immediate family such as grandparents and friends. To provide this, in the ALSPAC study, grandparents and friends were children's key confidantes for those following parental divorce and in their current stepfamily situations (Dunn and Deater-

Deckard, 2001). In addition, households and families are neither a unitary phenomenon nor closed social entities, but are intricately intertwined with the wider social networks of support.

Perhaps an important concept in society is the one described by the Swedish social anthropologist Eva Poluha. Poluha (2004: 55–59) argues of social life, in which one must play a great role take part so that it could give a meaningful member of society. Similarly the same study Harcombe (1993) and Demaray&Malecki (2003) contend that social support systems takes parts an essential role in helping family members to reduce with undesirable life situations.

2.6.3. Legal Commitment

In Ethiopia, there are so many different support mechanisms in the extended family and other social institutions for children whose parents were divorced (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 2012). This indicated that, once the issue of custody is settled, the parent who is assigning with custodial power over the child may requires maintenance allowance for the child. The law will be given that enough allowance will be given for the child after divorce by the non-custodian parent. One requirement for deciding on the amount of maintenance allowance for the child from the non-custodian parent is that the custodian parent will be shown amount of income. This indicates that it is provided under RFC Art. 113 (1) recognize that the court has to make a decision on child custody, child maintenance and also visitation right. In the same token the RFC follows the „best interest of the child“ criteria and the only difference here is that it does not matter whether the child is below 5 years old or not (Art.113/2/).

2.6.4. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) support

Non-Governmental Organizations supplied assistance for children whose parents divorced to make available for their life status. Concerning to this there was evidence that children whose parents divorced have been gain access to services provided through Non-Governmental Organizations (Beales, 2002). According to this view non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were one of the supporters part those offered services situation children whose parents divorced.

2.7. Family Stress Theory

Family stress theorists state that the definition of the condition interacts with the stress or event and the family member's resources to produce a crisis situation (McCubbin et al, 1980); Peterson, 1984). Based on the nature of this study, the researcher used the concepts of family stress theory which seemed so related to it. These are: what are the impacts of family breakdown on the family members such as parents and children and best way to minimize this kind of problem. When it's used to families' experiences of family breakdown, family stress theory emphasizes that whether children and family at all perceive the various divorce related experiences as stressful as well as how they can minimize it and cope with them it adjust largely depends on their definitions and perceptions of their experiences, as well as personal, family and social network resources. Family stress theory shows that the complexities involved in the process of how divorce affects children. Thus, it strengthens how the same or similar events can be perceived very differently by people affected. In this Family stress theory's, the concepts of family breakdown socio economic impact and best ways to handle the problem that families adopt post-divorce were also used to guide the questions in the interview schedule

2.8. Social Network Theory

Over the past two decades, there had been an increased interest in conceptualizing human behavior in the context of large family and social systems and the social network model were emerged as a useful theoretical model for the analysis and description of complex social systems and interactions (Tolsdorf, 1976). In addition, the discoverer of network theory was Bott (1957) in her study of marital roles in the families.

Her work showed how morphological characteristics of networks could be related to marital role segregation, and since then, the importance of social networks as a mediating factor in human behavior was studied with respect to mental health issues such as personal crisis (Boswell, 1969); help-seeking behavior (McKinlay, 1973); hospital and psychiatric admissions (Hammer, 1963; Tolsdorf, 1976) and divorce (Colletta, 1979; Wilcox, 1981).The concept of this context shows that social network was essential to play role in mediating marital dissolution.

Network analysis is therefore an approach that focuses on properties of individual and group relationships to assess an individual's social environment (Fischer, 1977). According to proponents of social network theory, individuals and families interact with various social networks, some of which are supportive; others are not, while still others can be sources of stress. In addition to the concept of function, the other concept that is used in this study is that of stability. This refers to the degree of stability of the individual's links with his / her network members (Mitchell and Trickett, 1980).

Family breakdown is a family transition that can create instability in the composition and functions of some children's social network members. In this view, Froland and colleague (1979) contend that the stability of an individual's network in the areas of structure, interaction and function is important to his / her adjustment to stressful situations. In this study, stability was

examined by asking custodies and children about moves (changes in neighborhoods) and loss of contact or feelings of loss of support in order to understand how stability or instability of a child's network affected children's adjustment. The concept of frequency is using to explore, for example, how often children are contact with their network members.

Dispersion is using to examine perceptions of how close or far away children lived from their significant others, while and accessibility examined the case with which children made contact with their network and members.

2.9. Feminist Perspectives

Feminist theory was used in this study because of its applicability to marital separation. Gender relations are central to family life, so feminist theory was important to an understanding of family issues such as divorce. Feminist perspectives for example: radical feminist was using in this study. Feminists such as Thorne (1992) assert that gender plays a significant role in the organization of both family and the state. Furthermore, it also contends that men dominate women in both the private and the public arenas. In the family, the traditional division of responsibilities between spouses in most societies, with the husband as provider and wife in the domestic roles results in women's economic dependence on men. Women also carry far greater responsibility for domestic duties and children, whether or not they work outside the home.

Housework is not only unpaid, but also often burdensome and devalued. Feminists argue that 'constraints built into society limits women in their efforts to be successful providers for their families (Kamaruddin, 1995).

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Description of the Study Area

Sheder is a town located in the western Fafan in the Somali region of Ethiopia near the border with northern Somalia on the main trade route between Jigjiga and Borama. It's also largest kebeles of Awbare district. The Ethiopian administration for the refugee and the returnee affairs ARRA and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee UNHCR together opened a new refugee Camp at shedder 13 July 2007. Based on figures from the Central Statistical Agency in 2015, sheder has an estimated total refugee population of 10,849 of whom 5028 are men and 5911 are women. The current population of this city is 10,849. The climate of Sheder is a climate extremely wet and lush during rainy season, as with the rest of the Ethiopian highlands, Seasonal differences relate only to rainfall, as temperatures year round are cool to mild in the mornings and uniformly very warm though not hot during the afternoons.

There are two rainy seasons: the main *meher* rains occur from July to September, and the short *belg* rains in April and May. The dry season, known as *bega*, is cooler by morning than the wet seasons due to lower cloud cover, but equally hot by afternoon though less humid.

Ecology of the town thier main economic source is agriculture . For the land surveyed in this town and its surroundings, it's planted in cereals like sorghum, maize, root crops and vegetables. Permanent crops included lands planted in chat and fruit trees. Fames both raise crops and livestock, while some either grow crops or raise livestock.



Figure 1: Map of the Study Area

3.2 Research Design

The researcher employed descriptive analysis using the fact that a descriptive research design used to describe the data and characteristics about what has been studied. For this, it was important to undertake descriptive research where the real life experiences and their perceptions figure out in the form of narration and describing in detail the life situation of family members who experienced family breakdown.

3.3 Research Approach

Furthermore, this study employed qualitative research approach to collect relevant data for this study. Concerning this, Yin (2003) has confirmed that qualitative approach is very important to

understand complex sets of social phenomena and allows retaining the whole data of meaningful societal life.

According to Creswell (2007), there are different criteria in selecting research approaches based on three factors which included the research problem, the researcher's personal experiences and the people for whom the research was written. A criterion of research design appropriate for a particular based on the research problem in order to identify the means of obtaining information, the nature and objective of the problem to be studied as well as to identify the availability of time and money for the research work. Such a design can even be given to others for their comments and critical evaluation

Therefore, qualitative study design was used for this research as the strength of qualitative research lies in its ability to explore a topic in depth (Marshall & Rossman, 1995 as cited in Liu, 2013). It can be using to find out people 'side as and opinions. Moreover, according Miles & Huberman (1994) as cited in Liu (2013) qualitative research can also be conducted through intense contact with the representative population; it could also diversify details of people's feelings and their logic for doing something.

3.4 Population of the Study

The target population under the study was involved family members who had experience of divorce/separation in shedder refugee camp where it has been the subject of the study. The main reason in selecting this area is due to the fact that very little is known about effects of family breakdown and geographical accessibility which reduced cost and minimize time to collect the data, data ,the research had a total of 20 participant.

3.5 Sampling Technique

Sampling is the technique or process that the researcher would adopt in selecting a suitable sample as part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters or characteristics of the whole population (Kombo and Tromp, 2006). Purposive sampling was used to select sample that selected those who are known to have needed information. Those who have rich information and experienced were given opportunity to select them. As a result, six informants were chosen from three offices. These include three individuals from respective office heads, and three experts from community leaders of refugee. This also allows that the researcher to obtain detail answers that is useful for the study and good reasons for selecting age and sex of the of the respondents for our in depth interview. In addition, with reference to the various researches by different scholars in relation to the prevalence socio economic effects of family breakdown on family members, it shows that small number of informants are including for qualitative researches. According to Murray (2012) state that researcher use only 12 participants thinking that the sample is sufficiently enough to conduct a qualitative study. In addition to this view, Patton a s cited in Schneller (2001) presents that sample for qualitative samples are often small in order to allow an in-depth, detail examination of a specific issue. To conclude this notion, selecting small sampling for qualitative research was useful to obtain detail information for the study. On the other hand, stratified sampling was employed to divide the study population into Zones, (1), (2) and (3) which is the residence area of shedder camp, based on the years they had the experience and the level of the knowledge to express the problem consequently, the research had 14 family members. This technique was used to ensure that an adequate number of subjects are selected from different groups.

3.6 Sources and Types of Data

In this study, primary and secondary data sources were used to obtain the required information to achieve the stated objectives and answers the research questions.

3.6.1 Primary Data Source

The primary sources of data was used for members of the family who encountered family breakdown such as divorced or separated women and men, the women's and child affairs office administrators, community leaders and concerned government offices holder's personnel in Sheddor refugee camp. The data gathered by using in depth interview and focus group discussions.

3.6.2 Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data refer to information which has already been collected and compiled for other purposes. Such sources may consist of encyclopedias, newspapers, books and compiled statistical statements and reports. Secondary data are provided by an individual or individuals who may not have themselves directly observed the event, object or condition (Cohen et al., 2000). In this study, such sources includes documents family breakdown from government officials in Administration for Refugee & Returnee Affairs and other international and non-governmental organizations such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR), since this study involved in collecting cases ,events and experience that clarify the understanding of the research problem women and children affaires, documents and statistical data's from different administrative offices in Somali regional state and also any published documents that were more related to the issue used as secondary data sources.

3.7. Data Collection Tools

Interview and focus group discussion (FGD) guides was used as primary data collection tools and secondary sources as document analysis.

3.7.1. Interview

Interview was also used to gather data from direct target participants who were affected by divorce to be obtained through this method is used because interviewee yields highest cooperation and lowest refusal rates, allows for longer, more complex interviews, high response quality, takes advantage of interviewer presence and allows multi-collection. Who had the experience of the family breakdown in shedder refugee camp for Interview the interviewer probed the interviewee to establish information on of family breakdown and its effects on the family members Shedder camp in Somali regional State. The major advantage of semi-structured interview is to help a researcher to make use of the limited time available for interviewing different people systematically. Though the main approach was semi-structured interview, it was necessary to combine it with open-ended interview as it provided the researcher with opportunity to ask broad questions.

3.7.2. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

In this study, to get additional information to the data that was to be obtained through in-depth interview, focus group discussion was used and participants have been selected by employing purposive sampling technique to obtain information about the prevalence and effects of family breakdown in Shedder camp in Somali region state. It is considered to be one of the helpful methods for collecting information through an organized discussion. The main purpose of focus groups was to gain insights by listening to a group of people from the appropriate target talk

about specific issues of interest. Focus group discussion in this study involved six different family members .Focus group discussion was used so as to produce a wide range of response during one meeting, it draws upon members feeling, attitudes, experience in a way which would not easy using other methods.

3.7.3. Document Analysis

Milles and Huberman (1996) define document analysis as a process of reading various extracts found in the offices or places dealing with or associated with the issues related to what the researcher is examining. In this study documentary review was used in conjunction with interview in order to generate data and supplement the data that cannot be obtained through interview only. These documents were used to gather information regarding family breakdown and its effects on the family and also best techniques in reducing this problem. Furthermore, the documents search guide was employed to supplement information and to check the authenticity of the data obtained through other data collection techniques.

3.8 Data Analysis

All the data from the interviews were collected by hand-written notes. Code names were used for the analysis the researcher started with reading through all the interviews to get a brief, on which the researcher went back to each interview transcript and read them carefully. Then the researcher created an interview summary for each participants as soon as possible after each interview took place. This summary includes personal information about the interviewees. This way, the data was transcribed, edited, coded and translated in to English before it was analyzed. To make an important connection to the research question, the researcher employed thematic analysis to identify the most interesting and demonstrative patterns across interview(Merriam, 2002).Thematic analysis aimed at discovering the most common and

relevant themes within the data, which were able to represent the whole dataset. This step entails describing and developing the themes from the data to answer research questions as the lens for analysis. The information obtained from this population of the study was thematically categorized, carefully analyzed and interpreted to get accurate result.

3.9. Ethical Considerations

There were some ethical considerations that were taken in to account while gathering data by the researcher such as explaining the purpose of the study all participants and giving all information they need for a reasonable understanding of the research field and the following ethical values was considered conducting this thesis. First, the researcher had letter that explains the research topic and its approval and a cooperation letter was written by St, Marys' University and submitted to ARRA and UNHCR Offices and also any other concerned bodies who has been involving this study were notified through them. Secondly, the participants were assured that the data collected was to be used for academic purposes only. All respondents 'identities would be kept confidential. All respondents were encouraged to be honest as they were protected from any harm, there was informed consent at individual level, right to privacy and also they had a right to withdraw at any stage of the data collection. There was a great concern from the side of the researcher to avoid questions of deception during the entire data collection process.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter deals with detail of discussion and analysis of the study findings. Family breakdown and Its effects on the members of the family prevalence in shedder camp and this has been obtained by focus group discussion as well as in-depth interview that were conducted with the family members who experienced family. Desktop review was also conducted to obtain additional information. The information obtained from these was thematically categorized, carefully analyzed and interpreted to get accurate result

Table 1: Demographic Information of the Respondents

	Description	Frequency	%
Sex	Female	9	45
	Male	11	55
	Total	20	100
Age	18- 29	4	20
	30-38	7	35
	39-48	5	25
	> 49	4	20
	Total	20	100
Educational Background	Illiterate	3	15
	0-8 grade	6	30
	9-12 grade	5	25
	Diploma		
	Degree/Masters	6	30
	Total	20	100
Duration of the camp in year	1-2	6	30
	3-6	12	60
	7-12	2	10
	Total	20	100

Table 4.2 Years of Broken Families

Period	Frequency of parents	Percent (%)
divorced/ separated in year		
1-2	4	29
3-4	8	57
5-6	2	14
Total	14	100

Table 4.2 Shows that majority of parents in Shedder Refugee Camp had been divorced or separated between 3-4 years (57%) and 1-2years (29%) respectively. The findings of FGD, Interview and document analysis imply that divorce and separation in Shedder Refugee Camp occurs quite frequently to parents with children in pre-primary. Fewer numbers of parents had separated/divorced for as long as 5-6 years. William (2008) states that the majority of family breakdown occur in marriages of less than ten years duration, and as a result, young children who are most dependent and vulnerable are especially likely to feel the effects of family breakdown.

And we can understand that there is a very strong relationship between the years of the broken family and the level of economic, social status of those particular family members especially children academic performance and their behavior and they may have more chances to develop bad behaviors compared to other children When a family breaks down, it experiences failing of relationship in a family amongst its members or the entire family system experiences dis-

equilibrium. Further, the 14 family members were interviewed and had focus group discussion with key informant people on about the prevalence of broken families in their camp. Concerning this idea, two of the participants from community leaders (the respective head office and one informant from the religious leader office) provided their description as follows:

“I think it’s because of the economic hardship of the refugee life, the next point could be most males don’t take the responsibility of their family as it was expected to be ,the small amount of money they get from the monthly humanitarian aid ,they use that money to chew chat/khat rather than supporting his wife and children and that is when the conflict starts. ”

“In my experience as the community leader, I have come across so many family issues like divorce/separation when I try to know why its increasing especially new couples who got married in the camp, first it’s because their marriage does not depending trust, honesty and one of them is having especial interest .For example one of the partner may have already started his/her process of going to the third country and other person thinks when that person goes ,you have the chance to reunited with country and have better life and sometimes things didn’t go as they were expecting to be ,it may take time .”

According above participant’s ideas, less economic opportunity in the camp and some couples are not honesty for their family and their marriages most of the time depends on taking advantage for one another or in the other way resettlement purpose , so this could be one of the major reasons why family breakdown in Shedder increasing nowadays. Financial constraints in the camp is so challenging in the lives of many refugee families and there is full problems like ,social, psychological, which has a greater effects on both children and parents in general family members .

During the FGD with the family members did not differ from issues raised during interview and all participants almost suggested the same idea which is the economic hardship of the camp. Parents with such problems struggle to manage the demands of a family. Interaction with other family members can be severely limited and negatively impact on children, partners and surrounding communities (Ashagrie, 2008).

4.3. The Effects of Family on Family Members

4.3.1. Social Effects

It is obvious that family member's spouses and children are more vulnerable to face many socio-emotional problems. When the family is divorced or separated, their children has option/chance was live with one side of their family or their relative. Specifically, divorced children who live with their relative foster come across many social problems because through time their relative becomes impatient to help them. As a result, those children face problems of suitable clothing and other basic needs. And also spouses may also feel loneliness because after the family breakdown everyone will start living alone and finally, they became frustrated and are marginalized by their friends and society. One of the respondents (F-1) who has been living in the camp six years explains her situation after family broken down.

“I have never had a better life. My husband could not help us he was always chewing chat even if he gets a little money he always going to buy chat, there was a frequent conflict between me and my husband and our children were very disappointed, I could not be comfortable with that kind of life, I lastly decided to move with my children were I was living .I'm not happy of living far apart from friends and family. ”

as the effects of family breakdown, people go away of society they have been living with just due to the fear of problems and also female parents fear more on their irresponsible husbands who always threatening to take away from their children so they had no any other chance rather than changing their residence which finally leads to them to isolate from their families and friends.

In addition to that, female children from the divorced family who prefer to live with her mother society perceive them as they have less dignity compared a girl living with both of her parents. This viewpoint creates negative effects in the society to see female as inferior especially when mother becomes head of the family. Concerning this issue, informant (F-2) expressed her view in the following way. *“A girl is like her mother ,if her mother was divorced it means she was not a good wife and more likely her daughter go the same way as her mother went through..”* In the above narration, girls whose parents divorced were ignored by the society, and they have less value and dignity among their society. Moreover, according to her view, female parents who were divorced face problem with second marriage. They may have less chance to get married compared to their counter parts. As the respondents indicate, even if these women get married their dignity was disregarded by society or they themselves lost their confidence

Related to this point, Participant (F-2) described her opinion about as follow,

“I know I can get a chance to marry again, but I’m afraid to make decision, because I always think of two things how badly my husband was treating me and how my other husband will be for me my children is first when it comes to life, I have seen so many times my neighbor whose their husbands treating their step children badly.”

According to the above context, parents do not want their children to be frustrated in trying to discover the best way to achieve their life they also have such a great responsibility for keeping Their children happiness .parents expect and visualize the kind of person they want their child to became (Roska &Potter 2011).

In FGD session with family members they emphasized more on the absence father's responsibility in the family. Among the participant one member said;

“ In our community when the divorce happen, mothers are always the one who take care of the children and fathers left or marry another wife and when there is absence of father in family ,mothers only can't help children, so in this situation they are more susceptible to many social problems For example sometimes people are blaming the mother saying that why you let your husband to leave his family and children, how are going to raise these children alone ,this leads mothers to ashamed themselves and lost confidence.”

From the above notion we can understand from that some parents cannot help their children, they ignore, can't give their children the love, care they needed particularly the fathers side and also divorced women face many social problems ,sometimes society discriminate the single mothers. Abera (2008) also argued that the separation/ divorce have a greater effect on both children and the parents to suffer from economic, social and psychological problem.

4.3.2. Educational Effects

Children from divorced parents are facing challenges with academic problem after the divorce. As the family broken down, divorce or separation, children start to live one of their parent and

sometimes father and mother may not agree who the child prefers to live with, also parents may let their child to live with their relatives or some other caregiver, sometimes alone in the camp.

This creates negative impact on their academic life. For this reason regarding this, one of the respondents (M-1) explained the academic problem his children are facing in the next way:

“I’m a single father, living with my two sons one of them is fifteen years old and the other one is thirteen years old, my family situation has really impacted my children’s education, they are always complaining about this difficult life of the camp ,they need to live with their mother and I can’t let them to go back to Somalia ,I already started my resettlement program ,last year my elder son was grade 8 he scored less grade ,In addition to this year they refuse to attend the school ,I’m really worrying about my sons future.”

Therefore, children from divorced family pass through lots of challenges which they can not

Overcome even being with their relatives. With similar issue, other participant (F-3) of age

Fifty nine (59) years old discussed the issue as follows: *“I’m the grandmother of the children, their mother followed new husband, their father also left his children on me because he is working on somewhere far from our village, I’m suffering a chronic diseases like diabetes and blood pressure in addition to that I’m. Getting old, I don’t know how I can help my grandchildren’s education”.*

In addition to that, children whose family broken down suffers from lack of sufficient income for their daily life. They also need to get help from any were so that they can continue their education without being dropped out from school or being late behind from their other

classmates. In FGD session family members expressed their ideas; some parents don't pay much attention to their children education. Among these respondents one of them said;

“Since parents are suffering their broken families, they don't have enough time to their children education and sometimes they can't control if their children are attending school regularly. For example I had a neighbor who their father used to go school twice a week in order to know his children's education and discuss with teachers if his children are doing good in school fortunately their academic performance was excellent, after he had serious fights with his wife .He decided to separate from his family and go back to Somalia where he come from, but the children are poorly in school, because their mother couldn't cooperate with school teachers and less participated academic of her children.”

Barona (2013) further explains that single or divorced parents however committed they may be, are not able to help their children realize their full potential in life more so their learning performance. Flenderson (2009) reports that due to family conflicts and breakdown the child may be pre-occupied with worries at home and may not be able to fully get involved in school activities which negatively affect their learning performance.

In conclusion, both male and female children from divorced parents encountered the challenges of academic problem at post-divorce condition. Kelly and Emery (2003) in their study examined the effects of family structure and parenthood on the academic performance of students. They pointed out that students from single sometimes perform poorly due to the fact that they do not get external support from the parents. Accordingly, Brain M.D Osorio (2011) stated that divorce is associated with increased risk of academic problems throughout their life.

4.3.3. Behavioral Effects

Children and parents from the broken family are always facing behavioral problems such as anger, anxiety etc. After their parents separated/divorced, the children might feel confidence and hope which leads to them a better future because. Specifically female children who start to live with their mother custody at post-divorce begin to emotionally frustrate due to early departure from their mother. For instance, one of the participants (F-4) age eighteen years old the situation as follows.

“when I was first time came here ,I was young and the UN arranged me to live with a care giver but me and foster care parent never have a good relationship, we are always in conflict, because she don’t want me to go to school like her children, she is forcing me to do all the housework, like cooking, cleaning etc. because of that I never feel happy and I didn’t want to discuss my issue any one, they never understand my problem, but I didn’t want to lose hope, one day I had a hope that ill reunited my parents.”

In the same way, female children whose parents divorced usually feel unhappy with the life after their parents divorced whether the life situation was better or not. Even if everything may be properly available for their life through their relatives, these children might not happy at post-divorce life situation. It is also depicted that girls whose parents divorced were mistreated because of the challenges they face with internal problem. This indicates that they simply feel anxiety and depression internally. Accordingly, Zaslou (1989) reported that girls from divorced family through their internalizing behavioral problems (e.g. anxiety, depression,) are less likely to come to the attention of parents or health care professionals.(M-3) expressed his idea as follows; *“children who live with their relatives sometimes may face problems like, abuse it could be psychological or they might physically be beaten even exploitation and these children are*

more likely to feel lonely ,they don't to play with the other children and also when you try to ask them to tell you what happened to them ,they can't feel freely to speak because they afraid they may be beaten by their relatives”

On the other hand, male children whose parents divorced were visible to be inhibited with the problem of external behavior. Since, their parents divorced, these children determine to follow the life with their relative parents at post-divorce status. Through a time, male children whose parents divorced could develop an involuntary and uncontrolled behavioral problem. Likewise, male children whose parents divorced might also follow the life of street children at post-divorce condition. At this life status, they could be visible to the lack of good behavioral model among their relative friends. Thus, they initiate to act what they observe from their relative friends.

According to the above piont of views, post-divorce life affects the external behavior of boys whose parents divorced. In relating to these views, Zaslow (1989) found that boys from divorced family may primarily exhibit their disturbance through externalizing behaviors (e.g. aggression, delinquency, substance abuse).

Another social effect of family breakdown on children and parents as a result of the challenges encountered by single parented students pointed out by a number of participants is that the use of stimulant drugs and chats. Concerning the existence of the use of substances (khat), one participant from the family members shared us his experience during our focus discussion session;

“I saw my neighbor elder son chewing chat and smoking cigarette with his friend's house, his mother didn't know what her son was doing ,she goes to work early in the morning and I know before her family was broken down ,the child father was serious in helping his children but now it's the

children's behavior is changing ,even the son started aggressiveness towards his mother ,sometimes he comes home late at night and mother starts shouting on him and she cannot stop her work because she is only one responsible house expenditures and all her children's needs after her husband left."

The above narration of the community indicates that the single mothers had busy schedule to win the bread of their children because of their poor economic status. These single parented students were not well monitored and supervised that led them to be involved in unwanted use of substances like smoking."

4.4. Economic Effects

It is obvious that parents, children and any family member who experience any type of family breakdown are encountered to economic problems. Because of this, they are forced to do several activities in order to achieve the difficult life situation at post-divorce/separation

However, their income might be limited only to their daily life situation. As regards to this, one of the respondents (F-2) described her views as follow; *"I simply work at home and prepare food while my children are in school, I can't find better job even if I try ,because I'm not educated ,my husband can't help his children he marry another wife ,I only depend on the monthly ration which I gain from the humanitarian aid ,I can't be happy with difficult life but I hope God will help me one day and change my life, "* This shows that female parents are suffering economic difficulties and monthly aid is not enough and also most fathers couldn't support their children after the divorce /separation.

In addition, female children were mostly exposed to financial problem after their parents get divorced. Since they depend on their custodial parents at post-divorce, they are forced to engage

in house chores activities which probably do not have a payment. Regarding this, one key informant interview (F4) explained as, *“by time I was young I had a dream of getting job, so that I can help my family but I couldn’t find that job I was dreaming about except working some ones families washing their clothes and even the money they are giving me is not enough, but I never lose my hope.”* This indicates that female children face many economic problems that their male counter parts after their parents depart. From the above idea it can be possible to understand that girls from divorced parents were likely to have the financial problem because of they spend their time on household works. Related to this, Smyth and Weston (2000) found that females were still likely to experience financial hardship after divorce.

During the focus group discussion session most of them forwarded the same idea, regarding economic opportunities of shedder camp.

“Even though the economic opportunities is very low ,I know a mother who had a small shop in the camp, she was helping the needs of her family and also had a greater confidence that one day her business will grow, but that dream couldn’t came true ,when she was divorced, she couldn’t continue her business, because there was frequent threatening that comes from her husband that he will take away from her children and will not see them again ,now she stays home with kids fearing he can do it, even she went several times to police” .

To conclude the above notion economic is a big challenge many families in camp, families are usually depending on small aid which they gain from the humanitarian aid agencies which is not enough, single parents are also facing this problem as everyone else in Shedder, but when both parents are together they have a good chances to engage some income generating activities like small shops which are in the camp, so family breakdown has effects financial possibilities,

physical and mental health of the family members even youths members of the refugee community.

4.5 Techniques in Reducing the Problem

Children and parents who encounter the problem of family breakdown need their problem to be handling by using different techniques. These techniques can be used by different families in the society. And the most common ways used in this study are the following.

4.5.1 Solution among the Family

In order to reduce the prevalence of family breakdown partners have to discuss their problem, understand each other and think their children future because children think about their parents cohabitation of their mother and their father, then they would live in harmony and peaceful and impact would not come with the family and family members especially to their children (Wilson, 2001) for this reason, they might not be happy with any situation after their family broken down. Related to, one of the participants (F-1) expresses her opinion on solving the problem of family between the partners as follow:

I think couples must understand each other before they got divorced or separated so that they can solve their problem easily ,whenever they try to let their friends or any person came to their problem it's when things is getting worse than it was, and think of their children's future ,education and all about their good behaviors. I wish every family both mother and my father would live their children happily.

In addition to that, children whose parents divorced/separated may also need family treatment for their academic achievement and for all their life condition. As they put their future hope

completely on their children, their parents“ motivated to support their children for their future growth. The other respondent (M-2) who explain her opinion as Follow:

“Actually I’m living this camp and its life is very tough, but as I’m the father of my children, I always give my children hope and predict them a better future than this life and pray to God (Allah), because I don’t want see my children suffering and support them their education, even though I can’t read and write, whenever I do so, my children is getting happy and they really promise me they will make me proud one day.”

From the above point of view, it is possible to understand that family treatment play a great role to build the new life condition for family members especially children before their family broken down. In relation to this, Teyber (2001) considered that regularity and actual support are crucial elements in helping children of divorce to build a sense of predictability and control over the new environment that surrounds them

4.5.2 Societal Support

Having a great social capital plays an important role in helping family members whose their family broken down. Social support helps achieve a great part to endure difficulties that might encounter children or spouses during post-divorce/separated. Therefore, it was a support that given by relative support, friends support and societal support.

Social support plays a great role in helping children and spouses whose are in this difficult situation after their family broken down. Therefore, this social support could categorize in to Social support was playing a wonderful role to encouraging children whose parents divorced at post-divorced condition. This type of supportive was most of the other type of support for the reason that receiving the responsibility at least until those children and parents able to help

themselves .Regarding to this point of view, informant (F-1) expressed her idea as follow:
Relative support, friends support and societal support.

“After me and my husband separated ,I’m the one taking care of my children ,I work hospital as a cleaner but thanks to God my mother she is one who is helping my children when I’m not in the home and now my children are growing ,I could never image what life would went through without my mother.”

Similarly, relative family of children whose parents divorced more focused on caring for those children at post-divorce to show their kindheartedness. Regarding this issue, participant whose age was fifty nine (59) described her view in the following way. *“I really love my children, because they always reminds me of my son, he was a good child and I’m here to support my grandchildren their needs and grow then in best away I can, physically psychologically and all”*. It can be said that relative families especially grandmothers have good concern for theirdivorced children.

Likewise, parents from broken family get different support from their friends especially for their life accomplishment. For instance, at post-divorced situation, a single mother who is divorced could suffer lack of basic needs in supporting her family children education, food and clothing. As a result, their friends might support them individually or in groups. Regarding this context, one of the informants from the UNHCR Social affairs explained his idea as follows, *“there so many friends who we give the resettlement process, who was living in the camp. had chance of going different third country particularly America ,as far as I know they really support each ,their friend who remain in the camp, by sending me money and I can call it true friendship.”*

In addition to this, societal support had also its particular part for the lives of the broken down family members in the camp achievement. Accordingly, those families could expose to the scarcity of basic needs, food and clothing at post-divorce situation. Thus, different societies take part to protect those difficulties that might face families.

Concerning this concept, one of the participants (M-1) described his views about the social support in the next way: *“people support each other in a different ways, not only they give you money or material but also my friends give a courage and advice when I don’t know what.”*

According to the above point of view, social support is important in handling effects of family breakdown. Regarding to this concept, Harcombe (1993) and Demaray & Malecki (2003) contend that social support systems play a protecting role in helping individuals cope with undesirable life events, particularly for children of divorce.

4.5.3 Governmental and non-governmental support

Different organization must participate governmental and non-governmental organizations need to assist essential things for the family members who encountered family breakdown. This could be offering them resettlements program, economical and psychological support. For instance, children & women affair is a governmental body deals with children and women issues. This office provides special treatments such as access to free education and material support for both children and women.

4.5.3.1 Psychological Support

Women and children affair office also offers different supportive for children whose parents divorced so as to make them succeed in their life during divorce or separation. Moreover, they could give psychological support for those children and for their care givers in order to build

those children's moral. One informant described her view as, *"There is always supportive for both women and children that is psychological support especially we arrange children's who are living alone for foster parents and we also contribute some money for basic needs food and clothing and also exercise books."* This indicates the concern that the society has to support children and parents from the broken family. Social affair office might made communication with non-governmental organization for sponsoring children whose parents divorced at post-divorce period for the accomplishment of their academic endeavor. Therefore, one of the participants from the experts of social affair gave his idea as follows:

"For both women and children who encounter such family problem we facilitating them for liking different non-governmental organization so that they can get the support they, children we send to them an organization concerned child protection if the child is in severe condition and usually women's gender based violence center who gives so many supports."

4.5.3.2Economic Support

Organizations' concerning social issues was making the economic accessibility for children and parents who had family breakdown through the provision of different budget at post-divorced condition. Moreover, they might protect some observable problems on the life of those children at post-divorce. Concerning this, the respective head office of social affair explained:

"Our organization has the concern in supporting both parents and children under eighteen, first time they came our office ,we have different steps in supporting those whose family broken down especially children based on the vulnerability criteria ,first step immediate required, second medium priority for planning within 14 days and the third low assessment and planning within 8 weeks. And finally we both support them cash and in kind."

Furthermore, the above discussion couldn't include family members, there might be children and parents who don't have idea about whether they can support and also refugee community leaders have the responsibility of supporting those children and women who has been affected by the family breakdown. Relating these issues two community leaders expressed their idea as follows.

When I'm talking about the issue of children and women from the broken family, there is some social worker's concerning to intervene the cases and have the responsibility in investigating the case. And also there is money from our office that available for children whose parents divorced seven hundred birr (700) had given yearly for each of them.

From the above idea, it is possible to appreciate that all children & women affair and social affair as well as legal bodies play their own roles to the rehabilitation of children whose parents divorced and this can be considered as one of the best ways to handle a family breakdown.

4.5.3.3 Educational Support

Different NGOs advocate the life of children and women who encountered a family breakdown in several ways. Through this avocation, children of divorced families may achieve their life at post-divorce situation. In relation to this point of view, participant (M-3) of grade 8th student described his opinion as follows, *“with the help of International Rescue Community, I became benefited. They provided so many important thing which I was needed like, exercise book, clothing, shoes and drawing material.”*

4.5.3.4 Resettlement Program

UNHCR is one of the sponsor part for the third country and this what every refugee is willing to get, that serve children and both parents whose family divorced/separated with supporting them

to maintain their life condition and enjoy long protection . Related to this concept, one of the participants (F-1) explained her opinion as follows.

“ After I and my husband divorced, I had a good opportunity in signing the third country ,UNHCR really helped a lot and I thought my self I’m the best way of getting better future for myself and my children , now I’m the last step of taking medical checkup and I couldn’t imagine my life better than this. ”

Moreover, different NGOs promote the life of both children and women whose parents divorced/separated in several ways. Hence, through this promotion, children of divorced families could achieve their life at post-divorce situation. In relation to this point of view, participant (M-2) his opinion as follow; *“my case is currently processed by the resettlement program office, I’m waiting my case to be scheduled for the nest interview”*. In contrast to the above idea, NGOs had their criteria to select whom. According to UNHCR (2004) resettlement is a way which maximizes the benefits refugees directly or indirectly and it has the responsibility these benefits that could be accurate to countries of first asylum, including strengthening of the protection environment, unlocking of durable solutions.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of the Major Findings

Purpose of this qualitative study was to find out the social and economic effects of family breakdown on the family members, children's and parents and best ways to handle this problem in Shedder Refugee Camp Fafan zone Somali Regional State Ethiopia. The findings of this study started with developing the prevalence, the effects of family breakdown on the family members and its best way to handle the problem.

The study was guided by the following basic questions:

- What are the major effects of family breakdown on the family members?
- What are the economic effects of family breakdown on the members of the family?
- Why the problem of family breakdown is so prevalent in Shedder?
- What are the appropriate techniques to handle the problem of family breakdown?

In general, the major findings of this study were;

Social effects: families members most of the time are facing bigger social problems, sometimes spouses feel loneliness and frustrated by their surrounding society and friends, especially female parents fear their irresponsible husband who always threatening to take away from their children after their divorce, which leads to them to change their residence to other place they don't know before and divorced women are discriminate and blamed by the society for their broken family. On the other hand, Children are also facing educational effects, family conflict and breakdown has affected the children education, one parent couldn't support or fully engage their children studying and it causes poor academic performance, dropout of school.

In addition, this study also found out single parents are busy in winning the bread of their family ,children are more likely to develop a bad habits for example, some children start chewing and other drugs.

Economic Effects: broken families in Shedder camp are financial difficulties, the study found out one parent cannot help the needs of the family, and refugees are receiving monthly humanitarian aid which is not enough and its one of the main reason for increasing the prevalence of family breakdown in camp.

With regarding the beat ways in handling the problem, the study found family members condition like:

- ✓ Family support
- ✓ Social support (relative, friends and societal support)
- ✓ Governmental and non-governmental support

5.2 Conclusions

Based on the above major findings, the following conclusions were drawn.

Majority of parents in Shedder Refugee Camp had been divorced or separated between 1-2 years (29%) and 3-4 years (57%) respectively. And the study found out that there was a strong relationship between prevalence of broken families and social and economic status of the family members. The major impacts of family breakdown are: economic, social and psychological problematic situation. Not only has this divorce/separation had also effects on children academic status, behavioral On the other hand, the ways of handling the problem those children and

parents were using presented as follows; Such as: family support, social support, governmental & non- governmental support and provision resettlement. Correspondingly, the appropriate techniques to handle the problem of family breakdown are concluded as follows:

Family support: This had important role for helping their family members

Social support: various parts of social (relative, friends and societal) offer their supports for children of divorced/separated families. Social network theory provides this issue about the importantly of socialization in order to avoid be neglecting as of children socialization. Regarding to this concept, Hill (1992) adopted that it must be remembered that while networks can provide support, they can also provide wider social functions ranging from the socialization of children to the generation of delinquency/negligence.

Governmental and non-governmental support: this different support plays an important role to achieve the life after their family broken down in Shedder refugee camp (economic, psychological, educational support and resettlement program).

5.3. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher forwards the following points as recommendations.

- Family is the primary social institution. Maintaining the role and function of family is securing the smooth function of the society. Being aware of and keeping stability of family will be more secured to solve the problem of family.
- Children are potential hope of any country. Educating, guiding and proper socialization of them is investing on the future development of the country. Provision of children whose family breakdown will be more secured to solve the problem of children.

Moreover, interventions those of addicted to substance abuse and those developed low self-esteem will improve their living standards.

- As mentioned in this study, the major factors behind family breakdown are inadequate financial resource, irresponsibility which within the family. In order to ensure family stable, there should provide family members different skill techniques and training to convince the value of family.
- When the persons may not negotiate or tolerate each other or when they dispute each other, there is an intermediate part that solve their problem. As the researcher mentioned in this study, the society or the families themselves must to do their role in solving the problem of family. Encouraging society to participate in solving the issues of family will be one way of decreasing the prevalence of family breakdown.
- On same the time, to convince the partners the value, responsibility and the role of family and to tell that the effects of family breakdown not only affect them but also their children, neighborhood and even the larger society.
- As it has been identified by the study the most victims of caring children after family breakdown are mothers. Additional efforts, to be exerted by mothers to find ways for caring these children with their respective communities. Those children who could not be assisted in this way must be provided better support under institutional care.
- Parents should work with the school teachers in order to ensure their children's school performance
- Generally the researcher offers future researchers to conduct on this issue for further study.

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APPENDICES

St. Marry University

Department of Social Work

Introduction and Consent Statements

Code Date of Interview

My name is MeymunKelif Yusuf, from St.Mary's University at the department of Social Work. I am carrying out a research **on Assessing of the Prevalence and Socio-Economic Effects of Family breakdown on the members of family: The case of Shedder Refugee Camp** for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Masters of art (MA) in Social Work. All information collected this interview will only be used for academic research work and I will ask you a series of questions that would take about 60 minutes. It is your choice whether or not to take part in this interview and if you choose to participate, you have the right not to answer any question or to stop the interview at any time. If you do not choose to participate, it will in no way affect you in any way. Information you will provide me will be kept confidential and your name will not be identified by any means. Before we begin, do you want to ask me any questions about the survey? Shall I continue in asking you each question? If "Yes" Continue...

Thank you in advance for your voluntary participation.

PART I - Background information

Name.....

Sex.....

Age.....

Duration since settled to camp.....

Current address.....

Educational level.....

Sector/responsibility.....

PART II

In-depth interview to be asking family members who experience family breakdown (family members including mother, father, grandparents)

1. When did you family broken down?
2. What do you think the reason why family breakdown is so prevalent in Shedder camp?
3. What did your life look like before and after your family broken down?
4. Do you have excess money for your life after you had faced the problem of family breakdown?
5. Did you get financial support? If so, is it enough for your expenses ?(education ,health ,clothing ,food and others)
6. How do you explain the effects of family breakdown on your family social situation?
7. How do you explain the effects of family breakdown on your family economic status?

8. Are you satisfied with your current life after your family breakdown?
9. Do you have any governmental and non-governmental support?
10. What the possible mechanisms to reduce or handle the problem of family breakdown?

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation.

THANK YOU

PART- III

Interview for asking key informants of sectorial offices in Shedder Refugee Camp

Dear Participants,

1. Do you think family breakdown is so prevalent in this camp shedder? Why?
2. How often does a marriage conflict come to your office?
3. What do you about the social impact that family members face after family breakdown occurs?
4. What are the economic impact that family breakdown has on the family members?
5. Is the family breaking down rate increasing or decreasing? Why?
6. What are the possible mechanisms to reduce or handle the problem of family breakdown?
7. Do you get any fund from governmental or non-governmental to promote the life of families who is facing the problems of family breakdown?

Finally, dear respondent I appreciate your cooperation.

THANK YOU

Part IV

Focus Group Discussion (FGD), of the target groups six participants were asked during the discussions.

1. Why family breakdown divorce is prevalent in the camp?
2. What are the reasons for family breakdown?
3. What are socio-economic effects of family breakdown on family members?
4. What the means of reducing family breakdown the refugee camp?

Thank you!