



## The Impact of Divorce on Children's Social Behavior

Selvina Elia Roza<sup>1</sup>, Irman<sup>2</sup>, Ferro Silva<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar

<sup>2</sup>Universitas Islam Negeri Mahmud Yunus Batusangkar

<sup>3</sup>Usak University

**Corresponding Author:** selvina elia roza, [selvinaroza290@gmail.com](mailto:selvinaroza290@gmail.com)

### Article Information:

Received January 11, 2024

Revised April 9, 2024

Accepted May 14, 2024

### ABSTRACT

*Divorce is the breaking of the marriage bond between husband and wife by court decision and there are sufficient reasons, that between husband and wife can no longer live in harmony. Common cases of divorce, social, economic and age factors when married. The purpose of this study is to know, examine and explain the impact of parental divorce on children's social behavior. The results of this study show that the impact of divorce on children's social behavior has a major influence in the negative direction. This study uses the literature review method by reviewing several existing articles, the results of the study show that divorce that occurs is very influential on children's social behavior, so that children of divorce victims need to get psychological guidance, or guidance from BK teachers.*

*Keywords: divorce, children's social behavior*

Journal Homepage

<https://journal.minangdarussalam.or.id/index.php/ijrc/>

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How to cite:

Elia, S., Irman, I., & Silva, F. (2024). **The Impact of Divorce on Children's Social Behavior.** *International Journal of Research in Counseling*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.55849/wp.v3i1.74>

Published by:

Yayasan Minang Darussalam

## INTRODUCTION

The family is an organization united in a sacred bond, namely marriage between a man and a woman as husband and wife. Marriage is a form of effort by living creatures, especially humans, in self-actualization and preserving their offspring. Marriage as an inner and outer bond must synergize in a balanced way to create a well-organized family. The bond of birth is a bond of direct relationship between husband and wife, marked by communication between the two. Meanwhile, inner ties are informal relationships and can only be felt by husband and wife and are the foundation for creating a harmonious husband and wife relationship (Dewi, nd) . From this research it can be concluded that the family is a group that is created because of a marriage.

Creating a harmonious family is not an easy matter like turning the palm of your hand. Various disputes and problems that arise between husband and wife can trigger arguments that lead to divorce (Yakin, nd) . According to Wardani et al.'s research, divorce is the severing of the marital bond between husband and wife with a court decision for the reason that the husband and wife can no longer live in harmony as husband and wife (Wardani et al., 2022) . It can be concluded that divorce does not always have a negative impact, because divorce can be used as an excuse as the only way out.

Based on research results (Syahria, 2017) , divorce is not the end of a husband and wife's life, but parents who have divorced must still think about how to help children overcome problems because their father and mother are separated. Children are the victims who are most hurt when their parents divorce. Children feel afraid because they are afraid of a lack of love between their father and mother. According to (Ppkn & University, 2023) Children whose parents are divorced tend to do deviant things, are lazy at school, become quiet, easily conflict, are disobedient, often go out looking for entertainment and do or behave towards negative things. It can be concluded that parental divorce greatly influences children's behavior both in their own family and in society.

According to (Veronika et al., 2022) Children are the most beautiful gift given by God, especially to a husband and wife, not infrequently those who immediately plan a pregnancy. Children are entrusted by God to strengthen the relationship between parents so as to create harmony and integrity in household relationships. When you have children, divorce not only has an impact on those concerned (husband and wife), but also involves the children. Children have the rights and opportunities to grow and develop according to their potential. Education in the family will be achieved optimally if a harmonious home atmosphere is created. However, not all families are able to create happy and harmonious relationships. There are also families who experience many problems that end in divorce.

For teenagers, divorce is a disaster in their lives, life will be much different after the divorce, they feel like everything has become chaotic and they feel lost. According to Sugihen, (2019) teenagers who are victims of divorce become teenagers who don't socialize enough and experience a decline in academic grades, a decline in achievement both at school and outside of school, they try but are anxious, lonely, lack self-confidence, and protracted sadness. They no longer feel comfortable when playing at home. They will be more comfortable playing outside the house, hanging out with their friends, spending time on things that are not useful, even teenagers whose emotions are considered unstable if they are no longer paid attention to will act deviantly, such as: fighting, smoking, drinking. drinking heavily, consuming illegal drugs, and starting to experiment with free sex. Other impacts for teenagers who are victims of their parents' divorce include: easy.

According to (harahap, ade chita putri, 2024) children who are victims of divorce sometimes also show selfish attitudes due to their parents' divorce. Children show a rebellious attitude, anger and revenge due to their parents' divorce. Children also openly commit criminal acts because they feel they are not cared for, children also cannot accept other people's words or advice because they feel neglected by their parents.

From the explanation above, it can be seen how important unity is in a family and how parents play a role in providing education to children, because the aim of marriage as expected by Article 1 of Law No. 1 of 1974 is to form a happy family/household. eternal based on the Almighty Godhead. The problems identified above, and based on interest, motivated the author to conduct research on "The impact of divorce on children's social behavior".

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method with a literature review. Qualitative research is research that intends to understand phenomena about what is experienced by the object of research, for example behavior, perception, motivation, action, etc. holistically and in a descriptive way in the form of words and language, in a specific context experienced and with the benefits of various scientific methods. Literature review is by reviewing several existing articles (Amelia S et al., 2022; Anggraini & Asmita, 2022). The data used in this research comes from the results of research that has been conducted and published in national and international online journals.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Divorce can be carried out by the husband by imposing "talaq" on his wife, but the wife can also submit it by filing for "divorce". Research results (Ariani, 2019) show that the cause of divorce is the breakdown of the domestic relationship between husband and wife which causes divorce to be triggered by various reasons, including disharmony in the relationship between husband and wife in terms of fulfilling biological needs, issues of different principles of life, differences in income in increasing welfare, infidelity, namely Other Dream Men (PIL) and Other Dream Women (WIL) as third parties destroying household relationships, acts that violate their respective roles and functions as a wife, such as Domestic Violence ( domestic violence) and the influence of social support from outside parties. Impact is a very strong influence that has negative or positive consequences. According to research (Kusumawati, 2020) the rift in the family caused by divorce must also have an impact, especially on the social conditions of children aged 6-12 years.

According to (Veronika et al., 2022) families that experience divorce are families whose family members experience failure in maintaining household relationships, relationships between members are not well established, even communication does not work properly, harmonious family relationships are full of jokes. . The integrity of the family (father, mother and child) is a complete portion of strengthening a child's morals, of course this will be very different from an incomplete or single parent family, in this case the single parent (mother) is in developing the child's morality. Single parenthood is a situation where a mother cares for her child alone and has the task of being two personalities, namely being able to be a mother and being a father in order to fulfill her child's living needs without any help from the "father".

The forms of divorce according to (Hasanah, 2020) include:

1. Divorce according to God's own will through the death of one of the spouses. The death of a husband or wife causes the end of the marital relationship.
2. Divorce at the husband's will for certain reasons and expressed with certain words. Divorce in this form is called talaq.
3. Divorce at the wife's will, because she saw something that wanted the marriage to end and the husband did not want that. The wife conveys her desire for divorce in a certain way , this is accepted by the husband and followed by saying that he wants a divorce. The dissolution of a marriage in this way is called khulu'.
4. Divorce at the will of the judge as a third party after seeing something in the husband or wife which indicates that the marital relationship cannot continue. The dissolution of a marriage in this form is called fasakh according to research

According to research (Fitri et al., 2022) , divorce has a very big influence on the development of children's attitudes, including causing children to be quiet and have low self-esteem, be excessively naughty, have low academic achievement and feel lost. Although this is not the case in all cases, the majority have a negative impact on the child's mental development and also affect the child's educational process itself. In general, children whose families are divorced come with their mother, and all living expenses that should be the father's responsibility are the mother's responsibility.

Some of the forms of social behavior that develop in early childhood are based on the foundations laid in infancy. Children develop various forms of behavior in social situations. The forms of children's behavior in social situations according to Widiastuti, (2015) are: social behavior which includes cooperation, competition, generosity, desire for social acceptance, sympathy, empathy, dependence, friendliness, non-egocentricity, imitation, and attachment. Meanwhile, unsocial behavior includes disobedience, aggression, quarreling, mocking and bullying, bossiness, egocentrism , prejudice , and gender antagonism. Parents and teachers carry out various appropriate activities or

stimulation so that children's socialization with the environment can develop optimally. According to (Yasik et al., 2019) Divorce has a bad impact on children, by feeling neglected, children will think about looking for something that can make them happy. In other words, children can fall into negative things. This occurs in the adolescent age range of 11-14 years, where children are already aware of the changes in family conditions due to divorce. When a divorce occurs, the mother or father living in a different house from the child will cause a strain on the relationship between parent and child.

The divorce that occurred had an impact on the participants, both negative and positive impacts, one of the aspects affected was the child's social and emotional development. The results of research (Titalessy & Endang Kusumiati, 2021) show that the impact of parental divorce on children's social life is juvenile delinquency, stress, phobias, sadness and confusion in facing existing problems, inability to express feelings, feelings of loss of parents, reduced imaginative power, lack of trust in partners (for adults), and lack of self-confidence both in the school environment and where they live. According to Ariani's research, (2019) shows that the impact of parental divorce on children's social life is juvenile delinquency, stress, phobias, sadness and confusion in facing existing problems, not being able to express feelings, feelings of losing parents, reduced imaginative power, lack of trust towards partners (for adults), and lack of self-confidence both in the school environment and where they live. From this research it can be concluded that divorce has a very negative impact on children's social behavior.

Srinahyanti, (2018) explained the factors that influence children's adjustment after divorce, including; child characteristics (child's gender and age at the time of divorce), family characteristics (socioeconomic position, cultural background) and social characteristics (marriage of both parents, conflicts that occurred before and after divorce, support system and environmental changes). Based on research examining journals about the impact of parental divorce on children, it was found that most children were not ready and unable to accept their parents' divorce and had unstable emotional conditions. Children will feel the loss of a trusted mother and father figure and make their emotions explode and make them unstable.

According to research results (Widiastuti, 2015), what has the most important influence on children's social behavior and attitudes seems to be the method of educating children used by parents. Home is a place to learn social skills. If the overall home environment fosters the development of good social attitudes, it is likely that children will become social individuals and vice versa. Social experiences outside the home complement those within the home and are important determinants of children's social attitudes and behavioral patterns.

Based on several research from (Hasanah, 2020), 25% of children resulting from divorce in early adulthood have serious social, emotional or psychological problems compared to 10% of children whose parents remain together. Children in single parent families can do everything well, but tend to be less fluent in social and educational matters than children who live with both parents. Children will do better with parents who live together in marriage than without marriage. This means that an unstable family allows for dangerous developments to occur. Children tend to have behavioral problems and get caught up in delinquency.

Children who are victims of divorce, in their interactions with other people, tend to be closed and rarely communicate because children have a quiet nature. The child intends to withdraw from his environment, this is because he is embarrassed by the situation of his parents who are divorced. Children usually feel inferior about their family situation. In their daily lives, children often look gloomy, sad, like to daydream, especially imagining that their parents will be reunited and live with their complete family. Children who are victims of divorce will usually look different from other children their age, they will not be cheerful, rarely socialize, easily act aggressively and commit other rude acts, because they tend to have bad behavior patterns (Mone, 2019) .

Yuningsih, N and Nuraieni, 2023 state that social development is the achievement of maturity in social relations. Children's social development is greatly influenced by the process of parental treatment or guidance towards children in various aspects of social life, or the norms of social life as well as encouraging and giving examples to their children on how to apply these norms in everyday life. It can also be interpreted as a learning process to adapt to group norms, morals and traditions, to merge oneself into one unit and to communicate and cooperate with each other. Based on several opinions from the experts mentioned above, it can be concluded that social development is a process of interaction and behavioral abilities to train sensitivity and adapt to group norms, morals and traditions of the social environment.

Therefore, the need for support in the lives of children who are victims of divorce greatly influences their enthusiasm for carrying out their activities both at school and in the social environment. If they continue to feel that their life is stressed, the changes in the child can also become a different character. It is not uncommon for children who are victims of bullying due to broken homes to find comfort in their environment. Negative things can also affect the child's mentality and psychology so that the child becomes naughty and cannot be controlled. It is important to look after children who are still unstable in controlling their emotions to prevent them from being arrogant in certain situations. In order to create a perfect life, children need love and care from their parents as their life companion.

Divorce has a deeper impact on children. Children still have the right to receive love, attention and encouragement from their parents after divorce. Joint parenting can



be done using the co-parenting method. Yusuf, (1989) explains that co-parenting is cooperation between both parents after the end of a marriage bond. Parents continue to care together after divorce. According to research (Ajrina, 2015), children as victims of divorce really need greater support, sensitivity and affection to help them overcome the losses they experience during this difficult time. Children will always show adjustment difficulties in the form of behavioral problems, learning difficulties, or withdrawal from their social environment.

Based on the results of research (Aulia, 2020) , on the other hand, the efforts made by parents and teachers in experiencing harsh attitudes of children whose parents have separated are known from the results of observations and interviews, namely by providing good facilities that suit the child's needs. Next, distribute complete love to the child so that the child feels safe and does not feel isolated. The teacher advises the child who makes a mistake at school so that the child will no longer make that mistake. The school distributes the facilities needed by children, and creates interesting educational media so that children feel happier while studying at school. Next, parents and the school can work together and parents can also participate in the child's activities at school, so that they can recognize the child's growth and make the child better.

## **CONCLUSION**

Divorce has a huge influence on the mental development and education of children, especially elementary school age children and teenagers. These can cause children to be quiet and have low self-esteem, be excessively naughty, have low learning achievement and feel lost. Although this is not the case in all cases, most of them have a negative impact on the child's mental development and also affect the child's educational process itself as mentioned above.

Family is seen from blood ties between husband or wife, namely brothers, sisters, grandparents, mother and father, nieces and nephews on the husband and wife's side. The formation of the family as human beings mentioned above has also been outlined by Religion. Conclusions that can be drawn, Based on the results of the research and discussion above, it can be concluded that:

- a. Divorce has a huge influence on the mental development and education of children, especially elementary school age children and teenagers. These can cause children to be quiet and have low self-esteem, be excessively naughty, have low learning achievement and feel lost. Although this is not the case in all cases, most of them have a negative impact on the child's mental development and also affect the child's educational process itself as mentioned above.
- b. In general, children whose families are divorced come with their mother, and all living expenses that should be the father's responsibility are the mother's responsibility.

- c. Children from perfect families have better achievements compared to children from imperfect families whose parents are divorced. The impact of parental divorce is also clearly visible for elementary school age children, such as being quiet, shy, no longer cheerful and their learning achievement decreasing.

Based on the conclusions stated above, the suggestions that researchers can put forward regarding the results of this research include: (1) It is hoped that parents, so as not to intervene, will continue to provide the best possible attention, separation does not mean cutting off the blood cord between father/mother and child; (2) To children, don't feel that this divorce is a sign of loss of love, don't think that there will be no more love after this case. Think as best you can. "Parents' love and affection will never fade for their children."

It is important for parents, families, and parties involved in children's lives, such as teachers and counselors, to provide emotional support, open communication, and stability for children experiencing parental divorce. Strong social support and a supportive environment can also help children overcome negative impacts and re-establish healthy social relationships. Parental divorce is not an easy situation for children, but with the right support, they have the ability to overcome these difficulties and grow into emotionally healthy individuals with positive social relationships.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Completion of this research would not have been possible without the support and contributions of various individuals and organizations. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Irman for their invaluable guidance and guidance during the research process. We also express special thanks to Mrs. Putri Yeni who has guided me in writing this scientific work.

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