

**MARITAL BREAKDOWN AND ITS IMPACT ON
FAMILIES IN MIZORAM**

JULIE REMSANGPUII FAMBWL

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
MIZORAM UNIVERSITY
MIZORAM : AIZAWL**

MARITAL BREAKDOWN AND ITS IMPACT ON FAMILIES IN MIZORAM

By

Julie Remsangpuii Fambawl
Department of Social Work

Submitted

in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the Doctor of Philosophy
in Social Work of Mizoram University, Aizawl.

Dedicated To

*Hermon Children Home (Durtlang)
because of them I have the desire and ability to go for this study.*

*All My Dear Grandparents
who have prayed and supported me from the beginning of my education.
They all are my strength and strings for my studies.*

*Therefore shall a man leave his father, and his mother,
and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh – Genesis 2:24*

To marry once is a duty, twice a folly, thrice is madness – Dutch Proverb

It is easier to rule a kingdom than to regulate a family – Chinese proverb

Children have more need of models than of critics – Joseph Joubert (Pensees)

DECLARATION

Mizoram University

December, 2010.

I, Julie Remsangpuii Fambawl, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this thesis did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me or to do the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and that the thesis has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other University/Institute.

This is being submitted to the Mizoram University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work.

(JULIE REMSANGPUII FAMBAWL)

Research Scholar

Department of Social Work

Date: 16th December 2010

Place: Aizawl

Dr. Kalpana Sarathy
Associate Professor & Head of Department,
Department of Social Work
Mizoram University
Aizawl, Mizoram
Pin: 796004

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis “Marital Breakdown and its Impact on Families in Mizoram” submitted by Julie Remsangpuii Fambawl had been written under my supervision.

She has fulfilled all the required norms laid down within the Ph. D regulations of Mizoram University. The thesis is the result of her own investigation. Neither the thesis as a whole nor any part of it was ever submitted to any other University for any research degree.

(KALPANA SARATHY)
Head of Department

(KALPANA SARATHY)
Supervisor/Associate Professor

Date: 16th December 2010
Place: Aizawl

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My utmost gratefulness is to our gracious God, who is always there for us.

I am very grateful to my supervisor Dr. Kalpana Sarathy, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, Mizoram University, whose valuable guidance leads me in completing my Thesis.

I am also very grateful and deeply indebted to Dr. E. Kanagaraj, Assistant Professor, in helping me in Data Analysis without whom i could not have finished my work.

And to all my dear friends who had shared and help me out in various ways for the success of my studies.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the esteemed Mizoram University as well as the Department of Social Work, Mizoram University for giving me the opportunity to pursue research in my area of interest.

My sincere gratitude is expressed to my dear parents and my lovely siblings for their constant prayer, support and encouragement in various ways for the completion of this course.

Last but not the least i want to convey my sincere and humble gratitude to all my respondents, who gave me time, shared their feelings and ideas for the successful completion of my thesis.

(JULIE REMSANGPUII FAMBWL)
Aizawl, Mizoram

Date: 16th December 2010

Place: Aizawl.

LISTS OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	NAME	PAGE NO.
1.	Respondents Particulars	84
2.	Distribution by Sub-Tribe and Denomination	87
3.	Income Particulars	89
4.	Assets Position	90
5.	Age at Marriage and Education	92
6.	Occupation of Self and First Spouse	96
7.	Use of Substances and Health	98
8.	Expectation from Marriage (Ranking)	101
9.	Problems Faced During Arranging Marriage	102
10.	Marriage Particulars	104
11.	Consultation on Spouse	108
12.	Family Strengths by Form of Family with LSD	109
13.	Causes of Divorce	110
14.	Causes of Divorce (Physical and Health)	111
15.	Causes of Divorce (Socio Economic)	112
16.	Causes of Divorce (Psycho Social and Emotional)	113
17.	Causes of Divorce (Sex and Sexuality)	114
18.	Causes of Divorce (Adultery and Extramarital Relations)	115
19.	Causes of Divorce (Addiction and Alcoholism)	116
20.	Reasons for Divorce	117
21.	Socio-demographic particulars of women respondents (FGD)	118
22.	Socio-demographic particulars of men respondents (FGD)	120
23.	Perceived Consequences of Divorce of Respondents	123
24.	Social Support	124
25.	Services Available for Pre & Post Marital Breakdown	125
26.	Perceived Post – Divorce on Children by Adults	134
27.	Caring – Perceived by Children	136
28.	Economic Support – Perceived by Children	137
29.	Education Support – Perceived by Children	138
30.	Educational Problems – Perceived by Children	139
31.	Recreation and Leisure Particulars	140
32.	Kind of Relationship	141
33.	Perceived Consequences of Divorce on Children	143

Abbreviations

BPL	-	Below Poverty Line
Dr.	-	Doctor
Ed.	-	Editor
Eds.	-	Editors
Et. Al.	-	<i>et alii</i> , and others
Etc.	-	<i>et cetera</i> , and so forth
Govt.	-	Government
IAY	-	Indira Awas Yojana
IKK	-	Isua Krista Kohhran (Local Church)
MHIP	-	Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (Leading women's organization in Mizoram)
Mr	-	Mister
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
P.	-	Page
PP	-	Pages
Pvt.	-	Private
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UPC (MZ)	-	United Pentecostal Church (Mizoram)
UPC (NE)	-	United Pentecostal Church (North East)
U.K	-	United Kingdom
U.S	-	United States
VCP	-	Village Council President
Veg.	-	Vegetable
Viz.	-	<i>Videlicet</i> , namely

VIII	-	Eight
X	-	Ten
YMA	-	Young Mizo Association (Leading NGO in the state of Mizoram)
&	-	And

1. INTRODUCTION

The present study attempts to understand marital breakdown and its impact on families in the context of Mizoram. It also focuses on the effects of marital breakdown on children and adults.

1.1. Family –An overview of concepts

The word ‘Family’ has been taken from the Latin word ‘*Famulus*’ which means a ‘servant’. In Roman Law the word denoted a group of producers and slaves and other servants as well as members connected by common descent or marriage. Thus, originally, family, consisted of a man and woman with a child or children and servants. According to Bierstedt “The family, almost without question, is the most important of any of the groups that human experience offers. MacIver defined Family as “a group defined by sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children” (In Rao Shankar, C. N, 2003).

The classic concept of the term family, and the one most often cited as definite, is by Murdock ‘The family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relation, and one or more children, own or adopted, of the sexually cohabiting adults’. Murdock further classifies the family into three types: (1) the nuclear family, consisting of a married man and woman with their offspring; (2) the polygamous family, consisting of two or more nuclear families joined by multiple marriage; and (3) the extended family, consisting of two or more nuclear families living together (with various additional relatives) in one household (In Saxton, L., 1983).

The Bible teaches that the family is to provide physical, emotional and spiritual care for its members as it prepares them to serve God, other persons, and

creation. It is a microcosm of society. Parents have the privilege and unique responsibility of leading their children to know God and his ways. A family is a kinship group related by blood, marriage or adoption. According to scripture, the family is founded in the marital relationship. It is within the covenantal bond of husband and wife that children are born and raised, cared for, and spiritually nurtured (In The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, 2003).

Desai, M., (1994) states that the Family may be broadly defined as a unit of two or more persons united by ties of marriage, blood, adoption or consensual unions, generally constituting a single household, and interacting and communicating with each other. Goode (In Desai, M., 1994) says the family is the only institution other than religion which is formally developed in all societies, and states that an institution is a system of norms organized around the fulfillment of certain societal needs. Leslie & Korman discuss that members of the society are ruled by conduct which have been passed on from their generation to generation by means of socialization called norms. Certain family norm includes family functions, family composition, family structure and family practices which are influenced by a given time and place. The normative family composition types in India are extended or joint family and elementary or nuclear family. Joint family or extended family comprises of two or more elementary families who are bound together by common moveable or immovable property and may or may not be able to stay together. Whereas the elementary or nuclear family comprises couples and their unmarried children and who are generally independent of other families. Other alternative family comprises of; childless families, single parent families, reconstituted/step families and consensual unions (In Desai, M., 1994).

The Bureau of the U.S Census, Current Population Reports, define family as “a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage or adoption and residing

together”. Burgess and Locke, also defined as “The family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption, constituting a single household, interacting and communicating with each other in their respective roles of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister’. Goode, MacIver & Page, Young and Mack states ‘The major functions of family may be described as the normatively and legally sanctioned sexual union, reproduction, socialization, satisfaction of economic need, economic security and satisfaction of affectional needs’ (In Dubey, S. M., 1980).

Desai, 1995 (In Fambawl, J. R., 2004) state that the family is the first line of defence especially for children and a major factor in their survival, health, education, development and protection. It is a major source of nurturance, emotional bonding and socialization, and a link between continuity and change. It has the major potential to provide stability and support to individuals at times of risks.

The following section introduces the basic concepts related to family, marriage, divorce and outlines Mizo Customary practices surrounding marriage and divorce. The Mizo follow the patriarchal form of society and a patrilineal one wherein the line of family tree is reckoned from the side of the father. Although there are some clans or sub-clans among the Mizo tribe, where the eldest son inherits his father’s property, the usual practice in the Mizo society is that the youngest son, is the heir to his father’s property. Family comprise of father, mother and several children, apart from this we may also find the father sister or other relative staying in the family with them. In the earlier times, the language or mode of talking within family was always harsh. The father and mother’s conversation with families was harsh and it appeared as though they are on bad terms with never a gentle word exchanged between them. This was not because they were uncivilized or illiterate but mainly because as a

custom they believed in some superstitions known as '*khuavang*' or the guardian spirit who is very jealous if kind, soft and affectionate conversations exchanged between the husbands and wives. Death was likely to occur and was regarded as the revenge taken by the spirit (In Lalthangliana, B., 2005).

When a child is born to a male, there is much jubilation celebrating his birth and indicating they want him to be brave and become a great warrior. And when a female child is born they wish her to be a beautiful woman so that at the time of her marriage she could fetch a good amount for her price. It was in the early Mizo society, there was a clear-cut boundary as regards the duties to be performed by men and women. The women knew very well what duties they were assigned to and vice versa – one would not interfere with the duties of the opposite sex (In Lalthangliana, B., 2005).

1.2. Marriage –An overview of concepts

Marriage in earlier times saw the wedding as the central and characteristic feature of the solemn occasion bringing of the bride from her father's home to her husband's home on the date agreed upon, in which act the significance of marriage as representing admission of the bride into the family of her husband found expression. This constituted the wedding in patriarchal days before the Law. It was altogether a civil affair. There was no religious ceremony or form, and no priest or clergyman officiated or validated the marriage. The bridegroom took the bride to his house or to the tent or house of his parents. The matter was publicly made known, acknowledged, and recorded, and the marriage was binding (In Brenda Martin, 2005).

Genesis 1 and 2 state that God created woman in response to man's need for companionship as well as for a partner to carry out the mandate given by God in *Gen. 1:28*; "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it". Thus marriage

was established for the purposes of companionship, partnership in the task of procreation and for fulfilling a stewardly responsibility for the earth. It is the relationship upon which human society is founded and it is a biological, psychological, economic and social union (In The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, 2003).

Lachmann, (1991) defined marriage is the social institution that sanctions mating arrangements, specifically the relationship of husband and wife, by a particular society within a system of rights and obligations essential to the social functioning of the family. While family is the organization of parent-child relations, marriage is merely one social mechanism for the regulation of sexual and parenting relations. The poet Wendell Berry likens marriage to poetry – marriage is an attempt to rhyme, to bring two different lives periodically into agreement or consent. The two lives stray apart necessarily and by consent come together again to ‘be of the same mind’ (In Dickson, G. E., Leming, M. R., 1995).

Marriage is one of the universal social institutions, it is established by the human society to control and regulate the sex life of man. It is closely connected with the institution of family. In fact, family and marriage are complementary to each other. Malinowski says that marriage is a “*contract for the production and maintenance of children*” (In Rao Shankar, C. N., 2003).

Mizo Marriage Customs

Marriage is settled mostly between the boys and girls through mutual love and affection. The parents would approve of the proposal when signified directly or indirectly by both the boys and girls and marriage follows. The marriage is usually performed in the church in modern days according to Mizo custom and under Christian principles. In the pre-Christian day, however, the bridegroom would send

his two representatives known as palai to pay the bride price which had to be settled first before marriage could take place. The bride would then be escorted by her friends to the groom's house. A fowl would be sacrificed by the puithiam (Priest) in a ceremony and a prayer would be chanted to spirit of the air for a long and happy married life of the couple. Over this ceremony the marriage would be solemnized. The bride would then return to her parents place. Relations, friends and guest would have a grand feast of meat and drink in the grooms house. In the bride house all those who would get shares of the bride's price would contribute pigs and fowls for a feast and half of the meat so collected would be sent to the groom's house for the feast there (In Lalnithanga, P., 2010).

Sen, S., (1992) states that Mizo are patrilineal, patrilocal and patriarchal people. Their marriages include negotiation; service and (rarely) elopement. Marriage is considered *legal* soon after the formal marriage ceremony. Mizo tribe has a number of clans and all these clans are not fully *exogamous*. Marriage between members of same clan is generally discouraged but it is not prohibited, thus marriage between member of the same clan is possible in rare cases. Marriage is generally settled through negotiation of *bride price* and usually it is performed through courtship. Boys get married within the age group of 18 to 25 years and girls 18 to 22 years. Each clan has a fixed bride price. The traditional marriage ceremony takes place soon after the negotiation of bride-price is over. The marriage date is generally fixed by the parent of the groom at the approval of the parent of the girl. In olden days according Mizo custom marriage was celebrated outside the Church. At present most of the marriages are solemnized inside the Church and after that, parents of the bride offer a big feast by inviting people of the area, relatives and people of the bridegroom. Marriage by eloping is also present. In this, there is no restriction of intermarriage among different

groups of the Mizo tribes. Cohabitation is not permitted till the girl is fully grown-up. Unmarried girls have maximum liberty and pre-marital relations are not uncommon. If a girl becomes pregnant before her marriage, the father of the girl is backed by the village elders. If the boy agrees to marry that girl, his parents have to pay nothing more than the usual *bride-price*.

Lalthangliana, B., (2005) states, “Mizo progenitors had proper well-defined rules and customs of looking for and taking a bride. Though there were also improper ways of being married and taking a bride. A young lady entering and living in a man’s house without ceremony (*luh-khung*); a man entering a lady’s house to live with her (*fan*); marrying without previous inter-course, intimacy, fellowship or knowledge of each other (*tawn-sa-bawpa innei*); simple, easy wedlock without previous arrangements, rules or customs (*riah-buk thing fawm*) and elopement (*tlan-dun*). There were several typical, customary way of marriage practiced by the majority of the Mizos before they converted to Christianity”. In their search and choice of a husband or wife, forefathers were particular, careful and circumspect. They went so far as to trace the ancestors of the person in question as far as possible. What they wanted was a person from a longevitous family; a family blessed with prosperity and the horn of plenty and was deligent and gentle; a person of a good family with a good mode and manner of living; one who was skillful in weaving; a brave warrior or hunter; a person who was adventurous in exploring the jungle and fond of outdoor life; and a person of good health” (By Lalthangliana, B., 2005).

According to the author “They would not choose a person who was of a family in which unnatural death had occurred, a person who was a known to be a kleptomaniac; a person who possessed an evil spirit or evil eye; a family in which a person was affected with infirmity, malformation and distortion; or a person

chronically deformed, maimed or was from a family of crippled freaks; a family in which a person was subject to epileptic fits; a family in which a person suffered consumption or any chronic wasting disease; a family in which women died in child birth and a family of gossiping, talkative, garrulous persons, given to divulging secrets and spreading information. These sorts of persons were passed over, left out and omitted in their quest for a husband or wife. The tracing and checking of the genealogy, bloodline, family tree and heredity was vital and necessary for the offspring's of those who were to be joined in wedlock. In Mizo proverbs, it is said and we learn that: *From the emblic myrobalan fruit tree you cannot pluck any other fruit.* A blotched, mottled, spotted *mithun* (Types of cow) gives birth to a blotched, mottled, spotted mithun; and a ferocious wild animal gives birth to a ferocious wild animal. If the pod of the 'kawi' bean is good, the fruit is good, but if the pod is bad, the fruit is also bad (By Lalthangliana, B., 2005).

1.3. Divorce

The word 'divorce' in English is derived from the Latin word *Divortium* which again is derived from Dis which means 'apart' and Vertere which means 'to turn'. Divorce is the dissolution of the tie of marriage. So, divorce is the turning away of partners from each other. It truly is a complete turn from the way of life the couple had so far. Divorce in the proper and strict sense of the term means complete rupture of the marital bond, the persons divorced returning to their original state of being free to marry. Divorce is the word we use to mean the legal ending of the marriage. In the legal language, it might appear as a simple phenomenon, but in practical life its implications are massive. Divorce 'represents the end of the hopes that two people had for each other ; it is the certificate that their relationship failed'. Divorce is related to

'marriage' and 'family' which are the most important institutions of the human society. Divorce is the legal dissolution of marriage, and, it has great socio-cultural implications. Divorce is also viewed as a socio invention, and a socially devised means of dealing with marriage failure. Divorce is the most practical index of family disintegration, it is also recognized as a serious social problem. However, it can safely be said that divorce is one of the many signs of family disintegration and it represents the final one (In Fambawl, J. R., 2004).

The causes of marital breakdown and its consequences for family life have drawn much attention in the different disciplines of psychology, social work, sociology, anthropology and psychiatry. Sociological causes of marital breakdown received much attention from several and a combination of theoretical perspectives - role conflict, symbolic interactionism, structural - functionalism, social exchange and systems theory. Secularism, modernization, industrialization and urbanization are often considered to have negatively impacted on marital stability and many broken families. The causes of marital breakdown are known to be many. No single causes is known to predispose a married couple to a point of breakdown. However, a combination and interaction of a number of causal factors has the likely potential to affect marital stability.

Nicky Hart (In Harlambos, M., and Heald. R., 1985) argues that any explanation of marital breakdown must consider the following factors: those which affect the value attached to marriage; those which affect the degree of conflict between the spouses; and those which affect the opportunities for individuals to escape from marriage. Functionalists such as Talcott Parsons and Ronald Fletcher argue that the rise in Marital Breakdown stems largely from the fact that marriage is increasingly valued. People expect and demand more from marriage and consequently

are more likely to end a relationship which may have been acceptable in the past. Ronald Fletcher argues that, 'a relatively high divorce rate may be indicative not of lower but of higher standards of marriage in society.' William J. Goode argues that as a result, the family 'carries a heavier' emotional burden when it exists independently that when it is small unit within a larger kin fabric. As a consequence, this unit is relatively fragile. He suggests that the nuclear family suffers from an emotional overload which increases the level of conflict between its members. He further goes on saying that the chances of marital breakdown are increased if the spouses have different social backgrounds, for example: if they come from different class or ethnic groups. Conflict may result from partners having different marital role expectations which stem from the sub – culture of their particular social group. Various studies have indicated a relationship between particular occupations and high rates of divorce. Nicky Hart finds that long distance lorry drivers, sales representatives and some engineers and technicians, whose jobs require frequent separation from their spouses have higher than average divorce rates. T. Noble finds a similar relationship between particular occupations and high rates of divorce (*In Harlambos, M., and Heald. R., 1985*).

Bonham Price Sharon, Wright W. David and Pittman F. Joe in their study in the 1970s denote that Americans witnessed a precipitous increase in divorce during the 1970s. They refer to a report conducted by the National Centre for Health Statistics in 1980 stating that, divorces increased from 2.5 per 1000 population in 1965 to 5.3 in 1979. Several factors have contributed to this increase, including: (1) Increased education and employment of women, (2) Smaller families, (3) Higher incomes, (4) Free legal aid, (5) The Vietnam War, (6) Greater social and religious acceptance of divorce, (7) Reform of the divorce laws, and (8) The growth and age

distribution of married persons (National Center for Health Statistics, 1978). Wiseman states the divorce starts before the decision to divorce is reached, and it continues through the separation, legal action, and resolutions a couple must come to about their relationship, their children, and the larger society (In Bonham Price Sharon, Wright W. D., and Pittman F. J., 1977).

Statistical Abstract of the United States; 1981 has listed out that in America, divorce has increased sharply. In 1910 there were just 83,000 divorces, but there were 4,85,000 in 1945, 3,85,000 in 1950, and almost 1.2 million in 1980. This figure rose to one divorce for every 3.8 marriages in 1946, declined slightly, and then rose to one divorce for about every two marriages in 1980 (In Holt. D. B. Christopher, Rinehart and Winston, 1985).

Twice as many older people are divorced in the 1980s than in the 1960s. For example: there were 53 divorced women aged 45 to 64 years for every 1000 married women in 1960. In 1982, there were 129 divorcees for every 1000 married women in the same age group. Becoming and being divorced in later life are significant processes of family life for some older persons. While some of divorced older persons remarry, many remain unmarried. Older divorced women are particularly disadvantaged in finding a marital partner (In Brubaker, H. T., 1985).

According to Census Data collected in 1980, about 15% of persons aged 65 to 74 years have concluded their first marriage with a divorce. According to Uhlenberg and Myers, 1981 approximately 1% of all divorces include one person aged 65 yrs or over. They have also mentioned types of divorced in later life which can be categorized into three groups based on the age at which and the number of times they have divorced. One group, which we call “career divorced”, involves elderly divorced in their early or middle years and never remarried. Second category is the “newly

divorced”; the men and women have been married for many years and after the children leave home they obtain a divorce. They may have postponed divorce for many years, and the adjustments associated with a contracting family encouraged them to seek an end to their marriage. Third group of divorced elderly is the “serial divorced”. These older men and women have married and divorced several times during their lifetimes. They either enter later life as divorced persons or become divorced again (In Brubaker, H. T., 1985).

In traditional Chinese societies, only men could disown their wives for adultery or failure to give birth to male heirs. Divorced women were outcasts who spent the rest of their lives in disgrace, if not poverty. But as Taiwanese women gain education, economic clout and the self confidence from taking part in their land’s economic boom, the stigma is fading. Increasingly, women are opting divorce instead of staying with men who are abusive or have affairs. 20 years ago, just one in 17 marriages in Taiwan ended in divorce. Now the figure is one of the highest in Asia – one divorce for every 4.3 marriages. While there are no statistics on the gender of who initiates divorces, women are noticeably taking action. Lee Hsiu – Yen, a divorce counselor, estimates about 40% of women, said Ms. Wang Yu – Pao; a member of the feminist group, Women’s Awakening (In Kumar Raj, 2000).

Ami Dueck, (2004) reviewed literature on divorce and the best interests of the child in reference to the Canadian family. Divorce and common – law dissolutions have become more common in Canadian society. In the early 20th century, the most common reason for lone – parenthood or remarriage was the death of a spouse. This is no longer the case. Much has changed in Canada since then in regards to divorce: 558 Canadian couples got divorced in 1921, and nearly 80 years later in 2000, 71,144 Canadian couples ended their marriages. In 1999 and 2000, 37.7% of marriages were

expected to end in divorce by their 30th wedding anniversary with the majority (60%) of divorces occurring before the 15th anniversary. Compared internationally, the United States has the highest divorce rate by a large margin—one and a half times that of the United Kingdom, approximately twice that of Japan, Germany, France, and Sweden, and more than seven times that of Italy. Although estimates vary, approximately half of all first-marriages and 60 percent of remarriages in the United States end in divorce. In the mid-nineteenth century approximately 5 percent of first marriages ended in divorce, so this dramatic increase in divorce has implications for all family members. Those family members most studied are children; yet the decision to end a marriage and the experiences that follow also affect the divorcing adults (In Wadsby, M., and Svedin, C. G., 1996).

Divorce in the Indian Context

In the Indian society, women derive their social status from their husbands. Since the time of *Vedas*, the institution of marriage was of sacramental character among the *Brahmins*. For others marriage was contractual. Divorce was, and still is, permitted among the scheduled castes and tribes. In contemporary India, there is now a legal provision for divorce. Studies from different parts of the country indicate that cases of marital disharmony or estranged marriages are increasing, but in the Indian urban and upper caste divorce as an alternative to marital problems are not widely put into practice. Social relationships of the divorced couple often get disrupted. For example, mutual friends tend to take sides, holding one or the other partner responsible for the disruption. Well wishing friends try to bring a compromise between the spouses. One of the partners may be left virtually friendless and be forced to rebuild his entire social world. The marital disruption also has a major impact on parent- child relations. They are predictive of the immediate and long term

psychological and behavioral adjustment of children. Cooney, (1994) found that the children's feelings about a given parent were strongly correlated to contact with that parent in divorced families, suggesting that family relationships may become more voluntary after divorce. In other words, the quality and frequency of contact, and therefore the relationship, is by choice. In contemporary research, divorce and re-marriage are viewed not as single, static events, but as part of a series of transitions, modifying the lives of children. In addition to the trauma of divorce itself, the transition related to divorce often involves geographic moves, the addition of step-siblings and a new set of extended family members. Divorce followed by re-marriage can involve the introduction of parent figures with multiple roles and overlapping relationships. Taken together, these factors related to divorce have a direct impact on the life courses of children and may be specially challenging for the adolescent who is simultaneously involved in critical developmental transitions. Husbands and wives go through high emotional tension. The husband's relationship is marginally affected, whereas the wife's drastically changes. The wife moves out of the husband's house. If they stay in the same town, she does not enjoy same trust, confidence, and closeness as her previous Counterpart does. She cannot make friends with her male colleagues, nor with married couples as the other women consider her to be a husband snatcher (In Julie R, F., 2004).

It is not wrong to state that in most societies, the unmarried man arouses curiosity, the unmarried woman pity. In an article that appeared in a leading newspaper it is stated that traditionally in many parts of India, a woman was never asked if she wanted to get married. The spouse was simply identified and selected. Just as one doesn't get to choose ones gender or parents one also did not get to choose a husband or wife. One had to submit to it and adjust and accommodate. Vyasa, the

author of the pan – Indian epic, Mahabharata proclaims, “What is not there in the Mahabharata is not there anywhere!” However, there is no mention of divorce anywhere in the Mahabharata. In the epic there are tales of men with many wives (Arjuna), a woman with many husbands (Draupadi), women who have sex before marriage (the birth of Karna), infidelity (Uloopi), women who want a man for pleasure alone (Bhangashvana), men who have mistresses (Dhritarashtra) (In Times of India, 2006). The article goes on to state that there are so many stories of sex and sexuality and the social context of the same, but none of a man and woman terminating their relationship as husband and wife and moving on. The article states that divorce has been traditionally suppressed in India and goes on to say that love marriage too has been suppressed. But, the article states, the idea of falling in love, indifferent to its social complications, has been the theme of the most traditional of songs and the ancient of stories. The author mentions that society understands the pain that a man or woman go through when they are forced by the family to marry against their wishes. The same also society knows that sometimes marriages do not work out, but there are no stories of divorce. The Indian word that comes to mind when we talk about divorce is ‘*talaq*’ which is an Arabic word. In the Indian legal system, the notion of divorce, like marriage, is closely aligned to religious beliefs. Hence we have *Hindu Marriage Laws* and *Christian Marriage Laws* and *Muslim Marriage Laws*. In ancient Greece and in ancient Rome, marriage was a legal construct. You could marry a man and later divorce him or be divorced by him. The author states that Islam permits a man to marry four women and divorce any one by saying *talaq* three times. Divorce there is a termination of a contract. The Catholic Church has struggled hard to impose the concept of insolubility of marriage, facing many challenges because of it. For Hindus, marriage was never a mere legal contract; it was a rite of passage

through which a man repays his debt to his ancestors and gets the moral right to enjoy the pleasures of worldly life. The groom receives the gift of a wife from the bride's father, a gift that he can never refuse or reject (In Times of India, 2006).

It is not that divorce is totally alien in India. There are references to divorce in the Arthashastra of Chanakya but that is a legal and political document not a religious scripture. By and large, however, the notion of divorce remains alien. It was perhaps easier for a man in traditional society to divorce his wife de facto if not de jure by simple abandoning her and marrying again. For women who were not allowed to remarry even when widowed things were never easy. That divorce is now becoming an acceptable part of Indian society in modern times is evident in the matrimonial columns of newspapers. We find divorcees seeking new partners, with or without '*encumbrance*', consummated or unconsummated. Even applications of divorcees are considered 'acceptable'. Today pre – married state is equated with post – married state with a word called '*single*' (In Times of India, 2006).

Divorce Custom among Mizos

Mizo ancestry and tradition has seen men as being born to unite with the opposite sex by marriage and then form a family out of it. It is neither in his/her primitive stage of life need to be taught or told to enter into matrimony. It is inherent in him/her. Over time however, due to many reason there has been misunderstanding between the husband and wife and conflict arises which sometimes caused separation or divorce between them. For such a certain set of rules and procedures were laid down for the *chief* and *elders* to settle for the cases between the couple (Lalthangliana, B., 2005). After 50 years of experiencing this set of rules and procedures, it became a part of the Mizo culture and thereafter became known as '*Hnam Dan*' or customary law and finally come to be known as 'The Mizo Tradition'.

Earlier the Mizo Customs was never been recorded, it was Mr N.E. Parry I.C.S., the Superintendent of Lushai Hills who consolidate all practices of separation or divorce in 1927 in his book known as *A Monograph on Lushai Customs and Ceremonies*, after he consulted 56 Mizo chiefs and others on their customs as he found it difficult in trying cases to ascertain the correct custom. In 1956 and 1960, the District Council of Mizoram published a new book on Mizo Customs in which few changes and some additions were made to Mr. Parry's earlier records in order to suit the changing course of time and the gradual changes in the Mizo society (In Lalthangliana, B., 2005).

Sen states that "Divorce is allowed in the Mizo society. The bond of matrimony among them is very loose. Divorce is very simple and it does not require going to the Court etc". If divorce is wanted by a wife she is to refund the bride-price to her husband. If it is sought by a husband for the reason other than barrenness, adultery, sickness of incurable diseases, he is to pay some fine to the village elders and to his wife. This fine is settled after discussion by the parties concerned. A divorced wife is allowed to go by leaving her all children with her husband except the suckling one and she is entitled to get some amount from her divorced husband to maintain that infant suckling issue. If a couple do not get-on they can separate by mutual consent or if the husband does not like his wife he can send her back to her parents house for good (In Sen, S., 1992).

The Mizos use the customary law for marriage, divorce and for others like inheritance, maintenance etc. In a key informant interview with Mr. Liana who is a prominent citizen, an experienced person in the law firm mentioned that The Mizoram Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2007 is in function in name only. This is substantiated by another interview with a key informant from Registrar General of Marriage, "Awareness level was low and from the legal point of view there are few

things which have still not come into force”. According to Mr Liana, he states, “Although the Mizos are not having problems like other parts of the country do and although it has been legislated already it doesn’t seem as necessary for the Mizo”. And still the Government has not yet legislated the divorce law. So, keeping all this in mind the Mizo Customary Law which is still practiced by the Mizos is still governing most practices in relation to marriage. According to him, the most severerly affected person are the children, followed by women and then men. Most of the divorcees who seek legal expertise are in the case of *settlement of property after divorce, custody of their children* etc. He cautioned women about changing property to their spouses name since it creates several problems in later life.

Lalnithanga, P., (2010) in his book cites that, a man could divorce his wife through what is called *Mak*, which meant simply that the man was divorcing her. The wife also in her turn could leave her husband by returning all the ‘price’ paid by the husband. On such separation, the woman could take back all her personal property together with her dowry (*thuam*). In case of adultery (*uire*) by a woman while the husband was alive, all the price had to be refunded to the husband. In case of adultery only the woman was punishable and not the man. A woman accused of committing adultery but not found guilty had to be taken back by the husband immediately otherwise it would be assumed that he divorced (*mak*) her. Property offenses were punished by restitution and fine in kind or cash. Bodily offences were punished by fine. Justice was administered in villages by the chief and the elders in their respective villages. In the case of the more heinous crime, the Superintendent would try and dispose of them (Lalnithanga, P., 2010).

Among the Mizos the church plays a significant role in marriage and divorce, not every church from different denomination had collected or documented the

marriage and divorce statistic from the local church. To briefly understand the role of church from the Mizoram Presbyterian Church (who have the maximum number of members among the Mizo Christians) one has scrutinize the list of Revocation Certificate and Remarriage License that they had given to their members who seek for their marriage to be termed null or asked for permission for remarriage. This could significantly represent the increase in number of unstable marriages and indicates the number of divorce. The year wise list does not imply much as the church members sometimes do not seek application immediately after divorce, and according to the church law, the divorcee should have waited for atleast 3 years after he/she got divorce with his/her spouse. Further not all Mizos are Presbyterian and these numbers are only applicable in reflecting numbers within this denomination.

Revocation Certificate (RC) was given out accordingly as:

In 2006 : to 809 persons
In 2007 : to 719 persons
In 2008 : to 153 persons
In 2009 : to 201 persons
In 2010 : to 325 persons

(till end of November)

Remarriage License (RL) was given out accordingly as:

In 2006 : to 1012 persons
In 2007 : to 825 persons
In 2008 : to 169 persons
In 2009 : to 213 persons
In 2010 : to 358 persons

(till end of November)

Divorce Custom under the Mizoram Presbyterian Church (1995), for the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram, ‘A marriage is meant for a lifetime. But due to human weakness, there may arise tensions and conflicts in the marriage resulting in divorce’ (*Mizoram Presbyterian Kohhran: Nupa Chungchang Dan, 1995 p.32.*). So if ‘A married couple for whatever reason fail to live together and the wife is compelled to take her belongings from her husband’s household, such is termed divorce’ (*Presbyterian Hand Book, 1995, p. 103*). If divorce occurs, the Church could grant Revocation Certificate (RC) in order to declare the marriage vow null while a Remarriage License (RL) allows remarriage. The cases in which divorced couples are allowed to receive RC and RL are discussed in the following:

- **Divorce due to conflict of interest:** Any Christian couple who cannot live together due to conflict of interest are termed ‘divorced’. Such couples should be helped to reconcile their differences. If such attempts made by the Church is fruitless, they shall be granted RC/RL after three years from the ‘day of divorce’ (The date of divorce is the day the wife has taken away her possessions).
- **Sexual Impotency:** If any marriage failed due to sexual impotency, both parties are liable to be granted RC/RL after six months from the day of divorce.
- **Refusal to have sexual intercourse:** If one of the partners refused to have sexual intercourse with his/her partner, such person should be told to comply to the situation. But if divorce takes place, the guiltless party is permitted RC/RL after six months from the date of their divorce. The guilty party is permitted RC/RL only after three years from the date of divorce.

- **Deceiving:** In a marriage, cases may arise such as one of the partners is pregnant with another man, or has impregnated another woman. Even that one of the partner has carried a sexually transmittable disease. When such is found out, the innocent party is free to take RC/RL automatically. But the guilt party can be granted RL only after 3 years.
- **Rejection:** Any Christian couple, after a period of marriage partnership may find one of the partners rejecting the other by refusing to have sexual intercourse for about a month. If it resulted in a divorce, the innocent party shall be permitted only three years.
- **Mental Illness:** If one partner became mentally ill, the following measures have to be taken. The normal of the two, after caring the other person for three years without any positive result, have made agreement with the other's family for divorce is liable to be granted RC/RL automatically. If the mentally ill partner is cured, she/he shall also be granted RC/RL automatically.
- **Abandonment:** A Christian couple, one of which may abandon the other without any motive and kept silent for 3 years, the innocent party can be given RC/RL automatically. The other partner however shall be granted RL only after 5 years from the day of the abandonment.
- **Extreme cruelty:** If one partner of a Christian couple treats the other with cruelty, he/she should be told to stop such. If such action cannot be controlled, and has become dangerous to the life of the other, a divorce may take place. The victimized partner may receive RC/RL after one year from the divorce. The guilty partner can be granted RL only after 5 years.
- **Adultery:** If one partner of a Christian couple committed adultery, the best is forgiveness and reconciliation. But if the innocent party cannot reconcile and

divorce takes place, RC/RL can be given to the innocent party automatically.

The adulterer can only be given RL after three years from the date of adultery.

In this rule, both man and woman can commit adultery.

The Church thus prescribes equal treatment to both men and women in relation to divorce and in granting RC/RL. However, for the means of divorce, the Church depends much on the Mizo Customary Law of divorce (In Laltanpuui, F., 2001).

4. Law

Under the Mizo Customary Law, there are 11 ways of divorce/terminating marriage bond (Listed below is a reproduction from Laltanpuui, F., 2001).

- 1) **Ma or Mak:** When a man wants to divorce his wife, he may simply say, ‘I divorce you’. If any man divorce his wife by *Mak*, whether the wife already conceived a child or not, the husband should give the bride’s price in full or the outstanding balance”. The wife is entitled to take personal possessions and her *Thuam* (Traditional possessions brought at time of marriage).
- 2) **Sumchhuah:** A wife who walks out on her husband is considered to divorce her husband. This is called *Sumchhuah*. She is entitled to take all her personal property and her *Thuam*. Under this custom, a woman should return all the bride price the husband paid to her relative.
- 3) **Sumlaitan:** This is a divorce by mutual consent. It is a form of divorce by agreement neither party can claim to divorce the others by this form as right. The price of the bride is to be shared equally.
- 4) **Peksachang:** This is another form of divorce by agreement. Neither party will talk about the price paid or the outstanding balance.

- 5) ***Pasal awm loh hlana chhuak***: Due to any reason, a husband may stay away leaving his wife for a long time. In such cases, a wife is expected to stay in her husband's house and await his return. If however, she refuses to do so, she is considered to walk out on him. If the wife leaves with the knowledge of her husband, she would not be considered as walking out. If the husband after returning refuses to call his wife back to the house, he is considered to have divorce her by *Mak*.
- 6) ***Atna avanga inthen* (Divorce on account of Insanity)**: If any partner in a marriage suffers from insanity, the other partner has to take care of the other for 3 years. If they leave their ill partner after 3 years passed, they are considered to be divorced through mutual consent. If however they refuse to take care of the other for at least 3 years, he/she is considered to divorce his/her husband or wife by *Mak* or *Sumchhuah*.
- 7) ***Nupui Tlansan* (Abandonment of wife)**: If a man has abandoned his wife and family, all property will belong to his wife. "If the husband returns even after three years, the wife may refuse him and still all the property will belong to her."
- 8) ***Kawngka sula Mak* (Divorce on account of the husband involving himself with another woman)**: This means the divorce initiated by the husband because of his involvement with another woman whom he wished to marry. Under this custom, the wife is entitled to one-third of their *buh-bal* (rice and other cultivated crop). If they already had a separate household.

9) **Zangzaw (Impotency):** If a man suffers from impotency and remains unwell for three months, the wife may leave him by mutual consent. If she leaves him before three months, she is considered to have walked out on him.

10) **Chhu-ping (imperforated vagina):** “If a wife owing to physical peculiarities is unable to perform her duties to her husband, the husband is entitled to divorce her and get back all the price he had paid, the woman leaving him *Sumchhuah*”.

11) **Uire (Adultery):** *Uire* or adultery is ‘considered to be the most serious evil a woman could possibly do’. Firstly, if a wife is caught committing adultery, she is to pay back price back to her husband and is not entitled even to her *Thuam*. She could thus be left barehanded, for she is an adulteress (In Laltanpuui, F., 2001).

As mentioned above Mizo tribal custom governs marriage and divorce. The eleven grounds and forms of divorce as outlined in English by Parry stipulate that either a woman or a man can initiate divorce. The divorce can also occur due to mutual consent or agreement and culminates in decisions surrounding the ‘*bride price*’ paid at the time of marriage. The ‘*bride price*’ is a token these days and the amount in most modern marriages is a one time price Rs. 420/- paid to brides family by grooms family. At the time of marriage the amount is shared across near and dear relatives and friends. Similarly at the time of divorce, ‘*bride price*’ is returned by the bride to the groom’s family depending on who initiated divorce.

Background information of Mizoram

Mizoram is a paradise state for social studies as it is the most fertile field to study the social sciences. Tribals constitute 93.54 per cent of population with different cultural traditions, folklore, myths and legends as well as customs of the Lushai-Kuki-Chin tribes (In Sen, S., 1992). Previously most of them were said to be nomads due to their agricultural practice of *Jhum* cultivation to search for better and fertile cultivable land. Since 1950 the term *Lushai* (Lusei) has been superseded by the term *Mizo*. It is a matter of their pride when people recognize the tribes of Mizoram under a single tribe the *Mizo* instead of the *Lushai* etc. prior to 1937, the Kuki-Chin tribes were living together in Indian sub-continent. In 1937, Burma was separated from India taking with it *Chin Hills* and *Upper Chindwin*. Again when India was divided in 1947 *Chittagong Hill Tracts* have gone to East Pakistan and later on in 1971 to Bangladesh. As a result, some of the tribes of Mizoram lost geopolitically their identity and identify themselves with the neighbouring groups or with whoever had influenced them (In Sen, S., 1992).

Mizoram is situated approximately between 22°02' and 24°24' North latitude and between 92°16' and 93°29' East longitudes. It is a small state but bigger than Nagaland and Tripura with an area of 21,081 sq. km. This state is situated in an isolated pocket of southern most part of North East India. The geographical continuity with the Indian mainland is maintained only in the north, north east and north west. The *Tropic of Cancer* passes through Aizawl District. Mizoram is bounded by Cachar district of Assam, by Churachandpur district of Manipur and by North Tripura district of Tripura in its north, north east and north west borders respectively. Its 273.52 km south-eastern and 214.13 km south-western borders are shared with the international borders of Burma and Bangladesh (In Sen, S., 1992).

The people inhabiting Mizoram are known as Mizos. The word 'Mizo' is a generic term meaning 'hillmen' or 'highlanders'. The Mizos consist of several clans such as Lusei, Hmar, Paihte, Ralte and Pawi. Sailo is the chief's clan and during the days of the Chieftainship, Sailos ruled most of the villages with a few exceptions. Apart from Lusei, Hmar, Paihte, Ralte and Pawi, there are Lakhers and Chakmas inhabiting the southernmost parts of Mizoram and the western areas bordering Bangladesh respectively. According to Mizo traditional beliefs, the Mizos came from 'Chhinlung' meaning a covering rock. The legend goes to say that the Mizo people belonging to various clans came out of the earth below the stone. In the opinion of some people, Chhinlung is, in fact, a place called Silung which is situated in China bordering the Shan State of Burma. This led to the theory that originally, the Mizos were the residents of Silung. Later on, they migrated to India via Burma. Mizos are now practically all Christians in religion and this being so, the Mizo culture also revolves around Christianity as it were, the church playing a vital role in the life of a Mizo which is in one way or the other connected with the Church and its manifold activities (In Lalnithanga, P., 2010).

During the time of British rule, the Christian Missionaries made pioneering efforts to introduce and improve the education among the Mizo people. They had introduced Roman script for formal education. The Mizos had the highest literacy in India in 1951 (In Sen, S., 1992). According to the 2001 Census, Mizoram has a population of 8,91,058 of which 4,59,783 are males and 4,31,275 females. The literacy rate for the whole State is now said to be the highest in the land even surpassing Kerala. The Mizo speak the same Mizo language (Duhlian) throughout the length and breadth of Mizoram, spoken by the Sailo Chiefs in the days of the Chieftainship. This is the distinctiveness of Mizoram where one language prevails and

is spoken indigenously without any local dialect being formed anywhere in the land (In Lalnithanga, P., 2010).

It is said that a Mizo can not live without liquor. Most of them are liquor lovers. Indigenous rice-beer *Zu* is popular them. This home-made *Zu* plays an important item in their life and culture. It is an essential item for religious ceremonies, festivals and social functions. It is a drink for young and old, ladies and gents. The ministry in 1987-88 cancelled the ban of foreign liquor. At that time maximum number of the Mizos were intoxicated with bottles of foreign wine. Thailand, Burma and Laos constituted a region for producing opium. Heroin is reported to be smuggled into India especially through Mizoram and Manipur from Indo-Burma border, Mizoram's 404 km. long border with Burma has become the new narcotic gateway to India. Thus, there has been increase in consumption in Mizoram. *Ganja, Charas, Nicotine-juice, LSD, Heroin, Opium, Mandrax* etc. are widely popular among the younger generations. Mizoram has a high incidence of injecting drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. During the last few years a number of Homes have been set up to help the poor and rehabilitating drug addicts (In Sen, S., 1992).

According to the Customary law of inheritance a concise summary is available in Sen. S., (1992). The father's property is generally inherited by sons. In some Mizo tribes and sub-tribes either the youngest or eldest son is to inherit all the property of his dead father and he is compelled to look after the widowed mother by staying in the house of his father. The other sons and daughter generally have no claim on the property of their father. Sen states that in some tribes, property is equally inherited by all the sons. Among some of the tribes only the eldest son is to get lion share of his father's property as he has to maintain his widowed mother and the remaining portion of the share is equally distributed among other sons. The married women have almost

no right in the property of her father. Although this is changing. A widow can not get any property of her husband except her own cash, ornaments, clothes and weaving apparatus which she got from her father at the time of her marriage. These can be taken by her back whenever she desire to live alone by herself. Property which belongs to an unmarried daughter generally goes to her brother after her death. If a married woman dies without having any son then her brother is to inherit that (if her father is dead) otherwise, father again inherits that property which he gave at the time of her marriage. If a man dies by leaving behind his minor children, younger or elder brother of the deceased has to look after the property and also, family of the dead brother till the sons are grown up. When the minor sons became mature he has to hand-over the property of his dead brother to them. If a man dies without having any son, his property is inherited by his nearest male relative but not by the daughters of the dead person (In Sen, S., 1992).

Statement of the Problem

Mizo society strongly values families ties and marital bonds and most Mizos follow Christian traditions, particularly in marriage with an emphasis on marriage vows. However due to several circumstances and due to the influences of both westernization and urbanization, marital breakdown has become a fairly common occurrence. Marital breakdown has many fall-outs in the form of unstable families and, its consequences impose several challenges for the spouses, their children and other members in the family. The divorced spouses as well as their children face challenges at work/school, community and neighbourhood levels. Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and resort to use/abuse of substances by divorced or divorcing couples and children is commonly noted by research studies on marital conflict and discord.

This study attempts to understand the causes and consequences of marital breakdown in the context of Mizo society. It documents perceptions of adults and children about causes and consequences and suggests directions for further research and social work intervention. In this study 'stable' families refer to families where marriages are intact and 'broken' families refer to families which have experienced a divorce, even if remarriage has taken place themselves.

Objectives: The following are the objectives of the present study

1. To enquire into the causes for marital breakdown.
2. To assess the socio – economic factors associated with marital breakdown.
3. To understand the effects of marital breakdown on family with particular reference to children.

CHAPTERIZATION

The chapterization includes the following uniform format.

1. Chapter I : Introduction
2. Chapter II : Review of literature
3. Chapter III : Methodology
4. Chapter IV : Socio-Economic Factors and Marriage Particulars
5. Chapter V : Causes of Divorce/Perceptions of Adults
6. Chapter VI : Consequences of Divorce/Perceptions of Adults
7. Chapter VII : Marital Breakdown and its Consequences on Children
8. Chapter VIII : Conclusion and suggestions

The present study aims to understand the literature that is available on marriage particulars, causes of divorce and consequences of divorce on spouse and their children as well as understand legal framework that exist in different parts of the world.

2.1. Marriage Particulars

Varga, 1972 (In Hill, M. S., 1988) performs a multinational comparison of divorce rates and the average amount of leisure time spouses spend at home, showing an almost perfect negative correlation across 11 countries, although some types of leisure activities such as TV watching do not exhibit this pattern. The literature relating to spouses shared activities to marital satisfaction is more plentiful, tending to show a positive relationship between spousal interaction and marital satisfaction. It is found that a measure of spouses common interests and the amount and quality of shared leisure time ranks high as a predictor of overall marital satisfaction. A positive relationship between measures of the amount of time spouses spend together in leisure activities and marital satisfaction is also seen, although the results suggest that the strength of the relationship can vary by the degree of interaction and by the stage of the marital career. The data for analysis comes from the 1975-1981 time use longitudinal panel study collected by the University of Michigan's survey research center. The study involve initial observations for randomly selected respondents and their spouses, if any, at three to four points in time during the space of a year spanning 1975 and 1976 and a follow-up again five years later, in 1981. The central feature of the data is measurement of time allocation based on multiple one-day diaries. The association between shared leisure time and marital stability, in 1975-1976 saw that couples averaged 17.7 hours per week of shared leisure time and about 15% of their waking time. A one standard deviation movement away from the mean left them with

less than half that amount of shared leisure time 7.8 hours per week. From the study it is hypothesized that shared leisure time helps strengthen marriage providing pleasurable marital interaction that binds the spouses closer together, improving chances for a stable marriage both in the short run and over the long run. The relationship between spouses shared leisure time and marital stability also helps account for counterbalancing forces in the relationship between children and marital stability. Spouses with children in the home have less leisure time interaction and lower amounts of shared leisure time are associated with a greater likelihood of marital disruption (In Hill, M. S., 1988).

Howse, Dunton and Marshall, (1989) discuss how marriage is distinct from other relationships other than the obvious functional differences. They state that historical and sociological shifts are reshaping marriage and forcing new understandings of roles and functions of the marriage relationship. A marriage functions best when it is understood as a life-long commitment to nurturing each other's physical, psychological and social needs, actively seeking ways of loving each other and giving a sense of belonging, making oneself available as friend and sexual partner and ensuring the best conditions for the promotion of the life of children and spouses. The authors state that the following are required for marriage stability, 1) Commitment to each other's need when basic emotional and physical needs are met willingly and unconditionally and include trust. They highlight that when these needs are not met then rewards of marriage are outweighed by frustration, neglect, rejection and conflict. Marriage has been defined as the covenant commitment of two people to each other's total welfare. 2) Commitment to love as love may begin with sex appeal. While physical attraction is important for total intimacy, it is not the sum total of love. 3) Commitment to Growth is suggest that mates in dysfunctional marital pairs see

their spouses as they expect them to be rather than as they really are and treat them accordingly. 4) A commitment to the relationship and companionship is important. 5) Sex and sexuality as sexual intimacy is one form of marital communication, and the language of self-disclosure by which one expresses to the other one's deepest feelings and awareness. Sex communicates a message of forgiveness and healing restoration of the relationship (Howse, K., Dunton, H., & Marshall, D., 1989).

Houseknecht and Spanier, 1980 (In Martin, T. C., and Bumpass, L., 1989) states that education is related inversely to marital disruption, though some studies find that the relationship is not entirely linear: women with graduate degrees appear to have higher rates of separation than women with college education. In the absence of other relevant variables, such as income histories, education may stand as a surrogate for an array of factors ranging from differing levels of economic strain to human capital differences affecting interpersonal skills. The likelihood of separation increased at lower level of education levels (from 21 percent to 33 percent by 5 years), increasing the size of education differences in marital stability among more recent marriages cohort.

Marriages that begin with a child are expected to be less stable, especially when the husband is not the child's father. In addition to possible increased strains on the marriage created by the child, women who have already experienced single parenthood may be less reluctant to return to single parenthood. The existence of prior children has a different meaning for second marriages because most are likely to have been born in a previous marriage. Nonetheless, a number of persons have argued that prior children are likely to create strains affecting the stability of second marriages. Cherlin, 1978 (In Martin, T. C., and Bumpass, L., 1989) explicitly identified stepchildren as the principle destabilizing element in remarriages.

2.2. Causes of Divorce

Martha S. Hill, (1988) highlights the need to learn about *marital dissolution* in American life in recent decades, to understand what contributes to or deters it. This article also focuses on spouses shared leisure activities as a possible deterrent. An attachment hypothesis that spouses shared leisure time is a form of pleasurable interaction that strengthens the attachment between them and helps prevent marital break-up at the time and into the future is tested in the context of controls for a variety of hypotheses. The empirical tests are supportive of the attachment hypothesis and suggest that, because couples with children have less shared leisure time, children can contribute to marital break-up as well as help prevent it. Despite persistently high economic costs of marital dissolution for women and children, divorce has become a much more common feature of American life in recent decades. Couples entering marriages in 1970 were 60% more likely to subsequently divorce than were couples who became married in 1950 and between 1970 and the mid-1980s the percentage of ever-married persons in the United States who were in the divorced status at a given time more than doubled. This trend has been a strong contributor to estimations that one-quarter to one-half of the children in this country are spending part of their childhood with only one parent present. The attachment hypothesis is not entirely unique in that it involves elements of both exchange theory and the new home economics. The idea of immediate effects of spouses shared time is found in exchange theory, with larger amounts of spousal interaction thought to contribute to marital quality and hence marital stability. Research on the role of spouses shared leisure time in marital stability is scarce (In Hill, M. S., 1988).

Karney and Bradbury, 1995, the results of *Longitudinal research on marriage* says that nearly 200 variables have been examined in longitudinal research on

marriage and nearly 900 different findings have been reported, including effects of spouses' variables on their own outcomes, effects of spouses' variables on each other's outcomes, and effects of differences between spouses' variables on the couple's outcomes. Longitudinal research on marriage has demonstrated many reliable effects on marital satisfaction and marital stability. In general, positively valued variables such as education, positive behavior, and employment predict positive marital outcomes, whereas negatively valued variables such as neuroticism, negative behavior, and an unhappy childhood predict negative marital outcomes.

Martin and Bumpass, (1989) in their study discuss *marital disruption based on marital histories* from the June 1985 Current Population Survey. This source has a clear advantage over vital statistics data because it permits the use of separation, instead of divorce, dates to identify the timing of marital disruption and because it allows individual-level analysis of a number of related factors, holding the risk exposure constant. For the ever-divorced or currently separated, separation is a more meaningful definition of disruption than divorce because of the dependence of the latter on variations in the legal process and because subgroup variations in the timing and probability of divorce after separation make it a misleading indicator of marital disruption. Their analysis is limited to the data for women because of the considerably lower quality of the marriage history data for males and to cohorts married since 1970 to minimize recall error. (Over the last 15 years or so, each annual first marriage cohort is represented by approximately 1,000 women.) The variables examined are limited by the questions included in the CPS and by the cross-sectional design, so important factors such as whether the respondent's parental family was intact or the income prior to disruption are not explored. Nonetheless, trends and differentials by

race, education, age at marriage, prior fertility, marriage order and region are examined.

The U.S crude divorce rate declined 10 percent between 1980 and 1987. This decline may indicate a return to more stable family life; but this hasty conclusion is cautioned by the authors. Divorce rates continued to increase after the 1975 level (which implied 51 percent after 40 years, based on vital statistics). For example, the rates for married women 15 and over increased from 20.3 to 22.8 between 1975 and 1979. Some separations, particularly those to older women who do not wish to remarry, may never be followed by divorce. A comparison of the estimates of expected total disruption to the cumulative proportion expected to divorce suggests that perhaps 5 percent of a marriage cohort would separate without ever divorcing. This estimate is based on experience in a recent period. Such a period estimate may overstate (or understate) actual cohort experience because of either timing shifts or changing unchanged, that is, if the long-term trend has in fact plateaued and rates do not increase each duration than the levels implied by the period rates for the years in which they married because the upward trend continued (In Martin, T. C., and Bumpass, L., 1989).

In a study conducted by Nalu de Araujo Nunes, (2008) on *marital problems and marital satisfaction* on Brazilian sample, the main objective of the study was to examine the types of problems faced by Brazilian couple. The gender differences in the perception of marital problems and the associations between marital problems and marital satisfaction was studied. In Brazil, according to the author marital relationships are important not only for the couple but is also related to child development. Quoting a study of marital discord and depression conducted on a Brazilian sample of 99 women, marital satisfaction was shown to be was a strong

predictor of depression two years later. In the study the sample was selected systematically in a conjoint effort of three units of the Division of Community Health of Grupo Hospitalar Conceicao and families live in Vila Jardim. Birth records of infants born from March 1998 to December 1999 were examined and identified as eligible for the study. A medical student obtained identification data, checked the inclusion criteria and invited each family to be interviewed. A final sample size of 153 families participated in the first wave of data collection representing a 76.9% response rate. The first wave of data was collected in 2000, second in 2002 and the third in 2004 when children were 4 years old (In Nalu de Araujo Nunes, 2008).

The study assessment of marital problems of the husbands and wives was to identify the source of problems in their relationship by checking the alternatives of the statement “Your fights are due to”, from a given alternatives they had to choose; 1) Marital relationship, 2) Problems with the children 3) Alcohol 4) Drugs 5) Jealousy 6) Money 7) Extended family (mother) 8) Extended family (father) and 9) Other (specify). From the analysis it was found that the most common marital problems among the Brazilian couples was *money* (with 43.1% of wives and 37.3% of husbands), *problems related to children* (wives 30.6% and husbands 25.5%). *Jealousy* was the third (reported by 30.6% of wives and 21.6% of husbands). *Fourth problem was sex* (reported by 19.6% of wives and 5% of husband) and *mother’s family of origin* was the fifth problem (6.9% wives and 13.7% husbands). Thus in rank order marital problems reported by wives from the sample respectively was money, children, jealousy, sex, husband’s family of origin, other, alcohol and drugs. Whereas husband reported in rank order money, children, jealousy, mother’s family of origin, other, alcohol, sex and drugs (In Nalu de Araujo Nunes, 2008).

Vaz-Serra, Canavarro and Ramalheira, (1998) discuss the importance of *family context in alcoholism*. In a study of 56 chronic alcoholics compared with 56 controls with no excessive drinking habits, all of them male, the drinking habits of their parents were studied, as were parental rearing, dyadic relations with the spouses, attachment to significant people, and the education they gave to their own children. It was noted that the alcoholics' parents had heavier drinking habits and could have acted as learning models. Yama et. al, 1992 (In Vaz-Serra, Canavarro and Ramalheira, 1998) in their studies of alcoholics families revealed important data. Alcoholism is usually recognized as a factor of family disaggregation. Children of alcoholic parents often describe a family with a lesser cohesion, a larger number of conflicts and less enhancement of moral/religious matters. Family violence is usually associated with alcohol and drug consumption, mistreated women and the men who mistreat them often come from violent families, in which the father was an excessive drinker. Children of alcoholics tend to be born with a lower weight and to grow up shorter and also experience more difficulties in visuo-spatial, memory and attention tasks than the children of non-alcoholics.

The results of the study led to the following conclusions. (1) Regarding the drinking habits of most non-alcoholics, both parents drink, whereas with alcoholics the father is usually the only drinker, a behaviour which can become a model for the alcoholic individual. (2) Regarding the relations established with the parents, the position of the father and the mother as critical/rejecting and overprotective of the child is demonstrated. (3) The dyadic relationship of the alcoholic with his wife shows a poor adjustment, with a lesser degree of cohesion and satisfaction of the couple, compared with the non-alcoholics. (4) The alcoholic is prone to being critical and rigid in childrearing, neither giving support nor encouraging autonomy. (5) The way

of attachment to other people is subordinated to an anxious and insecure pattern (In Vaz-Serra, A., Canavarro, M. C., & Ramalheira, C., 1998). From the study it is observed that the alcoholic's family distinguishes itself from the non-alcoholic's family and receives from the parents critical and rejectionist education patterns which they eventually pass on to their own children. The alcoholic, in his relationship with his wife, shows a poor adjustment, and there is a tendency on the part of the couple to become involved in few joint activities and to show dissatisfaction and disinterest in the assumed way of the dyadic relation. Despite the small numbers *it is clear that the alcoholic's family shows the characteristics of dysfunctionality and poor adaptation predicted from the established working hypotheses* (In Vaz-Serra, A., Canavarro, M. C., & Ramalheira, C., 1998).

According to Fambawl (2004) in her study of *Marital Breakdown and Family Strengths in Aizawl City* on a sample of 40 respondents substance abuse was the second most common reason for marital breakdown for most of the respondents. Almost two-thirds of the women respondents attributed substance abuse as the major cause of marital dissolution, alcohol is also considered as the most contributing factors for marital conflict as were other reasons like constant arguments, sexual dissatisfaction, communication problems and financial disagreements (In Fambawl, J.R., 2004).

In a study on *Marital Breakdown in Mizo Society* conducted by Vanlalhriatpuii, K., (2007) in Mizoram among 40 respondents, alcoholism and substance abuse again ranked as the second highest causes attributed for marital breakdown among the eight categories classified for reasons of divorce (In Vanlalhriatpuii, K., 2007).

In Sheri and Stritof, (2010) the article discusses the importance of smoking and its disruption in marriage. In families where smoking has caused disturbing health effects, presence of a smoker in the marital unit was a cause for marital discord. The impact of smoking on family budget as well as family environment is highlighted and 'nagging' by one's spouse and its role in exacerbation of tobacco consumption is mentioned.

Doherty and Doherty of the University of Minnesota, 1990 (*In Sheri and Stritof, 2010*) in their article found that *smokers have an increased risk (53%) of divorce*. Apparently, age, race, education, income or gender made no difference. Younger smokers when they attained adulthood are more likely to have psychological problems than non – smokers. Also adult smokers have higher levels of depression and anxiety, which can lead to problems in relationship. Although the 1997 long-term study by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan states that smoking is a predictor for divorce, Doherty who worked with nationally representative data from the General Social Survey (which is administered annually by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago) emphasizes that smoking does not actually cause divorce. However, he found that those who smoke have characteristics and life experiences that make them more divorce-prone than nonsmokers. The study from ISR tracked more than 33,000 young adults and found that smoking rates were far above average among those men and women who would later divorce; thus, smoking is a predictor of divorce. It is also found by several research projects that connect marriage and smoking. One study demonstrates that marriage has positive health benefits, especially for men. While another one shows that, unfortunately, marriage does not have a positive effect on smoking habits. Marriage can cut down the amount a person drinks, but the "marriage effect" brought

about only a slight reduction in cigarette smoking habits, according to Bachman (In Sheri & Stritof, 2010). The article also mention many non-smoking spouses have very strong feelings about their partner's smoking habit. The feelings can range from concern, fear, and disgust to feeling unimportant, disappointed and hurt. Some partners interpret their spouse's not quitting smoking as saying that they don't care about their own health, and ultimately don't really care about their spouse or family (In Sheri and Stritof, 2010).

Joe Larson, (2007) mentions that *financial difficulties, bankruptcy are the stresses leading to divorce*. The author mentioned marriage goes into trouble when there is money problem, bankruptcy and many think of divorce as a solution to overcome the problem. As many couples never discussed money issues, budget plan or saving, divorce itself is a burden that could lead them into further debt. Spouses must work together for all the payment of dues and bills for their marriage will remain more stable. He further adds, marriage vows include "for richer, for poorer", not "for richer and richer" (In Larson, J., 2007).

Saxton, (1983) in his book said that families from the *lower class* who have problems in money revolve around having enough food, place to stay alive with reasonable health, enough clothing to keep covered and reasonably warm. These families feel that if they had an annual income of \$20,000, they would be affluent or wealthy. Feldman, 1977 (In Saxton, 1983) states as income increases the family's perceived needs and its spending patterns increase even faster; specialists in family finance find that high-income families are often in deepers debt than medium-income families, who are deeper in debt than low-income families. The author state whatever the family's income there should be sound money management for an essential ingredient of marital harmony. The marriage counselors and family service agencies

agree that economic stress is a major cause of conflict and marital failure in American families as married couples quarrel over money more than any other topic (In Saxton, L., 1983). Research on divorce has often highlighted the importance of economic and financial stability as a cause for marital stability. These studies reviewed here suggest that low income and high income (among women) can be a factor that leads to divorce.

European Sociological review (2006) study *causes and consequences of divorce cross-national and cohort differences*. The review states some demographers consider divorce to be a result of growing individualization and secularization in society. These two processes put pressure on the traditional values of marriage and raising children, leading to an increased divorce rate. If a higher educational level of couples produces a higher level of individualization, there should be a positive relation between educational level of both spouses and their divorce risk, according to the review. An economic tradition attributes the rise in divorce rates to changes in the balance between the cost and benefits of marriage for both husband and wife. It is expected therefore that there should be a higher divorce rate among women with high-income jobs, because a high income facilitates to bear the costs of divorce, and women with a high income are economically more independent from their spouse. In that case, divorce rates in European societies with more full-time working married women in upper positions should be higher. But the negative effect of parental divorce on children is often explained by the poverty of mother-headed single families. Another assumption about the consequences of divorce for inequality is that they result from stigmatization of the divorcees and their children by the surrounding society. If this assumption is true the article states the consequences of divorce should become smaller when the divorce rates increase, because the higher these divorce

rates are, the more normal divorce becomes and thus the lower the level of stigmatization.

In a study of trends in age at marriage (In Nagi, B. S., 1993) review that the study of *age at marriage* is important as it is one of the determinants of fertility, features of economic and social development. From the 1971 census the average female age at marriage was 17.1 years, during 1986-87 it was estimated at 18.30 years. Agarwala, 1965 (In Nagi, B.S., 1993) observed what determines the age at marriage, as the distinct regional differentials in India with the south having the highest and the north and west having the lowest age at marriage. *It is also observed that urban men and women marry later than rural as do the educated relatively to the less educated.*

A study to analyze the *age at marriage of children who got married* (child marriage means marriage of girl before puberty). Almost 200 households had performed marriage of child before the legal age of marriage. So according to the distinction made between the child marriage and legal age of marriage, child marriage means the marriage of a boy or girl before the age of 15 years. It is a general practice or tradition in India that the age of the married girl should be lower than that of her husband. It is also studied that age and marriage is a problematic especially for girls in rural areas to continue education after their marriage. Since marriage is performed in early childhood, children especially girls remain illiterate or drop-out of school very early. Therefore whatever education they achieved remains forever (In Nagi, B. S., 1993).

The inverse relationship between *age at marriage and the likelihood of marital disruption* is among the strongest and most consistently documented in the literature. This association persists net of education and premarital pregnancy and at

longer marital durations. A number of mechanisms have been suggested to explain this relationship, including the degree of maturity and competence for marital roles, search time for a marriage partner and emotional, educational and economic resources available. Women who married as teenagers are twice as likely to separate as those who married after the age of 22 years, though it is not consistent to find evidence of the higher risk among women marrying over the age of 30 (In Martin, T. C., & Bumpass, L. 1989).

Jamwal. N.S., (2009) in her study on family and marriage states that what distinguished marriage in India from marriage in the West was the *sanctity attached to marriage: a sense of perpetual bonding and an element of divinity in it*. Divorce in India is resorted to only in extreme cases where there was unbearable cruelty, desertion, mental illness, impotence/infertility, and infidelity. Lack of communication, changing attitude towards sex, changing roles of husband and wife, and tensions of fast life have resulted in the lack of harmony among married couples and the decline in harmony can be associated with values that emphasise individualistic, materialistic and self-oriented goals over family well-being. In India the author states, the incidence of divorce has not only increased but also the underlying causes of divorce have contributed to understanding disharmony better. The tolerance threshold seems to have slid down while the egos of individuals have risen remarkably according to Jamwal. Quoting an extensive study of the working of family courts in urban India by a Mumbai-based legal activist, Jamwal states 2055 couples filed for divorce in Mumbai in 1995 and a decade later in 2004, the number went up to 3400 in that city alone. In the eight matrimonial district courts of Delhi, an average of 25 divorce petitions were filed every day in 2004. In Bangalore the number has increased threefold from 653 in 1988 to 1861 in 2002. In Kolkata the number has gone up from

1633 in 1966 to 2388 in 2003. Seventy per cent of these figures represent divorces in the age-group of 25-35 years. In Kolkata, divorce cases have gone up nearly 200 per cent in the last few years (In Jamwal N.S., 2009).

An extensive study of 243 individual respondents who directly involved in disputes and had approached some external formal agency i.e. *Marital Dispute Resolving Agency* (MDRA) for intervention, mediation or help, revealed that the three prominent main causes of marital discord (male and female taken together and in descending order) were personality related behaviours/tendencies including deficiencies/disorders (24 %), material/monetary gains through marriage (23 per %), and incompatibility (21 %). From the study a comparison between male and female respondents can be distinctively features as: 1) While as many as 46 % of the male respondents attributed the main cause of their marital discord to ‘incompatibility’ factors, far fewer, that is, 11 % female respondents attributed the main cause to such factors. 2) For as many as one-third of female respondents, the main cause of marital problem was ‘material/monetary gains through marriage (mainly dowry)’. 3) Personality related behaviours/tendencies (including deficiencies/disorders) were reported more by female respondents than by male respondents (27 % vs 19 %). 4) More female than male respondents reported ‘desertion’ as the main cause (13 % vs three %). And in a study of 1165 cases from four urban cities—Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur—concerned with the reasons for divorce, the researchers found that most couples seeking divorce were educated, between 25 and 35 years of age, and childless. Though they had arranged marriages and lived in joint families, seventy per cent break-ups took place due to reasons which included temperamental differences (apart from financial issues, family interference, dowry, and adultery).

Eightyfive percent called off their marriage within the first five years (*In Jamwal N.S., 2009*).

In the present world since ample job opportunities for women exist ensuring their economic independence, they choose to opt of bad marriages, particularly when they have no kids. Because of the opportunities set by the work environment *extra-marital relationship including sexual relationship* become a common illness for a failed marriage. It is also stated that today's female spouses are well educated, employed in good jobs and become conscious of their rights and expect cooperation and adjustment of their husband. The author states that, "Our society is in transition stage where old values are uprooted though new values system has not got sufficiently entrenched. Thus men on their part have not learnt to adapt the new situation, the frequent ego clashes makes the consequences between the two. Incompatibility arises from a number of factors such as: differences in values and beliefs; differences in educational, socio-economic status/level; differences in life style/social orientation; differences in personality characteristics, including temperament differences, differences in sexual behaviours; and differences in likes, dislikes, tastes, hobbies etc.". The author further states that in marriage two individuals with often-different backgrounds come together, the thinking, attitudes, mindsets and behavioural patterns cannot be expected to be similar or exactly matching. It naturally takes time to know and understand each other thus develop compatibility gradually and further if there is a desire to adjust with each other as the essence of success in marriage is "understanding" which also means understanding of each other's compulsions (*In Jamwal N.S., 2009*).

A recent study by the Creighton University Center for Marriage and Family suggests that time; *sex and money pose the three biggest obstacles to satisfaction* in

the lives of newly married couples. The study used a random sample drawn from couples that had completed the FOCCUS inventory and had agreed to participate in future research. A mailing of questionnaires resulted in a total sample of 947 couples, or 1,894 individuals. Out of that, a total of 793 individual questionnaires were returned, which the study called a "highly acceptable" response rate of 48.5 per cent; 35.7 per cent of the returns were completed questionnaires from both spouses. "*Time, Sex and Money*" is shorthand for the top three problem areas reported by survey respondents: balancing job and family, frequency of sexual relations, and debt brought into marriages. The other top problematic issues the study showed were, in order, husband's employment; overall financial situation; expectations about household tasks; constant bickering; communication with spouse; parents or in-laws; and time spent together with spouse (In Pattison, M., 2001).

Korea Herald, (2004) observes that the government figures show the number of divorces in Korea jumped by 21,800 from last year with infidelity cited as one of the most common reasons. The National Statistical Office said 167,100 couples divorced in 2003, compared to 145,300 the year before. It is believed by many Koreans the rising divorce rate reflects the decline of traditional values, along with the impact of western lifestyles and the pressures of modern urban life. And a majority of the divorced couples ended their marriages because of infidelity, physical and mental abuse and personality conflicts.

Patty English (2007) in her study cites that there must be a foundation upon which partners build a relationship. A marriage foundation according to English includes a common set of core values between the partners or at least several shared values and a set of interests and passions that can join the partners together long term. Experience as a counselor and therapist by the author saw the largest two causes of

divorce among the people as including a lack of foundation in the marriage and Abuse, including any of verbal, emotional, physical, economic, religious, and sexual abuses. The article further states that the causes of divorce in the USA includes, Unwillingness to communicate lovingly, Unwillingness to commit, Unwillingness to compromise, Unwillingness to put down weapons. And from Americans for Divorce Reform reasons often heard from couples, but are not proven statistically significant as yet are Money, Poor Communication, Lack of Commitment, Change in priorities, Infidelity, Failed Expectations, Addictions, Physical, sexual, emotional abuse and Lack of Conflict Resolution Skills are also cited as reasons(In English, Patty., 2007).

Patrick F. Fagan (1999) reviews the *risks and rates of divorce* as tied directly to factors in one's family background and such other factors as the divorce or cohabitation of one's parents and being born to a very young mother. The research also shows that divorce is linked to level of education. In general, the more educated a person, the less likely he or she will be to divorce. Divorce rates are one-third lower among women who have completed high school, and 80 per cent lower among women who have completed college, than among those who have not completed high school. Divorce also is linked to lower intelligence scores. The risk of divorce is greater among marriages of mixed faiths and among those who do not attend religious worship regularly. The risk doubles for those who live together before marriage, and doubles yet again if the person cohabits with someone other than the current spouse. Marrying into a step family; getting married as a teen (divorce rates are two-thirds lower among women married after age 25 than among those married as teenagers); and, especially, getting married as a pregnant teenager. In general, the greater a man's income relative to his spouse's, the higher the marriage rate and the lower the divorce rate. For women, marriage rates are highest in local areas that offer the fewest

economic alternatives to marriage. The more women earn, the less attractive marriage appears to be in general. To quote Professor Larry Bumpass in his 1990 presidential address to the Population Association of America, “If marriage assures neither a two parent family for the child nor lifetime economic security for the woman, the importance of marrying to ‘legitimate’ a birth is much less compelling.” The divorce rate doubles for young married couples if the husband is unemployed at any time during the first year of marriage, and is 50 percent higher again if both are unemployed. If the unemployment is due to continuing education, however, there is no increased risk to the marriage. Data from the 1980 census showed that one of every four wives earned more or only slightly less income than their husbands earned. Forty percent of wives who had five or more years of college education earned more or slightly less than their husbands did.

Robert Zoliana (2010) presents *six causes of divorce* includes; Finance and Economic Reasons, Due to Children, Bondless relationship. According to Zoliana, Married couples who never discuss and chat in a healthy manner for long are likely to lose the bond and intimacy. It is important to know that listening and understanding is important for Couples sexual life. If the couple cannot manage a healthy sexual life between them, it will later become a tool for breaking the bond between them, according to him Family interferences can also become a big problem. In every society this is one of the factors. “When family and relatives interfere in a couple household and marriage life it would certainly create problems for them. If the parents are involved too much in their own children’s marriage this led to misunderstanding between the couple” according to the author who concludes that lack of Quality Time is also one of main reasons.

Ashwini Ambekar (2009) in her article states *eight causes for divorce*, and mentions that divorce is an immensely painful experience as no couple wishes for it but that it happens due to some unavoidable reasons. There is an increased number of individuals who opt for divorce particularly women who have been initiating divorce more as compared to men although the exact reasons for divorces cannot be completely determined. The causes includes according to Ambekar Financial reasons as the one reason couple often end their relationship, as either the partner is not happy on the spending habits of other partner which initiate a massive fights between them. *Alcohol and Substance Abuse* places a terrible strain on relationship and is often followed with abusive behavior. Many people cannot put up with the addictive behavior of their partners and it causes divorce. *Sexual Problems* are considered responsible for divorce as improper and problematic attitudes towards sex results in problems within the marriage. *Infidelity* in particular is responsible for the breakdown of many relationships and marriages. *Immaturity and Jealous Attitude* on part of one of the partners and placing excessive demands on the partner is also a cause of divorce. *Violence and abuse* was also cited as a major cause of divorce. *In-Laws interference* is another cause which many younger couples complain about since there is too much meddling and involvement of their in-laws in their lives, and excessive demands of the in-laws on their time had put a strain on the marital relationship. *Myth of a Fairy Tale Relationship* is another cause as many times people have unrealistic expectations from marriage on what it is supposed to be like and when this distorted view is not realized, it results in divorce and lastly *Lack of Communication* is one of the common causes of divorce as people are unable to resolve problems and issues that occur within the relationship and the conflicts can in the end cause tremendous strain for their relationship (In Ambekar, A., 2009).

Johnson (In Pothan, S, 1986) has stated that certain aspects of *culture and social structure* are likely to be associated with a high divorce rate. He has listed the following “causes” for a high divorce rate:

- i) Religious tolerance of divorce
- ii) Legal tolerance of divorce
- iii) Increased industrialization
- iv) Urbanization
- v) Birth control
- vi) Greater geographical mobility
- vii) High vertical social mobility
- viii) Heterogeneity of population and
- ix) High demands on the intimate affectional side of marriage

To Sweedlum and others (In Pothan, S, 1986), in modern times, the increase in divorce may be attributed to such reasons as (i) change in the attitude of the people (less stigma attached to divorce); (ii) faulty education about marriage and family, (iii) lack of family unity, (iv) urbanization (v) small sized family and childless marriage, and (vi) more legal provision in favour of women for securing divorce.

The real causes of divorce involve the same factors that cause marital unhappiness in general such as unfaithfulness, jealousy, insanity, feeble mindedness, poverty, laziness, quarrels over the family purse strings, relatives, impotence, frigidity, excessive sex passion, drunkenness, nagging, religious differences, female independence, temper, disease, and a host of others (R. E. Baber in Pothan, S., 1986).

Good (In Pothan, S., 1986) has summarized a number of variables related to divorce proneness, such as urban background, marriage at very young age, short acquaintance before marriage, unhappy marriage of parents of the couples, non –

attendance at church or mixed faith, disapproval of the marriage by kin and friends, general dissimilarity in background, and variation in mutual role obligations of husband and wife.

Fonseca found that the major factors for marital discord were ill – treatment by husband, interference and ill – treatment by in – laws and family members, infidelity, financial difficulties, personal defects, vices, incompatibility, sex difficulties, health, living conditions and several other minor factors from the study of Fonseca (In Pothan, S., 1986).

Kapadia. K. M. (1966) points out the selection of marriage in India and mentions that the question of selection in marriage may be considered from three points of view, namely, the field of selection, the party to selection, and the criteria of selection. The field of selection is restricted in two ways. Among some tribes and communities there is a preferential code, enjoying marriage with a particular relative as more desirable, or at times even obligatory. There are likewise certain restrictions prohibiting marriage with certain relatives or between certain groups as they are considered incestuous or undesirable. There are further restrictions of an endogamous character enjoying marital union within the bounds of a certain group. Exogamous restrictions in India are defined in terms of sib, totem, territorial group, and gotra or sapinda relationships. He further point out the study made by Mankad. B. L. and Desai Gunial in relation to age at marriage. Mankad. B. L studied the age at marriage through three generations (the positus, his father and grandfather) in the Vadnagara Nagar caste of Saurashtra and came to the conclusion that the average age of the female had changed in one survey from 11.4 years to 12.7 years to 14.2 years and in the other from 11.42 to 13.59 years to 14.81 years (In Kapadia. K. M, 1966).

2.3. Consequences

2.3.1. Consequences on Spouses

Michelle Rotermann, (2007) in a study on marital breakdown and subsequent depression review that for couples from Canada 4 marriages out of 10 will end before they celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. The Divorce Registry show nearly 71,000 married couples divorced in 2003 and thousands more separated. The study uses longitudinal data from Statistics Canada's National Population Health Survey (NPHS) to examine the association between marital dissolution and subsequent depression among people aged 20 to 64 years. Specifically, the analysis tests the hypothesis that two-year incident depression is more common among individuals who have recently experienced marital dissolution than among those who remained married. Among married people who did not report having had symptoms of depression in the year before their baseline interview, a new depressive episode was nearly four times as common if they were separated, divorced or single at the follow-up interview compared with those who remained in a relationship. Earlier studies have found sex differences in the association between marital dissolution and mental health. Analysis of NPHS data indicated that men whose marriages ended were at higher risk of depression than were women (Rotermann, M., 2007).

Financial difficulties often follow marital dissolution, as the original family income is divided between two households and economies of scale are less pertinent. Women who experienced marital dissolution were nearly three times as likely as their male counterparts to have a drop of at least one quintile in the ranking of their household income. As a result, after a break-up, women tended to live in households with an income ranking far below that of their male counterparts. Marital dissolution can change the amount of social support available to an individual. A break-up means

not only the loss of a partner, but can also reduce the size of a social network by dividing extended family and mutual friends. The loss of social support may be particularly difficult for men. Many men rely solely on their partner for support, while women tend to have larger social networks. People who experienced a break-up were more likely than those who remained married to report a decline in social support. Whereas 19% of men who were no longer with their spouse reported a drop in social support, the figure was 6% for those who remained in a relationship. Among women, the corresponding proportions were 11% and 5%.

Research has suggested that loss of custody or a change in parental responsibilities is one of the most stressful aspects of post-divorce life for men. According to the analysis of NPHS data, 34 per cent of men and 3 per cent of women whose relationship ended were residing with at least one fewer child(ren) between their baseline and follow-up interviews. The breakdown of a marital relationship may mean a change in employment status, which could have some effect on mental health. However, analysis of the longitudinal NPHS data showed no statistically significant differences in employment status over the two years between married and divorced/separated men. Among women, differences in employment status were significant only among those who remained consistently unemployed or who were employed at both times (Rotermann, M., 2007).

In comparison with men who remained married, men who underwent a break-up over a two-year period had six times the odds of reporting symptoms of depression. Among women, the unadjusted odds of two-year incident depression were three and a half times greater if their relationship ended. The effects of changes in income, social support, presence of children and employment status, as well as a history of depression, education and age, were taken into account, the relationship

between marital dissolution and two-year incident depression remained statistically significant for both sexes, although the strength of the association was reduced. The adjusted odds of depression for men whose relationship ended were about three times those of men who remained with their spouse and for women the adjusted odds of depression after a break-up were about two and a half times greater (Rotermann, M., 2007).

Every year large numbers of people are permanently changed by the upheaval of divorce. This is reflected in the high rates of depression, suicide, addictions, loneliness, and anxiety which are found among groups of divorcees. Divorce may solve the parents problems – but it often creates more problems for the children. Margaret Mead expresses some of the pain when she writes: ‘Each child learns early, and in terror, that his whole security depends on that single set of parents who, more often than not, are arguing furiously in the next room over some small detail in their lives.’ Feelings of deep despair set in as children see the parents they love hate each other. Young children often live in the fantasy and hope that their parents will love each other again, only to have their hopes dashed by the unchanging situation. They feel rejected and abandoned when close ties are broken. Sometimes children feel guilt as they recall the pre – divorce conflicts centering around them and, in their innocence, blame themselves for all the trouble (In Howse, K., Dunton, H., & Marshall, D., et. al, 1989).

Michael Fried Fall, (1997) studies the consequences of Divorce in India related to dimensions (economic and social). First, from the economic perspectives, there is a great disparity between the economic ramifications of divorce between men and women. Men remain relatively unaffected while women, especially those with children, have difficulty providing food, clothing and shelter for themselves and their

children. Amato, 1994 (In Michael Fried Fall, 1997) revealed that for single mothers who are in urban areas receiving public assistance by the government, this service has not been made of by most of the needy thereby it was not useful to be as planned. Women are not often able to seek support from her family as many parents feel they have discharged their obligations to their daughter by arranging her marriage and providing a dowry. But dowries are not returned after divorce and because of the social stigma of divorce, women find it difficult to remarry and usually attempt to establish an independent household.

Secondly, from the social dimension it is still regarded as a stigmatized action. Women are looked upon more harshly than men in this regard, the feeling of divorce is never an option for women how ever abusive or adulterous her husband may be. Divorced women often return to their parent house but are not welcome wholeheartedly, they are regard as an economic burden especially if she has children and often given a lowly household tasks to perform. Divorce is stigmatized by the society; a risk interferes as the divorced woman's presence would make problems for other daughter's marriages within the household. It is also regard that by making the divorcee living with them makes the overall status of the family and household become lowered. Besides, class and caste system makes a difference for the women in accepting back into society. Women from higher classes tend to have an easier time than middle or lower class women in returning to the social order after a divorce (In Fall, M. F., 1997).

Namita Singh Jamwal, (2009) in her study on marriage and divorce in India reviews that alongside the growth of divorce with the increasing number of undercurrents, causes leading to divorce or marital discord has set the social/societal stigma attached to divorce. The author states that divorce is no longer a dirty word

and a kind of social transformation that may lie at the crux of today's marriage splits is the growing tolerance of society for divorcees. Divorced people are no longer looked down and judged by others and have stopped thinking that there must have been something wrong with him/her.

Young couples file for divorce by mutual consent petitions mostly in the first year of their marriage. It is estimated that the separation within the first year of marriage increased by 30 per cent since 2000. Contrary to what prevailed earlier more women are initiating divorce proceedings and as the society seem to be accepting the fact that divorcees need companionship. An increasing number of women are now hoping to click with someone online, as reported by the Hindustan Times, 2008 (In Namita Singh Jamwal, 2009) seven per cent of all registered women on jeevansathi.com are divorcees, as against four per cent of all male users.

Divorce is no longer a taboo in India and a divorced daughter is not unwelcome in her parent's home even in small towns. Social trends originating in metros slowly percolate down to smaller towns and from there to villages. In the new socio-economic environment, women in small towns are not shy of walking out of marriage and the author states two main reasons; Assertion of independence and Diminishing urge or capacity for adjustment. These two factors are different and are not unrelated to each other. As assertion of freedom and the need for individual space had characterized by ambition and the fast pace of life created new pressures on marriage. Girls who are career-oriented have their career, success and money more important and hence get more priority over the family and priority of job over relationship is now an observable phenomenon (In Namita Singh Jamwal, 2009).

Kathy Shayna Shocket (2005) in her article states that divorce is now part of US lifestyle highlights from the recent statistics that almost half of those who marry in

the United States split before death do they part and many experts also agree that the stigma of divorce is waning. The project's statistics of the National Marriage show the divorce rate in the United States is down along with the marriage rate while cohabitation is increasing. Most experts agree that divorce and multiple marriages are no longer taboo. According to the National Center for Health Statistics in Arizona 23,000 divorces in 2004 compared with approximately 34,000 marriages. A psychologist at Arizona State University Aaron Krasnow says people are living longer now and bound to get remarried and divorce becomes the norm rather than the exception, although kids are still affected by a divorce it is no longer something that they have to be ashamed of (In Shocket, S, K., 2005).

Noami Gerstel (1987) in her paper presentation analyzed the stigma associated with divorce through interviews with 104 divorced women and men and showed how stigma attached to the conditions surrounding divorce rather than to divorce as a general category. Various processes – including the splitting of friends and the development of accounts – lead at least one party to a divorce to feel blameworthy. Individuals who divorce see themselves as excluded from and devalued in informal social life. Finally she suggested that the divorced participate in stigmatizing divorce: they themselves devalued others who are divorced and sustain the idea that to be married is to be “normal”. If we understand stigma as referring not simple to the realm of public sanctions but rather see it as emerging out of everyday experience, it is clear that the divorced continue to be stigmatized.

Changes in the attitude towards divorce had shifted from moral absolutism to situational ethics. From the panel data collected between 1960 and 1980 it was found that changes in attitudes toward divorce were not only large but pervasive to all subgroups whether defined by age, class, or even religion showed substantial declines

in disapproval of marital separation. Thus divorce is no longer treated as a sin calling for repressive punishment as it was in theological doctrine and practice until the beginning of the twentieth century (In Gerstel, N., 1987).

2.3.2. Consequences on children

Patrick. F. Fagan (1999) reviews how broken families rob children of their chances for future prosperity on marriage, education and income and states that just by marrying one does not obtain an adequate and steady income. For that one should increased the working hours at a job valued by the marketplace and will provide more income. The number of hours worked is linked directly to educational achievement and family structure. The author states that families whose members have lower levels of education normally will have to work longer to reach a modest level of financial security than those whose members achieve higher levels of education. However people who are not married and have less education work the fewest hours per year (In Fagan, 1999). From the study it was found that in general married couples have higher levels of education and work longer and make sure that their children achieve higher levels of education. Although the income of a family household depends on the educational level of parents, it is the parent's income rather than their level of education that predicts more accurately the level of education their children will achieve. Children with high-income parents receive more education than do children of lower-income parents. But higher income is less likely without marriage and poverty is much more likely without it (In Fagan, P. F., 1999).

In married couples where both parents works have a stable financial family although this increases and doubles the number of working hours within the households. Among the America's poor, according to their household work there has been a significant shift for working hours and thus indicates the disparity of one's

economic status is concentrated from the number of hours worked. The article further states that there is a reverse trend that accompanies the disappearance of marriage as the number of hours worked in the family household declines. Present-day single heads of households work fewer hours than the married heads of poor households in the 1950s (typically, married men). At the same time, married couples are increasing the total number of hours worked, and although there are some unwelcome consequences from this increase in working hours in married households, there is no doubt that it has increased the number of families exiting a life of poverty (In Fagan, P. F., 1999).

In a review by Lyngstad, (2004) education of both couples as well as that of their parents are likely to influence their status. However parents education exerts a small positive effects while equal attainment of education level in couples particularly those who have attained educational level after entering into marriage, display the highest divorce rates. In this article Lyngstad studies Nordic Countries whose research has pointed towards – effects of education on divorce risk. While studies done in the Netherland found positive effects of the wives education on divorce risk.

Other studies reviewed by Lyngstad suggest that individuals from ‘bourgeois’ background or who have educated parents has slightly higher rates. Tzeng and Mare (In Lyngstad, T. H., 2004) found that increase in husband’s educational qualification during marriage raised divorce risk with no such effects for wives. The study states as its basic assumption that each individual tries to maximize utility by entering or leaving union. In this study data includes the date of marriage and divorce, date of any spousal deaths, previously marital status, educational attainment, educational activity, educational level of each spouses parent and fertility list of each spouse. The study was not able to access average working hours to access the economic potentials of the

spouses. In all 5,08,470 marriage comprise the final data set. The study also could not use any data on the economic resources of the spouses parents.

The number of divorces found in the study was a total 8086 divorces. The results show that the risk of divorce risk declines with a higher level of the husband's educational attainment and the higher level of the wife educational attainment. Higher parental education had positive effect on divorce. The study also found that further education of both spouses risk both with higher level of risk to the marriage occurring due to higher level of education to the women. Marrying young heightened the risk of divorcing for both spouses. Having an infant child reduced with presence of older children. Similarly this study found that divorce risk was higher when partners had initiated child bearing prior to wed lock (In Lyngstad, T. H., 2004).

Paul R. Amato and Joan G. Gilbreth, (1999) conducted a meta-analysis of 63 studies on non-resident father's contribution towards their children's well being. In an earlier meta-analysis by Amato (In Amato, P. R., & Gilbreth, J. G., 1999) 32 studies of divorce that reported data on contact with non-custodial fathers and children's well-being was conducted and of these studies, 15 found that contact was associated significantly and positively with children's well-being, 7 found contact was associated significantly and negatively with children's well-being and 10 found no significant association. The research on two-parent families briefly presents the importance of father for the children, emphasizing that it is not the presence but paying by an authoritative parenting that is good for the well-being of children. Young, Miller, Norton and Hill, 1995 (In Amato, P. R., and Gilbreth, Joan G, 1999) found that fathers intrinsic support (reflected in trust, encouragement and discussing problems) was positively correlated with children's life satisfaction, but fathers extrinsic support

(reflected in going out to dinner, buying things and seeing movies together) was not related to children's life satisfaction.

In their study Amato and Gilbreth found that most studies on non-resident father have been theoretical. The relationship dimension of the father-child relationship is found to have been commonly associated or related to frequency of contact, inter-dependence. Berscheid and Peplau 1983 defined close relationships as ones involving a high degree of interdependence which is reflected in four relationship properties; frequency of contact, long duration of relationship, strong degree of mutual impact and diverse kinds of activities.

Rossi and Rossi (1990) have studied bonds between parent and child in later life including frequency of interaction, feeling of affection, tension, exchanges of assistance, feelings of obligation and value consensus. Research on two parent families suggest that authoritative parent by father's is more crucial for children well-being and compare to merely their family presence (In Amato, P. R., & Gilbreth, J. G., 1999).

Analysis of the social science literature demonstrates that the root cause of poverty and income disparity is linked undeniably to the presence or absence of marriage. Broken families earn less and experience lower levels of educational achievement. Worse, they pass the prospect of meager incomes and family instability on to their children, making the effects intergenerational. A child's path to achieving a decent income as an adult—and avoiding the poverty trap—is still the traditional one: complete school, get a job, get married, and have children, in that order. Obviously, a stable income cannot be guaranteed; ultimately, children's own decisions affect their income potential, and dropping out of school, taking drugs, or having children early and outside of marriage could derail their progress at any time (In Fagan, P. F., 1999).

David Eggebeen, (2008) reviews in fathers presence in the life of infant, childhood, adolescent and young adults life of their children making a positive impact. The engagement and involvement of father's in the adolescent's life makes them function best, and the study shows father play an important role in helping their children make the transition to adulthood. Due to a high rate of divorce and nonmarital childbearing today about half of the children are likely to live some of their childhood in a home where their father does not live. As of 2007, 19.2 million children live without their biological or adoptive father or stepfather, compared to 9.5 million children living in fatherless homes in 1970. While many nonresident fathers work hard to provide for their children and take parenting seriously, research shows that responsible, involved nonresident fathers remain rare. An increasing number of children are growing up in households that differ in important ways from two biological-parent households as well as female-headed households. Certainly, the numbers of children in multigenerational households, cohabiting-couple households, and other nontraditional living arrangements can no longer be ignored (In Eggebeen, D., 2008).

A study by Kate Fogarty, (2008) on noncustodial fathers finds that they often feel left out because they miss out on the everyday, regular events in their children's lives. Ideally, joint custody is the best arrangement for parents who separate or divorce. However, the majority of custody agreements limit the opportunities for noncustodial parents to spend quality time with their children. Michael Lamb, 2002 (In Kate Fogarty, 2008) a known scholar on fatherhood, notes five factors that influence how parental divorce affects on children includes; the degree of involvement and relationship quality between children and their residential parent give children emotional support from their parents, the involvement of noncustodial

parents in their children life's is important and well worth the trouble, the amount of conflict between parents determines the child's reactions to a divorce likewise conflict between parents and their children may also increase as a result of divorce and lastly changes in amount of monetary and educational resources the child has available also influence how well children adjust to a divorce (In Fogarty, K., 2008).

Robert Hughes Jr (1995) on the effects of divorce on children analyzed that children from divorced families are on average somewhat worse off than children who have lived in intact families. Divorced children have faced more difficulty in school, more behavior problems, more negative self-concepts, more problems with peers, and more trouble getting along with their parents. It is found that the majority of children from divorced families did not have serious problems requiring professional help but on the other hand a larger percentage of children from divorced families than intact families did have serious problems and are likely to need help.

Paul Amato (1993) had suggested a several major hypothesis on the causes of children's difficulties, which includes; 1) Parental Loss: divorce often results in the loss of a parent for the children and with this loss children also lose the knowledge, skills and resources (emotional, financial, etc.) of that parent. 2) Economic Loss: another result of divorce is that children living in single parent families are less likely to have as many economic resources as children living in intact families. 3) More Life Stress: divorce often results in many changes in children's living situations such as changing schools, child care, homes, etc. Children often also have to make adjustments to changes in relationships with friends and extended family members. These changes create a more stressful environment for children. 4) Poor Parental Adjustment: generally how children fare in families is due in part to the mental health of the parents, this is likely to be true for children in divorced families as well. 5)

Lack Of Parental Competence: much of what happens to children in general is related to the skill of parents in helping them develop. The competence of parents following divorce is likely to have considerable influence on how the children are doing and 6) Exposure To Interparental Conflict: conflict is frequently part of families and may be especially common in families that have undergone divorce. The degree to which children are exposed to conflict may have substantial effects on children's well-being (In Hughes, R. Jr., 1995).

A study reviewed by Janet A. Clark, (1999) on the effects of divorce on children shows divorced parents want to protect their children from facing the stress and anguish they had felt. The issue only adds to the stress by trying to avoid, as parents need to help their children understand the family learn to adapt to new schedules, new environments, and new ways of communication. However children's reactions also vary depending on; the amount of involvement with the non-residential parent, the situation prior to the divorce/separation, the custodial parent's ease in adjusting to the divorce, parenting skills of both parents and agreement on child rearing and discipline, approval and love from both parents, openness to discussing the divorce with parents, degree of conflict between parents, economic hardship, and other added stressors like moving, changing schools and parental remarriage.

Children faced stress due to certain reasons; Firstly, the family they have always know will be different, they have to adjust with new schedule, new lifestyle, new other members to contact and loss their friends and extended family. Secondly, the loss of attachment with their loved ones with new places can cause distress to children. Thirdly, the fear of abandonment make children afraid that they might lost the other parent too, and worries if something happen who will be responsible for taking care of them, sometimes they feel of blaming themselves, feel unlovable and

not feel safe enough. Lastly, the hostility between parents make children feel guilty, anger and alone. The children should make up their own minds as forcing by other parents to be aside of them can make the child in confused. Children's reactions to stress may vary from relief and complete acceptance to great sadness, anger or anxiety. The author point out a strategy for helping their children by parents as children often can deal their feelings by relating to characters in a story. By making the child read or taking the time to read or tell stories from a characters in a book experiencing the same feelings can make the child feel safe and close, and can serve as a non-threatening buffer to stress is worked for both older and younger children (In Clark, J. A., 1999).

Michelle Mize Menees and Chris Segrin, (2000) studied Children of alcoholics (COAs) as a population at risk for developmental and interpersonal problems. Perhaps the most common explanation for the adverse effects of parental alcoholism has been characterized as the general environmental mechanism. According to this explanation, parental alcoholism is thought to produce disturbed family relationships and dynamics that impact negatively on the psychosocial well-being of children who grow up in such environment. Indeed, results of a large sample cross-sectional study indicate that COAs exhibited significant differences from non-COAs in greater involvement in alcohol use, more drug dependence, more depression, agoraphobia, social phobia and generalized anxiety, less behavioural control, lower self esteem, lower scores on tests of verbal ability, and lower academic achievement. Other findings indicate that COAs are more depressed, less satisfied with their marriages, and more likely to drink for coping purposes than non-COAs.

Initial assessments were conducted on 684 undergraduate students enrolled in introductory communication courses at a large American university who participated

in fulfillment of a course requirement or received extra credit. The sample contained 60% females and 40% males with a mean age (SD) of 20.48 SD 3.47 years. The ethnic background of the participants was (88%) White, (3.8%) Black, (3.1%) Asian, (2.5%) Hispanic, (2.6%) other. Information on biological parents indicated that 70.2% of the sample had biological parents who were married, with 25.4% divorced and 4.4% widowed. From the total sample of 684, seven comparison groups were constructed based on subjects responses to a checklist of stressors.

Participants were administered a questionnaire during mass testing sessions of 20-25 people each. The questionnaire included the measures of family functioning and climate. Participants completed a multi-item inventory of family stressors that instructed them to place a check mark next to any of six stressors (parental alcoholism, death of a parent, parental unemployment, parental separation, parental divorce, and major illness of a parent) that they might have experienced at any time while living with their parents (or step-parents). To evaluate the research question about the specificity of dysfunctional family dynamics in the families of adult children of alcoholics, a series of one-way ANOVAs were conducted. These ANOVAs compared the means on each of the family environment variables assessed in this investigation for each of the seven comparison groups. For these comparisons, group membership was determined by 'pure' exposure to the stressor (eg. Alcoholic parent, parental unemployment etc.).

A comparison of the results indicates that, when 'pure' COAs were compared to no stress controls, there were no significant group differences. However, when COAs, with or without other family stressors, were compared to no stress controls, significant differences were evident. What might explain this different patter of results? Aside from the increased statistical power of the three-group tests, it is clear

that other family stressors on their own can be associated with a poor family environment – this is evident by the significant differences between stressed and no stressed controls (In Menees, M. M., and Segrin, C., 2000).

Mark Cummings E and Patrick T. Davies, (2002) in their study reviewed the effects of marital conflict on children's adjustment. As a vehicle for presenting an update, this review follows the framework for process-oriented research initially proposed by Cummings and Cummings (1988), concentrating on recent research developments, and also considering new and emerging themes in this area of research. In this regard, areas of advancement include (a) greater articulation of the effects of specific context/stimulus characteristics of marital conflict, (b) progress in identifying the psychological response processes in children (e.g., cognitive, emotional, social, physiological) that are affected and their possible role in accounting for relations between marital conflict and child outcomes, (c) greater understanding of the role of child characteristics, family history, and other contextual factors, including effects on children due to interrelations between marital conflict and parenting, and (d) advances in the conceptualization of children's outcomes, including that effects may be more productively viewed as dynamic processes of functioning rather than simply clinical diagnoses. Understanding of the impact of marital conflict on children as a function of time-related processes remains a gap in a process-oriented conceptualization of effects. Based on this review, a revised model for a process-oriented approach on the effects of marital discord on children is proposed and suggestions are made for future research directions (In Cummings, E. M., and Davies, P. T., 2002).

The Syariah Court Singapore points out that children are mostly affected psychologically in any marital break-up. Children are the victims of the parents argument, parents tend to disregard their children's feeling as couples with marital

breakdown think and care more of their feelings. Parents might have the interest of their children at heart but what children know and perceived is something is happening wrong. Thus children can develop a negative attitude towards their parents and marriage if this situation is not handled properly. Some of the effects that parents matrimonial problems have on children includes; sense of being deprived of parental love, separation from siblings, sense of guilt, embarrassment, insecurity and loss of self-confidence, depression, anxiety, loss of concentration in studies, tendency towards negative attitude and behaviour.

In a review by Marco Albertini and Chiara Saraceno, (2007) parent-child and grandparent-child dyads, explores the impact of marital instability on relationship with adult children and grand children. The impact is more negative in case of divorce than in widowhood, but in both set of cases *it is more negative in men than in women*.

In this article the author studied contact between adult children and their divorced parents: Italy in a comparative perspective. Marital instability has risen throughout the Western countries in the mid 60's, large number of adult children who have had experiences of the breakup of their parents divorce has increased. Thus the parent – specially the father has to learn the meaningful contact with their children although they might not reside or stay in the same roof.

Barbagli and Saraceno 1998 (In Albertini, M., and Saraceno, C., 2007) reviewed a study which has been carried out for the first time in Italy during the early nineties, the relationship between non custodial parents and their children after the separation. The percentage was high among father who has re-partnered, in case of mother where re-partnered, less educated father and father who lived in the south of Italy.

The author reviewed that generally in Italy children leave their parent house at age 30 years for daughters and 32 for sons. And mostly children stay near their parent house as parent usually support children financially for buying their apartment. It has been studied that children of divorced tends to leave early their parents house and stay live a greater distance from their parent house. The reason is that parents moved geographically apart after divorce or separation well before the children form his/her own house, and the resources availability is less for one parent. It is also studied that parent divorce has a long term impact on parent-child, and indirectly on grandparent-grandchild relationships, and this impact is more negative in case of father and grandfather. Contact has been measured by face to face and by telephone, although the two ways are not the same. The findings of the Dutch study by De Jong Gierveld and Peeters 2003 (In Albertini, M., and Saraceno, C., 2007) remarriage even so than divorce has atleast for these coharts a negative impact on parent-child relationship.

The study of Barbagli and Saraceno 1998 (In Albertini, M., and Saraceno, C., 2007) indicates that separation/divorce ruptures most acquired kin ties, but to a large degree strengthens one's own family, particularly one's own parents. As parents usually supported the separated child by offering more or less accommodation, financial support, child care. It is also studied that still married parents are those most likely to give to their children material support, followed by a divorced and widowed parents, and less level by re-partnered individuals. And 10% of married couples provide material support to their grand-children and less among divorced and widowed grandparents.

The long term consequences for Intergenerational relationship has been studied in an article by Marco Albertini and Chiara Saraceno, (2007). The study was in Italy which is characterized by a strong family culture and a high density of

contacts between kin, the latter also being fostered by a substantial degree of residential proximity between adult children and their parents. The specific objectives of the study were to examine whether with the different patterns of intergenerational contact and support by divorce, separated men and women and between divorce and separated parents and parents that are still married or divorced. These study due examined whether remarriage affected this intergenerational relations.

Parents who lived alone, including divorced and separated parents risks tended to received more material support from their children particular to widowhood or women. Studies that have been reviewed also refer to the divorce of children and its impact of parent-child relationship. The study used the data from the 2003 ISTAT survey on “Family and Social Subjects” (FSS), which was conducted in 19,227 households for a total of 49,451 individuals (age varies from 0 to 104 years). The study collected information on the number of respondents’ siblings and on the number of those siblings still living, on the number of children and on parent/child proximity, on the respondent’s marriage and cohabitation history, including separation, divorce and re-cohabitation/remarriage, on exchanges across the kinship network and so forth. The sample consisted of 9098 respondents 5,247 women and 3,851 men. The study found the impact of marital dissolution on intergenerational relationship in an old age in a country characterized by strong family ties was more negative in a case of divorce than in the case of widowhood than more than men for women. Disturbance in intergenerational relationship was not compensated for stronger, horizontal kinship ties. Remarriage has also have a negative impact and was stronger for women than men (In Albertini, M., and Saraceno, C., 2007).

In a reviewed by Paul R. Amato and Alan Booth, (1996) the parents and child relationship after divorce often get worse. The quality and quantity of contact between

children and non-custodial parents, usually father, tends to decrease with time and relationship between children and custodial parents, usually mother also show signs of tension.

Hetherington, Cox and Cox, 1982 (In Amato, P. R., & Booth, A., 1996) found that after one year of divorce custodial mothers were less affectionate towards their children. They communicate with them less, punished them more harshly and were inconsistent in their use of discipline than continuously married mothers. Hetherington and Clingempeel, 1992 (In Amato, P. R., & Booth, A., 1996) reviewed though it improved the relationship between custodial mothers and children but when remarriage or children reach adolescence strain relationship show.

The author also reviewed adulthood does not ameliorate strained relations between divorced parents and children, adult children of divorced parents feel less affectionate for their parents, less contact with them and engage in fewer intergenerational exchanges of assistance than other adults. However mothers usually retain custody of their children the father-child relationship is vulnerable after divorce. It is also said the effects of divorce is stronger to the opposite sex parent-child dyads than for same sex.

The study examines the association among the pre-divorce quality of *the parent marriage*, *pre-divorce* problem in the parent-child relationship, parental divorce and post divorce parental affection. The interview schedule contains the total of 528 questions and only 65% of those contacted agreed to be interviewed. They were interviewed three times over a twelve years period. 857 respondents remained continuously in the studies between 1980 to 1988, 60 parents in the study divorced between 1980 to 1983, 44 between 1983 to 1988 and 38 between 1988 – 1992. Low quality in the parent marriage affected children in particularly in affected on mother-

child and father-child affection. Marriage discord tended to pre-occupy and distract parents, leaving them emotionally unavailable and unable to deal with their children's need.

Children with behavioral problem place severe demands on parents and the study concludes that the effects of divorce are smaller than those reported than cross sectional studies. From the three dummy variables represented divorce shows that parental divorce after 1980 is positively related to reporting that the marriage has a negative effect on children in 1980. And parents divorced between 1983 and 1988 were 154% more likely than those who never divorced. And divorcing between 1980 and 1992 nearly doubled the likelihood of responding in this way. It is also studied that parents who divorced are more likely abusive than that of married parents towards their children (In Amato, P. R., & Booth, A., 1996).

Joan B. Kelly and Robert E. Emery, (2003) have studied long term adjustment of children following divorce. Parental divorce has been viewed a range of serious and enduring behavioral and emotional problems in children and adolescents. While married families were assumed to be a wholesome and nurturing environment for children, in contrast to that divorce families are widely portrayed by the world as seriously flawed structures and environments. The author studied due to the severity, duration of separation and divorce engendered stressors to children. It is revealed that because of the different changes occurs, multiple stressors encumber children's attempts to cope with divorce and are more likely to result in increased risk and psychological difficulties over time.

It is also studied that children of divorced parents face a risk of longer-term erosion or loss of important relationships with close friends, extended and new family members and particularly nonresident parents – their father. These lead children less

importance of their father's in their lives. The author also reviewed from the estimates that three quarters of divorced men and two thirds of divorced women eventually remarry. 50% of divorced adults cohabit before remarriage and it is estimated that approximately one third of children will live in a remarried or cohabitating family before the age of 18. These new relationships accompanied by family conflict, anger in the stepparent-child relationship and role ambiguities. Apart this re-partnering may be most stressful and problematic for children when entered into soon after divorce.

Despite the increased risk for children of divorced the current consensus in the social science literature is that the majority of children whose parents divorced are not distinguishable from their peers whose parents remained married in the longer term. It is found that there is overlap between groups of children and adolescent in married and post-divorce families, as some divorced children functioning quite well in all dimensions and some children in married families experiencing severe psychological, social and academic difficulties.

Laumann-Billings & Emery, 2000 (In Kelly, J. B., & Emery, R. E., 2003) reviewed after a decade of divorce from a well functioning college students reported continued pain and distress about their parents divorces as compared with students in still married families. They reported more painful childhood feelings and experiences, including worry about such things as their parents attending major events and wanting to spend more time with their fathers. Though they did not blame themselves for parental divorce and 80% thought that the divorce was right for their parents. The most prevalent was feelings of loss, majority of them reported they missed not having their father around and questioned whether their fathers loved them. And despite these feelings and beliefs they are not differ on standardized measures of depression or anxiety from a comparison sample of students in still-married families.

Stressors in the divorce process that include the number, severity, duration of separation and divorce as well as nature of initial separation, parental adjustment and resources, parental conflict and cooperation, re-partnering of one or both parents, stability of economic resources and children's own individual resources are central to how these stressors affect children's short-and longer-term reactions and outcomes.

Hetherington, 1979 (In Kelly, J. B., & Emery, R. E., 2003) discussed this stressful impact on children and adolescence during the initial period following separation of parents. Similarly, persistent conflict between parents as well as exposure to marriage to marital violence are likely affect children later adjustment as reported by many studies. Booth & Amato, 2001 reported no association between post divorce conflict and later adjustment in young adults. Buchanan et.al (In Kelly, J. B., & Emery, R. E., 2003) discussed parents who express their rage toward their former spouse by asking children to carry hostile messages create intolerable stress and loyalty conflict in their children leading to depression as well as anxiety.

Inept parenting that includes low warmth more rejects harsh discipline are likely to add to negative impact on children. Other effects on children includes long term erosion are loss of important relationship with close friends, extended new family member and particularly non-resident parents and typically their father's. Movement after divorce to other residences often creates considerably barriers to continuity in parent-child relationship.

Bumpass, Sweet, & Castro-Martin, 1990 (In Kelly, J. B., & Emery, R. E., 2003) three quarters of divorced men and 2/3rd of divorce women eventually remarry. For many children this new relationships in the process of re-partnering is accompanied by family conflict rules and be-quiety and anger in the step-parent child relationship. Children in divorce families show lower academic performance as

compare to children continued family marriage. Remarriage and re-partnering may also increased the risk for behavior problem in children of divorce families. Bray, 1999, Hetherington & Kelly, 2002 suggest that children step families are twice likely to have psychological, social and economic problem than in children in no-divorce families.

Studies on resilience of children of divorce indicate that there is considerable overlap between children in married and post divorce families with children in divorce families functioning well in all dimensions and children in married families experiencing severe psychological, social and academic difficulties. These contrary finding have been explained in the review by Kelly and Emery in their studies as been traced by methodological issues (In Kelly, J. B., & Emery, R. E., 2003).

Paul R. Amato, (1994) studied the effects of divorce on children and found that divorced children as compared with intact two-parent families had more problems, more symptoms of psychological maladjustment, lower academic achievement, more social difficulties and poorer self-concepts. It is also said that children are the one who always faced the threat of family disruption. In the past, 25% of children experienced the death of a parent before they attained aged 15 years compared with 7% or 8% who experienced parental divorce in the century in the United States. While the divorce rate increased over the same period and at current rates between two-fifths and two-thirds of all recent first marriages end in divorce or separation. And it was assumed that 40% of children will experience the parental divorce at age 16 years. The author reviewed that Americans traditionally believed a two-parent family is necessary for the successful socialization and development of children. It was assumed that death of parent leads to many problems for children, many social scientists assumed that children who lost their parents through divorce

experience similar effects to that of children who lost a parent through death. Since the loss of a parent is usually unavoidable and unintended, the loss of a parent through divorce took on moral overtones due to choice exercised.

In 1991, Amato and Keith (In Amato, P. R., 1994) pooled the results for 92 studies involved by 13,000 children from pre-school to college age. This meta-analysis confirmed children in divorced families on average experience more problems and have lower level of well-being than children from intact two-parent families. Problems includes lower academic achievement, more behavioral problems, more negative self concepts, more social difficulties and more problematic relationships with both mothers and fathers.

The author also studied that parental divorce had a great association with children well being. The causal mechanisms responsible are to be understood and most explanation includes the absence of the non-custodial parent, the adjustment of the custodial parent, inter-parental conflict, economic hardship and life stress.

Children's outcomes especially measures of academic achievement are related to the level of household income following divorce. Guidubaldi and colleagues (In Amato, P. R., 1994) found that children of divorced families scored significantly lower than children in intact two-parent families on 27 out of 34 outcomes.

The author on the other hand reviewed a concern well being for the children of divorce as on how various policies and intervention can reduce the risk of problems faced by them. The most common discussed interventions include lowering the incidence of divorce, joint custody, child support reform, enhancing the self-sufficiency of single mothers and therapeutic programs for children and parents.

In this study they have reviewed the efficacy of cross-section verses longitudinal designs from available study and discuss the important types of samples

(Clinical samples, Convenience samples and Random samples). This detail review analysis variation by Ethnicity of child, aged, gender and emphasis parental absences custodial particularly adjustment and parental skills, inter-parental conflict, economic hardships and life stress as being contributory factors in children well being following divorce. Joint physical custody and lowering the incidence of divorce, child support reform, economic self support for single mother and therapeutic in for children or seen as intervention that might benefit children of divorce (In Amato, P. R., 1994).

2.4. Legal Framework

Michael Fried Fall (1997) states with reference to the Divorce in India that all major religions have their own laws which govern divorces within their own community, and separate regulations exist regarding divorce in interfaith marriages. The Hindus including Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains are governed by the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Christians by the Indian Divorce Act, 1869; Parsis by the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; and Muslims by the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, which provides the grounds on which women can obtain a divorce, and the uncodified civil law. Civil marriages and inter-community marriages and divorces are governed by the Special Marriage Act, 1956. Other community specific legislation includes the Native Converts' Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866 that allows a Hindu to appeal for a divorce if a spouse converts to Christianity (In Fall, M. F., 1997).

The author states that while in most Western nations there are approximately 16 distinct reasons for which divorces are granted, in India, however, only five main reasons are generally accepted as sufficient grounds for divorce, which includes:

1) Adultery which means the voluntary sexual intercourse of a married man or woman with a person other than the offender's wife or husband. The law considers it valid grounds for either sex but adulterous women are judged more harshly than men. The

law regarding Hindus allows divorce to be granted on the grounds of infidelity of either husband or wife. The Christian law, however, would traditionally not have granted a divorce to a woman solely on the grounds of adultery. A recent Bombay High Court decision recognized cruelty and desertion as independent grounds for the dissolution of a Christian marriage striking down a section of the law that allowed for an unconstitutional distinction between the sexes (In Fall, M. F., 1997).

2) *Desertion* with three main components which includes; disruption of cohabitation, absence of just or reasonable cause and their combination throughout three years before the abandoned spouse may petition for a divorce. There also must be an obvious intent on the part of the offending spouse to remain permanently apart from the other. This statute also applies to cases in which a spouse has been heard from for at least seven years.

3) *Cruelty* includes both physical and mental abuse and neglect. Despite the fact that cruelty is often equally available to husbands and wives, the way in which the law is interpreted and applied suggests that women and men are evaluated by rather different standards. A court decision made in early May 1997 made cruelty sufficient grounds for a Christian woman to obtain a; previously, the law required both adultery and cruelty to be proven.

4) *Impotency* refers to the physical inability of the couple to consummate the marriage or the refusal by one spouse to do so. Some cases have established that sterility can be construed to mean non-consummation if the other partner is not aware of the condition before the marriage.

5) *Chronic Disease* included both mental and physical illnesses, as well as sexually transmitted diseases. Not all religions recognize identical diseases as grounds for

divorce as Christians and Parsis do not allow divorce for a sexually transmitted disease or leprosy while the other communities do (In Fall, M. F., 1997).

Methodology

The study is descriptive in nature. It employs the use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data was collected from both stable as well as from broken families that have experienced marital breakdown. Apart from survey method, case studies were also attempted with a view to understand the dynamics and process of marital breakdown and its causative effects. To conduct an in-depth study of the perceptions of adults in relation to marital breakdown, focus group discussions were also conducted.

Sampling

The study used multi stage sampling procedure. In the first stage, Mizoram state was chosen purposively due to the perceptibly greater incidence of marital breakdown in the state. In the second stage Aizawl was selected as the district due to greater urban concentration and by virtue of having the highest population in Mizoram among districts. The third stage comprised of selection of the rural development block within the selected district. This was based on two criteria female literacy and sex ratio. Female literacy and sex ratio are predictive of development. Using the above criteria *Tlangnuam* block was chosen since these indicators are representative of the state figures. Three villages within this block namely *Muthi*, *Lungleng* and *Samtlang* were chosen based on the same criteria. Similarly selection of urban localities *Durtlang Leitan*, *Chanmari*, *Khatla South* and *Zonuam* were selected based on proximity to the selected block as well as based on the above two criteria. The final stage of selection was that of selection of respondents, which was prepared in consultation with the community leaders like VCP (*Village Council President* who is the head of the local government) and MHIP (*Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl*; a female organization in the state works for the welfare of the society, in each villages

and localities throughout Mizoram they have branches, with headquarters in Aizawl) and Church leaders (Church plays an important and significant roles, church leaders includes *Elders, Leaders of Fellowship of Youth and Women* from respective villages and localities). In each locality a list of adults belonging to broken families was prepared. Following that a list of stable families with corresponding socio-economic variables was prepared. The final sample consisted of 297 respondents (141 stable and 156 broken families) as well as from 45 children (21 stable and 24 from broken families) and data collection was done during 2008 to 2009.

Pilot Study

A pilot study was conducted in the selected villages and localities before the study was conducted. Interviews were held with the key leaders of the respective communities viz., VCP, MHIP and Church leaders. The Pilot Study confirmed the suitability of the areas for study.

Pre – Testing of Tool

The tools were pre-tested on 5 respondents (2 from villages & 3 from urban localities). Suitable modifications were made based following the pre-test.

Sources of Data

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used to collect information related to marital breakdown. Primary data was collected from the respondents through interview schedule. The secondary data was collected from books, journals, local newspapers, magazines and so on.

Tools of data collection: Primary data was collected through the used of:

- 1) Semi-structured interview schedule and this included separate interview schedules for adults and children. The adult interview schedule collected data on the demographic details, marriage particulars, quality of marital

relationship, causes of divorce, marital breakdown, consequences of divorce on children and perceived social support. And the children interview schedule collected data on demographic details, needs and concerns, scholastic performance, recreation and leisure, relationship building, health, dreams and aspiration, perceived consequences of divorce on children. Pre-testing of the tool helped in modifications before final use.

- 2) The Family Strengths Scale developed by Duncan and Brown (1992) with due modification to suit the local situation is also used.
- 3) Data was also collected through focus group discussions in relation to perceptions of adults about the causes and consequences of marital breakdown.
- 4) Case studies of persons who have undergone marital breakdown were documented through the use of in-depth interview.

Data Processing and Analysis

The collected data was coded, edited and processed through computer software packages of Excel and SPSS which were used for analysis. Cross tabulation, percentages, Kendall's W, averages Chi-Square test and student 't' test were the techniques used for drawing inferences. Correlation between key variables has also been attempted.

Limitations of the study

In spite of rigorous methodological discipline in the study certain limitations are inevitable. Firstly, *memory recall* method was used to collect the information on the respondents from broken families. Also, information on the first spouse may not be accurate because often due to divorce and the subsequent trauma, respondents are likely to be reluctant to share information or tend to forget details.

Results and Discussion

The present study aims at identifying the causes of marital breakdown in the context of Mizoram. It also focuses on the effect of marital breakdown on families with particular reference to children. All the respondents belong to Aizawl District, *Tlangnuam RD Block*. The study includes 141 stable families and 156 broken families covering both men and women. Stable families refer to all such families that have intact marriages. Hence they are also referred to as intact families. On the other hand 'broken' families refer to those families which have experienced a marital breakdown culminating in a divorce , or families that have respondents who have remarried. The results are presented across three chapters. The first of these presents the socio-demographic profile of the respondents and it includes particulars of family of origin. The second presents marriage particulars. Since marital breakdown is fairly common in the state and further, since there are several remarriages, it was felt necessary to include perceptions and particulars only in relation to the first marriage of respondents. The third of these presents causes of divorce as perceived by adult respondents in both the stable and broken families, reasons for divorce where information was sought only from the broken families, post divorce perceived consequences and perceptions of children in relation to impact of divorce.

Table No. 1. Respondent Particulars

Sl. No		Marital Stability		Total N = 297
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	
I	Gender			
1	Female	69 (41.57)	97 (58.43)	166 (100)
2	Male	72 (54.96)	59 (45.04)	131 (100)
II	Age Group			
1	Young (Below 35 Years)	42 (39.62)	64 (60.38)	106 (100)
2	Middle Aged (35 -60 Years)	82 (49.40)	84 (50.60)	166 (100)
3	Old (60 Years and Above)	17 (68.00)	8 (32.00)	25 (100)
III	Marital Status			
1	Married	139 (100)	0 (0.00)	139 (100)
2	Divorced	0 (0.00)	117 (100.00)	117 (100)
3	Remarried	0 (0.00)	32 (100.00)	32 (100)
4	Remarried Twice	0(0.00)	6 (100)	6 (100)
5	Remarried Thrice	0(0.00)	1(100)	1(100)
6	Single	2 (100)	0 (0.00)	2 (100)
IV	Type of Family			
1	Joint	57 (39)	88 (60.69)	145 (100)
2	Nuclear	84 (55.26)	68 (44.74)	152 (100)
VI	Size of Family			
1	Small (1-3)	16 (44.44)	20 (55.56)	36 (100)
2	Medium (4-6)	79 (50.97)	76 (49.03)	155 (100)
3	Large (7 and Above)	46 (43.40)	60 (56.60)	106 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

4.1 Socio – Demographic Profile of Respondents

Gender, age group, marital status, type of family and size of family are discussed in Table 1.

4.1.1 Gender

Gender is an important variable when documenting perceptions related to marital breakdown. The impact of breakdown and subsequent social support experienced by a woman is likely to be different as compared to man. Out of the total number of 297 respondents, 166 were female and the remaining 131 male. Females from broken families comprised more than half of the female respondents. Of the male respondents, more than half were from stable families with the remaining from the broken families. Among the total number

of broken families almost two thirds of the respondents were female as compared to male. And among the intact families, more than half of the respondents were male and the remaining female.

4.1.2 Age Group

Age perceptions related to marital breakdown are likely to be influenced by age. The agewise distribution of respondents across the families reveals that of 106 young respondents more than half the young respondents came from broken families while more than one third with middle aged respondents are from stable families. Of the 166 families, an almost equal number of middle aged respondents (49.40% from stable and 50.60% from broken families) are middle aged. Twenty-five families belonged to an older age group and of these more than two- third belonged to 'stable' and the remaining are 'broken' families. Among the stable families more than half were Middle aged respondents, less than a third Young aged and the remaining were Old aged respondents. From the broken families more than half were Middle aged, more than a third belonged to Young and the remaining to Old aged respondents.

4.1.3 Marital Status

This is a single most important variable as far as this study is concerned. Of the total number of 297 respondents 139 (46.8%) were married and belonged to stable families while 117 (37%) can be classified as respondents who have undergone divorce and are therefore classified as 'broken' families and a little more than a tenth of the sample (13%) belonged to families that have been reconstituted (also considered among broken families) .Only 1% responded as a 'single-parent' family. In a previous study

done on a similar population on a sample size of 40, it was found that more than one third of respondents were married, less than one fourth of them divorced and less than a fifth of them remarried and/or widowed (Fambawl, J.R., 2004). The marital status has also been studied . Out of the total number of respondents who are divorced (n=40) a significant majority (82.50%) of the respondents remained divorced and remaining almost a fifth (17.50%) remarried. (Vanlalhriatpuii, K., 2007). Such studies, however small the sample size is, address attention on the high incidence of marital breakdown and remarriages in Mizo society

4.1.4 Type of Family

Type of family represents an important indicator for understanding family dynamics. It has been classified into two categories viz., Joint and Nuclear. Out of the total numbers of 297 respondents, 145 belonged to 'Joint family' and 152 were 'Nuclear' in family structure. Of the Joint families, almost two thirds belonged to broken and more than a third belongs to stable families. Of the Nuclear family more than a half were from intact and the remaining from the 'broken' family. Among the total of stable families, more than half were from nuclear families and the remaining Joint families. And among broken families more than half are from Joint families and the remaining Nuclear families.

4.1.5 Size of Family

The size of family represents the family size of the respondents in their present situation. Out of the total 297 respondents more than half were medium family, more than third were large family and the remaining small family. Of 36 'small' families more than a half belonged to 'broken' and less

than a half belonged to stable family. Medium size families (50.97% from stable and 49.03% from broken families) were reported. Of the total of 106 'large' family respondents less than two thirds belonged to broken and more than one third were from stable family. Among the stable family more than a half belonged medium size families, almost one third belonged to large and a tenth belonged to small sized families. Of the total number of 156 broken families almost a half belonged to medium sized families, more than one third belonged to large and a tenth belonged to small sized families.

Table No. 2. Distribution by Sub – Tribe and Denomination

Sl.No		Marital Stability		Total n = 297
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	
I	Subtribe			
1	Lusei	81 (50.63)	79 (49.38)	160 (100)
2	Ralte	17 (36.96)	29 (63.04)	46 (100)
3	Hmar	18 (39.13)	28 (60.87)	46 (100)
4	Lai	22 (64.71)	12 (35.29)	34 (100)
5	Paihte	3 (27.27)	8 (72.73)	11 (100)
II	Denomination			
1	Presbyterian	105 (49.53)	107 (50.47)	212 (100)
2	UPC(NE)	8 (47.06)	9 (52.94)	17 (100)
3	Roman Catholic	6 (37.50)	10 (62.50)	16 (100)
4	Baptist	5 (35.71)	9 (64.29)	14 (100)
5	7th Day Adventist	7 (50.00)	7 (50.00)	14 (100)
6	Salvation	5 (38.46)	8 (61.54)	13 (100)
7	UPC(MZ)	4 (50.00)	4 (50.00)	8 (100)
8	IKK	1 (50.00)	1 (50.00)	2 (100)
9	Pentecostal reform church	0 (0.00)	1 (100)	1 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

4.2 Sub Tribe, Denomination

In Table 23 Sub Tribe and Denomination are discussed.

4.2.1 Sub Tribe

Perceptions related to marital breakdown are likely to be influenced by Sub Tribe. Mizoram is a land of tribal people. In the present study all the

respondents were tribal and they belong to Mizo tribe. The sub tribes found are *Lusei, Lai, Paihte, Hmar and Ralte*. More than a half out of the total respondents (297) belonged to Lusei sub tribe. Of the total number of 160 an almost equal number (50.63% intact and 49.38% from broken families) of Lusei respondents, and out of 46 respondents each of Ralte and Hmar respondents, almost two-thirds each belonged to broken and more than a third each belonged to intact family respectively. From a total number of 34 *Lai* respondents almost two-thirds were from intact and more than a third were from broken family. Among the 11 *Paihte* respondents almost a quarter belonged to broken and less than a third belonged to intact family.

4.2.2 Denomination

Religious denomination is a key variable for studying marital breakdown. All the respondents are Christians and the major denominations in Mizoram are listed and classified into nine categories viz., Presbyterian, Baptist, Salvation, Roman Catholic, UPC (NE), UPC (MZ), Seventh Day Adventist, IKK and Pentecostal Reform Church for the study. More than half of the respondents are Presbyterian out of the total numbers of 297 respondents. Among the 212 Presbyterian respondents there was an almost equal number (49.53% from stable and 50.47% from broken family). Of the 17 UPC (NE) respondents more than half belonged to broken and less than a half belonged to stable family. Of the sixteen Roman Catholic respondents almost two-thirds were from broken and above a third were from stable families. Of the Baptist respondents almost two-thirds belonged to broken and more than a third belonged to stable families. An equal numbers (50% each of stable and broken family) out of 14 respondents were Seventh Day Adventist.

Of the 13 respondents of Salvation Army almost two-thirds from broken and more than a third from stable families. An equal numbers of respondents (50% each from intact and broken family) are from UPC (MZ) comprising 8 numbers from the total numbers of respondents. 2 numbers of IKK respondents (50% each from both the families) and 1 respondent belonged to Pentecostal Reform Church.

Table No. 3. Income Particulars

	Marital Stability					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
	n = 141		n = 156		n = 297	
Size of Family	5.94	2.39	6.12	2.38	6.03	2.38
Total no. of earning members	2.49	1.64	2.39	1.38	2.44	1.50
Total monthly family income	12307.80	18842.06	12732.69	20345.99	12530.98	19614.56

4.3 Family Particulars

In Table 3 Size of Family, Total no. of earning members, Total monthly family income

4.3.1 Size of Family

The size of family represents respondent first marriage size of the family, in both ‘stable’ and ‘broken’ families the *average size of the family* is 6.

4.3.2 Total no. of earning members

The total no. of earning members from the stable and broken families is 2.

4.3.3 Total monthly family income

The mean monthly family income of the stable families is Rs. 12,308 and Rs. 12,733 in broken families, revealing very little difference with broken families having higher mean monthly income.

In a demographic research study by Torkild Hovde Lyngstad, (2004) on the effect of spouses education attainments in Norway, it was found that Income effects conform to the specialization model, showing a negative effect on the divorce rate of the husband's income and a positive effect on the divorce rate from the wife's income.

Gerald Leslie and Sheila Korman have surveyed the effects of who gets divorced and why and states that there is an inverse correlation between social class and divorce rates – people from higher social – class groups are less likely to divorce than those from the lower social classes. This relationship is constant when either income or education is used as an indicator for social class (In Dickinson, G. E., Leming, M. R., 1995).

Table No. 4. Assets Position

Assets	Marital Stability		Total
	Yes	No	
Land	n = 141	n = 156	n = 297
Respondent	46 (58.97)	32 (41.03)	78 (100)
First Spouse	36 (64.29)	20 (35.71)	56 (100)
House			
Respondent	42 (58.33)	30 (41.67)	72 (100)
First Spouse	28 (65.12)	15 (34.88)	43 (100)
Vehicle			
Self vehicle	28 (65.12)	15 (34.88)	43 (100)
Spouse vehicle	13 (52.00)	12 (48.00)	25 (100)

4.4 Assets during the first marriage

In Table 4 Assets such as Land, House and Vehicle of the respondents and their first spouse are discussed. Assets provide immunity to a household against vulnerability during economic instability.

4.4.1 Land

Of the total number of respondents, 78 had own land in their name. Of these, 46 (58.97%) belong to stable families and 32 (41.03%) are from broken families. In the case of 56 respondents, their first spouse had own land in their name, (64.29% from stable and 35.71% belonging to broken families).

4.4.2 House

72 respondents had own house in their name. Of these 42 (58.33%) belongs to stable families and 30 (41.67%) belong to broken families. 43 first spouses had own house in their name (65.12% from to stable and 34.88% from broken families).

4.4.3 Vehicle

43 respondents had own vehicle in their name, of which 28 (65.12%) belong to stable families and 15 (34.88%) belong to broken families. 25 first spouses had own vehicles in their name, (52% from stable and 48% from broken families).

The discussion with reference to socio-demograph particulars related to income and possession of assets reveal that while the mean monthly income is comparable across both stable and broken families, the possession of assets including land, vehicle and house reveals that more respondents from stable families had assets as compared to respondents from broken families.

Table No. 5. Age at Marriage and Education

Sl.No		Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
		n = 141	n = 156	N = 297
I	Average Age At Marriage			
1	Respondents			
1	Female	24 ± 4	24 ± 7	24 ± 6
2	Male	26 ± 5	27 ± 8	27 ± 6
3	Total	25 ± 5	25 ± 8	25 ± 6
2	First Spouse			
1	Female	28 ± 6	27 ± 9	27 ± 8
2	Male	24 ± 4	26 ± 7	25 ± 6
3	Total	26 ± 5	27 ± 8	26 ± 7
II	Education Status			
1	Respondents			
1	Illiterate	1 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (100)
2	Primary level	19 (43.18)	25 (56.82)	44 (100)
3	Middle level	20 (40.00)	30 (60.00)	50 (100)
4	High school level	59 (45.74)	70 (54.26)	129 (100)
5	Higher secondary level	19 (57.58)	14 (42.42)	33 (100)
6	Graduate	13 (48.15)	14 (51.85)	27 (100)
7	Post Graduate	10 (76.92)	3 (23.08)	13 (100)
2	First Spouse			
1	Illiterate	0 (0.00)	3 (100.00)	3 (100)
2	Primary level	18 (52.94)	16 (47.06)	34 (100)
3	Middle level	22 (44.00)	28 (56.00)	50 (100)
4	High school level	53 (41.73)	74 (58.27)	127 (100)
5	Higher secondary level	23 (51.11)	22 (48.89)	45 (100)
6	Graduate	20 (60.61)	13 (39.39)	33 (100)
7	Post Graduate	5 (100)	0 (0.00)	5 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

4.5 Age and Education status of respondents and their first spouse

In table 2 Average age at Marriage of respondents and first spouse, Education status of respondents and first spouse are discussed.

4.5.1 Average Age At Marriage

Information on age at marriage of self and of their first spouse marriage was sought. Males from broken families had slightly higher age at marriage as compared to others. For the female respondents, the average age at

marriage for both stable and broken families is 24 years. While average age of males is 27 years for broken families and 26 years for stable families.

With reference to first spouse and age at marriage the females from stable families had high age at marriage as compared to others comprising 28 years of age, while in broken families, female marriage age is 27 years. In reference to age of first spouses at marriage, average age is 26 years in broken which is higher than that in stable families which had an average age of 24 years. In the current study the age at marriage of respondents and of first spouses did not seem to differ greatly across broken and stable families.

In a demographic research study by Torkild Hovde Lyngstad (2004) on the effect of spouses education attainments in Norway it was found that age at marriage is one of the best-documented determinants of divorce. For both spouses, marrying young heightens their risk of divorcing. The effects found by the author are particularly strong for marriages with teenage brides. Age heterogamy raises divorce risk with 21 per cent when the husband is the oldest spouse, and 44 per cent when the wife is the oldest spouse.

According to Gerald Leslie and Sheila Korman men and women who marry at young ages are more likely to experience divorce than are couples who are married when they are older. According to Spanier and Glick women who marry under age 17 years are three times as likely to divorce as women who marry in their 20s. Women who are 18 or 19 when they are marry are twice as likely to divorce as women marrying in their 20s. Likewise, men who marry in their teens are twice as likely to divorce as men who marry in their 20s.

4.5.2 Education Status

4.5.2.1 Education Status of Respondents

Stability in marriage and educational status are likely to be related in a positive manner. Education Status of Respondents has been classified into Seven categories viz., Illiterate, Primary level, Middle level, High School level, Higher Secondary level, Graduate and Post Graduate. Out of the total number, less than half of the respondent had attained high school level (43%). There is only one illiterate who belongs to stable families. Of the total number of respondents who have attained primary level, more than half belonged to broken and more than a third belonged to stable families. Among middle level educated respondents (n=50) more than half (56%) were from broken and above a third were stable families. Of the 33 higher secondary level respondents more than half of them belonged to intact and the remaining broken families. An almost equal number (48.15% intact and 51.85% broken families) were Graduates, among 27 respondents only 13 respondents had a post graduation. From both the intact and broken families high school level respondents are greater in numbers. In all, less than half of the total number of respondents (43%) had completed atleast high school. Only one respondent could not read and write. Since Mizoram is a state that boasts of being the second most literate state, this finding is in keeping with the literacy status.

4.5.2.2 Education Status of First Spouse

Information on education of first spouse was sought. Almost a half (127) had attained high school level like the respondents. Of these more than a half were from broken and the remaining were stable families. There are 3 illiterate persons among broken families. Of the total number of 34

respondents who had attended primary level, more than a half belonged to stable and the remaining to broken families. A total of 50 respondents had attained middle level. Higher Secondary level was attained by respondents (51.11%) stable and (48.89%) broken families. A total number of 45 had attained higher secondary level. Of the 33 graduate respondents, below two thirds belonged to stable and above a third to broken families. All five post graduates belonged to stable families. From both the stable and broken families, high school level respondents are greater in numbers. In a demographic research study by Torkild Hovde Lyngstad (2004) on the effect of spouses education attainments in Norway the results show a general pattern of negative effects of educational attainment on a couple's annual odds of divorce, net of all other covariates. The divorce risk declines with a higher level of the husband's educational attainment and with a high level of the wife's educational attainment. This is in line with the economic-demographic theoretical predictions, even when the effect of wives' increased economic potential due to higher education is taken into account.

Level of education is an important indicator in determining marriage stability. Torkild Hovde Lyngstad (2004) also studied effect of spouses education attainments in Norway and found that education effects on divorce are strongly negative, the results showed no protective effect of educational homogamy. It also says couples where both spouses have low levels of education run a risk that is more than four-fold in magnitude compared to couples where both have a higher education.

It is evident from the above that education of first spouses as compared to previous table which discussed education of respondents is not vastly

different. However there are more post graduates among the respondents as compared to their first spouses. More post graduates were seen in stable families of respondents as compared to broken families indicating the need to explore further the relationship between higher education and marriage stability.

Table No. 6. Occupation of Self and First Spouse

Sl.No	Occupation	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	Total N = 297
I	Self			
1	Housewife	40 (45.45)	48 (54.55)	88 (100)
2	Govt. servant/pensioner	29 (51.79)	27 (48.21)	56 (100)
3	Cultivator	19 (44.19)	24 (55.81)	43 (100)
4	Business	14 (43.75)	18 (56.25)	32 (100)
5	Skilled Workers	20 (68.97)	9 (31.03)	29 (100)
6	Daily wage labourer	4 (17.39)	19 (82.61)	23 (100)
7	Pvt. employment	4 (36.36)	7 (63.64)	11 (100)
8	Teacher	7 (100)	0 (0.00)	7 (100)
9	Vegetable vendor	2 (50.00)	2 (50.00)	4 (100)
10	Church employee	1 (50.00)	1 (50.00)	2 (100)
11	Student	0 (0.00)	1 (100.00)	1 (100)
12	Politician	1 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (100)
II	First spouse occupation			
1	Govt. servant/pensioner	39 (59.09)	27 (40.91)	66 (100)
2	Housewife	33 (53.23)	29 (46.77)	62 (100)
3	Cultivator	23 (45.10)	28 (54.90)	51 (100)
4	Skilled workers	14 (42.42)	19 (57.58)	33 (100)
5	Daily wage labourer	6 (18.75)	26 (81.25)	32 (100)
6	Business	14 (53.85)	12 (46.15)	26 (100)
7	Pvt. employment	4 (44.44)	5 (55.56)	9 (100)
8	Teacher	4 (50.00)	4 (50.00)	8 (100)
9	Student	1 (25.00)	3 (75.00)	4 (100)
10	Vegetable vendor	2 (50.00)	2 (50.00)	4 (100)
11	Bank clerk	0 (0.00)	1 (100)	1 (100)
12	Politician	1 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

4.6 Occupation

Occupation of respondents and occupation of their first spouse are discussed in Table 3. Occupation is the key factor that denotes the socio economic status of the respondents and class position. It has been classified into 12 categories viz., Daily wage labourer, Pvt. Employment, Cultivator, Housewife, Business, Govt. servant/pensioner, Skilled workers, Church employee, Student, Veg. vendor, Teacher, Politician.

4.6.1 Self Occupation

Of the total 297 respondents who constituted the sample, almost a third (88) are housewives. Among housewives, more than half belonged to broken and less than half belonged to stable families. There were fifty six govt. servant/pensioner respondents (51.79% stable and 48.21% broken families). Of the 43 cultivator respondents more than half were from broken and the remaining from stable families. Out of the 32 business respondents more than half belonged to broken and the remaining to stable families. There were 29 employed skilled workers. More than two-thirds of them belonged to stable and less than a third to broken families. Among the 23 daily wage labourers a majority (81.62 %) were from broken families. Private Employment of 11 respondents indicates that almost two-thirds of these belongs to broken and above a third belongs to stable families. There were seven teachers and all belonged to stable families.

4.6.2 First Spouse Occupation

Of the total (N=297) there are sixty six govt. servant/pensioners among the first spouses. An almost equal number were housewives. Cultivators (n=51) were more in broken and less than half in stable families. Out of the 33

skilled workers, more than half were from broken and the remaining stable families. Among the daily wage earners majority of the respondents belonged to broken families. Of the 26 business employed more than half belonged to stable families. Among those in private employment more than half belonged to stable families. Eight teachers and four students were present among first spouses of respondents.

Occupation of respondents and of their first spouse was very indicative. The first spouse in broken families had more daily wage labourers and skilled workers as compared to stable families.

Table No. 7. Use of Substances & Health

Sl.No		Marital Stability		Total
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	
I	Alcohol			
1	Self	26 (36.62)	45 (63.38)	71 (100)
2	First spouse	32 (32.00)	68 (68.00)	100 (100)
II	Smoking			
1	Self smoker	61 (48.03)	66 (51.97)	127 (100)
2	First spouse smoker	48 (34.53)	91 (65.47)	139 (100)
III	Self health			
1	Bad	17 (50.00)	17 (50.00)	34 (100)
2	Average	24 (61.54)	15 (38.46)	39 (100)
3	Good	100 (44.64)	124 (55.36)	224 (100)
IV	First Spouse Health			
1	Bad	20 (68.97)	9 (31.03)	29 (100)
2	Average	24 (63.16)	14 (36.84)	38 (100)
3	Good	97 (42.17)	133 (57.83)	230 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

4.7 Marital Stability alcohol, smoking used and health

Respondents and First spouse Alcohol and Smoking Used and Health are discussed in Table 4.

4.7.1 Alcohol

The use of alcohol in a tribal society like the Mizos has been discussed in many studies. The imposition of the Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act (MLTP) has been in force since over a decade. Several attempts by Church and other NGOs have not borne fruit in reduction of alcohol abuse. Most research studies discuss the role of alcoholism/addiction and resultant domestic violence as causes of marital discord and divorce. This study attempted to explore how many of the respondents and their first spouses consumed alcohol. Of the total number of respondents almost a quarter (n=71) (23.9%) reported consuming alcohol themselves while a third of the respondents (n=100) reported that their first spouse consumed alcohol.

4.7.2 Smoking

Smoking used has been studied in relation to self and first spouse. Of the total number less than half the respondents claimed to be smokers while an almost equal number (46%) had first spouses who smoked. Of 139 respondents whose spouse smoked almost two-thirds were from broken families.

Marriage to a smoker and lung cancer risk through population based case control study of lung cancer in New Mexico by Charles G. Humble et. al found that never smokers married to smokers had about a two-fold increased risk of lung cancer.

Comments about Smoking and Marriage from Readers and Forum Members (In Sheri & Bob Stritof, 2010) states that cigarette smoking has made a statement that reveals a carelessness about health of partner on part of smoker. A wife of 29 years states that her husband who is a nonsmoker

recently starts nagging her and made her cry often. The nagging by spouse to reduce smoking made arguments more frequent and lead to marital discord (In Sheri & Bob Stritof, 2010).

4.7.3 Health

Perceptions related to health has been classified into three categories viz., Bad, Average and Good. Of the total number a majority (24.5%) reports having good health. Of these more than half belonged to broken and the remaining belonged to stable families. Of 34 respondents who reported their health as poor an equal number each belonged to both types of families

4.7.4 Health of First Spouse

Out of the total number a huge majority (230 respondents) reports spouse having good health, the 29 respondents whose spouses health was poor more than two-thirds belonged to intact families.

Table No. 8. Expectations from Marriage (Ranking)

Sl.No	Expectation	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
		n = 141	n = 156	N = 297
1	Kind hearted	14.0	12.8	13.4
2	Caring	12.7	12.6	12.6
3	Good looks	10.8	11.7	11.3
4	Good Christian	11.3	10.4	10.8
5	Even tempered	10.8	10.4	10.6
6	Family oriented	10.8	10.0	10.4
7	Intelligent	10.2	9.7	10.0
8	Economic stable	9.8	9.7	9.8
9	Belonging to same tribe/religion	9.6	9.8	9.7
10	Good physique	9.8	9.6	9.7
11	Healthy	9.4	9.8	9.6
12	Non alcoholic	8.9	10.2	9.6
13	Tobacco free	8.9	9.4	9.1
14	Good humoured	8.9	9.3	9.1
15	Drug free	8.9	9.1	9.0
16	Older in age	8.9	9.1	9.0
17	Good education	9.1	8.8	9.0
18	Non smoker	8.6	8.8	8.7
19	Younger in age	8.5	8.8	8.6
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.16	0.13	0.14
	Chi-Square	406.59	354.206	728.1637
	df	18	18	18
	Asymp. Sig.	4E-75	3E-64	6E-143

4.8 Ranking Expectation

In Table 5 Expectation from spouse prior to marriage was sought. The respondents ranked 'Kind hearted and Caring' as first; of these in both Stable and broken families. Good looks, Being a Good Christian and being Even tempered are ranked as second by total respondents. Stable families respondents ranked Caring as second and broken families ranked only Good looks as second.

Being Family oriented, Intelligent, Economic stable and Belonging to same tribe/religion, having a Good physique, Healthy, Non alcoholic are

ranked as third. Stable families ranked Good looks, Good Christian, Even tempered, Family oriented as third and unstable family ranked Good Christian, Even tempered, Family oriented, Intelligent, Economic stable, Belonging to same tribe/religion, Good physique, Healthy, Non alcoholic as third.

Being Tobacco free, Good humoured, Drug free, Older in age, Good education, Non smoker and Younger in age are ranked as fourth,. In Stable families ranked being Intelligent, Economically stable, Belonging to same tribe/religion, Good physique as fourth and unstable family ranked Tobacco free, Good humoured, Drug free, Older in age, Good education, Non smoker and Younger in age as fourth. Expectations from marriage or of the spouse are likely to determine the kind of outcome a marriage has. The major finding here is in regard to more broken families than stable families hope to marry a spouse who is non-alcoholic.

Table No. 9. Problems Faced During Arranging Marriage

Sl.No	Problems	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Economic Problems	3.1	3.1	3.1
2	Family problems (spouse)	3.0	3.1	3.0
3	Family problems (self)	3.0	3.1	3.0
4	Problems related to religious denomination	3.0	2.9	2.9
5	Problems created by friends/neighbours/relatives	3.0	2.8	2.9
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.01	0.03	0.02
	Chi-Square	8.22	21.1	20.3
	df	4.00	4.0	4.0
	Asymp. Sig.	0.08	0.00	0.0

4.9 Ranking Problems faced in arranging Marriage

Information problems faced in arranging Marriage; Economic problems, Family problems (spouse), Family problems (self), Problems related

to religious denomination and Problems created by friends/neighbours/relatives was sought and are discussed in Table 9.

The respondents ranked Economic problems as first in both Stable and Broken families. Family problems (of spouse) and Family problems (of self) were also ranked high. The study has sought valuable information respondents perceptions related to arranging of marriage. If Economic problems and family related problems exist at time of entering the marriage, they are likely to have a definite bearing on the marriage and affect its stability. Problems cited during interview revealed that broken income and interference by families in the couples life are common.

Table No. 10. Marriage Particulars

Sl.No		Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
		n = 141	n = 156	N = 297
I	Under which law registered your 1st marriage			
1	Customary law	6 (25.00)	18 (75.00)	24 (100)
2	Christian marriage act	134 (49.26)	138 (50.74)	272 (100)
3	Special marriage act	1 (100)	0 (0.00)	1 (100)
II	How did you and first spouse meet			
1	Through our families	6 (42.86)	8 (57.14)	14 (100)
2	At church	26 (59.09)	18 (40.91)	44 (100)
3	Through common friends	47 (45.19)	57 (54.81)	104 (100)
4	Love each other	21 (43.75)	27 (56.25)	48 (100)
5	Through friendship	18 (60.00)	12 (40.00)	30 (100)
6	Same locality	22 (44.90)	27 (55.10)	49 (100)
7	Marriage without any purpose	1 (12.50)	7 (87.50)	8 (100)
III	Opposition			
1	Yes, spouse's parents only	1 (14.29)	6 (85.71)	7 (100)
2	Yes, self's parents only	8 (23.53)	26 (76.47)	34 (100)
3	Yes, both sets of parents	0 (0.00)	5 (100.00)	5 (100)
4	No, no opposition	132 (52.59)	119 (47.41)	251 (100)
IV	Form of marriage			
1	Mizo Traditional Marriage alone	2 (20.00)	8 (80.00)	10 (100)
2	Mizo Christian marriage alone	64 (66.67)	32 (33.33)	96 (100)
3	By elopment	74 (39.78)	112 (60.22)	186 (100)
4	Without any purpose	1 (33.33)	2 (66.67)	3 (100)
5	Married after child birth	0 (0.00)	2 (100)	2 (100)
V	What did you feel about marriage before you entered it for the 1st time			
1	Was excited at the prospect	27 (64.29)	15 (35.71)	42 (100)
2	Was afraid of choosing the wrong person	7 (21.21)	26 (78.79)	33 (100)
3	Was anxious at the prospect	4 (25.00)	12 (75.00)	16 (100)
4	No specific feelings	103 (50.24)	102 (49.76)	205 (100)
5	Was not happy at all	0 (0.00)	1 (100)	1 (100)
VI	Duration of Knowing Each Other			
1	Less than 3 Months	12 (38.71)	19 (61.29)	31 (100)
2	4 to 6 Months	15 (50.00)	15 (50.00)	30 (100)
3	6 Months to 1 Year	4 (26.67)	11 (73.33)	15 (100)
4	1 Year to 3 Years	102 (48.80)	107 (51.20)	209 (100)
5	Above 3 Years	8 (66.67)	4 (33.33)	12 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

4.10 Marriage Particulars

The information sought in this section included under which law was registered 1st marriage, how spouses met, opposition by parents, form of marriage, feelings about marriage and duration of knowing spouse prior to marriage in Table 8.

Law under which marriage registered

It has been classified into three categories viz., Customary Law or Mizo Traditional Marriage alone, Mizo Christian Marriage and Special Marriage act. Of the total number of 297 respondents majority (91 per cent) have had a Mizo Christian Marriage. Of these an equal number belonged to broken (50.74%) and stable (49.26%) families. 24 respondents got married using Customary Law comprising of a quarter from broken and more than a fifth from stable families. There is one respondent who married under Special Marriage Act category from stable families.

4.10.2. First meeting of spouses

Mizo society is organized around social and religious activities that govern daily life. Youth are expected to contribute to social and neighbourhood activities. All funerals are arranged by the Youth Mizo Association and all neighbours and friends attend funerals even if they are not very close to the deceased person. Church services are held through the week and all youth and duties to perform in Church. While more than a third (n=104) have met their first spouse prior to marriage through common friends, an almost equal number has met due to residence in same locality or at church. Of the number that has met at church, more among stable than broken families have indicated this as the reason for meeting.

4.10.3. Opposition from parents

Opposition and resistance by families and friends is discussed in Table 11. An overwhelming majority in both families faced no opposition to their marriage. However of the total 46 respondents that saw opposition, a larger were from broken families. Lack of support and opposition are known to affect the stability of marriage.

4.10.4. Form of marriage

There are many ways in which marriage occurs in a tribal society. Marriage in church or through custom are often arranged by families however when a couple has planned to get married and they are unsure of family's acceptance of the marriage, they elope and spend time in the house of a friend or relative. The marriage is then arranged by family and friends and the couple are united in matrimony. More than half of the respondents from broken families have married in such manner.

The couple that gets married after a child is born out of wedlock has occurred only in two instances both among broken families. Research studies show that presence of children before marriage can affect stability of marriage.

4.10.5. Feelings before marriage

The mood state at the prospect of marriage is a likely indicator level of preparation, fore-warning and is likely to influence marital stability. Of the 42 respondents who said they were excited about the marriage, almost two-thirds (64.29%) were from stable families and only a third from broken families. Significantly three times the number of respondents from broken families (n=12) as compared to stable families (n=4) expressed anxiety at the start of marriage. Again a majority from broken families (78.79%) were afraid of

making the wrong choice indicating specific anxiety as compared to just over a fifth (21.21%) from stable families.

4.10.6. Length of Association Prior to Marriage

Duration of knowing each other prior to marriage is classified into five categories viz., Less than 3 Months, 4 to 6 Months, 6 Months to 1 Year, 1 Year to 3 Years and Above 3 Years. Of the respondents above two third (n=209) knew each other between 1 Year to 3 Years duration. Of the 31 respondents who reported knowing each other from Less than 3 months duration, almost two-thirds were broken and above a third were from stable families. 30 respondents reported knowing each other 4 to 6 months duration, only 12 respondents knew each other for a span of over 3 years and this number among stable families was double that of broken families.

Table No. 11. Consultation on Spouse

Sl.No		Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
I	Consultation on Spouse	n = 141	n = 156	N = 297
1	None	61 (43.88)	78 (56.12)	139 (100)
2	Parents	47 (56.63)	36 (43.37)	83 (100)
3	Friends	26 (45.61)	31 (54.39)	57 (100)
4	Relatives	4 (36.36)	7 (63.64)	11 (100)
5	Priest	1 (50.00)	1 (50.00)	2 (100)
6	His/Her immediate relative	1 (33.33)	2 (66.67)	3 (100)
7	All of the above	1 (50.00)	1 (50.00)	2 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

4.11. Marriage Particulars on Spouse

Consultation and Perceptions for marriage particulars have been discussed in Table 9

4.11.1. Consultation on Spouse prior to marriage

Of the total numbers, almost half (139) of the respondents did not consult anyone. Of these more than half belonged to broken and less belonged to intact families. Of the 89 respondents who consulted Parents more than half were from intact and the remaining from broken families. From the 57 respondents who consulted Friends more than half belongs to broken and less than half to stable families. Eleven respondents consulted Relatives with two-thirds of them from broken and more than a third from intact families. 2 respondents consulted a Priest.

This section concludes information related to marriage and it reveals that more persons from broken families are using alcohol, smoking have faced economic problems, faced opposition at time of marriage and married through elopement, expressed anxiety about choice of wrong partner and had less time with partner before marriage.

Table No. 4. 12. One Way ANOVA of Family Strength by Form of Family with LSD

Sl.No	Dimension	Form of Family						Total		F	Sig.
		Stable		Broken		Reconstituted		Mean	S.D		
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D				
1	Family Caring	18.2	2.8	15.3 ^a	3.8	15.5 ^a	3.8	16.7	3.6	25.23**	0.00
2	Communication	20.1	2.4	17.6 ^a	3.4	17.2 ^a	3.8	18.7	3.3	27.40**	0.00
3	Family Pride	18.1	3.6	16.0 ^a	4.0	16.5 ^a	4.0	17.0	3.9	10.10**	0.00
4	Family Unity	15.1	3.5	11.7 ^a	4.3	12.6 ^a	4.0	13.4	4.2	24.04**	0.00
5	Community and Family Tie	16.1	3.1	13.6 ^a	3.5	13.2 ^a	3.7	14.7	3.6	23.92**	0.00
	Family Strength	87.5	11.6	74.2 ^a	15.1	74.9 ^a	16.0	80.5	15.1	34.42**	0.00

Source: Computed ** P<0.001

Note: Means followed by same superscript are not significantly different at 0.05 level

4.12. Marital Stability and Family Strengths

The present study sought to understand the consequences of marital breakdown on family strengths. To measure the family strengths, a scale developed by Duncan and Brown (1992) was used. In this family strength has 5 dimensions viz., Family Caring, Communication, Family Pride, Family Unity and Family and Community Ties. Each dimension was measured with 5 items on a five-point scale. To assess the impact of the stable, broken (and reconstituted households) were compared in each of these dimensions and aggregately. One way analysis of variance was used and presentation of the averages and results of ANOVA is in Table 4.27.

- a) There is significant variation in family strength across three forms of family namely stable, broken and reconstituted. F ratio or form of family for family strength is significant at 1% level.
- b) Family Strengths of stable families is significantly greater than broken and reconstituted families.
- c) However, between broken and reconstituted families there is no significance difference found.

Table No. 13. Causes of Divorce

Sl.No	Cause	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
		n = 141	n = 156	N = 297
1	Physical/abuse/health	5.4	5.4	5.4
2	Sex and sexuality	3.5	3.5	3.5
3	Psycho-social & emotional problems	3.4	3.5	3.5
4	Adultery/extramarital	3.1	3.0	3.1
5	Socio-economic problems	2.8	3.0	2.9
6	Addiction and alcoholism	2.7	2.5	2.6
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.27	0.28	0.28
	Chi-Square	191.04	221.33	409.87
	df	5	5	5
	Asymp. Sig.	2E-39	8E-46	2E-86

5.1. Ranking Causes of Divorce

Causes of divorce are classified into 6 categories viz., Physical/health/medical, Sex and sexuality, Psycho-social & emotional problems, Adultery/extramarital, Socio-economic problems and addiction and alcoholism. Physical/health/medical includes problems related to physical weakness, ill health problems including frequent health checkups. The maximum number of persons ranked physical abuse and health problems in self /spouse as the leading cause of divorce.

Problems related to sex and sexuality, inadequacy or sexual problems ranked next. Other problems including psychosocial problems, adultery, extra marital affairs etc.

The rest Psycho-social & emotional problems, Adultery/extramarital, Socio-economic problems and addiction and alcoholism are ranked as third from the total respondents, of these stable families ranked the same where broken families ranked Sex and sexuality, Adultery/extramarital, Socio-economic problems and addiction and alcoholism as third.

A study by (Albrecht, Bahr, & Goodman) of divorced persons living in Utah, Idaho, and Nevada showed that the following were the ten leading self reported

causes for marriage failure (listed in descending order of importance): 1. Infidelity, 2. No longer love each other, 3. Emotional problems, 4. Financial problems, 5. Sexual problems, 6. Problems with in-laws, 7. Neglect of children, 8. Physical abuse, 9. Alcohol problems, 10. Job conflicts (In Dickinson, G. E., and Leming, M. R., 1995).

Table No. 14. Causes of Divorce (Related to Physical health)

Sl.No	Cause Physical/health/medical	Marital Stability		Total N = 297
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	
1	Ill treatment/abuse by husband/ in-laws	5.6	5.3	5.5
2	Physical Weakness	4.3	4.4	4.4
3	Venereal disease	4.0	4.1	4.0
4	Considerable age difference in spouses	3.7	3.7	3.7
5	Poor/Bad looking	3.6	3.6	3.6
6	Chronic Illness/disease/general health Problem	3.5	3.4	3.5
7	Physical defects/ deformity/challenge	3.2	3.5	3.3
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.23	0.17	0
	Chi-Square	192.84	163.35	353
	df	6	6	6
	Asymp. Sig.	0.00	1E-32	4E-73

5.2. Ranking Causes of Divorce on (Physical/Health/Medical)

Ill treatment/abuse by husband/ in-laws, Physical Weakness, Venereal disease, Considerable age difference in spouses, Poor/Bad looking, Chronic Illness/disease/general health Problem and Physical defects/ deformity/challenge. The total respondents, Ill treatment/abuse by husband/ in-laws is ranked first, from both stable and unstable families ranked as first.

Physical Weakness, Venereal disease, Considerable age difference in spouses, Poor/Bad looking are ranked as second, of these stable families include Chronic Illness/disease/general health Problem ranked as second.

In a society that is patriarchal in nature, physical abuse is beginning to become more common. There was no difference in ranking across families with reference to physical abuse being the first cause of divorce.

Table No. 15. Causes of Divorce (Socio Economic)

Sl.No	Cause Socio Economic	Marital Stability		Total N = 297
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	
1	In-laws interference – lack of support	11.8	11.2	11.5
2	Childlessness	11.8	10.7	11.2
3	Conflict in values	11.1	10.1	10.6
4	Family violence	10.4	10.6	10.5
5	Interfaith/religious difference	9.9	10.2	10.1
6	Difference in levels of intelligence	10.2	9.2	9.7
7	Socio-economic difference in families	9.3	9.7	9.5
8	Too much interest in career/work	9.1	9.1	9.1
9	Financial burden/difficulties	8.7	8.8	8.8
10	Poverty/Economic hardship	8.4	8.9	8.7
11	Employment (un/under/problem)	8.9	8.4	8.6
12	Differences in Educational level	7.8	8.4	8.1
13	Conversion to another religion	7.6	8.2	7.9
14	Lack of preparation for marriage	7.3	7.6	7.5
15	Marriage against the wishes of the spouse	7.3	7.6	7.4
16	Small size family and childless marriage	6.8	7.1	7.0
17	Regularity in attending church	6.6	7.2	6.9
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.16	0.11	0.13
	Chi-Square	366.3	263.2	611.4
	df	16	16	16
	Asymp. Sig.	4E-68	1E-46	9E-120

5.3. Ranking Causes of Divorce on (Socio Economic)

Respondents were asked to rank In-laws interference – lack of support, Childlessness, Conflict in values, Family violence, Interfaith/religious difference, Difference in levels of intelligence, Socio-economic difference in families, Too much interest in career/work and Financial burden/difficulties, Poverty/Economic hardship, Employment (un/under/problem), Employment (un/under/problem), Differences in Educational level, Conversion to another religion, Lack of preparation for marriage,

Marriage against the wishes of the spouse, Small size family and childless marriage and Regularity in attending church as causes of divorce.

Economic reasons are usually not perceived among major causes of divorce in . Mizo society which is a tribal community and Mizos enjoy a lot of support and help such help is forthcoming from family members, neighbours and relatives. However surprisingly the top ranked cause by respondents both from stable and broken families was the perceived lack of support and/or interference by in-laws. Neither offer of support and involvement nor lack of it helped in couples staying together. Childlessness was another major cause and ranked second in the list of causes cited. Conflict in values, domestic violence in families and differences in faith practices caused divorce according to the respondents. Difference in level of intelligence among spouses was perceived more as a cause by stable families.

Table No. 16. Causes of Divorce (Psycho Social and Emotional)

Sl.No	Psycho Social and Emotional	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	
1	Jealousy	8.6	8.1	8.4
2	Nagging partner	8.0	7.5	7.7
3	Compatibility	7.5	7.0	7.2
4	Poor communication	7.1	6.7	6.9
5	Immorality in partner / self	6.0	6.3	6.2
6	Role conflict	5.8	6.5	6.1
7	Cruelty/torture by in-laws, spouse	5.3	5.3	5.3
8	Psychiatric Illness in self /spouse	4.8	4.8	4.8
9	Laziness in partner/self	4.6	4.9	4.7
10	Personality of self/spouse	4.5	4.7	4.6
	Any other	3.9	4.2	4.1
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.4	0.3	0.3
	Chi-Square	497.3	406.9	892.7
	df	10	10	10
	Asymp. Sig.	2E-100	3E-81	2E-185

5.4. Ranking Causes of Divorce on (Psycho Social and Emotional)

Table shows respondents ranking on perceived causes of divorce (Psycho social and emotional). Jealousy, Nagging partner and Compatibility rank as top causes of divorce. Both stable and broken families rank Jealousy as first, Nagging partner as second, Compatibility as third, Poor communication as fourth, Immorality in partner / self as fifth, Role conflict as sixth, Cruelty/torture by in-laws, spouse as seventh, Psychiatric Illness in self /spouse as eighth, Laziness in partner/self as ninth, Personality of self/spouse as tenth.

There was a significant inter ranker agreement among the respondents in the ranking of expectations from marriage though it was low. The Chi Square values of the categories Yes (497.3) No (406.9) and Total (892.7) were all significant at 1% level.

Table No. 17. Causes of Divorce (Sex and Sexuality)

Sl.No	Sex and Sexuality	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes n = 141	No n = 156	
1	Adultery	3.5	3.5	3.5
2	Over indulgence/demand for sex by one partner	3.5	3.4	3.4
3	Sexual inadequacy	3.5	3.3	3.4
4	Frigidity and Impotence	2.6	2.7	2.6
5	Imperforated vagina	2.0	2.2	2.1
Test Statistics				
	Kendall's W	0.35	0.20	0.27
	Chi-Square	199.38	124.83	317.37
	df	4	4	4
	Asymp. Sig.	5E-42	5E-26	1.94053E-67

5.5. Ranking Causes of Divorce on Sex and Sexuality

Table 17 shows respondents ranking on perceived causes of divorce related to Sex and Sexuality. Adultery, Over indulgence/demand for sex by one partner, Sexual inadequacy rank as top causes of divorce on Sex and Sexuality. Stable family

respondents ranked Adultery, Over indulgence/demand for sex by one partner, Sexual inadequacy as first whereas respondents from broken families rank only Adultery as first.

There was a significant inter ranking agreement among the respondents in the ranking of expectations from marriage though it was low. The Chi Square values of the categories Yes (199.38) No (124.83) and Total (317.37) were all significant at 1% level.

Table No. 18. Causes of Divorce (Adultery and Extramarital Relations)

Sl.No	Adultery and Extramarital Relations	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
		n = 141	n = 156	N = 297
1	Frequent Extramarital affairs	4.9	5.0	5.0
2	Adultery on atleast one occasion	4.8	4.6	4.7
3	Lack of commitment to the marriage	4.9	4.3	4.6
4	Flirtatious in nature	4.1	4.4	4.3
5	Spouse frequently abandoned family	3.4	3.2	3.3
6	Spouse has a living former spouse	2.9	3.3	3.1
7	Pre-marital sex by partner	3.0	3.1	3.1
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.29	0.23	0.25
	Chi-Square	247.15	216.46	444.47
	df	6	6	6
	Asymp. Sig.	2E-50	6E-44	8E-93

5.6. Ranking Causes of Divorce on (Adultery and Extramarital Relations)

Table 18 shows respondents ranking on perceived causes of divorce related to Adultery and Extramarital Relations. It was considered important to seek information on the details regarding adultery since it was ranked as first among the causes related to sex and sexuality by respondents of both families. Respondents were asked to rank causes that are related to adultery. Frequent extramarital affairs ranked as top causes in this section. Other causes included one time adultery, lack of commitment by partner, being flirtatious, abandoning family, having a living other spouse, and pre-

marital sex. Both stable and unstable family respondents rank Frequent Extramarital affairs as first cause.

There was a significant inter ranker agreement among the respondents in the ranking of expectations from marriage though it was low. The Chi Square values of the categories Yes (247.15) No (216.46) and Total (444.47) were all significant at 1% level.

Table No. 19. Causes of Divorce (Addiction and Alcoholism)

Sl.No	Addiction and Alcoholism	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
		n = 141	n = 156	N = 297
1	Drugs	2.8	2.8	2.8
2	Alcoholism	2.7	2.8	2.8
3	Gambling	2.6	2.5	2.6
4	Tobacco	1.9	1.8	1.8
	Test Statistics			
	Kendall's W	0.38	0.33	0.35
	Chi-Square	161.10	156.53	309.72
	df	3	3	3
	Asymp. Sig.	1E-34	1E-33	8E-67

5.7. Ranking Causes of Divorce on (Addiction and Alcoholism)

Table 19 shows respondents ranking on perceived causes of divorce related to Addiction and Alcoholism. Drugs and Alcoholism rank top among the causes. Stable family rank Drugs as first, Alcoholism as second, Gambling as third and Tobacco as fourth. While unstable family respondents rank Drugs and Alcoholism as first, Gambling as second and Tobacco as third causes.

There was a significant inter ranker agreement among the respondents in the ranking of expectations from marriage though it was low. The Chi Square values of the categories Yes (161.10) No (156.53) and Total (309.72) were all significant at 1% level.

Table No. 20. Reasons for Divorce

Sl.No	Reason	Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
1	Addiction & Alcoholism	31 (32.0)	15 (25.4)	46 (29.5)
2	Difference in ideas & beliefs	16 (16.5)	16 (27.1)	32 (20.5)
3	Family interference	12 (12.4)	7 (11.9)	19 (12.2)
4	Husband divorce and married other	14 (14.4)	1 (1.7)	15 (9.6)
5	Committed adultery	5 (5.2)	7 (11.9)	12 (7.7)
6	Flirteousness	8 (8.2)	1 (1.7)	9 (5.8)
7	Difference in faith	3 (3.1)	4 (6.8)	7 (4.5)
8	Due to children	1 (1.0)	2 (3.4)	3 (1.9)
9	Jealousy	3 (3.1)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.9)
10	Economic difference	1 (1.0)	1 (1.7)	2 (1.3)
11	Having difficulty in sex	1 (1.0)	1 (1.7)	2 (1.3)
12	Childlessness	1 (1.0)	1 (1.7)	2 (1.3)
13	Age difference	0 (0.0)	1 (1.7)	1 (0.6)
14	Mutual consent	0 (0.0)	1 (1.7)	1 (0.6)
15	Due to finance	0 (0.0)	1 (1.7)	1 (0.6)
16	Feeble minded	1 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)
	Total	97 (100)	59 (100)	156 (100)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

5.8. Reasons for Marital Breakdown

Respondents for this were only those from broken families (n=156) who have undergone marital breakdown. The female respondents (n=97) rank addiction & alcoholism as the top cause for the breakdown of their marriage (32.0%) followed by difference in ideas & beliefs, husband divorce and married other, family interference as other top causes. While the male (n=59) respondents had mentioned differences in ideas & beliefs (27.1%) and addiction & alcoholism (25.4%) as the top two causes for the breakdown of their marriage. Other major causes include Family interference, committed adultery and difference in faith.

Focus Group Discussion:

The focus group discussion was used to understand the perspectives of adults (men and women) with regard to the causes and consequences of marital breakdown. Two urban localities were purposively chosen within Aizawl city.

FGD – 1 (WOMEN)

The information collected augments the data collected from the Interviews. The focus group for women consisted of 12 members belonging to middle socio-economic strata and in the ages of 30 – 60 years. The group facilitator oriented the group to the purpose and objectives and introduced the topic as well as points of discussion. The group discussion was lively and all members participated in it. Probes were used by the facilitator to obtain in-depth information.

Table No. 21. Socio-demographic particulars of the women

SL. No	Marital Status	Age	Sub – tribe	Education	Denomination	Occupation	Family Monthly Income
1.	Married	55	Hmar	Below VIII	UPC (NE)	Petty Business	3,000
2.	Married	31	Paihte	Below VIII	Baptist	Petty Business	3,000
3.	Widow	57	Lusei	Below VIII	Salvation Army	Housewife	7,000
4.	Married	55	Lusei	Below VIII	UPC	Housewife	9,000
5.	Married	60	Ralte	Below VIII	Salvation Army	Skilled worker	4,000
6.	Married	32	Hmar	X	Presbyterian	Housewife	12,000
7.	Married	39	Paihte	XII	UPC (NE)	Govt. Servant	12,000
8.	Married	32	Hmar	X	Presbyterian	Petty Business	5,000
9.	Married	30	Ralte	X	Presbyterian	Petty Business	2,500
10.	Married	40	Hmar	X	Presbyterian	Housewife	10,000
11.	Married	34	Ralte	XII	UPC (NE)	Petty Business	2,500
12.	Married	39	Ralte	X	Presbyterian	Petty Business	4,000

On the issue of how frequent the breakdown of marriage in Mizo society is the following points emerged

Marital Breakdown is very frequent. Some members opined that these days the occurrence is far higher than before and they also felt it is far better for the couple to divorce especially in cases of incompatibility. They also felt that a major fall-out of

this breakdown is on how it affects the children. Further, they advised that for the welfare of children, it is better that couples divorce if they are unable to resolve marital conflict.

Causes of Marital Breakdown (Perception by women)

The women cited *incompatibility* as a major cause of marital breakdown. They felt that due to modernization and consequent lifestyle changes, women were compelled to work more and that this placed a burden on them. With these changes, women and men became unable to relate to each and this incompatibility has been a major source of marital tension.

Members strongly felt that even if *one partner is abusing drugs/alcohol*, it is likely to lead to marital discord and they felt that this leads to poor family environment and instability. The problems of alcohol and drug addiction and the subsequent abuse of partners is fairly common problem, they felt.

Poverty or problems related to livelihood and income are also regarded as a major issue for marital breakdown. Some of the women felt that when a family does not have enough money to afford their basic needs, it is likely to escalate tensions within the family and such continued tensions are likely to affect the marriage between persons. “*Tul leh mamawh em em pawh leina tur neih theih loh reng mai ninawm lutuk*”(It is very difficult to sustain our marriage if we cannot even afford basic amenities).

Family interference (from both sides of the family) to the couples life/family often can become a problem. This is particularly so in the case of nuclear families wherein the couple is used to taking decisions for themselves and are intolerant of involvement /interference from extended family members and in-laws. For example, interference in parenting by in-laws or judgementality is not tolerated well by women.

“In fate hi inenkawl/ngaihtuah tha tawk lo, thil dang hi in ngaihtuah nasa zawk emaw ni” (You are more interested in taking care of your self than your children).

Lastly, marriages among couples that do not have a healthy sexual relationship (*sexual incompatibility*) can culminate in divorce. The women also expressed that *Childlessness* is an issue which breaks the relationship between couples. Mizo society sees children as blessings and the lack of such blessings in a couple’s life may be a cause for divorce.

FGD – 2 (MEN)

The focus group discussion for men consisted of 9 members belonging to middle socio-economic strata and in the ages of 29 – 67 years. The group facilitator oriented the group to the purpose and objectives and introduced the topic as well as points of discussion. The group discussion was lively and all members participated in it. Probes were used by the facilitator to obtain in-depth information.

Table No. 22. Socio-demographic particulars of the men

SL. No	Marital Status	Age	Sub – tribe	Education	Denomination	Occupation	Family Monthly Income
1.	Married	38	Ralte	Below VIII	Presbyterian	Govt. Servant	4,000
2.	Married	58	Hmar	Below VIII	Presbyterian	Govt. Servant	8,000
3.	Widow	63	Ralte	Below VIII	Presbyterian	Daily Wage Earner	5,000
4.	Separate	67	Ralte	Below VIII	Presbyterian	Daily Wage Earner	4,500
5.	Married	29	Hmar	Below VIII	Presbyterian	Govt. Servant	6,000
6.	Married	53	Hmar	Below VIII	Salvation Army	Skilled Worker	6,500
7.	Married	46	Lai	Graduate	Presbyterian	Govt. Servant	12,000
8.	Married	44	Lai	Below VIII	Presbyterian	Govt. Servant	9,500
9.	Unmarried	46	Lai	Below VIII	Presbyterian	Skilled Worker	4,500

On the issue of how frequent the breakdown of marriage in Mizo society is, the following points emerged

Men also seemed to feel marital breakdown is a common practice among the Mizos nowadays. Majority of the members strongly agreed that it was to be seen as 'bad' from the eyes of the God and the Church.

Causes of Marital Breakdown (Perception by men)

The men mentioned the *inadequacy of sexual relationship* between the couple as the major problems that leads to infidelity and caused divorce. This is due to the lack of bonding and intimate love between the couple. "*Nupa nun a mipat hmeichhiatna hman chungchanga harsatna an neih chuan, a kawppui tan midang laka chetsual mai a thlen theih*" (*The spouse who experiences sexual problems with his/her spouse is vulnerable to infidelity*).

Practicing birth control is another major issue for the couples. "*Nupa an insiam hma lutuk chuan, kum naupangte in an felfai a, midang kawp mai a awlsam phah thei*" (*Experiencing birth control at an earlier age can make the spouses easily to commit adultery*). The men expressed that due to the practice of birth control men get disinterested in partners and tend to commit adultery due to this.

Men also stated that when one spouse, particularly a man, has to stay away from home due to work or other reasons, they are likely to indulge in extra-marital affairs. "*Nupa khawsak dun loh chu, kawng hrang hrangah harsatna a thlen theih*" (*Staying apart from each other generally creates more problems for couples*).

'*Over- empowerment*' of women in the family which means that women have a greater say in decision-making and increased roles and responsibilities have placed a major strain on marriages.

If either one of the spouses tend to *indulge in alcohol and drugs* it is, according to the men, certain to lead to marital discord. Therefore they said that it is better to avoid alcohol and remain abstinent if one is entering marriage. (“*Chhungkaw din tawh tan chuan zu leh drug hi tih loh tawp a tha ber*”).

Economic instability is a reason for marital breakdown as it is believed that family should be providers and have enough to afford the basic necessities for their welfare and survival. If this demand is not met, a healthy family environment is absent. “*Sum leh pai avang hian chhungkaw nun a hlim in a hlim lo chu ani ber tawh anih hi*” (*The stability and instability of money makes the family happy and unhappy*).

The section on perceived causes of marital breakdown and reasons for marital breakdown are very revealing. Over-all, causes related to physical abuse and health ranked as a top causes across both types of families, followed by sex and sexuality related causes (including impotence, excessive demands and incompatibility)

Psychosocial and Emotional causes including jealousy, nagging partner, compatibility and poor communication ranked third.

Focus group discussion with women and men in two urban localities reveal however that women perceive incompatibility while men perceive sexual inadequacy as main cause for divorce. While the role of addiction to substances is undeniable, it has not been ranked high.

Table No. 23. Perceived Consequences of Divorce of Respondents

Sl.NO	Consequences	Marital Stability				Total	
		Yes		No		N = 297	
		n = 141		n = 156		Mean	S.D
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
I	Physical health	-1	0.7	0	0.7	0	0.7
1	Appetite	-1	0.6	0	0.7	0	0.7
2	Health status	-1	0.6	0	0.7	0	0.7
3	Appearance	-1	0.7	0	0.7	0	0.7
4	Sexual functioning	-1	0.7	0	0.6	0	0.7
II	Psychological health	0	0.8	0	0.8	0	0.9
1	Confidence	0	0.8	0	0.8	0	0.9
2	Sense of security	0	0.8	0	0.8	0	0.8
3	Restfulness	-1	0.7	0	0.8	0	0.9
4	Mood stability	0	0.8	0	0.8	0	0.8
5	Stress levels	-1	0.7	0	0.8	0	0.8
III	Socio-economic	0	0.6	0	0.7	0	0.7
1	Finance/economic condition	0	0.6	0	0.7	0	0.7
2	Employment	0	0.6	0	0.7	0	0.7
3	Education	0	0.6	0	0.6	0	0.6
4	Child support & care	-1	0.6	0	0.8	0	0.8
IV	Social support	0	0.8	0	0.6	0	0.8
1	Family	0	0.8	0	0.6	0	0.8
2	Relatives	0	0.8	0	0.6	0	0.8
3	Neighbours	0	0.7	0	0.6	0	0.7
4	Friends	0	0.8	0	0.6	0	0.8
5	Community	0	0.7	0	0.6	0	0.7

6.1. Perceived Consequences of Divorce

In Table 20 physical health, psychological health, socio-economic and social support are discussed and study.

6.1.1. Physical Health:

There is a significant disagreement in all the physical health categories viz., Appetite, Health status, Appearance and Sexual functioning by stable families while there is no change for all the categories of physical health in the broken families indicating that stable family respondents perceive that physical health including appetite, appearance, sexual functioning are all likely to decline following divorce.

6.1.2. Psychological Health:

In reference to psychological health respondents from stable families perceived that stress levels increase and restfulness is being affected by divorce. On Confidence, Sense of security and Mood stability the stable families perceived no change perceived with reference to psychological health by broken families.

6.1.3. Socio-economic:

Persons from stable families have indicated there is significant disagreement in child support and care, and in the rest there is no change. While there is no changes seen in broken families for any of the categories of socio-economic.

6.1.4. Social support:

For both stable and broken families there is no significant change for all the categories of social support viz., Family, Relatives, Neighbours, Friends and Community.

Table No. 24. Social Support

	Social Support	Marital Stability
Sl.No		No
		n = 156
1	Parents	7.0
2	Friends	6.0
3	Siblings	5.8
4	Relatives	5.2
5	Church	4.4
6	In-Laws	4.2
7	Spouse	4.2
8	NGO	4.1
9	Government	4.1
	Test Statistics	
	Kendall's W	0.3
	Chi-Square	390.0
	df	8
	Asymp. Sig.	3E-79

6.2. Social Support

Information on Social support was asked to the respondents who have undergone marital breakdown and received social support in some ways. The total respondent (n=156) of broken families state that parents are the top social support after the breakdown, followed by Friends, Siblings and Relatives, Church, In-laws, Spouse and Government. In the Mizo society the social support system is strong and particularly with the close knit. Women are generally return to the fathers house. When both parents have died they go to their brothers house.

Table No. 25. Services Available for (Pre & Post Marital Breakdown)

Sl.No	Services Available	Marital Stability		Total
		Yes	No	
I	For Prevention of Marital Breakdown			
1	Don't know	83 (58.87)	107 (68.59)	190 (63.97)
2	Church	51 (36.17)	39 (25.00)	90 (30.30)
3	Court	0 (0.00)	2 (1.28)	2 (0.67)
4	Family Counselling centre	2 (1.42)	2 (1.28)	4 (1.35)
5	Social welfare department	1 (0.71)	1 (0.64)	2 (0.67)
6	NGO	4 (2.84)	5 (3.21)	9 (3.03)
II	For Post Divorce Rehabilitation and Counselling			
1	Don't know	110 (78.01)	124 (79.49)	234 (78.79)
2	Church	24 (17.02)	23 (14.74)	47 (15.82)
3	Court	0 (0.00)	1 (0.64)	1 (0.34)
4	Family Counselling centre	5 (3.55)	2 (1.28)	7 (2.36)
5	Social welfare department	0 (0.00)	1 (0.64)	1 (0.34)
6	NGO	1 (0.71)	3 (1.92)	4 (1.35)
7	Friends & Relatives	1 (0.71)	2 (1.28)	3 (1.01)

Source: Computed Figures in parentheses are percentages

6.3. Services Available

6.3.1. For prevention of marital breakdown:

More than half of the respondents from the stable families (58.87%) and more than two-thirds broken families (68.59%) don't know the services available for prevention of marital breakdown. And one-third of the respondents regard church as only service available. Very few mentioned Court, Family Counseling Centre, Social Welfare Department and NGO as services available for prevention of marital breakdown (Table 25).

6.3.2. For post divorce rehabilitation and counseling:

Majority of the respondents from stable and broken families are not aware of the services for the post rehabilitation and counseling. While 15% of the respondents regard church, and less number of respondents regards Family Counselling Centre, NGO, Friends & Relatives as services available.

Both the stable and broken families have a very low awareness on the services available for the prevention and post rehabilitation and counseling. Although there are few Family Counselling Centre in the Aizawl and in the other districts of Mizoram. Most of the breakdown can be prevented if any matters but the awareness level highlights a poor attempts for preventing their marriages.

6.3.3. From the Focus Group Discussion

6.3.3.1. Consequences of Breakdown on Women

Focus group discussions were held as per particulars listed on page. The women were asked about their opinion on consequences of marital breakdown in Mizo society. The points that emerged from discussion included a range of opinions.

Some women felt that marital breakdown brings feeling of unhappiness, high stress levels and caused loss of confidence in them. In the event of a failure of their marriage, they said that women tend to develop guilt particularly in relation to their feelings towards their children, often condemning themselves for not having fulfilled the desire of their children. Indulgence in sex and substance abuse are common consequences in women. Women also tended to condemn themselves as sinful persons, feel and experience emptiness and some also lose faith in God and become disbelievers.

6.3.3.2. Consequences of Breakdown on Men

According to the women, in the event of marital breakdown, men tend to indulge in sex and substance abuse problems. As one woman said, "*Mipa nupui then then khat chuan an nunchang an hlauh phah hial thei*" (Some divorced men begin to have loose morals and reveal loss in 'character'). Elaborating on this, they explained that following divorce, some men stop going to church and begin withdrawing from community activities and seem disengaged from society. They tend to lose confidence because of not being in a marital unit. Also they are easily tempted to become wayward and exhibit less affection and love for others.

6.3.3.3. Consequences of Breakdown on Children

With reference to children, women felt that children of divorced parents generally saw themselves as different person after their parents' divorce. They also often experienced a change in the relationship with their parents. They are likely to be afraid of making mistakes and parents will not be as supportive to them as they were before. The members also expressed that

children are likely to find it difficult to face challenges as compared to children from stable families. Loneliness and feelings of isolation among children are possible fall-outs of a broken marriage. They are likely to have lost confidence and would feel unable to accomplish tasks that others can do easily. Most importantly, they said that children from such families are at risk for following the wrong path and would indulge in risk behaviour that was detrimental to them and society.

6.3.3.4. Consequences of Breakdown on Society

Women in this group regard marital discord as being the cause for increase in neglect of children. Such children are likely to have grown up without proper guidance, love and care from their parents. Theft, murder, drugs and alcohol have become common issues because of marital breakdown.

6.3.3.5. Prevention of Marital Breakdown

The facilitators asked the group to discuss the ways in which marital breakdown may be prevented. The first and foremost manner suggested by them was by *reposing faith in God*. They also expressed that parents should understand and know their roles and responsibilities so that lots of issues could be overcome. According to some members, one should marry only after maturity so that couples have the strength to handle the problems they face. Women also were of the opinion that being well-educated, economically stable prior to marriage was a pre-requisite to a stable marriage. In Mizo Society it is important that young adults participate in social and community activities. However, being too active and neglecting family needs is likely to upset the balance within families and therefore the members felt, that couples must know how to balance the commitments within and outside the family.

Many divorces can also be prevented if the companions and peers of couples are chosen wisely, as often breakdown occurs due to the poor choice of friends who misguide young adults into harmful decisions. Similarly, a few felt that many marriages break down because of the unrealistic and romantic notions that are fed by viewing of television programmes and books. Access to such unrealistic 'fairy-tale' notions by women are likely to make them ill-prepared for marriage and its responsibilities.

6.3.3.6. Consequences of Breakdown on Women

According to the men, marital breakdown places huge burden on women particularly for those who had children. Some members felt that divorced women who are younger in age and without children face fewer problems and tend to remarry easily as compared to divorced women with children.

Men also discussed the impact of divorce on one's personality. *"Hmeichhe tan pawh pasal dang an nei leh mai thei a, fa an la neih loh phei chuan, harsatna vak a awm pawh ka hre lo"* (Even for woman who does not have children face few problems in being remarried).

6.3.3.7. Consequences of Breakdown on Men

Men were discussing the consequences of marital breakdown faced by men in the Mizo society, the point that were discussed includes: Remarried men tend to face economic problems in case the children stayed with their mother (he had to support their education etc as well as pay for his own household.)

Some men also mentioned that divorced man faced severe and critical psychological problems, because of the trauma they have undergone but this is hardly discussed.

6.3.3.8. Consequences of Breakdown on Children

Men also discussed and pointed out the several consequences on children of divorce .In the case of children residing across each parents house and shifting home, they are likely to remain unstable.

Children lose their feelings for the nonresident parent while they have a close relationship with the resident parent. In case of divorce, the nonresident parent has less interaction and communication with their children. *“A tlangpuiin naupangte hi nu bulah an khawsa a, pa tan chuan inpawh taka fate nen awm chhoh reng a har khawp chhungkaw hrang chan a chang tawh sia” (Generally children stay with their mother, it is difficult for the father to keep up a good relationship with their own children who are in different houses).*

Members also feel that children’s education and their characters have often been influenced by the trauma they have undergone from their parents divorce.

6.3.3.9. Consequences of Breakdown on Society

Majority of the men regard when there are numbers of marital breakdown in the society, there is an unhealthy environment for all the society members. But as compared to consequences faced by family members, there is no such impact for the society on marital breakdown particularly.

6.3.3.10. Prevention of Marital Breakdown:

Majority of the men felt that all the couple should start their family with having a good faith in God. They also opined that practicing birth control should be avoided for the spouses in order to overcome infidelity etc.

Women should build bond/close relationship with her in-laws, poor communication and negligence among the family members should be overcome. “*Mizo chungkua ah chuan abik takin pasal a nu leh pa te nena inkungkaihna tha hmeichhia in neih an tum loh chuan chungkaw kehchhiatna a thlen thei*” (In Mizo society particularly woman should tend to build good relationship with her in-laws for strengthen the family ties).

Women should not wear tight trousers, should choose clothes according to her age and status that can show her identity as a mother/wife, so that miss understanding from other men can be reduced.

Lastly, men discussed that it is important for a couples to be less actively participated in social activities and care more for their own family; build a healthy and close ties among the family members, should care for their children could help in avoiding marital breakdown.

6.3.3.11. Discussion of the Results of Focus Group Discussion

From the focus group discussion both the women and men were asked to give their opinions. Women had cited *incompatibility* as a major cause of divorce. Incompatibility arises from a number of factors such as: differences in values and beliefs; differences in educational, socio-economic status/level; differences in life style/social orientation; differences in personality characteristics, including temperament differences, differences in sexual behaviours; and differences in likes, dislikes, tastes, hobbies etc. (In Jamwal,

N. S., 2009). Others include either the partner is *abusing drugs/alcohol* as a reason, Alcohol and Substance abuse is a terrible strain on relationship and often followed with abusive behaviour, many people cannot put up with the addictive behaviour of their partners as it is caused divorce (In Ambekar, A., 2009) *Poverty or problems related to livelihood and income*, The marriage counselors and family service agencies agree that economic stress is a major cause of conflict and marital failure in American families as married couples quarrel over money more than any other topic. *Family interference* In-laws interference is one cause which many younger couples complain, too much meddling and involvement of their in-laws in their lives (In Ambekar, A., 2009) and *sexual incompatibility* while men members had mentioned the *inadequacy of sexual relationship* between the couple as the top causes, others include *Practicing birth control*, Jamwal, N. S., (2009) state a well known fact is that with the modern methods of contraception available, many a couple delays starting a family. Birth control is listed in the fifth as the causes for high divorce rate among the nine list by Johnson (In Pothen, S., 1986) either spouses tend to *indulge in alcohol and drugs* and *Economic instability etc.* Saxton, (1983) state whatever the family's income there should be sound money management for an essential ingredient of marital harmony. Jamwal, N. S., (2009) in her study on marriage and divorce in India with a new strain challenges emerged to the Indian family particularly the young people with a wavering between traditional and western models, like growing instability, lack of communication, changing attitude towards sex, changing roles of husband and wife, and tensions of fast life have resulted in the lack of harmony among married couples.

Regarding the consequences faced by women both the women and men groups had expressed their ideas, women felt marital breakdown brings feeling of *unhappiness, high stress levels and caused loss of confidence* in for women Islam discourages divorce because of the ensuing problems as couples facing marriage break up will have to cope with Emotion problems such as anxiety, anger, sadness, weariness, guilt, feeling of isolation, low self-esteem, worry, disappointment/ frustration and loneliness (In Syariah Court Singapore, 2006) while men felt marital breakdown places huge burden on women particularly for those who had children. Apart from that some members also felt that divorced women who are younger in age and without children do not face problems as much and are tend to remarry easily as compared to divorced women with children.

On consequences of divorce on men, women members felt *some divorced men begin to have loose morals and reveal loss in 'character'*, and men also mentioned that divorced man faced *severe and critical psychological problems*. In a study by Rotermann, M., (2007) she mention men who undergone a break-up over a two-year period had six times the odds of reporting symptoms of depression.

For the consequences of divorce on children, women felt that children of divorced parents generally *saw themselves as different person* after their parents' divorce. They also often experienced a *change in the relationship* with their parents. Men also felt children *lose their feelings for the nonresident parent* while they have a close relationship with the resident parent. The quality and quantity of contact between children and non-custodial parents, usually father, tends to decrease with time and relationship between children

and custodial parents, usually mothers also show signs of tension (In Amato, P. R., and Booth, A., 1996).

The measure for preventing marital breakdown was cited. Both the women and men members are given *faith in God* as the first and foremost manner for suggestion for all couple to prevent marital breakdown. The Bible teaches that the family is to provide physical, emotional and spiritual care for its members as it *prepares them to serve God*, other persons, and creation. It is within the covenantal bond of husband and wife that children are born and raised, cared for, and spiritually nurtured (In The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, 2003).

Table No. 26. Perceived Post – Divorce on Children by Adults

Sl.No	Impact	Marital Stability				Total	
		Yes		No		N = 297	
		n = 141	n = 156	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
I	School	-0.9	0.36	-0.5	0.58	-1	0.53
1	Class performance	-0.9	0.33	-0.4	0.58	-1	0.52
2	Test/results	-0.9	0.25	-0.5	0.62	-1	0.53
3	Payment of school fees	-0.8	0.42	-0.3	0.57	-1	0.55
4	Relationship with class mates	-0.8	0.45	-0.3	0.57	-1	0.56
5	Relationship with teachers	-0.6	0.54	-0.2	0.55	0	0.59
II	Family	-0.5	0.59	0.0	0.62	0	0.65
1	Roles and responsibilities	-0.5	0.61	-0.1	0.59	0	0.63
2	Siblings relationship	-0.5	0.60	-0.1	0.62	0	0.65
3	Relationship with father	-0.6	0.58	-0.3	0.66	0	0.63
4	Relationship with mother	-0.5	0.58	-0.1	0.70	0	0.68
5	Relationship with step parents	-0.7	0.50	-0.5	0.61	-1	0.57
6	Relationship with relatives	-0.5	0.59	-0.1	0.63	0	0.64
III	Neighbourhood / Community	-0.6	0.55	-0.2	0.56	0	0.60
1	Roles and responsibilities for church	-0.6	0.53	-0.2	0.54	0	0.58
2	Ability to make and maintain friends	-0.6	0.53	-0.2	0.55	0	0.58
3	Participation in community activity	-0.6	0.55	-0.2	0.56	0	0.59

7.1. Perceived Impact on Children

This table presents the respondents perceive on their children based on the school performance, family and neighbourhood/community.

7.1.1. School

In all the school performance categories, viz., class performance, test/results, payment of school fees, relationship with class mates and relationship with teachers both the stable and broken families had perceived that divorce among parents significantly affects the children.

7.1.2 Family

It significantly affects the families of both stable and broken families in all the categories of Family roles and responsibilities, siblings relationship, relationship with father, mother, step parents and relatives.

7.1.3 Neighbourhood/Community:

In the neighbourhood/Community both stable and broken families are significantly affected in all the categories.

Both the stable and broken families had perceived that there is a negative impact on all the categories viz., school, family and neighbourhood/community.

7.1.4. Focus Group Discussion Perceived Consequences on Children by adults

Research suggests that it is children who are most often likely to suffer the worst consequences following termination of marriage or divorce of their parents. Information sought from children from both stable and broken

families in reference to perceptions related to challenges faced by them as well as perceptions related to support is compiled and presented below.

Children from both family types were asked about challenges faced economically, in education, within home and with reference to leisure time and recreation. 45 children from the families participated in this study.

Interestingly both parents are considered as offering highest economic support by children of stable families while children from broken families perceive mothers as the most supportive.

Information was sought from 45 children (21) from stable and (24) from broken families.

Table No. 27. Caring Perceived by Children

Caring				
Sl.No	Source	Stable	Broken	Total
1	Father	3.0	3.7	3.4
2	Mother	2.9	4.6	3.8
3	Both parents	4.9	3.4	4.1
4	Paternal grandparents	3.8	3.0	3.4
5	Maternal grandparents	3.7	3.5	3.6
6	Relatives	2.7	2.9	2.8
Test Statistics				
	N	21	24	45
	Kendall's W	0.32	0.21	0.11
	Chi-Square	33.73	25.42	24.39
	df	5	5	5
	Asymp. Sig.	0.00	0.00	0.00

7.2 Caring:

From the table it is seen that children from stable families rate high caring as high by both Parents, while in broken families children rank mother as the best care giver. Paternal grandparents and maternal grandparents rank second in stable families while in broken families, children rank father and maternal grandparents as second. Father, mother and relatives rank third with

children of stable family while both parents, paternal grandparents and relatives rank third among broken families.

Table No. 28. Economic Support Perceived by Children

Economic Support				
Sl.No	Source	Stable	Unstable	Total
1	Father	4.3	5.1	4.7
2	Mother	4.2	5.9	5.1
3	Both parents	7.0	4.7	5.8
4	Paternal grandparents	4.9	4.5	4.7
5	Maternal grandparents	4.0	4.5	4.3
6	Relatives	3.8	3.8	3.8
7	Neighbours	3.8	3.8	3.8
8	Governmental Institutions	3.8	3.8	3.8
Test Statistics				
	N	21	24	45
	Kendall's W	0.46	0.22	0.20
	Chi-Square	67.25	37.21	64.32
	df	7	7	7
	Asymp. Sig.	0.00	0.00	0.00

7.3 Economic support

Children of stable families rank both parents for their economic support as best followed by paternal grandparents, father, mother and maternal grandparents rank third. They rank relatives, neighbours and Government institutions as last for economic support.

However in broken families children rank mother as the best economic support, followed by father, both parents, paternal grandparents and maternal grandparents as second, Lastly they rank relatives, neighbours and Government institutions as economic support.

Table No. 29. Education Support Perceived by Children

Education Support				
Sl.No	Source	Stable	Unstable	Total
1	Father alone	3.3	3.6	3.4
2	Mother alone	3.0	4.1	3.6
3	Both parents	5.1	3.5	4.2
4	Paternal grandparents/relatives	3.9	3.5	3.7
5	Maternal grandparents/relatives	2.9	3.4	3.2
	Other relatives	2.9	2.9	2.9
	Test Statistics			
	N	21	24	45
	Kendall's W	0.43	0.09	0.1275
	Chi-Square	44.89	10.38	28.677
	df	5	5	5
	Asymp. Sig.	0.00	0.00	0.00

7.4 Education support

In table 3 Both Parents are considered as highest in support of education by children of stable families while paternal grandparents/relatives are ranked next and last fathers alone, mothers alone, maternal grandparents/relatives and other relatives are ranked as lending support.

While in broken families children rank mother alone as first education supporter, second father alone, both parents and paternal grandparents/relatives, and third and last ranking goes to maternal grandparents/relatives and other relatives. This reveals that children in stable families tend to believe that support can come only when parents are together however children from broken families perceive that either parent can support the child.

Table No. 30. Educational Problems Perceived by Children

Educational Problems				
Sl.No		Stable	Unstable	Total
1	Weak class performance	3.0	2.9	3.0
2	Poor performance in test/results	3.2	3.4	3.3
3	Delays and difficulties in payment of school fees	2.9	2.9	2.9
4	Disturbed relationship with class mates	2.9	2.8	2.9
5	Disturbed relationship with teachers	2.9	2.9	2.9
	Test Statistics			
	N	21	24	45
	Kendall's W	0.08	0.13	0.10
	Chi-Square	7.08	12.67	18.83
	df	4	4	4
	Asymp. Sig.	0.13	0.01	0.00

7.5 Education Problems

Table 4 shows education problems faced in both stable and broken families. Poor performance in test/results and weak class performance was accorded first rank by children from stable families. Whereas Poor performance in test/results is ranked first by children from broken families, delays and difficulties in payment of school fees, disturbed relationship with class mates and disturbed relationship with teachers are ranked second by stable family children. While children of broken families ranked the rest second.

Table No. 31. Recreation and Leisure Particulars

Sl.No		Stable	Unstable	Total
		n = 21	n = 24	n = 45
1	Getting enough time for Play and Recreation			
1	No	3 (14.29)	5 (20.83)	8 (17.78)
2	Yes	18 (85.71)	19 (79.17)	37 (82.22)
2	Most frequently Playing with			
1	None	3 (14.29)	5 (20.83)	8 (17.78)
2	Friends	14 (66.67)	16 (66.67)	30 (66.67)
3	Siblings	4 (19.05)	3 (12.50)	7 (15.56)
3	Time had for recreation in day			
1	No time at all	1 (4.76)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.22)
2	1 hour per day	1 (4.76)	4 (16.67)	5 (11.11)
3	2 - 5 hours per day	1 (4.76)	6 (25.00)	7 (15.56)
4	Whenever i want	14 (66.67)	11 (45.83)	25 (55.56)
5	Only during school break	1 (4.76)	1 (4.17)	2 (4.44)
6	Only when times permit	3 (14.29)	2 (8.33)	5 (11.11)

7.6. Recreation and Leisure Particulars

7.6.1. Getting enough time for Play and recreation:

In table 5.5.1 it shows that majority of children from both types of families have enough time for play and recreation with a high percentage of (stable) (86) and (broken) (79.17) respectively. Whereas there are less number with stable (14%) and broken families (21%) children who do not have enough time for play and recreation.

7.6.2 Most frequent playing partner

Children from both stable and broken families have friends (67%) as most frequent partner playing. Stable family children have their siblings (19.05%) and only 14% do not have anyone for playing with. In the broken families children (21%) do not have anyone to play with and less number (13%) have their siblings to play with as compared to children from stable families.

7.6.3 Time had for recreation in a day

Children from stable families majority of them can have time for recreation in a day whenever they want, more than a tenth can have only when times permit and only 1 person each considered themselves for no time at all, 1 hour per day, 2 – 5 hours per day and only during school break.

While children from broken families almost a half can have time for recreation whenever they want, quarter of them can have 2 – 5 hours per day, more than a tenth can have 1 hour per day, less than a tenth can have only when times permit and only 1 person considered to have only during school break.

Table No. 32. Kind of Relationship

Kind of Relationship							
Sl.No		Stable		Unstable		Total	
		n = 21		n = 24		n = 45	
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
1	Mother	2.9	0.3	2.8	0.5	2.8	0.4
2	Father	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.9	2.5	0.8
3	Paternal grandparents	2.7	0.5	2.0	0.7	2.3	0.7
4	Maternal grandparents	2.6	0.6	2.5	0.6	2.5	0.6
5	Friends/peers	2.4	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5
6	Neighbourhood	2.3	0.5	2.4	0.5	2.4	0.5
7	Teachers	2.3	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.3	0.5

7.7 Kind of Relationship

In Table it shows a kind of relationship they have, children from stable families score father as high, followed by mother, and then paternal grandparents and maternal grandparents, friends/peer, neighbourhood and teachers. Whereas children from broken families rank mother as highest, followed by friends/peer and maternal grandparents, followed by neighbourhood and teachers, and lastly father while paternal grandparents score lowest mean.

Table No. 33. Perceived Consequences of Divorce on Children

S/No		Stable n = 21		Unstable n = 24		Total n = 45		t	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
I	School	-0.52	0.60	-0.13	0.54	-0.31	0.60	2.35	0.02
	Class performance	-0.52	0.60	-0.13	0.54	-0.31	0.60	2.35	0.02
	Test/results	-0.48	0.60	-0.13	0.54	-0.29	0.59	2.07	0.04
	Payment of school fees	-0.38	0.59	-0.04	0.46	-0.20	0.55	2.16	0.04
	Relationship with class mates	-0.48	0.60	-0.13	0.45	-0.29	0.55	2.24	0.03
	Relationship with teachers	-0.43	0.60	0.00	0.42	-0.20	0.55	2.82	0.01
II	Family	-0.24	0.54	0.00	0.59	-0.11	0.57	1.41	0.17
	Roles and responsibilities	-0.14	0.57	0.17	0.64	0.02	0.62	1.70	0.10
	Siblings relationship	-0.19	0.60	0.17	0.56	0.00	0.60	2.05	0.05
	Relationship with father	-0.14	0.57	-0.08	0.78	-0.11	0.68	0.29	0.77
	Relationship with mother	-0.33	0.48	0.17	0.64	-0.07	0.62	2.93	0.01
	Relationship with stepparents	-0.62	0.50	-0.42	0.58	-0.51	0.55	1.24	0.22
	Relationship with relatives	-0.29	0.56	-0.17	0.64	-0.22	0.60	0.66	0.51
III	Neighbourhood/community	-0.33	0.58	0.00	0.42	-0.16	0.52	2.24	0.03
	Roles and responsibilities for church	-0.43	0.51	0.00	0.42	-0.20	0.50	3.11	0.00
	Ability to make and maintain friends	-0.38	0.50	0.00	0.42	-0.18	0.49	2.79	0.01
	Participation in community activities	-0.52	0.51	0.00	0.29	-0.24	0.48	4.27	0.00

7.8. Perceived Consequences of Divorce on Children

7.8.1. School

Children from stable families perceived that divorce among parents significantly affects the school performance in all categories viz., class

performance, test/results, payment of school fees, relationship with class mates and relationship with teachers. Whereas in broken families children perceived that relationship with teachers only sees no change, other than that all the other categories in school are significantly affected.

7.8.2. Family

According to children from stable families, Roles and responsibilities, siblings relationship, relationship with father, relationship with mother, relationship with stepparents and relationship with relatives are likely to be significantly affected. In broken families, children are likely to significant effect on relationship with father, relationship with stepparents and relationship with relatives.

7.8.3 Neighbourhood/community

Children from stable families perceived that Roles and responsibilities for church, ability to make and maintain friends and participation in community activities will be significant affected. While in broken families children in all the three categories feel there are no changes following divorce of parents. This could possibly mean that children from broken families reveal more resilience as compared to children from stable families.

45 children from stable (21) and broken families (24) participated in this study. Their age range is between 10 and 18 years.

Surprisingly the children from stable families perceive more severe consequences as affecting children whose parents are divorced as compared to children who come from broken families.

CASE – 1

Name: Lala

A case of a man who is a result and cause of marital breakdown

Lala was born in the year 1979 to Mr. Z and Mrs. L. His family is native to the locality they reside in. They have their own land and house. He is the second youngest and has 3 sisters and a brother. His parents earned their livelihood through farming. Lala was not a brilliant student while he was at school, not having the interest in education he studied till standard X and dropped-out after that. Despite not having a high education and not belonging to a high socio-economic status, he was active and played significant roles in the community. His singing talent found him a place in the church choir. Apart from that he also served as an active youth member in the church.

At the age of 26 years he got married to his wife who is not a permanent resident of his locality. They used to know each other when she came and stayed with her relatives house from the year 2004, then got to know each other through participating at different youth activities in the same locality. The two of them became familiar and it resulted in her getting pregnant. He was not in love and he was compelled to marry her.

The two of them have two sons, aged 4 years and 3 years respectively. The older one is now in class 1. Lala used to served as a Gospel preacher. He had no specific job and stayed unemployed even after marriage. And he continued doing his duties as a Gospel preachers. As a Gospel preacher, Lala had to frequently travel and go out of his house. This created misunderstanding between the couple and the two began quarreling a lot with each other. His wife suspected his fidelity in the marriage and blamed his frequent travels as being responsible for the widening gap between them.

The family environment worsened and the two were often quarrelling. There was no love between the two and Lala adopted his earlier lifestyle and began consuming alcohol. The alcohol consumption increased and consequent to that the quarrelling too increased and soon the wife demanded that they end the marriage (*Sumchhuah*). This kind of divorce is humiliating to the husband since the wife can leave with all her belongings and give back the bride price paid at the time of marriage. Lala felt extremely bad. After the period of a month, the wife experienced some remorse and begged for forgiveness and they decided to be together again as a married couple. He began to feel guilty about not shouldering his responsibilities since he was unemployed and decided to take up singing again. The talent won him recognition and fame but also made the family see a lot of money due to the success of his singing. However this meant that he had to travel again for concerts programmes etc. Hectic schedules and pressures that work again resulted in less time with his wife and children. This certain recognition and fame and money prompted him to resume drinking alcohol. His reason for consume alcohol included the fact that his wife continues to suspect him of indulging in affairs with others each time he returned home. On her part, his wife felt that she refused to wash her husband cloths, was more aggressive and suspicious in his behavior. His resentment of her lack of support in his new carrier became a source of problems for the couple and he even physically abusing her.

Lala's feelings of inferiority and inadequacy began to grow since his family life was so poor. He even began to lose faith in God and increasing spend more time away from home. His wife moved out without the children and went away to her parents house. This anger Lala and they divorced and resolved never to get back together. Although he tries raising his children own his own and he did not allow

them to meet their mother the children missed their mother tremendously. And the older one began having problem in school. Infact, despite this impact on the children, Lala thought his life had improved and made an attempt to stop drinking alcohol and spent more time at home for his children and participated in household chores with his mother who was too old to do it herself.

Discussion

The case presented above is of the man of 32 years who has a great talent in singing, was unemployed and had not attained a high level in education. He was married to a woman following their casual sexual encounter and subsequent pregnancy despite his reluctance to force a marriage. His feelings of inadequacy coupled with a poor family environment and the suspicious wife culminated in his alcoholism which was further responsible for continued marital discord. The couple attempted divorce on two occasions the second time being a final one.

For the above case the selection of one's partner and reasons for entering a marriage gain significance. Pre marital sex and pregnancy in the case of this couple clearly seen like a case of 'putting the cart before the horse'. Poor quality of marital relationship, lack of trust, constant complain from the wife and alcoholism have emerged to become the cause of marital breakdown with severe consequences on the children who are being raised without a mother.

The social work implication in referring to this case would need to employ micro level strategies such as Individual Counseling or Couples Therapy/Marital Therapy for Lala and for his wife. Post divorce counseling for the couple as well as Family Counselling could direct attention on the children.

Lala* (Fictitious Name).

CASE – 2

Name: LC-i

A case of a woman who is a result of the marital breakdown

LC-i was born in the year 1972 at one Mizoram village to a cultivator parent. She is the third of seven siblings, born to Christian parents to Presbyterian denomination and belongs to Hmar (*Lungtau*) sub tribe of Mizo. In her young age her parents moved to a neighbouring state and stayed away for some time, but they returned to the same village again in the year 1987. From there they shifted to another village in the year 1992 thinking it would be better to earn livelihood for the family. They continue to reside in the same place and earn livelihood through agriculture activities and stay in a joint family.

She was always known to be a very happy person. Amongst her siblings she is the one who would generally greet guests and others and her parents were very proud of her. She used to be a gentle woman and people in the village also praised her because of her good conduct and character. Her family faced financial problems therefore she had to lend her hand in the farm besides she was not good in education thus after attaining till standard X. She then dropped out of school.

LC-i only consumed tobacco and does not indulge in any other kind of substance use. She and her husband resided in the same village and they began to be attracted to each other from the year 1992 and got married in the year 1994. They have 4 children. LC-i already knew her husband has a flirtatious character even before they got married. Infact it was due to this that even she succumbed to his charms. Her husband is working in a company and after they had children he was posted to another village. They shifted their place to the new village in the year 2002 and stayed there between 2002 – 2007. It was there that their youngest child was born. Soon after their

marriage her husband start flirting with other women and it was only at the time when the youngest child was born, he stopped flirting. Her husband thereafter made excuses about his children's education and sent them back to their old village in the year 2007. In this period her husband began consuming alcohol and continue to flirt with women however to avoid suspicion by his wife he would visit them once a month.

It wasn't long before she discovered that her husband was married to a divorce woman of the same village where he working and this was the main reason for them to separate. Despite their separation her husband, she claimed used to visit her often with an attempt to seduce her. LC-i feels very bad and was very frightened so she asked her husband to divorce her with '*Mak*' (When a man wants to divorce his wife by *Mak*, when the wife has already conceived a child or not, the husband should give the bride's price in full or the outstanding balance) and then got divorced in February 2008. They separated their four children among them with the elder two stay with the father and the younger two with herself. However less than a year later on an occasion when she was absent from home, he visited the house and took away the remaining two children.

Now the children are under the custody of her husband and his new wife. Due to the divorce between LC-i and her husband their children face lots of problems in their education and in their social life. LC-i returned to her parent's house, but each night she finds it difficult to sleep thinking of her children and her problems. She realizes the importance of marriage and that of having a proper source of income for women since financially instability can created lot of tension and misery in a woman's life. Consequent to her divorced at the very young age of 36 years her health has declined and she now reports High Blood pressure, Stomach ulcer as well as feeling of isolation which she had never experienced before.

Discussion

The case above is of a young woman who was divorced by her husband because of his liaison with other woman. LC-i was considered to a lovely and obedient child, praise by the villagers because of her good nature. Her only weakness seems to have been poor decision making with regard to the person she married since she ignored the easy charm and flirtatiousness on his part.

The above case highlights the importance of fidelity, clear decision making and the role of personality in marriage, extra marital affairs and alcohol consumption combined in the husband made him a difficult partner for LC-i. She seems to lack assertiveness and has had severe consequences following the divorced. Further the consequences of this divorce on the children seem to be very important.

Social work in this case may address issues for the family through Family Counselling. In addition assertive training and capacity building in the case of LC-i will be useful in helping her take up a livelihood option that will help her to support not just herself but take care of her children as well. Follow up counseling of children to understand their level of adjustment to a new environment is also indicated. Referral for health problems including a psychiatric referral is also necessitated by the fact that she needs to overcome her feelings of loneliness and recovered in health.

LC-i* (Fictitious Name).

CASE – 3

Name: Rama

A Case of a man who is a result and cause of marital breakdown

Rama was born in the year 1974 at one of the villages in Mizoram and was brought up by his parents with his other 5 siblings in the same village. He was the second youngest among the 6 siblings and he belongs to the *Khiangte* sub-tribe of *Lusei*. The family follows Presbyterian denomination and is actively involved in church. Rama had studied till standard VIII as he was not interested in education and was not a good learner. Besides the family faced economic problems not being able to support for him for his education. When Rama was approximately 23 years of age he met Mawii and following a year of relationship they eloped and got married by Mizo Christian Marriage Custom. They stayed and lived with his parents and his other siblings. Along with his family he moved out from his parent's house and settled in his own house and earned a living on his own after his parents died.

Being a drop-out at a young age, he helped out his parents and chose *Wooden Mistiri* work as his livelihood option. He belonged to a BPL family and earned for his family through his skilled labour work. Rama used to drink alcohol from his youth, but it soon became an addiction. While he was drunk, he used to beat his wife severely. After 10 years of their marriage and following four children, his wife ran out of his house for her own sake and safety. They got divorced and he stayed with his 3 children while the youngest child stayed with the mother.

Their divorce severely affected him and his family. Although he realized it was not a proper and good act, he was unable to stop drinking. However he had to play dual responsibilities for his children and family and was busy and preoccupied. Due to this extreme hard work the quality of his work was affected and he could not

earn as lucratively as before. He does not have the money for his children's medical fees nor the capability to take care of his daughter who had rheumatism.

Their household was chaotic and the mother's absences were felt by them. Although his neighbours reached out several times and he received help from both voluntary organizations and faith based organizations, it was not sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living. His divorce with his wife affected his health condition and the pressures for his children survival imposed several strains on him to work hard. Very severe consequences are also seen in the children who faced lots of problems in all areas of their lives.

Discussion

The case above highlights Rama, a skilled worker who divorced his wife after 10 years of marriage following four children. The divorce was a result of his consumption of alcohol and physical abuse his wife. The consequence of such a divorce has affected all members of his family. Since his wife is living alone, his health has suffered and the pressure on him to work is more. The children have been affected most severely. Scope for reuniting the family to ensure a conducive home environment for all is visible. Rama realizes his mistakes and feels remorse however he is unable to seek his wife's forgiveness.

The Social Work implications in this case demand Family Counselling interventions to address issues of alcoholism, physical abuse, child neglect and mental health problems in the family. Neither of the couple has re-married and there is a tremendous support available for the family.

Rama* (Fictitious Name).

CASE – 3 (2)

Name: Teseni

A child impacted by divorce

Teseni is the eldest daughter among four children born to Rama and Mawii. She is twelve years of age and used to be a healthy and active child before her parents divorced and was good in her studies as well. After her parents divorced, both her studies and her health got affected severely. Being the eldest among the siblings and without a mother in the home meant that she had to help the father by doing household chores; from cooking food, washing clothes, care for her younger siblings were all in her hands. She has no spare time for her own recreation.

In her opinion the cause of her parents divorce was due to her fathers drinking habits. She condemns her father for letting the situation reached such a points however she has little choice in where she chooses to stay since her mother had left the house. Due to the tremendous work pressures she has a bone and muscles problems due to which she is unable to attend school regularly. She knows know happiness and joys and cannot understand when her peers narrate things in a happy and joyous manner. Teseni does not know the existence of a community health sub-center in her village and has no knowledge of the services, importance and usefulness of a hospital or NGO.

Discussion

From the above case it is evident that alcohol and poverty can significantly affect marital harmony and in the event of the divorce, the children are the ones who bear the worst consequences with regard to education, health and social life.

Social Work significance in this case would be in offering support for Teseni and in referral for health and medical support. Individual counselling and case work

services would helped in motivating the child to re-enter an active social family counselling as indicated in case above is required to relieve this child from her and a burden in participation in household chores.

Teseni* (Fictitious Name).

CASE – 4

Name: Dina

A case of a man who is a result and cause of marital breakdown

Dina was born in the year 1983 in the southern part of Mizoram. His father is a Preacher and because of that they used to shift home frequently to live in different places. Dina is the youngest of three siblings. He has elder twin brothers and now the family stays in the hart of Aizawl city.

He had spent most of his childhood in rural villages. Being the youngest of 3 siblings made him feel insecure among his peer. He does not like punishment and therefore used to be a discipline and well mannered child. After going school in different villages, he joined Higher Secondary at Aizawl, but he failed in the examination. After that he joined Assam Regiment for his occupation. He used to be an active player in sports. While in school he earned the taekwondo Black Belt 1st Dan. He also participated in boxing for Assam regiment and secured 1st position most of the time after joining the forces.

Dina always used tobacco and started drinking alcohol while he was in class X at the very same time he had his first girlfriend. While his family lived in one village he became a quintet with a lady called Thangi. Although Dina was not attracted to her since he had his won girlfriend he began to get familiar with her. When his relationship with his girlfriend fell out he began to consume more alcohol. During this period he went home to his parent's village and he became involved with Thangi who got pregnant following their casual sex. Dina was not keen on marrying on Thangi however his family prevails upon him to get married since they did not want an illegitimate grandchild. Further the family considered themselves good Christian and therefore sought to arrange for a marriage. Being an obedient child form his

childhood, Dina did not want to quarrel with his parents and therefore got married to Thangi.

During their marriage days for a short period, Dina did not find any satisfaction from his spouse and only continue to remain married due to the child. Despite his effort to care for his wife their relationship was very weak. He found himself to be very lonely and continued to pined for girlfriend whom he could not forget. On the other hand, his wife not being able to receive the love and satisfaction from him, started creating troubles in their family. Their life together was a mess due to non response from the husband and negligence and ignorance perceived by the wives. All this culminated in his wife leaving the house with his child while Dina was away from work. Their divorce seemed a relief for Dina as he had suffered a lot in his marrying to a woman he did not love. However his care for the child through support and maintenance continued. His unstable marital and post divorce life resulted in his feeling very unhappy however the support and love from his parents and siblings endure the trauma he faced.

Discussion

In this case it is observed that abuse of alcohol has had a role to play in destabilizing the life of a man who was compelled to marry a woman he did not love simply because he engaged in casual sex with her following alcohol used. A clear linked is seen between alcohol abused, pre marital and casual sexual intercourse, marriage and divorced.

Social Work interventions in this scenario would need to address prevention in the form of counseling prior to marriage. Community interventions to address the consequences of alcohol consumption are indicated. Dina and his wife could be helped through marital therapy. In the event of an inevitable breakup between the

couple post divorce counseling would be suggested for Dina, Thangi and the child.

Dina and Thangi (Fictitious Name).*

CASE – 5

Name: Nutei

A case of a woman who is a result and cause of marital breakdown

Nutei was born in the year 1965 and was brought up with her three siblings by her parents. She belongs to *Ralte* sub-tribe. She used to be a fairly introverted person and due to her disinterest in education, she discontinued education at a very early stage. In the year 1988 at the age of 23 years, she got married to Vala and after two years they got divorced and now she stayed with her children in the village.

Vala used to be a businessman and often visited the village where Nutei lived. He too decided to shift his place to the same village and after building his own house over there, he married Nutei. After they got married Vala stopped his business and earned his livelihood as a daily wage labourer since he thought this would be a better option for his family. Both the couple lived peacefully and after having one child, her husband went out for labour work in different village. During that time Nutei committed adultery with another man and she got herself pregnant. When her husband returned home and found out the details he divorced her. Unfortunately the child's father was also not willing to marry Nutei and therefore she rented a house by herself. She managed to make a life by her own, and stayed single for several years. She met another man who promised to marry her and they both indulge in sex and however when she began to pregnant again he too was unwilling to marry her and abandoned her.

She now had her three children from different man. Further her health condition is poor and she complains a genealogical problem, stomach problem and rheumatism. Her jaggery farm that was serving as a source of income earlier was not very stable and her income declined. Therefore she sent her two elder children to the

city as daily wage labourer to earn and supplement the family income. Support has been received from the government through IAY scheme and she rebuilt a house which was on a land leased to her by a Village Council. Belonging to a BPL family she often sought benefits.

She belonged to a Presbyterian church, along with her children they have and they attended church regularly. Despite being native to that village she has been stigmatized her for being a divorcee and for the situation for being a single mothers with having different children from different men.

Discussion

The case presented above is of Nutei who had committed adultery and at the very young age of twenty five years finds herself in a situation of being a divorcee, single with three children and three different fathers. Her life is fairly unstable and she is unable to depend on others or trust them and her income is fluctuating and necessitates her having to take tertiary support. Stigma and ridiculed from neighbours makes her case more difficult to them.

The Social Work implications involve individual counseling for Nutei, counseling for the children and community awareness with regard to issue related to marriage and divorced.

Nutei (Fictitious Name).*

CASE – 5 (2)

Name: Ruata

A child impacted by divorce

Ruata was born in the year 2000, being the youngest son of Nutei among the three children. Being born and raised by a single mother did not seem to create any additional troubles for him. His elder two siblings born out of different fathers stayed far away and supplement their income. He used to be a healthy and cheerful child and he is considered a leader among his peer. Lack of guidance at home and a poor educational environment has resulted in his having to repeat classes. He entered into government school, along with the help he received from neighbours and managed to remain at school.

He has not faced many problems with his peers in schools and at homes, however being a called a *Pa nei lo* ‘Fatherless son’ makes him feel very sad. Further he has never met his father and receives no help from him and therefore his dependend on his mother increased. Not having his brothers at home also weakens the bonds that siblings would normally share.

Discussion

The case presented above is of a young boy who used to be a cheerful, has leadership skills and is raised as a child but born out of wed lock. His situation attracts a lot of negative comments and stigmatization and this compounded by the fact that he is neglected by his own father brings about a lot of sadness at a young age. The Social Work implications indicate guidance and counseling for his mother as well as individual counseling session to help him cope with his feelings and emerged a stronger younger man.

Ruata* (Fictitious Name).

The study entitled ‘Marital Breakdown and its impact on Mizo Families’ seeks to understand the challenges faced by families in reference to marital breakdown. Mizo society comprises predominantly of tribals and Christians. Mizoram is unique in that, despite being one of the smallest states, it is second highest in literacy in the country. Marriage, divorce and matters related to property and inheritance are still governed by an intermixed set of practices under the Christian as well as tribal traditions.

Marital Breakdown culminating in divorce or separation is becoming a fairly common practice and reasons cited for this often include changes in family and societal values brought about by the influence of westernization and increasing urbanization. Mizoram is one of the highest in urban populations (49.6%) and increasingly people from the rural areas and hinterlands are moving to Aizawl district (the state capital) which comprises of almost one-third the population of the state.

This study is descriptive and cross-sectional in nature. A total of 297 respondents (139 from stable and 117 from broken families) formed the sample. The study employed multi stage sampling to arrive at final sample. Data collection was done employing both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data was collected from both stable families as well as from broken families (that have experienced marital breakdown). Apart from survey method, case studies are also presented . The objective of the case studies was to understand the dynamics and process of marital breakdown and perceptions related to causes and effects. To conduct an in-depth study of the perceptions of adults in relation to marital breakdown, focus group discussions were also conducted.

The study has as its objectives to enquire into the causes for marital breakdown, to assess the socio – economic factors associated with marital breakdown and to

understand the effects of marital breakdown on family with particular reference to children.

The study sought information on perceptions of both adults and children on causes of divorce. Such information was obtained through use of semi-structured Interview Schedule from adults and children. Further the information obtained from focus group discussion augmented the information.

Salient Findings

Causes of Divorce

Physical/health/medical (which includes Chronic illness/disease/ general health problem, physical weakness, poor/bad looking, venereal disease, ill treatment/abuse by husband/in-laws, considerable age difference in spouses and physical defects/deformity/challenges) is the leading cause of divorce perceived both by stable and broken families. Sex and sexuality (which includes inadequacy, excessive sexual demands) is ranked second followed by Psycho-social & emotional problems (including jealousy, nagging, incompatibly), Adultery/extramartial, Socio-economic problems (Childlessness, financial burden/difficulties, socio-economic (difference in families, in-laws interference, poverty/economic hardship). Perceived causes by both types of families and actual reasons for divorce when analysed reveal starting results and Alcoholism and addiction which were ranked last by respondents as perceived causes ranks highest among reasons for divorce. This reveals that there is a denial at some levels to examine root causes.

The results showed respondents (n=156) who have undergone marital breakdown stating the reasons for their divorce. The female respondents (n=97) ranked *addiction & alcoholism* as the top causes for the breakdown of their marriage (32.0%) followed by *difference in ideas & beliefs, Extra marital affairs, family*

interference as other top causes. Whereas the male (n=59) respondents had mentioned *difference in ideas & beliefs* (27.1%) and *addiction & alcoholism* (25.4%) as the top two causes for the breakdown of their marriage. Other major causes include *Family interference, commitment of adultery and difference in faith*.

The case studies also (5 of adults who have undergone divorce and two of children who are from broken families), reveal that *alcohol addiction and/or extra marital affairs* were leading causes responsible for marital breakdown. Consequences on *mental health on women* as well as with reference to *education and health with regard to children* are also evident from the cases studied.

The results of focus group discussion of both women and men group had perceived the causes of divorce. Women had cited *incompatibility* as a major cause of divorce. Others include either the partner is *abusing drugs/alcohol* as a reason, *poverty* or *problems related to livelihood and income, family interference* and *sexual incompatibility* while men had mentioned the *inadequacy of sexual relationship between the couple* as the top causes, others include *practicing birth control, either spouses tend to indulge in alcohol and drugs* and *economic instability*.

Socio-economic factors associated with marital breakdown

From the study it is interesting to see that majority of the ‘broken families’ were Joint families while in ‘stable families’ more than a half belonged to Nuclear families.

It is evident from the study that education of first spouses as compared to education of respondents is not vastly different. However there are more post graduates among the respondents as compared to their first spouses. More post graduates were seen in stable families of respondents as compared to broken families

indicating the need to explore further the relationship between higher education and marriage stability.

Occupation of respondents and of their first spouse was very indicative. The first spouse in broken families had more daily wage labourers and skilled workers as compared to stable families.

The study attempted to explore how many of the respondents and their first spouses consumed alcohol in this study. Of the total number of respondents almost a quarter reported consuming alcohol themselves while and a third of the respondents reported that their first spouse consumed alcohol. When comparing stable families and broken families of respondents and first spouse almost two-thirds of them belonged to broken families. Smoking used is observed in both broken families of respondents and first spouse (more than a half).

The use of alcohol and smoking in a tribal Mizo society has been discussed in many studies. The imposition of the Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act (MLTP) has been in force since over a decade and the Tobacco Control Act, 2003 has also been in force since a few years. Several attempts by Church and other NGOs have not borne fruit in reduction of abuse of substances. Most research studies discuss the role of alcoholism/addiction and resultant domestic violence as causes of marital discord and divorce, and constant smoking burden the family financial is also a crucial thing. It is evident that from this study too, a majority of the respondents who report consumption of alcohol belong to broken families and this is directly related to marital instability.

Consequences on Marital Breakdown

From the case studies (5 of adults who have undergone divorce and two of children who are from broken families), consequences on *mental health on women* as well as with reference to *education and health with regard to children* are evident.

Impact on Children

Perceived consequences of divorce on children was sought from forty five children respondents from stable (24) and broken families (21) participated in the study. Their age range is between 10 and 18 years. Surprisingly the children from stable families perceive more severe consequences as affecting children whose parents are divorced ,as compared to children who actually come from broken families.

It is evident that in with reference to caring, relationship, economic and education support, children from stable families have ranked both parents as first, generally followed by paternal grandparents and maternal grandparents, friends/ peer, neighbourhood and others. Whereas children from broken families rank their mother alone as first, followed by maternal grandparents, parents alone, paternal grandparents and so on. It is observed that most of the children whose parents have undergone divorce stayed with their mother, and the non-residents father involvement is gradually decreasing.

From the Focus Group Discussion both the women and men group had perceived the consequences on children following parents divorce as; Women group felt that *children of divorced parents generally saw themselves as different person after their parents' divorce, often experienced a change in the relationship with their parents, are likely to be afraid of making mistakes and parents will not be as supportive to them as they were before, children are likely to find it difficult to face*

challenges as compared to children from stable families, Loneliness and feelings of isolation among children are possible fall-outs, are likely to have lost confidence and would feel unable to accomplish tasks that others can do easily and children from such families are at risk for following the wrong path and would indulge in risk behaviour that was detrimental to them and society. Whereas men group tend to perceived the consequences on children includes; in case of children residing across each parents house and shifting home, they are likely to remain unstable, children lose their feelings for the nonresident parent while they have a close relationship with the resident parent, in case of divorce, the nonresident parent has less interaction and communication with their children, children's education and their characters have often been influenced by the trauma they have undergone from their parents divorce.

Consequences on Women and Men

The consequences faced by women perceived by women groups expressed that marital breakdown brings feeling of *unhappiness, high stress levels and caused loss of confidence, women tend to develop guilt particularly in relation to their feelings towards their children, indulge in sex and substance abuse, feel and experience emptiness and some also lose faith in God and become disbelievers.* Whereas men group had felt the perceived consequences on women includes; *marital breakdown places huge burden on women particularly for those who had children. Some members felt that divorced women who are younger in age and without children face fewer problems and tend to remarry easily as compared to divorced women with children. Men also discussed the impact of divorce on one's personality.*

According to the women, in the event of marital breakdown, *men tend to indulge in sex and substance abuse problems, some divorced men begin to have loose morals and reveal loss in 'character, tend to lose confidence because of not being in a*

marital unit, and also they are easily tempted to become wayward and exhibit less affection and love for others. Whereas men group expressed the consequences as of marital breakdown faced by men in the Mizo society includes: Remarried men tend to face economic problems incase the children stayed with their mother, also divorced man faced severe and critical psychological problems, because of the trauma they have undergone.

Suggestions from the Findings

- The following are suggestions with social work implications that emanate from the findings of the research conducted.
- **Family Life Education** is required to help people get sensitized to the importance of parenting, responsibilities of family members and to increase cohesiveness in families.
- **Life Skills Education** is important for increasing the assertive skills of women to improve their decision making skills, emphasize refusal skills to say no to abuse and substances. In one case study reveal the case of one woman who has 3 children out of 3 men. Having poor life skills she was not able to decide the best for herself.
- **Family Counselling /Family Therapy** for the prevention of divorce and to promote healthy family environments.
- **Prevention of Substance Abuse programmes** are required. In a majority of the cases, reason for marital breakdown is due to substance abuse. Prevention of Substance Abuse Programmes to reduce incidence of substance abuse, particularly injecting drug use and alcohol are urgently required. Most of the case study, focus group discussion and results from studies reveal this to be a major problems.

- **Awareness Generation programmes** on importance of family stability, services for support etc are indicated.
- **Involvement of church elders/spiritual counselors** to advocate the importance of marital stability.

v. Total Monthly Family Income:

vi. Assets

S/No	Items	Self	Spouse
a.	Land		
b.	House		
c.	Vehicle		

vii. Religious Denomination Details -

S/No	Relationship	Religious denomination	Marital status
a.	Father		
b.	Mother		
c.	Father-in-law		
d.	Mother-in-law		

II. Marriage Particulars

9. Give details about your spouse/self at the time of First marriage.

S/No	Category	Self	First Spouse
i.	Age		
ii.	Education		
iii.	Occupation		
iv.	Alcoholic		
v.	Smoker		
vi.	Religion		
vii.	Sub Tribe		
viii.	Health		

10. Under which law was your first marriage registered?

- i. Customary Law () ii. Christian Marriage Act ()
iii. Special Marriage Act () iv. Any other () (Specify).....

11. How did you and first spouse meet?

- i. Through our families () ii. At church ()
iii. Through common friends () iv. Any other () (Specify)

12. How long did you and your spouse (first) know each other before you were married?

_____ (No. of months/Years)

13. How much time elapsed between when you and your spouse (first) decided to get married and when you actually got married?

_____ (No. of months/years)

14. Were either your parents or your spouses (first) parents opposed to the marriage?

- i. Yes, spouse's parents only () ii. Yes, self's parents only ()
iii. Yes, both sets of parents () iv. No, no opposition ()

15. Form of marriage
 i. Mizo Traditional Marriage alone () ii. Mizo Christian Marriage ()
 iii. By Elopement () iv. Any other () (Specify)
16. What did you feel about marriage before you entered it for the first time?
 i. Was excited at the prospect () ii. Was afraid about choosing the wrong person ()
 iii. Was anxious at the prospect () iv. No specific feelings ()
 v. Any other () (Specify)
17. i. Did you consult anyone on your spouse before marriage? 1. Yes/No.
 ii. If Yes with whom
 a. Parents () b. Friends () c. Relatives () d. Priest () e. His/Her relatives ()
 f. Any other () (Specify).....
18. What were you told about your spouse?

19. What were you looking for in your spouse prior to marriage? (Rank according to priority)
- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| i. Good looks | | ii. Good education | | iii. Economic stable | |
| iv. Healthy | | v. Caring | | vi. Non alcoholic | |
| vii. Non smoker | | viii. Belonging to same tribe/religion | | ix. Good Christian | |
| x. Younger in age | | xi. Older in age | | xii. Family oriented | |
| xiii. Drug free | | xiv. Tobacco free | | xv. Good physique | |
| xvi. Even tempered | | xvii. Kind hearted | | xviii. Intelligent | |
| xix. Good humoured | | xx. Any other (Specify) | | | |
20. What problems did you face in arranging your marriage?
 i. Economic Problems
 ii. Family problems (Self) specify
 iii. Family problems (Spouse) specify
 iv. Problems created by friends/neighbours/relatives
 v. Problems related to religious denomination
 vi. Any other (Specify)

III. Quality of Marital Relationship

A. Marital relationship particulars

21. During your last year together, how often would you say the following occurred between you and your spouse (former)?

Sl. No.	Items	Always	Sometimes	Never
i	Have a stimulating exchange of ideas	0	1	2
ii	Laughed together	0	1	2
iii.	Calmly discussed issues	0	1	2
iv	Worked together	0	1	2
v.	Quarrel bitterly	0	1	2
vi.	Discussed issues related to children	0	1	2
vii	Self/Spouse Left home after a fight	0	1	2

viii	Visited parents house and fulfilled social obligations	0	1	2
ix	Visited in-laws house and fulfilled social obligations	0	1	2
x.	Attended Church together	0	1	2
xi.	Fulfilled social obligations together	0	1	2

22. How much did you and your (former) spouse agree or disagree during the last year (prior to your final separation) on each of the items.

Sl. No	Items	Always Agreed	Occasionally Agreed	Disagreed
i.	Handling family finances	0	1	2
ii.	Leisure time activities	0	1	2
iii.	Religious matters	0	1	2
iv.	Friends/peer groups	0	1	2
v.	Sex relations	0	1	2
vi.	Outlook on life	0	1	2
vii.	Ways of dealing with parents	0	1	2
viii.	Ways of dealing with in-laws	0	1	2
Ix	Amount of time spent together	0	1	2
x.	Making major decisions	0	1	2
xi.	Household tasks	0	1	2
xii.	Career Decisions	0	1	2

III B. Discord Particulars

23. Have you or your (former) spouse ever decided to get a divorce and then changed your minds?
 Never – 0; Once – 1; A few times – 2; Several times – 3; All the time – 4.

24. Why did you or your (former) spouse decide not to go through with these earlier divorce actions?
 Due to Children – 1; Due to Finances – 2; Due to Family Pressures – 3;
 Due to all of the above – 4; Any other – 5 (Specify)

25. How is/was conflict usually resolved between you and your (former) spouse?
 Due to understanding on ones part (self) –1; Due to understanding on one part (spouse) – 2; Because of children – 3 (Specify); Any Other – 4 (Specify)

26. What in your opinion was /is responsible for the breakdown of your marriage?
 (For divorce only)

IV. 27. Causes of Divorce: Rank the following perceived causes of divorce in order of importance

S/No	Particulars	Internal	Head wise
1.	Physical/Health/Medical –		()
i.	Chronic Illness/disease/general health Problem	()	
ii.	Physical Weakness	()	
iii.	Poor/Bad looking	()	
iv.	Venereal disease	()	
v.	Ill treatment/abuse by husband/ in-laws	()	
vi.	Considerable age difference in spouses	()	
vii.	Physical defects/ deformity/challenge	()	
2.	Socio – Economic/ Social Problems		()
i.	Employment (un/under/problem)	()	
ii.	Childlessness	()	
iii.	Financial burden/difficulties	()	
iv.	Differences in Educational level	()	
v.	Socio-economic difference in families	()	
vi.	In-laws interference – lack of support	()	
vii.	Poverty/Economic hardship	()	
viii.	Conflict in values	()	
ix.	Family violence	()	
x.	Interfaith/religious difference	()	
xi.	Regularity in attending church	()	
xii.	Conversion to another religion	()	
xiii.	Small size family and childless marriage	()	
xiv.	Lack of preparation for marriage	()	
xv.	Marriage against the wishes of the spouse	()	
xvi.	Difference in levels of intelligence	()	
xvii.	Too much interest in career/work	()	
3.	Psycho – Social & Emotional Problems		()
A.	Personality of self/spouse	()	
i.	Jealousy	()	
ii.	Nagging partner	()	
iii.	Immorality in partner / self	()	
iv.	Laziness in partner/self	()	
v.	Any other (Specify).....	()	
B.1.	Cruelty/torture by in-laws, spouse	()	
C. i.	Compatibility	()	
ii.	Poor communication	()	
iii.	Role conflict	()	
D.1.	Psychiatric Illness in self /spouse	()	
4.	Sex and Sexuality		()
i.	Frigidity and Impotence	()	
ii.	Over indulgence/demand for sex by one partner	()	
iii.	Adultery	()	
iv.	Imperforated vagina	()	
v.	Sexual inadequacy	()	

5.	Adultery/Extramarital		()
i.	Adultery on atleast one occasion	()	
ii.	Frequent Extramarital affairs	()	
iii.	Flirtatious in nature	()	
iv.	Spouse has a living former spouse	()	
v.	Spouse frequently abandoned family	()	
vi.	Lack of commitment to the marriage	()	
vii.	Pre-marital sex by partner	()	
6.	Addiction and Alcoholism		()
i.	Gambling	()	
ii.	Drugs	()	
iii.	Alcoholism	()	
iv.	Tobacco	()	

V. Marital Breakdown

A. 28. Perceived Consequences of Divorce on Self: Kindly tick the appropriate response.

S/No	Particulars	Improved	No Change	Worsened
I.	Physical Health			
a.	Appetite			
b.	Health status			
c.	Appearance			
d.	Sexual functioning			
II.	Psychological Health			
a.	Confidence			
b.	Sense of security			
c.	Restfulness			
d.	Mood stability			
e.	Stress levels			
III.	Socio – Economic			
a.	Finance/economic condition			
b.	Employment			
c.	Education			
d.	Child support & care			
IV.	Social Support			
a.	Family			
b.	Relatives			
c.	Neighbours			
d.	Friends			
e.	Community			

29. Rank the persons in order of who faces maximum impact following divorce.

- i. A male () ii. A female () iii. Children ()
 iv. Elderly parents () v. Others () (Specify).....

30. Rank the following in terms of severity in impact after divorce

S/No	Problems	Women	Men
i.	Reduced income		
ii.	Parenting Problems		
iii.	Increased Workload		
iv.	Alienation		
v.	Stigma of being single		
vi.	Loneliness		
vii.	Frequent illnesses		

V B. Consequences of Divorce on Children

31. Who generally looks after the children following a divorce?

- i. Male () ii. Female () iii. Paternal grandparents () iv. Maternal Grandparents ()
 v. Relatives () vi. Neighbours () vii. Government Institutions () viii. Any
 Others () (Specify)

32. Who provides economically for the children following divorce?

- i. Male () ii. Female () iii. Paternal grandparents () iv. Maternal Grandparents ()
 v. Relatives () vi. Neighbours () vii. Government Institutions () viii. Any
 Others () (Specify)

33. Perceived Post – divorce impact on children: Tick the following

S/No	Items	Improved	No Change	Worsened
1.	School			
i.	Class performance			
ii.	Test/Results			
iii.	Payment of school fees			
iv.	Relationship with class mates			
v.	Relationship with teachers			
2.	Family			
i.	Roles and Responsibilities			
ii.	Siblings Relationship			
iii.	Relationship with father			
iv.	Relationship with mother			
v.	Relationship with step-parents			
vi.	Relationship with relatives			
3.	Neighbourhood/Community			
i.	Roles and responsibilities for church			
ii.	Ability to make and maintain friends			
iii.	Participation in community activities			

VI. Social Support

34. Who is likely to offer most help to you following divorce? (only for divorce)

S/No	Persons	Rank	Type of Help	Remarks
i.	Parents			
ii.	In-Laws			
iii.	Siblings			
iv.	Spouse			
v.	Friends			
vi.	Relatives			
vii.	Church			
viii.	NGO			
ix.	Government			

35. What are the services in Mizoram to prevent marital breakdown? (Specify)

.....

36. i. Have you ever used any of the above services? Yes/ No
 ii. (Specify)

.....

37. Describe how you feel about preventive measures for marital breakdown.

i. Schools & colleges should provide adequate scientific and value-based knowledge to the students on marriage, sexuality and responsible parenthood – Yes/No

ii. Training programmes/seminars/workshops etc. should be arranged by Y.M.A/MHIP for couples regarding family life, parenting skills, and stress management – Yes/ No

iii. Self help/support groups may be formed for individuals going through the process of matrimonial litigations, together with those who have already obtained divorce – Yes/ No

iv. Any other (Specify)

38. What according to you are the measures that can be taken in reducing marital breakdown in Mizo society?

i.
 ii.
 iii.
 iv.
 v.

39. What are the services available for the post divorce rehabilitation and counselling in Mizoram? (Specify)
.....
.....

40. i. Have you ever used any of the above services? Yes/ No
ii. (Specify)

.....

(In Mizo)

MIZORAMA NUPA INTHEN LEH CHHUNGKUA A NGHAWNG DAN

Chibai le,

Mi tinin chaw, chenna, hmangaihna leh inlaintatna an dawnna hmun pawimawh hmasa ber chu chhungkua a ni. Nupa nun hian phat rual lohvin chhungkaw pum pui a nghawng tlat tih kan hria a, chu mai ni lovin thenawm khawveng leh khawtlang thlengin a nghawng a ni. He zirbingna (research) hian nupa inthen chungchang leh a ngawng bakah a chhan te, engtia intanpui theih nge a nih dan te zir chian a tum a. Hemi kawnga hriatthiamna zau zawk leh inkaihhruaina tha zawk mai bakah tlem tala danglamna a thlen theihna tura engemawti tala kawngro a lo sut ve ka beisi a ni. Chu vangin i hun hlu tak leh i ngaihndan chiang taka i lo thawh ve a, Mizo khawtlang nun tlem tala kan sawi danglam theihna turin ka sawm che a ni. He doctoral research hmang hian, nupa tangthen leh chhungkaw keh darh tur ven theihna tura hmalak dan tur zir chhuah ka beisei a. Chu bakah he thil hian mahni chhungkaw hriat chianna leh chhungkaw ngelnghehna kawngah nasa takin min pui ang tih a beiseiawm bawk.

Ka lawm e.

Julie Remsangpuii Fambawl, Ph. D Scholar
Department of Social Work, Mizoram University

I. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

- 1. Hming:
- 2. Kum:
- 3. a. Kawppui chungchang: Kawppui nei/Awm hrang/Inthen/Kawppui dang nei/Kawppui dang vawi hnih nei/Kawppui dang vawi thum nei
 - b. Inthen hunlaia kum zat: Mahni: Kawppui:
- 4. Kawppui neih dan: Mahni duhthlan/Zawnsak/Neih luihtir/A dang (eng nge)
- 5. Chipeng:
- 6. Kohhran/Pawl:
- 7. Chhungkaw awm dan: Awm khawm/Chhungkaw bil/In hranga awm chungka chhungkaw pakhat ni tho/A dang (eng nge)

8. Chhungkaw chanchin chipchiar (Kawppui hmasa ber nena chhungkua-ah) –

- i. Chhungkaw zat:
- ii. Chhungkuaa zir sang ber thlen chin:
- iii. Chhungkuaa pawl hniam ber zir thlen chin:
- iv. Chhungkua hlawh nei/thawhchhuah nei awm zat:
- v. Chhungkuain thla khata lakluh zat:
- vi. Rohlu neih

S/No	Items	Mahni	Kawppui hmasa ber
a.	Ram		
b.	In		
c.	Lirthei		

vii. Sakhua leh kohhran lama dinhmun chipchiar -

S/No	Inlai chinna	Kohhran/Pawl	Kawppui neih leh neih loh
a.	Nangma Pa		
b.	Nangma Nu		
c.	Kawppui Pa		
d.	Kawppui Nu		

II. Inneih lai dinhmun chipchiar

9. Nangmah emaw i kawppui (hmasa ber) emaw dinhmun chipchiar.

S/No	Then hrang	Mahni	Kawppui hmasa ber
i.	Kum zat		
ii.	Zirna		
iii.	Eizawna		
iv.	Zu in mi		
v.	Mei zu mi		
vi.	Sakhua		
vii.	Chi peng (hnam)		
viii.	Hriselna		

10. Eng dan hnuaiah nge i kawppui (hmasa ber) nen in inneih?

- i. Hnam dan ()
- ii. Kristian inneih dan ()
- iii. Special Marriage Act ()
- iv. A chi dang () (A awm chuan).....

11. Engtin nge I kawppui (hmasa ber) nen in intawn tan?

- i. Chhungkaw thilah ()
- ii. Biak inah ()
- iii. Thiante atangin ()
- iv. A chi dang () (A awm chuan).....

12. In inneih hmain I kawppui (hmasa ber) nen eng chen nge in inzui?

_____ (Thla/Kum zat)

13. I kawppui (hmasa ber) nena inneih in tum leh inneih tak tak inkar engtia rei nge?

_____ (Thla/Kum zat)

14. I kawppui (hmasa ber) nena in nu leh pate ve vein in inneih an remti lo em?
 i. Aw, kawppuite nu leh pain () ii. Aw, keima nu leh paten ()
 iii. Aw, an remti lo ve ve () iv. Aih, dodalna a awm lo ()
15. Inneihnaa dan hman
 i. Mizo inneih dan pangngai chauh () ii. Mizo Kristian Danin ()
 iii. Tlan dun/inruk () iv. A chi dang () (A awm chuan)
16. Kawppui i neih vawikhatna atan khan eng rilru nge i put?
 i. A dawn hnaiah i phur hle () ii. Kawppui thlan sual i hlau ()
 iii. I hlauthawng hle () iv. Engtin vak mah i awm lo ()
 v. A chi dang () (A awm chuan)
17. i. In inneih hmain i kawppui tur chungchangah mi rawn i nei em? 1. Aw nei/Nei lo
 ii. Nei a nih chuan tu nge?
 a. Nu leh pa () b. Thiante () c. Chhungkhat laina () d. Puithiam/Pastor ()
 e. A chhungkhat lainate () f. Mi dang () (A awm chuan)
18. I kawppui chungchangah miin eng nge an sawi?

19. In inneih hmain eng kawngin nge kawppui i zawn deuh ber? (I ngaih pawimawh dan indawtin)

i. Hmeltha		ii. Lekhathiam		iii. Intodelh	
iv. Hrisel		v. Mi ngaihsak thiam		vi. Zu in lo	
vii. Mei zu lo mi		viii. Chipui/sakhaw thuhmun		ix. Kristian tha	
x. Kum naupang lam		xi. Kum upa deuh		xii. Chhungkua enin	
xiii. Damdawi ruih chi ti lo		xiv. Zuk hmuam ti lo		xv. Pian tha	
xvi. Thinchhe lo		xvii. Ngilnei deuh		xviii. Mi vengva	
xix. Fiamthu duh		xx. A dang (A awm chuan)			

20. Inneih tura inbuatsaihna kawngah eng harsatna nge i tawh?
 i. Sum leh paiah
 ii. Chhungkaw lamah (Mahni) eng nge.....
 iii. Chhungkaw lamah (Kawppuite) eng nge
 iv. Thian/thenawm/chhungkhatte atangin
 v. Sakhua leh kohhran chungchangah
 vi. A dang (A awm chuan)

III. Nupa Nun Dinmun

A. Mihring in-nupa-na kawngah

21. I kawppui (hmasa ber then tak) nen inchen dun (hnu hnun ber) kum kal ta chhungin heng a hnuai amite hi eng anga zingin nge in nupa chungah a thlen thin?

Sl. No.	Items	Eng lai pawhin	A changin	Thleng ngai lo
i	Ngaihndan sawi dun thin	0	1	2
ii	Nuih dun thin	0	1	2
iii.	Fim taka harsatna sawi dun thin	0	1	2
iv	Hna thawk dun thin	0	1	2
v.	Inhauh nghek nghek	0	1	2
vi.	Naupang chungchang sawi dun thin	0	1	2
vii	Intihbuai hnu-a mahniin/kawppuiin in chhuah san	0	1	2
viii	Nu leh pate tlawh fo leh vantlang thila mawhphurhna tihhlawhtlin	0	1	2
ix	Kawppuite nu leh pate tlawh fo leh vantlang thila mawhphurhna tihhlawhtlin	0	1	2
x.	Inkhawm dun thin	0	1	2
xi.	Vantlang thila thawh chhuah dun thin	0	1	2

22. I kawppui (hmasa ber then tak) nen in chen dun (hnu hnun ber) kum kal ta chungin a hnuai

thu-ahte hian engtiangin nge in inthuruala in inthural loh?

Sl. No	Items	Inthural ziah	Inthural zeuh zeuh	Inthural lo ziah
i.	Chhungkaw sum hman danah	0	1	2
ii.	Hun awl hman danah	0	1	2
iii.	Sakhaw thilah	0	1	2
iv.	Thian leh thenrual kawm chungchangah	0	1	2
v.	Mipat hmeichhiat (sex) thilah	0	1	2
vi.	Hringnun thlir danah	0	1	2
vii.	Mahni nu leh pate nena inkar thu-ah	0	1	2
viii.	Kawppui nu leh pa nena inkar thu-ah	0	1	2
Ix	Hun hman dun tam lamah	0	1	2
x.	Thutlukna lian tham siamah	0	1	2
xi.	Inchhungkhur thilah	0	1	2
xii.	Hna chungchang thu-ah	0	1	2

III B. Inthenna Chungchang lam

23. I kawppui (hmasa ber then tak) nen inthen remti dun thlapin in rilru in thlak leh ngai em?

Ngai lo – 0; Tum khat – 1; Thlak zeuh zeuh – 2; Thlak fo mai – 3; Thlak ziah – 4.

24. I kawppui (hmasa ber then tak) nen chuan engvangin nge in inthen mai lohna chhan chumi hunah chuan?

Fate vang – 1; Sum leh pai vang – 2; Chhungte nawrna vang – 3; A chung ami zawng zawng avang hian – 4; A chhan dang – 5 (A awm chuan)

.....

27. I kawppui (hmasa ber then tak) nen a in inhauh tumin eng vangin nge in tawp thin?

In hriatthiamna vangin (keimah lamah) –1; In hriatthiamna vangin (kawppui lamah) – 2; Fate vangin – 3; A chhan dang – 4 (A awm chuan)

28. I ngaihndanin i kawppui (hmasa ber then tak) nen a in inthen chhan ber ni-a i hriat chu eng nge ni? (In then te chauh chhan tur)

.....

IV. 27. Inthenna chhan: In thenna chhan ni a i hriat a pawimawh i tih dan indawtin rem rawh.

S/No	Particulars	Internal	Head wise
1.	Taksa/Hriselna/Damdawi lam –		()
i.	Natna lian tham/hri/bawrhsawmna	()	
ii.	Taksa chaklohna	()	
iii.	Hmelchhiatna/nalh loh vang	()	
iv.	Hri chhe vei vang	()	
v.	Inngaihsak loh/a pasal leh a chungten an hauh thin vang	()	
vi.	Kawppuite nen kum inthlauhna	()	
vii.	Piansualna leh rualban lohna	()	
2.	Chhungkaw khawsak chungchangah		()
i.	Eizawna harsatna	()	
ii.	Fa neih loh vang	()	
iii.	Sum leh pai harsatna	()	
iv.	Zir chen inang lo lutuk	()	
v.	Chhungkaw khawsak inthlauh vang	()	
vi.	Chhungte inrawlh nasa leh thlavang inhauhsak loh vang	()	
vii.	Khawsak harsat lutuk vang	()	
viii.	Ngaih pawimawh inang lo lutuk	()	
ix.	Chhungkua kut inthlak thin vang	()	
x.	Kohhran in-an loh vang	()	
xi.	Inkhawm peih luat vang	()	
xii.	Sakhaw danga inleh vang	()	
xiii.	Chhung tlem lutuk leh fa neih loh vang	()	
xiv.	Innei tura inbuatsaih that tawk loh vang	()	
xv.	Kawppuite duhdan lo lutuka inneih	()	
xvi.	Rualpawl dan inchen lo lutuk vang	()	
xvii.	Hna ngaih pawimawh lutuk vang	()	
3.	Rilru leh Ngaihndan inang lo harsatna		()
A.	Nangmah leh i kawppui mizia	()	
i.	Thikthu chhiat vang	()	
ii.	Insawisel nasat vang	()	
iii.	Nangmah/kawppuite ze tha lo vang	()	
iv.	Nangmah/kawppuite thatchhiat vang	()	

v.	A dang (A awm chuan).....	()	
B.1.	Kawppui leh a chungten a tihduhdahna vang	()	
C. i.	Inhamtawng lo	()	
ii.	Inpawh loh vang	()	
iii.	Mawhphurhnaa inpuh tawn vang	()	
D.1.	Nangmah/kawppuite rilru lama harsatna	()	
4.	Nupa nuna mipat hmeichhiatna		()
i.	Chakna nei lo/pa thei lo	()	
ii.	Kawppuite laka beisei nasat lutuk vang	()	
iii.	Uirena vang	()	
iv.	Chhu ping	()	
v.	Kawppuite kham loh vang	()	
5.	Leplerhna leh Uirena		()
i.	Tum khat aia tam uire	()	
ii.	Ngaihawng nei reng	()	
iii.	Lerh ve hrim hrim	()	
iv.	Nupui/pasalte kawppui hlui vang	()	
v.	Chhungte hlamchhiah reng	()	
vi.	Nupa nun inpek tawk loh vang	()	
vii.	Inneih hmaa sex hman tawh vang	()	
6.	Ruihhlo ngaih leh zu ngawl vei		()
i.	Pawisa khelch chin vang	()	
ii.	Ruihhlo vang	()	
iii.	Zu ngawl vei vang	()	
iv.	Zuk-hmuam vang	()	

V. Nupa Tangthen

A. 28. I ngaihdanin inthennain nangmah ah engtiangin nge nghawng a neih (a I rin): A

awm apiang thai rawh.

S/No	Particulars	Hmasawn	Danglam lo	Chhe sawt
I.	Taksa Hriselna Lam			
a.	Chaw ei tuina			
b.	Hriselna dinhmun			
c.	Lan dan leh hmel			
d.	Mipat hmeichhiatna kawngah			
II.	Rilru Lamah			
a.	Mahni inrintawkna			
b.	Him tawka inhriatna			
c.	Rilru hahdamna			
d.	Rilru putzia			
e.	Rilru thawpikna/chauhna			
III.	Inchhungkhur Leh Eizawna Lam			
a.	Sum leh pai/Ei leh bar dinhmun			
b.	Hna lam			

c.	Zirna lam			
d.	Fate enkawl leh chawmna lam			
IV.	Pawn Lam Atanga Tanpuina			
a.	Chhungkua atangin			
b.	Chhungkhat laina atangin			
c.	Thenawm khawvengte atangin			
d.	Thiante atangin			
e.	Vantlang lam atangin			

29. Inthennain a nghawng nasat ber berte a indawtin han dah teh.

- i. Mipa () ii. Hmeichhia () iii. Naupang () iv. Nu leh pa tar tawhte ()
v. Mi dang () (An awm chuan).....

30. Inthennain a nghawng nat dan indawtin han dah teh

S/No	Harsatna	Hmeichhia	Mipa
i.	Sum lakluh tlahniam		
ii.	Nu leh pa nihna dinhmuna harsatna		
iii.	Hna tul ngah sawt		
iv.	Mihrang niha inhriatna		
v.	Chuang riauva inhriatna		
vi.	Mal ngawih ngawiha inhriatna		
vii.	Dam that theih meuh lohna		

V B. Nupa inthen na in naupangte a nghawng dan

31. Inthen hnu-ah tuin nge naupangte enkawl deuh ber?

- i. Mipa in () ii. Hmeichhia in () iii. Naupang pa lama pi leh pute ()
iv. Naupang nu lama pi leh pute () v. Chhungkhat lainate () vi. Thenawmte ()
vii. Sawrkarin () viii. Mi dang (An awm chuan)

32. Inthen hnu-ah tuin nge naupangte chhawmdawl?

- i. Mipa in () ii. Hmeichhia in () iii. Naupang pa lama pi leh pute ()
iv. Naupang nu lama pi leh pute () v. Chhungkhat lainate () vi. Thenawmte ()
vii. Sawrkarin () viii. Mi dang (An awm chuan)

33. I hriatdanin nupa inthen na in naupangte dinhmun a nghawng dan: A hnuai ami hi thai rawh

S/No	Thil Chi Hrang	Hmasawn	Danglam Lo	Tha Lo Sawt
1.	Sikul-ah			
i.	Sikul kai dan			
ii.	Test/Results			
iii.	Sikul fee pek dan			
iv.	Pawlpuite nena inlaichinna			
v.	Zirtirtute nena inlaichinna			

2.	Chhungkua-ah			
i.	Nihna leh mawhphurhna			
ii.	Unaute nena inlaichinna			
iii.	Pa nena inlaichinna			
iv.	Nu nena inlaichinna			
v.	Pahrawn/nuhrawn nena inlaichinna			
vi.	Chhungkhatte nena inlaichinna			
3.	Thenawm khawveng/khawtlangah			
i.	Kohhrana thil tih leh mawhphurhna			
ii.	Thian siam leh kawm zui danah			
iii.	Khawtlanga inhmanna thilah			

VI. Mi dangte atang puihbawmna

34. I kawppui (hmasa ber then tak) nen a in inthenna chungchangah tu in nge tanpui nasa ber che? (In then te chauh chhan tur)

S/No	Mi hrang hrang	Tanpuina	Tanpui dan	A dang
i.	Nu leh pa			
ii.	Kawppui nu leh pate			
iii.	Unaute			
iv.	Kawppuite			
v.	Thiante			
vi.	Chhungkhatte			
vii.	Kohhran			
viii.	NGO			
ix.	Sawrkar			

35. Mizoramah hian nupa inthen vengtu tura thawk an awm em? (Eng nge)

.....

36. i. A chungsa sawi lan tak atang hian eng emaw ber hi i chhawr tangkai tawh em?

Aw/Aih

ii. (Sawi lan ni se)

37. I ngaihnanin nupa inthenna a awm loh nan eng nge tha a I hriat, a hnuaiathuziak

atang hian i

ngaihnan a nih leh nih loh 'Aw' emaw 'Aih' emaw tiin han chhang teh.

i. Sikul leh college lam hian inneih, mipat hmeichhiatna leh nu leh pa mawhphurhna lam hi zirtir tam ve ta se thain i ring em? Aw/Aih

ii. Y.M.A/ MHIP lam hian nupa tuakte tan training, seminar leh workshop tih vel hi, chhungkaw nun, nu leh pa nih zirna leh chhungkaw din chhoh dan zirtir nan ti thin se thain i ring em? Aw/Aih

iii. Kawppui te nena inthen tura inbuatsaih mek te leh inthen tawhte tan an mahni puitu tur self help group/mahni intanpuitu pawl hi din ni ve ta se thain i ring em? Aw/Aih

iv. A dang (A awm chuan)

38. Mizo khawtlang nunah hian nupa inthenna a lo tlakhniam theihna tura hmalak dan tur tha ni-a i hriat han sawi teh le?

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

39. Inthen tawhte thurawn petu leh fuihtu (counselling) tura thawk an awm em, Mizoram chhungah hian? (Eng nge)

.....
.....

40. i. A chungah sawi lan tak atang hian eng emaw ber hi i chhawr tangkai tawh em?

Aw/Aih

ii. (A nih chuan sawi lan ni se)

.....

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN

I. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Father/Mother name:

II. NEEDS & CONCERNS (Rank the following in order of perception)

4. Who looked after you?

i. Father	ii. Mother	iii. Both parents
iv. Paternal grandparents	v. Maternal grandparents	vi. Relatives
vii. Neighbours	viii. Government Institutions	ix. Any other (Specify)

5. Who provides economically for you?

i. Father	ii. Mother	iii. Both parents
iv. Paternal grandparents	v. Maternal grandparents	vi. Relatives
vii. Neighbours	viii. Government Institutions	ix. Any other (Specify)

6. What do you look for in a friend?

i. Someone who can help me with my problems	ii. Someone whom I can confide in
iii. Someone who needs my help	iv. Others(Specify)

7. a. How do you see yourself? Tick the appropriate answer?

i. As a dependable person	v. As an Undependable person
ii. As a happy person	vi. As a sad person
iii. As strong and powerful	vii. As weak and powerless
iv. As economically Strong	viii. As Economically weak

7. b. How do your friend (s)/peer(s) see you?

i. As a dependable person	v. As an Undependable person
ii. As a happy person	vi. As a sad person
iii. As strong and powerful	vii. As weak and powerless
iv. As economically Strong	viii. As Economically weak

8. In any friendship/social circle, you play the role of –

i. Leader		ii. Active member	
iii. Passive member		iv. Isolate	

9. a. What do you consider yourself to be most of the time?

i. Happy		ii. Unhappy	
iii. Neither happy nor unhappy			

9. b. Who do you consider as responsible for how you feel?

i. Mother		ii. Father		iii. Both (Mother & Father)	
iv. Grandparents		v. Siblings		vi. Relatives	
vii. Friends		viii. Self		ix. Others	

III. SCHOLASTIC PERFORMANCE

10. Who supports your education?

- i. Father alone
- ii. Mother alone
- iii. Both parents
- iv. Paternal grandparents/relatives
- v. Maternal grandparents/relatives
- vi. Other relatives
- vii. Others (Specify)

11. Rank the problems you face in reference to your education.

i. Weak class performance		ii. Poor performance in Test/Results	
iii. Delays and Difficulties in payment of school fees		iv. Disturbed relationship with class mates	
v. Disturbed relationship with teachers		vi. Others () (Specify)	

IV. RECREATION AND LEISURE

12. Do you get enough time for play and recreation?

- i. Yes/No
- ii. If Yes, who do you play with most frequently?
 - a. Friends
 - b. Siblings
 - c. Play by self
 - d. Others (Specify)

13. How much time do you have for recreation in a given day?

- i. No time at all
- ii. 1 hour per day
- iii. 2 – 5 hours per a day
- iv. Whenever I want
- v. Any Other (Specify)

14. How many of your friends are known to your parents?
 - i. None
 - ii. Few of them
 - iii. Almost all of them
 - iv. Have no friends
 - v. No response

V. RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

15. Rank the following in order of perception as most helpful
 - i. Mother ()
 - ii. Father ()
 - iii. Siblings ()
 - iv. Paternal grandparents/relatives ()
 - v. Maternal grandparents/relatives ()
 - vi. Other relatives () (Specify)
 - vii. No one is helpful ()

16. What kind of help of support do you expect from the following:
 - i. Mother
 - ii. Father
 - iii. Siblings
 - iv. Paternal grandparents/relatives
 - v. Maternal grandparents/relatives
 - vi. Other relatives (Specify)
 - vii. None

17. i. Who would you choose to live with if you had a chance to stay with one of your parents?
 - a. Mother
 - b. Father
 - ii. Reasons

18. What kind of relationship do you have with the following:

i. Mother	-	Strong/Moderate/Weak
ii. Father	-	Strong/Moderate/Weak
iii. Paternal grandparents	-	Strong/Moderate/Weak
iv. Maternal grandparents	-	Strong/Moderate/Weak
v. Friends/peers	-	Strong/Moderate/Weak
vi. Neighbourhood	-	Strong/Moderate/Weak
vii. Teachers	-	Strong/Moderate/Weak

VI. HEALTH

19. How do you consider yourself to be mostly?
 - i. Healthy
 - ii. Unhealthy

20. What are the illnesses you mostly experienced in the last one year?

21. Have you been hospitalized any time? If yes specify the details.

22. Have you used any of the following?
- i. Tobacco related products
 - ii. Alcohol
 - iii. Injecting drugs
 - iv. Glue/substances

23. Have you experienced any of the following?
- i. Sleeplessness
 - ii. Suicidal ideation
 - iii. Strong feelings of powerlessness
 - iv. A feeling of intense anger

24. How often do you visit a doctor?
- i. Once a week
 - ii. Once a fortnight
 - iii. Once a month any other (specify)

VII. DREAMS AND ASPIRATION

25. Rank the following according to your list of wishes.

i. A good house		ii. A good and secure job	
iii. A good partner		iv. Others (Specify)	

26. What is your concept of an ideal family?
 My concept for an ideal family –
- i. My father having a regular income Yes/No
 - ii. My mother having a regular income Yes/No
 - iii. Eating food regularly Yes/No
 - iv. Playing and laughing together as a family Yes/No
 - v. Others (Specify)

27. Rank the following in order of importance
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--|
| i. Having a loving family | |
| ii. Staying together in the same house | |
| iii. Achieving high status and position | |

VIII. 28. Perceived Consequences of Divorce on children: Tick the following

S/No	Particulars	Improved	No Change	Worsened
1.	School			
i.	Class performance			
ii.	Test/Results			
iii.	Payment of school fees			
iv.	Relationship with class mates			
v.	Relationship with teachers			
2.	Family			
i.	Roles and Responsibilities			
ii.	Siblings Relationship			
iii.	Relationship with father			
iv.	Relationship with mother			
v.	Relationship with stepparents			
vi.	Relationship with relatives			
3.	Neighbourhood/Community			
i.	Roles and responsibilities for church			
ii.	Ability to make and maintain friends			
iii.	Participation in community activities			

(In Mizo)

NAUPANGTE INTERVIEW DAN TUR

I. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

1. Hming:
2. Kum:
3. Pa/Nu hming:

II. MAMAWH LEH NGAIHVEN ZAWNG (A hnuai ami hi i hriat dan angin a indawtin han rem teh)

4. Tuin nge enkawl che?

i. Pa	ii. Nu	iii. Nu leh pa in
iv. Pa lama pi leh pute	v. Nu lama pi leh pute	vi. Chhungkhat laina
vii. Thenawm khawveng	viii. Sawrkar enkawl pawl	ix. A dang (A awm chuan)

5. Tuin nge chawm che?

i. Pa	ii. Nu	iii. Nu leh pa in
iv. Pa lama pi leh pute	v. Nu lama pi leh pute	vi. Chhungkhat laina
vii. Thenawm khawveng	viii. Sawrkar enkawl pawl	ix. A dang (A awm chuan)

6. Thian atan eng mi nge i duh?

i. Ka harsatna min pui thei tur	ii. Ka mi rin ngam tur
iii. Ka tanpui ngai	iv. A dang (Sawi ni ta se)

7. a. Eng angin nge nangmah i inhmuh? I inhmuh dan chu han thai teh le.

i. Innghahna tlak mi	v. Innghahna tlak ni lo
ii. Mi hlim thei tak	vi. Mi ngui leh lungngai thei tak
iii. Mi chak leh thiltithei tak	vii. Mi chak lo leh nep tak
iv. Inrenchem thiam tak intodelh thei tak	viii. Mahni inchawm zo lo tak

7. b. Eng ang mi niin nge i thianten an hmuh che?

i. Innghahna tlak mi	v. Innghahna tlak ni lo
ii. Mi hlim thei tak	vi. Mi ngui leh lungngai thei tak
iii. Mi chak leh thiltithei tak	vii. Mi chak lo leh nep tak
iv. Inrenchem thiam tak intodelh thei tak	viii. Mahni inchawm zo lo tak

8. Thian inkawm hona leh mi dang nena in inkawmin hetiang mi hi i ni –

i. Hruaitu	ii. Phur taka tel ve thin
iii. Ngaihndan nei lo	iv. Mahni inla hrang tak

9. a. I hun tam zawk i hman ah eng ang mi nge ni a i in hriat?

iii. Hlim	iv. Hlim lo
iii. Eng zawk mah ve ve	

9. b. I awm dan chu tu vang ber nge ni a i hriat?

i. I nu	ii. I pa	iii. An pahnihin (nu leh pa)
iv. I pi leh pu	v. I unaute	vi. I chhungte
vii. I thiante	viii. Nangmah	ix. Mi dang

III. ZIRNA CHUNGCHANG/ZIRNA CHUNGCHANGAH

10. I lehkha zirna tuin nge tumsak che?

- i. I pa chauh
- ii. I nu chauh
- iii. An pahnihin (nu leh pa in)
- iv. I pa lama i pi leh pu/chhungte
- v. I nu lama i pi leh pu/chhungte
- vi. Chhungkhat laina
- vii. Mi dang (An awm chuan sawi lan ni se)

11. I lehkha zirna lama harsatna i tawh thin dan a indawt in han sawi teh.

i. Class i kal tha lo	ii. Test-na velah i tichhe thin
iii. Sikul fee pek i harsatnin i pe tlai thin	iv. I pawlpuite nen in inngeih lo
v. Zirtirtute nen in inmil lo	vi. Thil dang (A awm chuan)

IV. CHAWLH LEH HUNAWL

12. Infiamna leh chawlh hun thawl i nei tha em?

- i. Nei tha/Nei tha lo
- ii. Neihthat chuan, tute nen nge in infiam ber thin?
 - a. Thiante nen
 - b. Unaute nen
 - c. Mahniin
 - d. Mi dang (An awm chuan sawi lan ni se).....

13. Ni khat zelah chawlh hun eng chen nge i neih?
- i. Hun a awm lo
 - ii. Nitin darkar khat
 - iii. Nitin darkar 2 – 5
 - iv. Ka duh hun hunah
 - v. A dang (A awm chuan sawi lan ni se)

14. I nu leh pain i thiante engzat nge an hriatpui che?
- i. Tu mah
 - ii. Tlem azawng
 - iii. An vai deuhthawin
 - iv. Thian ka nei lo
 - v. Chhanna awm lo

V. INLAICHINNA CHUNGCHANG

15. I hriat danin tu nge tangkai ber tih a indawtin han sawi teh.
- i. Nu ()
 - ii. Pa ()
 - iii. Unaute ()
 - iv. Pa lama pi leh pute/chhungte ()
 - v. Nu lama pi leh pute/chhungte ()
 - vi. Chhungkhat laina dang () (An awm chuan)
 - vii. Tu mah an tangkai lo ()

16. A hnuaia mite hnen atang hian engtia tanpui nge i beisei?
- i. Nu
 - ii. Pa
 - iii. Unaute
 - iv. Pa lama pi leh pute/chhungte
 - v. Nu lama pi leh pute/chhungte
 - vi. Chhungkhat laina dang (An awm chuan)
 - vii. Tu mah

17. i. I nu emaw i pa emaw zawk zawk bula chen ngai ta se tu bulah zawk nge i awm ang?
- a. Nu
 - b. Pa
 - ii. A chhan

18. A hnuaia mite nena in inkungkaih dan eng ang nge?
- i. Nu - Tha tak/A pangngai/Tha vak lo
 - ii. Pa - Tha tak/A pangngai/Tha vak lo
 - iii. Pa lama pi leh pute - Tha tak/A pangngai/Tha vak lo
 - iv. Nu lama pi leh pute - Tha tak/A pangngai/Tha vak lo
 - v. Thiante/thenrualte - Tha tak/A pangngai/Tha vak lo
 - vi. Thenawm khawvengte - Tha tak/A pangngai/Tha vak lo
 - vii. Zirtirtute - Tha tak/A pangngai/Tha vak lo

VI. HRISELNA

19. Eng ang dinhmun nge ni a i inhriat ber?
 i. Hrisel tha
 ii. Hrisel vak lo
20. Kum kal taa i damloh dan ber eng nge?

21. Damdawi inah i awm tawh em? Awm tawh chuan a chipchiarin.

22. A hnuai thil chi hrang hrang hi i ti ngai em?
 i. Vaihlo leh a kaihhnawih thilte
 ii. Zu
 iii. Damdawi ruih theih inchiu chi
 iv. Thil hnim ruih chi
23. A hnuai amite hi i tuar tawh ngai em?
 i. Mut theih loh
 ii. Mahni intihhlum duhna
 iii. Engmah ti ve thei lo em ema inhriatna
 iv. Thinrim em emna
24. Eng anga zingin nge daktawr i pan thin?
 i. Kar khatah vawi khat
 ii. Kar hnih danah
 iii. Thla khat danah (A dang a awm chuan sawi ni se)

VII. CHAK ZAWNG LEH MANGPHAN THIL/DUH LEH NEIH/NIH TUM

25. Neih i chak dan indawtin rem rawh.

i. In leh lo tha tak		ii. Hna tha leh rintlak tak	
iii. Kawppui tha tak		iv. A dang (A awm chuan)	

26. Chhungkaw dinhmun tha ni a i hriat dan eng nge ni?
 Chhungkaw dinhmun tha ka tih chu –
- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| i. Ka pain sum lakluhna tha tak nei reng se | Aw/Aih/Deuh tho maithei |
| ii. Ka nuin sum lakluhna tha tak nei reng se | Aw/Aih/Deuh tho maithei |
| iii. Puar taka chaw ei theih reng | Aw/Aih/Deuh tho maithei |
| iv. Chhungkua hlim taka infiama nuh ho dar dar | Aw/Aih/Deuh tho maithei |
| v. A dang (A awm chuan) | |

27. A pawimawh dan indawtin han sawi teh

iv. Chhungkaw inhmangaih tak	
v. In khata chen ho	
vi. Dinhmun sang tak leh pawimawh tak chelh	

**VIII. 28. I HRIATDANIN NUPA INTHEIN NA IN NAUPANGTE DINHMUN A
NGHAWNG DAN: A HNUAI AMI HI THAI RAWH.**

S/No	Thil Chi Hrang	Hmasawn	Danglam lo	Chhe zawk
1.	Sikul-ah			
i.	Sikul kai dan			
ii.	Test/Results ah			
iii.	Sikul fee pek dan			
iv.	Pawlpuite nena inkawm dan			
v.	Zirtirtute nena inlaichinna			
2.	Chhungkua-ah			
i.	Mawhphurhna leh chanvo			
ii.	Unaute inkungkaihna			
iii.	Pa nena inkungkaihna			
iv.	Nu nena inkungkaihna			
v.	Nuhrawn/pahrawn nena inkungkaihna			
vi.	Pi leh pute nena inkungkaihna			
3.	Thenawm khawveng/khawtlangah			
i.	Kohhrana mawhphurhna leh chanvo			
ii.	Thian thar siam leh kawm zui dan			
iii.	Khawtlanga inhmanna dan			

STRENGTHS OF FAMILIES

Scale to Measure Family Strengths developed by Duncan & Brown (1992)

S/No	Item	Scale				
		Almost always	Fre – quently	Some- times	Once in a while	Almost Never
	Describe how you see your family.					
1	We do nice things for each other.	()	()	()	()	()
2	We say what we can really feel.	()	()	()	()	()
3	Elders are respected by youngest	()	()	()	()	()
4	When there is a problem, children's suggestions are encouraged and followed.	()	()	()	()	()
5	We have friends and relatives we can count on.	()	()	()	()	()
6	We show that we care about one another.	()	()	()	()	()
7	We really listen to each other.	()	()	()	()	()
8	We stick together as a family.	()	()	()	()	()
9	We have similar values and beliefs.	()	()	()	()	()
10	Our family participates in community or religious groups and activities.	()	()	()	()	()
11	I am happy with how close we are as a family.	()	()	()	()	()
12	We believe it is important to understand one another's feelings.	()	()	()	()	()
13	We have family traditions that we carry on.	()	()	()	()	()
14	Children's have say in the rules and discipline.	()	()	()	()	()
15	When there is a problem, we are willing to seek help from other families who have faced the same problem.	()	()	()	()	()
16	We care about how others in the family feel.	()	()	()	()	()
17	We can talk about things without arguing.	()	()	()	()	()

- | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 18 | We are proud of our family's history. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 19 | Chores are divided up fairly in our family. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 20 | Our family is willing to get outside professional help when needed. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 21 | We respect one another. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 22 | We enjoy about talking things together. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 23 | Family members feel loyal to the family. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 24 | Each family member has input in major family decisions. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 25 | We keep in touch with family members living away from us. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 26 | We believe it is okay to care for step relatives in a different way than our other relatives. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 27 | We believe it should be easy to talk with step relatives as with other relatives. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 28 | We wish we were a real family again like other first married families we know. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 29 | We work to reach an agreement on matters important to the family. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 30 | We want to get to know our step relatives. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 31 | We believe it takes time to really care about step relatives. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 32 | We believe we should understand step relatives as quickly as our other relatives. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 33 | We enjoy having a family style all our own. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 34 | When there are differences of opinion, we negotiate and compromise. | () | () | () | () | () |
| 35 | Our step family gives us even more family members to care about and enjoy. | () | () | () | () | () |

(In Mizo)

CHHUNGKAW NGELNGHEHNA DAN

**Chhungkaw ngelnghehna dan tehna
(1992)**

developed by Duncan & Brown

S/No	Item	Englai pawhin	Fo thin	Scale		
				A chang- in	Zeuh zeuh	Ngai mang lo
	In chungkua i hmuh dan sawi rawh.					
1	Thil tha kan intihsak tawn.	()	()	()	()	()
2	Kan rilru kan sawi tlang.	()	()	()	()	()
3	Upate naupang zawkin an zah.	()	()	()	()	()
4	Harsatna a awmin naupang zawkte ngaihdan leh thurawn a tlang zel.	()	()	()	()	()
5	Thian leh laina inngahna kan ngah.	()	()	()	()	()
6	Kan inngaihsak tawn tih kan lantir.	()	()	()	()	()
7	Kan inngaichang tawn.	()	()	()	()	()
8	Chhungkua kan inphuar khawm.	()	()	()	()	()
9	Kan rin dan leh ngaihhlut a thuhmun.	()	()	()	()	()
10	Kan chungkua khawtlang leh rawngbawlina lamah kan inhmang.	()	()	()	()	()
11	Kan chungkaw inpawh tlannaah ka lungawi.	()	()	()	()	()
12	Rilru inpawh tawn a pawimawh kan ti.	()	()	()	()	()
13	Chhungkaw tihdan bilk an vawng reng.	()	()	()	()	()
14	Chhungkaw inrelbawlinaah naupangin thu an nei ve.	()	()	()	()	()
15	Harsatna kan tawhin, kan harsatna tawh ang tawh ve chungkaw dangte puihna kan zawng.	()	()	()	()	()
16	Tu pawh kan inngaihsak tawn.	()	()	()	()	()
17	Inhau lovin thil kan sawiho thin.	()	()	()	()	()
18	Kan chungkaw inthlah chhawng chanchin kan chhuang hle.	()	()	()	()	()

19	Tihtur pual kan insem fel thlap.	()	()	()	()	()
20	Kan mamawh chuan pawn lam atangin mi-thiam tanpuina kan dil hreh lo.	()	()	()	()	()
21	Kan inzah tawn.	()	()	()	()	()
22	Titi leh inkawmho nuam kan ti.	()	()	()	()	()
23	Chhungkuaah kan rinawm tlang vek.	()	()	()	()	()
24	Chhungkaw thutlukna lian thamah ngaihndan kan thawh vek.	()	()	()	()	()
25	Ram hran leh hmun hrana awmte nen chhungkua kan inbe pawp reng.	()	()	()	()	()
26	Laichin hla deuh ai chuan laichin hnai deute ngaihsak bik kan duh.	()	()	()	()	()
27	Chhungte hla deuh ai chuan a hnai deuhthe nen kan inpawh zual.	()	()	()	()	()
28	We wish we were a real family again like other first married families we know.	()	()	()	()	()
29	Chhungkaw thil pawimawh bikah chuan inrem tlang turin kan bei.	()	()	()	()	()
30	Chhungkhat laina hnaite chu inhre pawh reng ila kan duh.	()	()	()	()	()
31	Chhungkhat lainate nena inpawh tak tak chu a awlsam lo kan ti.	()	()	()	()	()
32	Chhungte hnai deuh leh hla deuhthe hriatthiam thuai kan duh.	()	()	()	()	()
33	Chhungkaw chin dan bik neih nuam kan ti.	()	()	()	()	()
34	Ngaihndan a in-an loh changin, kan sawiho va kan inrem tlang.	()	()	()	()	()
35	Kan chhungkhat lainaten min tibuaiin min tihlim lawi si hle.	()	()	()	()	()

- Afifi, T. D., McManus, T. (2010). Divorce Disclosures and Adolescents Physical and Mental Health and Parental Relationship Quality. *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 51(2), 83 – 107.
- Agarwala, S. N. (1965). *Effect of a rise in female marriage age on birth rate in India*. World Population Conference, Belgrade.
- Albertini, M., & Saraceno, C. (2007). Contact Between Adult Children and their Divorced Parents: Italy in a Comparative Perspective. Paper presented at the EQUALSOC/FAMNET Workshop on Intergenerational Relationships WZB, Berlin, Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), Reichpietschufer 50, 10785 Berlin.
- Amato, P. R. (1994). *Life-Span Adjustment of Children to their Parents Divorce*. The Future of Children: Children and Divorce, 4, 143 – 164.
- Amato, P. R. (1994). The Impact of Divorce on Men and Women in India and the United States. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 25, 207 – 221.
- Amato, P. R. (2001). Children of Divorce in the 1990s: An Update of the Amato and Keith (1991) Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 15, 355 – 370.
- Amato, P. R., & Booth, A. (1996). A Prospective Study of Divorce and Parent-Child Relationships. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58(2), 356.
- Amato, P. R., & Gilbreth, J. G. (1999). Nonresident Fathers and Children's Well-Being: A Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 61(3), 557.
- ANI. (2010). Shyness can lead to marital problems. Retrieved from blog.taragana.com/e.../shyness-can-lead-to-marital-problems-128104/Washington
- Ambekar, A. (2009). Causes and Effects of Divorce, ArticlesWave.com
- Baburam (2005). Raising the Age of Marriage. In Usha Sharma (Ed.), *Marriage in Indian Society From Tradition to Modernity*, (2, 63 – 64). New Delhi: A Mittal Publication.
- Berscheid, E., & Peplau, L. A. (1983). The Emerging Science of Relationships. In H. H. K., E. Berscheid., & A. Christensen. et. al (Eds.), *Close relationships*, (1 – 19). New York: W. H. Freeman.
- Bray, J. H. (1999). From Marriage to Remarriage and Beyond: Findings from the Developmental Issues in Step Families Report Project. In E. M. Hetherington (Ed.), *Coping with Divorce, Single Parenting, and Remarriage: A Risk and Resiliency Perspective*, (253 – 272).
- Brenda Martin, (2005). Christianity – Church History. Wine/Marriage
- Brien, MaryO', Bahadur, M. A., & Gee, C. et. al (1997). Child Exposure to Marital Conflict and Child Coping Responses as Predictors of Child Adjustment. New York University, Cognitive Therapy and Research, 21(1), 39 – 59.

- C. (2005). Divorce – A Cause and Effect Essay, SearchWarp.com
- Cherlin, A. J. (1978). Remarriage as an incomplete institution. *American Journal of Sociology*, 86, 636 – 650.
- Clark, J. A. (1999). *Focus on Kids The Effects of Divorce on Children*, MU Extension, University of Missouri – Columbia.
- Cummings, E. M., & Davies, P. T. (2002). Effects of Marital Conflict on Children Recent Advances and Emerging Themes in Process-Oriented Research. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 43(1), 31 – 63.
- David, T. M., (2002). *Fashioning Adultery. Gender, Sex & Civility in England*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pp. 1660 – 1740).
- Wadsby, M., and Svedin, C. G., (1996). "Academic Achievement in Children of Divorce", *Journal of School Psychology*, 34, 325 – 336.
- Desai, M., (1994). *Concepts and Conceptual Frameworks for Understanding Family*, In *Enhancing the Role of the Family as an Agency for Social and Economic Development*. Bombay: Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- Dewilde, C., & Uunk, W. (2008). Remarriage as a Way to Overcome the Financial Consequences of Divorce – A Test of the Economic Need Hypothesis for European Women in *European Sociological Review*, 24(3), 393 – 407. Online publication.
- DiCaro, V. (2005). NFI Release Report on National Marriage Survey, Public Affairs Manager *Fatherhood Today*, 10(3), 4 – 5.
- Dickinson, G. E., and Leming, M. R., (1995). *Understanding Families Diversity, Continuity & Change*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, (2nd ed., pp. 229 – 419).
- Dubey, S. M., (1980). Family, Marriage and Social Change on the Indian Fringe. In Dubey, S. M., Bordoloi, P. K., and Borthakur, B. N. (Eds.). New Delhi: Cosmo Publication, 13 – 27.
- Duncan, S. F., & Brown, G. (1992). *Families in Society*, New Delhi: Family International Inc.
- Eggebeen, D. (2008). Do Fathers Matter Uniquely for Adolescent Well-Being? Institutes for American Values Center for Marriage and Families, Research Brief (14).
- European Sociological Review (2006). *Causes and Consequences of Divorce: Cross-National and Cohort Differences, An Introduction to this Special Issue*, Oxford University Press, 22(5), 479 – 481.
- Fagan, P. F. (1999). *How broken families rob children of their chances for future prosperity, The Heritage Foundation Backgrounder*, Executive Summary, 1283.

- Fall, M. F. (1997). Divorce in India
- Fambawl, J. R. (2004). Marital Breakdown and Family Strength in Aizawl City. Unpublished master's thesis, Mizoram University, Mizoram, India.
- Feldman, F. L. (1977). *The Family in Today's Money World* (2nd ed.). New York: Family Service Association of America.
- Fogarty, K. (2008). *Five Effects of Divorce on Children*, University of Florida: The Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences Extension.
- Gerstel, N. (1987). Divorce and Stigma, *Social Problems*, 34(2).
- Haralambos, M., and Herald, R., (1985). *Sociology Themes & Perspectives*. Delhi: Oxford University Press (pp. 360, 362 – 363).
- Hetherington, E. M. (1999). Should We Stay Together for the Sake of the Children?. In Hetherington, E. M. (Ed.), *Coping with Divorce, Single Parenting, and Remarriage*, 93 – 116.
- Hetherington, E. M. (2003). *Social Support and the Adjustment of Children in Divorced and Remarried Families*, New Delhi: Sage Publication, 10(2), 217 – 236.
- Hetherington, E. M., & Kelly, J. (2002). *For Better or For Worse*, New York: Norton.
- Hill, M. S. (1998). Marital Stability and Spouses Shared Time A Multidisciplinary Hypothesis. *Journal of Family Issues*, 9(4), 427 – 451.
- Marriage on Trial. (2008). Hindustan Times, p. 12.
- Holt, D. B., Christopher, R., and Winston., (1985). *Sociology: An Introduction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (pp. 306 – 308).
- Houseknecht, S. K., & Spanier, G. B. (1980). Marital disruption and higher education among women in the U.S. *Sociological Quarterly*, 21, 375 – 390.
- Howse, K., Dunton, H., & Marshall, D. (1989). *Marriage and the family: Family Matters A Guide, Guide to Family Life*, (1), England: The Stanborough Press Ltd.
- Hughes, R. Jr. (1995). *The Effects of Divorce on Children*, Ohio State University Extension.
- Inglish, P. (2007). Major Causes of Divorce – American and Japanese Divorce Rates, 2002, <http://www.divorcereform.org/>
- Walsh, J. (2007). Three Top Causes of Divorce. http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=James_Walsh

- Jamwal, N. S. (2009). *Marital Discord and Divorce in India – The Changing Profile, Mainstream*, XLVII(37). www.mainstreamweekly.net
- Larson, J. (2007). *Financial Stress is the Number One Cause of Divorce*, Family Life Credit Services, http://www.EzineArticles.com/?expert=Joe_Larson
- Kapadia, K. M., (1966). *Marriage & Family in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press (3rd ed., pp. 117, 158 – 159).
- Karney, B. R., & Bradbury, T. N. (1995). The Longitudinal Course of Marital Quality and Stability: A Review of Theory, Method and Research, *The American Psychological Association*, 118(1), 3 – 34.
- Kelly, J. B., & Emery, R. E. (2003). Children's Adjustment Following Divorce: Risk and Resilience Perspectives *Family Relations*, 52, 352 – 362.
- Korea Herald. (2004, December 31). *Values decline, divorce increases in Korea*: Catholic News Service: Retrieved from Smart Marriage Listserv. (2005, January 3).
- Lachmann, R., (1991). *The Encyclopedia dictionary of sociology*. In Guilford, C. T: Dushkin (Ed.) (4th ed., p. 171).
- Lalnithanga, P., (2010). *Emergence of Mizoram*, Third Edition, (1 – 24).
- Lamb, M. E. (2002). Nonresidential Fathers and their Children. In C. S. Tamis-LeMonda & N. Cabrera. (Eds.). (169 – 184). *Handbook of Father Involvement: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Mahwah, N. J: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Lalthangliana, B., (2005). *Culture and Folklore of MIZORAM*. New Delhi: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, (1st Published).
- Laltanpuii, F., (2001). *An Analysis of the Socio-Economic and Religious Problems Faced by Divorced Women in Mizo Society*. Unpublished bachelor of divinity thesis, Aizawl Theological College, Senate of Serampore College, India.
- Law Office of Diane Fener. Experienced Virginia Attorneys Serving the Hampton Roads Cities of Norfolk, Hampton, Newport News, Virginia Beach and Chesapeake http://www.goggle.in/Virginia_Divorce.cfm?tpid
- Lyngstad, T. H. (2004). *The Impact of Parents and Spouses Education on Divorce Rates in Norway Demographic Research*, 10(5), 121 – 142.
- Maclean, M., & Wadsworth, M. E. J. (1988). The Interests of Children After Parental Divorce: A Long Term Perspective. *International Journal of Law and Family*, (2), 155 – 165.
- Markman, H. J. (1991). Backwards into the Future of Couples Therapy and Couples Therapy Research: A comment on Jacobson. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 4, 416 – 425.

- Markman, H. J., Renick, M. J., & Floyd, F. J. et. al (1993). Preventing Marital Distress through Communication and Conflict Management Training: A 4 and 5 year follow up. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 61(1), 70 – 77.
- Marriage and Family Status in Canada. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Community, Online Christianity.ca.
- Martin, T. C., & Bumpass, L. (1989). *Recent Trends in Marital Disruption Demography*, 26(1), 37 – 51.
- Menees, M. M., & Segrin, C., (2000). The Specificity of Disrupted Processes in Families of Adult Children of Alcoholics, *Alcohol & Alcoholism*, 35(4), 361 – 367.
- Michael Fried Fall, (1997). Divorce in India.
- Mizoram Presbyterian Kohhran, (1995). Nupa Chungchang Dan. Aizawl: The Synod Literature and Publication Board (9th ed.).
- Murdock, G. P., (1949). *Social Structure*. New York: Macmillan.
- Nagi, B. S. (1993). Trends in Age at Marriage in *Child Marriage in India* (1st ed., pp. 40 – 49). New Delhi: A Mittal Publication.
- Nalu de Araujo Nunes (2008). Marital Problems and Marital Satisfaction: An Examination of a Brazilian Sample (Brigham Young University), 1 – 59.
- Nambyar, R. (2007). Divorce in India – The Social Impact, EzineArticles.
- Pattison, M. (2001). Time, sex, money biggest obstacles for young married couples: Catholic News Service: Smart Marriage Listserv.
- Pothen, S. (1986). Divorce – Its Causes and Consequences in Hindu Society, New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.
- Presbyterian Hand Book, (1995). Synod Literature and Publication Board (3rd ed.).
- Raj, K., (2000). Divorce Rates Rise in Taiwan as Women Fight. *Encyclopedia of Women & Development – (2)*. New Delhi: Anmol Publications PVT. LTD (p. 380).
- Rao, C. N. S., (2003). *Sociology – Primary Principle of Sociology with An Introduction to Social Thought*. New Delhi: S. Chand & Company Ltd., Third Revised and Enlarged Edition, 327, 348.
- Reddy, S. K. (1992). Influence of Parents and Friends in the Selection of their Marriage Partners. In Hallen, G. C. (Ed.), *Indian Journal of Social Research*, XXXIII (1 – 4), 18 – 23.
- Rossi, A., & Rossi, P. (1990). *Of Human Bonding: Parent-Child Relations Across the Life Course*, New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

- Rotermann, M. (2007). Marital Breakdown and Subsequent Depression, *Health Reports*, 18(2), Statistics Canada, Catalogue.
- Saxton, Lloyd. (1983). The Family and Economic Reality. In *The Individual, Marriage, and the Family*. United States: Wadsworth Publishing Company, Inc, (5th ed. pp. 419 – 421).
- Schoen, R., Urton, W., & Woodrow, K., et. al (Eds.). (1985). *Marriage and Divorce in Twentieth Century American Cohorts*, Population Association of America, 22(1), 101 – 114.
- Sen, S., (1992). Tribes of MIZORAM – Description, Ethnology and Bibliography (1840 – 1990). New Delhi: Gian Publishing House.
- Sharon, B. P., David, W. W., and Joe, P. F., (1977). Study on Divorce: A Frequent Alternative in the 1970's. New Delhi: Sage Publication.
- Sheri, & Stritof, B. (2010). Comments about Smoking and Marriage.
<http://marriage.about.com/od/healthyliving/a/smokingcomments.htm>
- Sheri, & Stritof, B. (2010). Smoking Tied to Divorce and Marital Health Issues.
<http://marriage.about.com/od/healthyliving/a/smokingdivorce.htm>
- Shocket, Shayna, K. (2005). Once a stigma, divorce is now part of US Lifestyle, *The Arizona Republic*.
- Singh, B. K. (1992). The Changing Trend in India. In Hallen, G. C. (Ed.), *Indian Journal of Social Research*, XXXIII (1 – 4), 95 – 102.
- Spanier, G. B., & Thomas, L. (1984). Parting – The Aftermath of Separation & Divorce, Sage Publication.
- Syariah Court Singapore, (2006). Effects of Divorce, Government of Singapore.
- The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, (2003). Marriage and Family Status in Canada. Christianity.ca.
- Times of India, consumer Edge, Mumbai Edition, (2006). Is Divorce an Indian Word?
<http://devdutt.com/web>
- Timothy, B. H., (1985). Elderly Divorce – Later Family Life (Family Studies, 1985 Text Series 1). New Delhi: Sage Publication (p. 20).
- Tribal Research Institute. (1991). *Mizo Inneih Dan*. Aizawl: Directorate of Art & Culture.
- United States, Bureau of Census. (1994). Report of Final Divorce Statistics. Monthly Vital Statistics Report, 47(71).
- Vanlalhriatpuii, K. (2007). Marital Breakdown Among The Mizos. Unpublished master's thesis, Mizoram University, Mizoram, India.

Varga, K. (1972). Marital Cohesion As Reflected in Time Budgets. In Alexander Szalai (Ed.), *In the Use of Time*. The Hague: Mouton.

Vaz-Serra, A., Canavarro, M. C., & Ramalheira, Carlos. (1998). *The Importance of Family Context in Alcoholism*, *Alcohol & Alcoholism*, 33(1), 37 – 41.

Yama, M. F., Tovey, S. L., & Fogas, B. S. et. al (1992). *Joint Consequences of Parental Alcoholism and Childhood Sexual Abuse, and Their Mediation by Family Environment*, *Violence Victims*, 7, 313 – 325.

Young, E. A., Albelson, J. L., & Curtis, G. C. et. al (1997). Childhood Adversity and Vulnerability to Mood and Anxiety Disorders, *Depression and Anxiety*, 5, 66 – 72.

Zoliana, R. (2010, July 26). Six Causes of Divorced. *The Zozam Times*, p. 6.

BIO – DATA

NAME : Julie Remsangpuii Fambawl
 DEGREE : Doctor of Philosophy
 DEPARTMENT : Social Work, Mizoram University
 D.O.B : 2nd July 1981
 Fathers Name : Lalsiama Fambawl
 Address : Government Complex, Aizawl, Mizoram
 Contact Details : Email: juliefambawl@yahoo.com
 Phone: (0389) 2342017 (R)

Educational Details				
S/No	Education	Year	Institution	Percentage
1.	B. Sc (Home Science)	2002	Govt. Zirtiri Residential Science College, Mizoram University	59.75
Area of Specialization: Mother and Child Health and Nutrition				
2.	MSW	2002 - 2004	Department of Social Work, Mizoram University	63.50
Area of Specialization: Family and Child Welfare				
Dissertation in MSW: “Marital Breakdown and Family Strengths in Aizawl City”				
3.	Ph. D	2006	Department of Social Work, Mizoram University	
Research Title: “Marital Breakdown And Its Impact On Families in Mizoram”				
Field Work Experience				
S/No	Semester	Year	Agency	Placement
1.	1 st Semester	August to December 2002	Hermon Children’ Home	Agency
2.	2 nd Semester	February to June 2003	Psychiatry Ward, Department of Civil Hospital	Agency
3.	3 rd Semester	August to December 2003	Sakawrtuichhun, Aizawl	Community
4.	4 th Semester	February to June 2004	Sakawrtuichhun, Aizawl	Community
	End of Final year	August to September 2004	Katha, Sarvodaya Enclave, Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi.	Block Placement

Work Experience

A. **Teacher**

R.B. Memorial English Medium School, Govt. Complex, Aizawl, Mizoram
(May – July 2002).

B. **Founder Member & General Secretary** of Cod Nerc (NGO), Aizawl, Mizoram (2005 – current).

C. **State Co-ordinator**

Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL); Mizoram Chapter
(2005 May – 2006 December).

D. **Member** of All India Federation of Women in Agriculture (AIFWA) North East Regional Committee (AIFWA-NERC) (2006 – 2007).

E. **State Project Assistant**

‘National Study on Child Abuse’ under Prayas, Sponsored by UNICEF, Save the Children (U.K), Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India (November 2005 to April 2006).

F. **State Representative**

India Intersect Coalition (a New York based movement for prevention of HIV/AIDS and Violence against Women and Girls) (2005 onwards).

G. Represented India as **delegate** of Indian Youth Delegation to China under the Ministry of Youth Affairs programme (15th – 24th June 2009).

Participated in *Core Group* along with Indian Government Officials at the meeting of Vice President, Sichuan University, Peoples Republic of China.

Also represented as *Core Group Member* along with Secretary to the Government of India, Youth Affairs at the meeting with All China Youth Federation at Guangzhou, Peoples Republic of China.

H. **Committee Member on CYMA Education Sub-Committee**

Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) (the largest youth organization in the state, having its branches all over the state and in the neighbouring state as well) (2010 – 2011).

(JULIE REMSANGPUII FAMBWL)
Research Scholar
Department of Social Work

PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATE

NAME OF CANDIDATE : Julie Remsangpuii Fambawl

DEGREE : Ph. D

DEPARTMENT : Social Work,
Mizoram University

TITLE OF DISSERTATION : “Marital Breakdown and its
Impact on Families in Mizoram”

DATE OF PAYMENT OF ADMISSION : 23rd March 2006

APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL :

1. BPGS : 17th May 2006

2. SCHOOL BOARD : 23rd May 2006

REGISTRATION NO. & DATE : MZU/Ph. D/114/23.5.2010

EXTENSION (IF ANY) : NIL

(JULIE REMSANGPUII FAMBOWL)

Research Scholar
Department of Social Work