



The Sociological Perspective on the Impact of Family Divorce on Children

Muhamad Guntur Muntaha

Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University, Bandung, Indonesia muhammadgunturmgm@gmail.com

Meli Fauziah

Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University, Bandung, Indonesia melifauziah@uinsgd.ac.id

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Abstract

This paper aims to analyze the leadership role of Governor Ridwan Kamil in the West Java Government Era in implementing the Digital Village Program. Family divorce is a social phenomenon that is increasingly common in contemporary society. In this context, the impact on children is of primary concern, as it has far-reaching implications for their development and well-being. This research aims to reveal a sociological perspective on family divorce and its impact on children. The research method used is qualitative with a case study approach. Data was collected through in-depth interviews with divorced parents, children from divorced families, and community members around Mangkalaya Village. The data collected was analyzed thematically to identify patterns and themes that emerged. In this article, conflict theory is used, conflict can help integration or can cause conflict according to Ralp Dahrendorf to analyze cases of divorce in families and their impact on children. The research results show that family divorce affects children multidimensionally, including emotions, behavior and psychological well-being. Children from divorced families tend to experience stress, identity confusion, and difficulties in building healthy social relationships. The conclusion of this research is the importance of a holistic approach in overcoming the social impacts of family divorce, by paying attention to community support, psychological interventions, and the role of the family. more broadly in supporting the well-being of children in divorce situations.

Keywords: Children, Mangkalaya, Family Divorce, Sociological Perspective

1. INTRODUCTION

Family divorce is a complex social phenomenon and has a wide impact, especially on the children involved in the situation. From a sociological perspective, family divorce is an important subject that requires a deep understanding of social dynamics, family structure, and the role of individuals in social interactions. (Darmawati, 2017). This study will focus on the phenomenon of family divorce and its impact on children, by taking a case study in Mangkalaya Village, Gunungguruh District, Sukabumi Regency.

According to Emery (2017) states that family divorce is "a stressful process that occurs when a married couple decides to end their relationship". Meanwhile, Hetherington and Stanley-Hagan (2002) state that children who experience parental divorce tend to experience stress, difficulties in interpersonal relationships, and behavioral problems. Amato (2000) suggests that family divorce can affect children's psychological well-being in the long term, including increasing the risk of depression, anxiety, and behavioral disorders. (Syarif, 2022).

Family divorce has become an increasingly common phenomenon in various societies, including in Indonesia. The increasing divorce rate shows a shift in traditional family patterns and values. (Azizah, 2018). Mangkalaya Village is an interesting case example to study because it offers a representative picture of the challenges and dynamics faced in the social, economic and cultural context in rural



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areas. (Saputri, 2024).

If a couple does not want to continue their married life, they can ask the government to terminate their relationship. During a divorce, couples must decide how to divide the property they purchased during the marriage, such as cars, houses, furniture, etc., as well as how they accept the costs and responsibilities of caring for their children. (Sururie, 2018). This is understandable considering how much impact divorce has on their children and partners. Children are the main victims of divorce between their parents. (Dedi Sumanto, 2018).

Divorce ultimately ends up being painful for all parties involved, including the children. For starting a new relationship with another person, divorce can also cause trauma. It is clear that a child's mental development will be affected by a lack of parental attention. (Nursyifa, 2020). Children will seek attention from other people, or some will even feel embarrassed, inferior and stressed if they feel their parents' love is missing. These children usually look for a way out and end up trapped in promiscuity. Between the impact of divorce on former married couples, readjusting to their respective roles and social relationships is the main problem. There is no long-standing relationship between divorcing couples; a new life begins. (Azizah, 2022).

The bond as parents of children born during marriage is the most important bond. After a divorce, couples who once lived together have to rethink their roles and relationships as father and mother, because they no longer live together in the same house. This relationship style varies from friends of ex-partners to enemies of ex-partners (Ariyanto, 2023).

In the context of family divorce, various sociological theories will provide an important basis for understanding the dynamics involved. It cannot be denied that the family is in a statistical or balanced condition (balance), but also sometimes experiences shocks (Pangkey, 2023). Conflict theory developed as a response to the theory of structural functionalism and as a consequence of various criticisms. Ralph Dahrendorf, one of the main figures of conflict theory, believes that conflict leads to development change which is characterized by continuous conflict between its components. Conflict theory sees that each element overcomes social disintegration, while structural functionalism theory says that each element or institution supports stability. On the other hand, adherents of structural functionalism theory see that members of society are bound informally by common moral standards and values. According to conflict theory, the order that exists in society is valued higher. (Bariki, 2023).

In every structure, individuals are always at the top and bottom based on authority and authority. Anyone who does not follow the existing permits will be subject to sanctions because the permits are valid. Therefore, Dahrendorf calls society a coercively coordinated alliance (Somantri, 2019). In society there are always two groups that conflict with each other because of the strong hierarchy of power. All groups are bound by ties of real interests which are in direct and significant conflict between them. In a situation where the capable party tries to maintain the current situation while the powerful party tries to make changes, conflict occurs. (Yusuf, 2018).

Previous research regarding divorce in the family has been studied by several studies, namely Suryanto, (2015) in research that divorce causes conflict in the family, the result is that divorce is caused by ego clashes between husband and wife in a family problem. And in the research of Rindanyo, (2019) which entitled Family divorce from a psychological perspective that children can be stressed because it is caused by family divorce so that the child's psychology is disturbed and there are disputes in the family. Research by Kurniawati, (2020) shows that divorce only results in negative changes in children due to their parents separating, because there is no love from them. both parents. This research emphasizes the concept that family divorce can have a positive impact on the child's condition, because previous research only revealed that divorce only causes a negative impact on the child's condition.





According to Dahrendorf, society has two faces, namely conflict and consensus. Divorce is a form of conflict that occurs within the family institution. Divorce results in a change in family structure from a complete family to a single parent family. These changes create instability and tension in the family that can lead to further conflict. (Hasanah, 2020).

In conflict theory, divorce can be understood as the result of conflicts of interest and unequal power within the family. When one party feels dissatisfied with the distribution of power or resources in the relationship, conflict may arise, which in turn can lead to divorce. (Fauziah, 2021). Divorce is not only the end of conflict, but also triggers changes in the family structure. For example, after a divorce, the family structure may change from a nuclear family to a single-parent family, or there may be the formation of a blended family if one or both partners remarry. (Syarif, 2022).

Dahrendorf saw society as consisting of groups that have different interests and compete with each other to gain power. In the family context, divorce changes the distribution of power which was previously held jointly by father and mother. (Yuliana, 2023). Divorce can result in one party, usually the mother, having greater power in caring for and raising children. And conflict occurs because there are differences in interests and unequal distribution of power. In the context of a divorced family, children can experience role and identity conflicts (Arliman, 2022). They must adapt to changes in family structure, relationships with parents, and the distribution of power in parenting. This can trigger internal conflict within the child and external conflict with the surrounding environment (Majampoh, 2023).

Dahrendorf emphasized that conflict arises from inequalities in the distribution of power. In the context of divorce, divorce itself can be the result of conflict related to the distribution of power within the family. However, the impact of divorce can also affect the distribution of power within the remaining family. (Syafaatin, 2022). For example, in single families after divorce, the parent who has full custody may have more decision-making power than before the divorce, which can affect relationships with children and power dynamics in the family. (Nurmila, 2022).

By considering the results of previous research, it appears that divorce results in changes in family structure, distribution of power, as well as role and identity conflicts for children. This conflict occurs because of differences in interests and unequal distribution of power in the family after divorce. Children must adapt to new situations and face challenges in resolving conflicts that arise.

The main aim of this research is to investigate the impact of family divorce on children in a sociological context in Mangkalaya Village. Through comprehensive analysis, we can better understand how family divorce affects children's development in positive directions, as well as the factors that may moderate or reduce this negative impact.

2. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach and case study to understand the experiences and perceptions of families and children regarding divorce in a sociological context in Mangkalaya Village. With data collection techniques through interviews with divorce victims and literature study. The research subjects were selected through purposive sampling, totaling 5 people, namely selecting informants who were considered experts in their fields and played a central role in the community of Mangkalaya Village, Gunungguruh District, Sukabumi Regency, West Java, consisting of a husband, wife and two children who experienced a family divorce, and one sociology teacher at SMAN 2 Sukabumi City. In this research, a case study design was chosen to focus on concrete cases of divorce and its impact on children in Mangkalaya Village.





The data collection technique used is in-depth interviews by conducting in-depth interviews with parents and children to understand their experiences related to divorce. Participatory observation in conducting participatory observations to get a direct picture of post-divorce family dynamics. (Somantri, 2019). Data analysis by analyzing qualitative data with theme analysis techniques to identify patterns, themes and trends related to the social impact of divorce on children.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Causes of Family Divorce

According to West Java BPS data for 2021-2023, the dominant factors causing family divorce are unresolved household conflicts (50%), poor communication between husband and wife (30%), and problems (20%). Unresolved conflicts include differences of opinion, infidelity, and differences in values.

Gottman is a psychologist known for his research in the areas of relationships and divorce. According to him, the main causes of divorce are failure to manage conflict and the inability to build healthy and sustainable relationships. It also highlights factors such as incompatibility of values, lack of effective communication, and failure to meet each other's emotional needs. (Fauziah, 2021).

In the creation and implementation of the program by the Governor of West Java, Ridwan Kamil involved a role*stakeholders* who collaborate to make a program successfully implemented. Collaboration*stakeholders* referred to as the Government (*government*), Public (*society*), Academy (*academian*), Businessmen (*businessmen*), and Media (*media*). collaboration models*penta helix* involving the role of the media in developing the social capital of development (Riyanto, 2018).

In research (Arianto.2018) observed that different cultural practices influence divorce rates. He highlighted that in societies where divorce is more accepted or considered a natural step in life, divorce rates can be higher.

According to the results of an interview with Ai (50 years old) regarding the causes of family divorce: he said that:

"When I reflect on the causes of our family's divorce, I feel that broken communication was a major factor. We lost the ability to listen to each other with empathy and understanding. Additionally, unconscious differences in values and expectations also caused unresolved friction "Divorce is not just about one major incident, but an accumulation of disappointments and incompatibilities that ultimately make us feel like we can no longer be together." (Interview April 14, 2024).

The same experience from AL (initials) who experienced a family divorce, he said:

"Actually, our family's divorce was not a decision we took lightly. There were several factors that influenced the decision. One of them was the difference in values and expectations between my partner and I. We often have different views on how to manage family finances and educate children -child. It creates tension that is difficult to overcome. In addition, we also have difficulty communicating effectively. Sometimes, when there is conflict, we tend to close ourselves off and don't want to listen to each other to find a satisfactory solution for both parties." (Interview April 14, 2024)

That the causes of family divorce can be very varied and complex, and often involve a combination, namely that one of the main causes of divorce is poor communication between partners. When





partners can't or won't talk to each other honestly and openly, conflicts tend to accumulate and go unresolved. Loyalty is the foundation of a healthy relationship. Physical or emotional infidelity can lead to broken trust and is often the catalyst for divorce. And if partners have major differences in values, priorities, or life goals, this can cause considerable tension and disagreement, which can ultimately lead to on divorce. (Ariyanto, 2023).

Financial problems such as heavy debt, financial instability, or conflicts regarding spending and saving can be a significant source of tension in a relationship, even leading to divorce. Incompatibility in roles and responsibilities between partners, especially in terms of parenting or division of household labor, can cause serious conflict and give rise to a desire to separate. Differences in sexual needs and desires between partners can be a significant source of dissatisfaction and ultimately lead to divorce. (Dewi, 2023).

Pressure from the family or social environment, including expectations from parents or friends, can affect a couple's relationship and even trigger divorce. If a couple does not have the skills or will to resolve conflict constructively, persistent and unresolved conflict can affect the relationship, negatively and could potentially lead to divorce. (Sumanto, 2018).

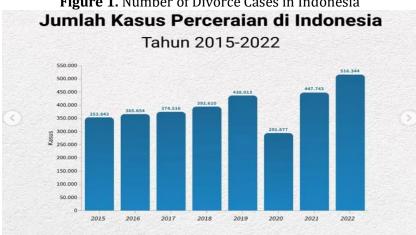


Figure 1. Number of Divorce Cases in Indonesia

Source: Central Statistics Agency (BPS), 2023

The family divorce rate in Indonesia which continues to increase from 2015 to 2022 according to BPS data sources (2023) reflects social, economic and cultural changes in society because along with modernization and urbanization, values regarding marriage and family can change. Individualism that increasingly encourages the search for personal happiness can change perceptions of marriage, affect the sustainability of relationships, and lead to an increase in divorce. Changes in gender roles and the increase in women's economic independence also have an impact on divorce rates. Women who have greater access to education and employment opportunities may choose to leave relationships that do not meet their expectations. Changes in family structure, such as the increasing number of nuclear families separating for the reasons above, may also contribute to increasing divorce rates.

The increasing number of family divorces in Indonesia from 2015 to 2022 reflects the ongoing social transformation in society. This shows the importance of understanding the social, economic, and cultural changes that influence marriage and family dynamics in order to develop more effective strategies to support family stability and individual well-being.

The Impact of Divorce on Children

The impact of divorce on children can vary greatly depending on various factors, including the child's age, the quality of the relationship before the divorce, social support, and how the parents





handle the situation. However, in general, there are several impacts that often occur according to (Aulia, 2023), including:

Children who experience divorce often experience various emotional problems such as anxiety, depression, and sadness. They may feel lost, afraid, or guilty about their parents' divorce. Some children may also experience feelings of anger, frustration, or abandonment.

Divorce can make children feel insecure and unstable. They may worry about the future of their family, such as where they will live, whether they will lose contact with a parent, or whether they will lose relationships with their siblings.

Children who experience divorce often experience a decline in their academic performance, as well as behavioral problems such as aggression, isolation, or deviant behavior. This can be caused by stress experienced by children, lack of attention from parents, or changes in their routine and environment.

Divorce can also affect children's social relationships. They may have difficulty establishing and maintaining relationships with friends, and feel embarrassed or isolated because of their family situation.

Children often experience identity and role conflicts after their parents' divorce. They may feel divided between their parents and have difficulty deciding how they should behave or identify themselves.

Divorce can disrupt a child's mental health, causing distress, anger, anxiety, and distrust towards their parents and environment. Children may feel the effects of divorce through how they process their emotions, and in some cases, they may become irritable.

Children who experience their parents' divorce at a young age tend to be pessimistic about love and can feel they have lost confidence in male and female relationships. The impact of divorce on children's education can cause a decrease in academic grades at school, due to reduced quality time and guidance from one parent, as well as changes in the family's financial condition after divorce. (Dedi Sumanto, 2018).

According to BPS data from West Java Province 2023, children with divorced parents are 35% less likely to obtain a bachelor's degree if they are under 18 years old when their parents divorce, compared to children who are over 18 years old when the divorce occurs. Children who are victims of divorce can experience behavioral problems, loneliness, and jealousy towards their playmates who still have intact families. They can also feel angry with themselves because they feel they are the cause of their parents' divorce.

Children with divorced parents are often referred to as "broken home children" and can feel guilty and experience trauma that may continue to have an impact into adulthood.

According to the results of an interview with An (16 years old) regarding the impact of family divorce: he said that:

"One of the most significant impacts is the emotional instability that children experience due to parental separation. I may experience anxiety, confusion and feelings of isolation which can affect my psychological development. However, I also have to realize that divorce does not always have a negative impact . For some children, divorce can be an opportunity to grow and develop in a more stable and happy environment. This is especially true if the divorce ended an unhealthy or toxic relationship where conflict was common between the parents and even find peace in new situations. (Interview April 14, 2024).

Then the results of an interview conversation with Irda (12 years) regarding the impact of family divorce on children:





"I believe that divorce in families can have a very significant impact on children. When parents divorce, children often experience identity crises and feelings of insecurity. They may feel separated between their parents and not know how to navigate their feelings." I also experience economic and emotional instability after divorce can also affect children's well-being. For example, changes in family income levels or changes in residence can create uncertainty that makes children feel insecure. But as a result of divorce, I am more independent in everything, not spoiled and have become a strong woman." (Interview, 14 April 2024).

So the impact of divorce makes it difficult for children to socialize, they feel embarrassed, have low self-esteem, and are jealous of their friends who still have an intact family. Divorce can also cause children to become apathetic when starting a relationship with the opposite sex, but there is an impact, namely that with divorce makes children more independent and can train them to become stronger mentally.

Family Divorce in Sociological Perspective

Family dissolution in Mangkalaya Village illustrates changes in social values in society. The increase in divorce rates reflects a shift from traditional values that emphasize family unity towards individualism and personal freedom. External factors such as social pressure, modernization and economic changes also contribute to divorce patterns (Bariki, 2023).

According to supporters of conflict theory, conflict can help integration or can cause conflict: According to Ralf Dahrendorf, conflict has four goals, namely maintaining solidarity; helping to build friendship with other groups; and activating the role of the reborn person Serves to communicate Before conflict occurs, certain groups may not know their opponents' positions, but when conflict occurs, group positions and boundaries become clearer. Individuals and groups can make better decisions because they know where they are. (Nursyifa, 2020).

For example, when conflict or disagreement occurs in a family, for example between a brother and sister, and they have the same enemy outside their family, they unite to fight that enemy, ignoring their internal conflict. In families that experience house damage, there is often conflict between parents and aggressive actions, which results in the family concerned being unable to carry out real family duties.

Results of an interview with Mr Willy, a sociology teacher at SMAN 2 Sukabumi City, regarding family divorce from a sociological perspective:

"I argue that family divorce is a complex phenomenon that is influenced by various social factors. One important aspect to consider is changes in social values and norms related to marriage and family. For example, with the increase in individualism in modern society, people tend to pursue personal happiness without considering the welfare of the family as a whole. Economic factors also play a key role. As women become more economically independent and have greater access to employment opportunities, dependence on the husband as the backbone of the family decreases. This can change the power dynamics in the household and affect the stability of the marriage .In addition, cultural and technological developments also have implications. For example, exposure to different family models through social media or films can influence individual expectations of marriage and family relationships. These changes often lead to value conflicts between partners which in turn can affect continuity marriage. In this sociological context I also think that divorce can also be seen as a result of structural incompatibility. A mismatch between traditional gender roles and modern expectations regarding equality in relationships can cause tension between partners. Therefore, sociological studies of divorce tend to involve indepth analysis of the social, cultural, and economic dynamics that shape the institution of the family in our society." (Interview, 15 April 2024)





From a sociological perspective, family divorce is seen as a complex social phenomenon that not only involves the individuals involved, but is also influenced by social structures, cultural values, and power dynamics in society. The following are some important aspects of family divorce from a sociological perspective:

Sociology views the family as a basic unit in society that has structures, roles and functions determined by social norms. Divorce can change the family structure significantly, such as from a nuclear family to a single family or a blended family, which can have an impact on the internal dynamics of the family and interactions between family members (Pangkey, 2023). Sociology examines how changes in social values and cultural norms can influence perceptions and practices regarding marriage and divorce. Changes in values related to concepts of family, gender, and individualism, for example, can influence divorce rates in society. (Anwar, 2022).

According to Rizal (2015) sociology highlights how social structures, such as economic inequality, education, and access to resources, can influence relationship stability and decisions regarding divorce. For example, difficult economic conditions can increase stress in relationships and exacerbate the risk of divorce.

The concepts of power and control in relationships are considered in a sociological perspective on divorce. Unbalanced power between partners, or patterns of dominance and subordination in the relationship, can be a factor influencing the decision to divorce. Sociology is concerned with the impact of divorce not only on the individuals involved, but also on children and society more broadly. Divorce can have significant social, emotional, and economic consequences, including the risk of deterioration in children's well-being and changes in the social structure and dynamics of society. (Arliman, 2022).

Through a sociological approach, family divorce is understood as the result of complex interactions between structural, cultural and individual factors in society. This allows for a more holistic understanding of the phenomenon of divorce and its implications for individuals and society at large.

The conflict theory proposed by Ralf Dahrendorf can provide important insights in understanding divorce in the family context. Dahrendorf, a German sociologist, developed conflict theory as an approach to understanding social dynamics in society. In the context of family divorce, Dahrendorf's conflict theory can be interpreted as follows:

Dahrendorf believed that conflict was a natural part of the social structure. In the context of divorce, family structure often involves a polarization of interests between husband and wife. For example, differences in values, needs, or expectations between partners can lead to unresolved conflict, which in turn can lead to divorce. (Nurmila, 2022). Dahrendorf emphasized the importance of understanding social stratification and the distribution of power in society. In marital relationships, inequality in the distribution of power between partners can lead to tension and conflict. For example, inequality in decision making or control over family resources can trigger conflict that leads to divorce. (Abu, 2020).

Dahrendorf also highlighted that conflict is the result of structural changes in society. In the context of divorce, social changes such as economic changes, changes in social values, or shifts in gender roles can be factors that influence divorce rates in society. (Zahra, 2023). Dahrendorf views conflict as a phenomenon that is manifested in the form of conflict between groups. groups that compete for resources or power. In family divorce, conflict can manifest in the form of arguments, emotional tension, or irreconcilable conflict of interests between partners. (Azizah, 2022).

Using Dahrendorf's conflict theory approach, divorce in the family is understood as the result of tension and conflicting interests between family members, and is influenced by structural factors





and social changes in society.

The conflict perspective sees divorce as a result of conflicts of interest and unequal power within the family. That in many societies, there are gender inequalities embedded in the family structure. Women often have lower positions, have less access to economic resources, and have less decision-making power. This situation can cause conflict and increase the risk of divorce. (M Yusuf, 2018). In families, economic exploitation often occurs where one party (usually the husband) controls financial resources and imposes economic dependence on the other party (wife). This can create inequality of power and increase the potential for conflict which can lead to divorce. This perspective sees that In many families, there is a pattern of domination and oppression by one party over another. This can manifest in the form of physical, emotional, or psychological abuse. This situation can create unhealthy conditions and increase the risk of divorce. (Yuliana, 2023).

Divorce can occur as a result of unequal power negotiations within the family. The economically or socially stronger party may be better able to control resources and make decisions, while the weaker party feels they have no choice but to divorce. The conflict perspective sees divorce as a consequence of conflicts of interest and inequality of power in the family which are influenced by factors such as gender, economics, and domination. Divorce is seen as an attempt to end an unequal situation and seek equality or freedom from oppression.

4. CONCLUSION

The most significant finding from this research is the revelation of the complexity of social factors and the resulting impact of divorce on children. This research makes an important contribution to our understanding of how divorce affects the lives of children in rural communities. The results reveal that divorce is not only a personal issue between husband and wife, but also a social phenomenon involving the dynamics of social and economic relations in society.

This study shows that family divorce in Mangkalaya Sukabumi village is not only an individual phenomenon, but also the result of various social factors. Economic factors play an important role where financial pressure can trigger conflict between partners and impact the stability of the marriage. Apart from that, cultural values and changes in social norms, such as increasing individualism, also contribute to increasing divorce rates. And the impact of family divorce is not only negative but can be positive, namely making children more independent in all aspects of life and strengthen the child's mentality.

The choice of sociological theories, such as conflict theory by Ralf Dahrendorf, has provided deep insight into how family divorce can be analyzed from a social perspective. Qualitative research methods, such as in-depth interviews and participant observation, provide an appropriate framework for exploring the lived experiences and perceptions of individuals involved in divorce and its impact on children.

The main limitation of this research is that the geographical coverage is limited to one village in Sukabumi Regency, so the generalization of the findings may be limited to that context. Future research can expand the scope of locations to get a broader picture of the phenomenon of family divorce. In addition, further research could involve a more in-depth analysis of the economic and cultural factors that influence children's responses and adaptation to parental divorce. Further understanding of the social intervention strategies and supports needed for children in divorce situations could also be a focus of future research.





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