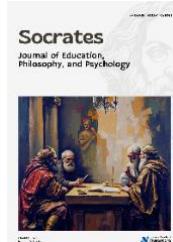




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## The Effect of Divorce on Early Childhood Academic Achievement

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**Abstract:** The objectives achieved in this study describe the impact of parental divorce on student learning achievement. This study uses descriptive research. The results of the study obtained: from the results of the study it was found that the divorce of both parents had an impact on student achievement. These impacts can be negative impacts, namely decreased learning motivation, student activity during learning, withdrawn behavior, limiting social relationships and indiscipline. Children are greatly affected by divorce including their learning achievement. So that the child feels very lost in the sense of enthusiasm and lack of motivation to learn so that it can cause the child's academics to decline. In addition, the impacts such as physical and psychological children. Deep sadness can also be potential for children such as easily flared emotions, anxiety, down, and mild depression and children will also feel guilty like blaming themselves.

**Keywords:** Divorce, Academic, Performance

## INTRODUCTION

The family is one of the fundamental elements of society. In this context, a family is a household, formed through marriage with the goal of fostering a peaceful, calm, united, trusting, and eternal family based on the One Almighty God. The family is the smallest group in society, where members live and work together to achieve shared well-being. Each member communicates and interacts with others. Furthermore, the family is a forum for the formation of values, both socio-cultural and mental. The family plays a crucial role as a motivator in the education of its children.

This is because the family encourages their children to be enthusiastic about learning, especially at home, which supports their academic success at school. This parental role should be considered in everyday life to create a useful generation. The meaning of the family for children is as a place of protection, love, attention, and encouragement for their future success. Quality children are those who come from good families and upbringings. Recently, divorce cases in households have been on the rise. Several factors that can influence divorce include poor family economic conditions, domestic violence, interference from third parties, and religious conversion. The issue of divorce is further reinforced by data showing the increasing number of divorces in Indonesia each year.

Divorce is a process that encompasses many aspects, including emotional, economic, social, and legal recognition by society, similar to marriage. According to Spanier & Thompson (1984), divorce is a reaction to a dysfunctional marital relationship and not a sign of disagreement with the institution of marriage. Research by Murdock (1950) on comparative divorce in developing countries concluded that every society has institutions that resolve the process of ending a marriage (divorce) as well as preparing for marriage. Contrary to Mudorck, Goode (in Ihromi, 2004) states that each society has a different definition of conflict between husband and wife and how to resolve it.

According to Fauzi (2006), there are several factors or reasons that cause divorce, including the following: 1) Disharmony in the household. The reasons mentioned above are the reasons most often put forward by married couples who are going to divorce. Disharmony can be caused by various things, including financial crisis, moral crisis and the presence of a third person; 2) Moral and ethical crisis. In addition to disharmony in the household, divorce is also often based on moral and ethical crisis, which can be the neglect of responsibilities by the husband or wife, unhealthy polygamy, abuse, harassment and other bad behavior carried out by both husband and wife, for example drunkenness, adultery, involvement in criminal acts and even debts. 3) Adultery. In addition, other problems that can lead to divorce are adultery, namely sexual relations outside of marriage carried out by either husband or wife; 4) Marriage without love. Another reason often put forward by husbands and wives to end a marriage is that the marriage has taken place without being based on love. To overcome the difficulties caused by a loveless marriage, couples must reflect on themselves to understand the real problem, and must also make an effort to try Creating cooperation in producing the best decisions; and 5) The existence of problems in marriage. A marriage is inevitably bound to have problems.

Marital problems are commonplace, but protracted and irreconcilable arguments will automatically lead to separation. Learning achievement is the result of a person's efforts after engaging in learning activities over a period of time, resulting in changes in knowledge and behavior. A student's learning achievement can be measured using an evaluation tool. The results of the evaluation can indicate whether the student's learning achievement is high or low (Rosyada, 2003). According to Sardiman (2010), the steps teachers take to improve student achievement are as follows: 1) Conducting evaluations every time during the lesson at the end of the lesson; 2) Generating student learning outcome data. This step will help teachers identify students who have found different learning patterns and their success or actions in learning. From the description above, it can be seen that the role of parents in the family is crucial because a child's growth and achievement are based on the primary duty (responsibility) of both parents to provide education, both religiously and socially. Through parental responsibility, education can begin with praising their children for successfully completing assignments, giving gifts, affection, providing learning facilities, living in harmony and harmony within the household and family, accompanying children in learning, overcoming children's learning difficulties, providing sound advice, and so on. 3 Therefore, parents are essentially obligated to educate and facilitate their children's learning so that the learning process, both formal and informal, will run smoothly and in accordance with the child's general psychology.

However, in reality, the role of parents as the primary forum for their children has shifted over time due to the high number of divorce cases between parents, which impacts a child's psychology and can affect the child's academic achievement in school, especially for junior high school students who can be said to have entered adolescence, a phase where children begin to discover their true identity.

## METHOD

In this study, the researcher used descriptive research. According to Rukajat (2018), descriptive research is research that attempts to describe phenomena that occur realistically, actually, and currently, because this research consists of making systematic, factual, and precise descriptions, drawings, or paintings regarding the facts, characteristics, and

relationships between the phenomena being studied. Descriptive research arises because so many questions arise regarding problems such as mortality and morbidity, especially regarding the magnitude, extent, and importance of the problem.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Families play a crucial role in shaping a child's personality. Children whose parents divorce often experience a somewhat disrupted growth and development. This can be seen in the absence of the affection children truly crave as a basic need for growth and development. Children need education. Their parents are the primary source of support. If parents divorce, a child's educational needs will be hindered or disrupted. Their maturity will also deteriorate, impacting their future educational development.

### Factors Affecting Learning Achievement:

#### 1. Internal Factors

- a. Psychological Conditions. In general, psychological conditions, such as being in good health, not being tired or fatigued, not having any physical disabilities, and so on, will all contribute to the learning process and outcomes. For example, malnourished students may have learning abilities lower than those of normal, non-malnourished students. This is because malnourished students generally tend to tire quickly, become sleepy, and ultimately have difficulty retaining lessons. Likewise, the condition of the nerves that control consciousness can affect the learning process and outcomes.
- b. Psychological Factors. The second internal factor is psychological factors. Every person or student inherently has different psychological factors, primarily in terms of degree, not type. Naturally, these differences will affect the learning process and outcomes. Some psychological factors that can be described include intelligence, attention, interests and talents, motives and motivation, and cognitive and reasoning abilities.

#### 2. External Factors

- a. Environmental factors can influence the learning process and outcomes (achievement). This environment can be physical or natural, or social. The natural environment, such as temperature and humidity, can make studying in a room without ventilation stuffy and hot. The social environment, whether human or other, can also influence the learning process and outcomes, such as the chatter of people outside accompanied by loud laughter, the hum of factory machinery, the roar of market traffic, and so on.
- b. Instrumental factors: Instrumental factors are factors whose existence and use are designed to align with the desired learning outcomes. These instrumental factors can include the curriculum, facilities, and teachers. Clearly, these factors significantly influence the learning process and outcomes. During the teaching and learning process, interactions between teachers and students occur, characterized by specific learning tasks and the teacher's role in assisting them.

A case study based on a true story: "There was a child named M, a 7th-grade junior high school student whose parents had recently divorced. He was an only child. His family had experienced a breakup since he was in elementary school, when the climax occurred."

He was in 7th grade when his parents divorced and separated. He felt extremely down because of his parents' separation. Throughout school, he always felt inferior when his friends asked about his parents. During that time, he experienced a significant downturn and mental decline, leading to a drop in his academic performance and enthusiasm. However, he didn't show it to anyone; he continued to carry on as usual, even though he was devastated and lost everything.

Children are deeply affected by divorce, including their academic performance. Consequently, they feel a profound loss of enthusiasm and lack of motivation to learn, which can lead to a decline in their academic performance. Furthermore, there are physical and psychological impacts on the child. Deep sadness can also potentially affect children, such as

irritability, anxiety, depression, and mild depression. Children can also feel guilty and blame themselves.

Helping children through their parents' divorce involves listening carefully to their feelings and thoughts. Listening to children talk or express their concerns makes it easier for them to feel valued, protected, loved, and understood. This allows them to gradually relent and understand their situation. Furthermore, listening to their stories allows them to express their sadness and anxiety, and helps them stop blaming themselves for their problems. These moments can also be a reason for parents to share their reasons for their divorce. This way, children can gradually adapt to the situation. For more serious conditions resulting from parental divorce, which are not easily handled by parents, parents can immediately contact professional agencies for assistance so that the child can receive professional treatment.

## CONCLUSION

Until now, cases of parental divorce are highly regarded negatively by certain individuals in the surrounding community, resulting in children experiencing a drastic decline in what they feel. The sense of loss and anxiety in children during divorce greatly affects their academic performance. This loss and anxiety can be felt as easily anger, offense, anxiety, and depression. In some children are also unable to handle this alone, especially in their emotions, will experience serious reactions such as impaired concentration, sleep disorders, withdrawal from their environment, problems in the surrounding environment, and even due to parental divorce some children escape to negative things such as drugs and drunkenness. Parents are also expected to maintain good communication with their children, pay attention to children to prevent them from falling into unwanted things, and provide understanding to children. Thank you to Syiah Kuala University, the research team that has provided a smooth writing and compilation process for this article.

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