

Divorce and Separation in Africa During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Objectives: To assess divorce, separation, and their predictors in Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: Analytical cross-sectional study recruited 1046 participants by cluster random sampling technique. Socio-demographic, health and occupational characteristics were collected for all participants. The binary logistic regression model was fit to the dependent (outcomes), namely divorce and separation, and independent other variables (predictors).

Participants: The participants were (n=1046), across five countries in Africa

Results: 27.2% had negative divorce scores, and 36.6% had low separation scores. The mean scores of both divorce and separation were in the normal levels (16.7 ± 5.90 and 31.5 ± 6.63 out of 25 and 40, respectively). From the review done in selected African countries which include South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, and Malawi; it was discovered that the COVID-19 pandemic across these countries worsens the already existing cases of divorce and separation. Although these findings represent the experiences of only five countries, they provide an opportunity to assess how the pandemic may have influenced both divorce and separation levels.

Conclusion: Divorce and separation in Africa are skyrocketing across Africa among study participants. Thus, the study recommended that countries in Africa need to join international initiatives in prioritizing divorce and separation while trying to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. As more data become available, it will be important to acknowledge these countries' variations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: divorce, separation, Africa, COVID-19, lockdown