



Factors Contributing to the Failure of Modern Marriage in Tanzania: A Case of Mbinga District

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Abstract

This study examines the factors contributing to the failure of modern marriage in Mbinga district (Tanzania). The study employed a descriptive case study and exploratory research design and deployed mixed method approach for triangulation purposes of data collection, presentation and analysis, in-depth interview. Further, questionnaires and documentary review were applied. Sampling methods were purposive for the qualitative data in the study areas, interview and simple random sampling for the survey respondents. The target populations were conflicting couples, divorced, cohabited couples, unmarried people with appropriate marriage age and those with children out of wedlock. Additionally, social welfare officers, religious leaders, ward and VEOs, customary leaders and hamlet leaders were concerned. The sample size was obtained by using sample size calculator for questionnaire respondents and saturation point for interview respondents. The main findings of the study display that economic factors, technological advancement, socio-cultural and political factors were the main factors contributing to the failure of modern marriage in Tanzania. Basically, in economic production activities and economic classes of the people were included. Furthermore, socio-cultural factors such as effects of social changes, demoralization of marriage norms and values, patriarchy system, formal education and traditional practices contributed a lot to marriage failure. However, political factors include effects of democracy that relates to multiparty system, marriage law and gender equity and equality. The study recommends that research on the failure of modern marriage must be intensified because of a multiple and complex issues that affect the wellbeing of the individuals to the high level.

Keywords

Modern, marriage, failure, Mbinga, Tanzania

Introduction

Modern society in Europe is seeing a sharp decline in first marriages and a sharp increase in divorce rates. In Great Britain, the divorce rate increased by 9.8% in 2005, while the cohabitation rate increased by 11.8% (Mortelmans, 2021; Sheykhi, 2020; Sobotka & Berghammer, 2021). Moreover, the percentage of single-parent families in 2008 who divorced was 30% in Britain and 20% in France (Gondek, Lacey, Blanchflower, & Patalay, 2022; Kroese, Bernasco, Liefbroer, & Rouwendal, 2021; Yeung, Desai, & Jones, 2018). About 40 years ago, marriage was a legal sexual union that involved public announcement, some performance expectations, and an assumption of reciprocal responsibility between spouses and their children. Today, marriage in America does not involve the union of two people (Mortelmans, 2021; Sheykhi, 2020; Wagner, 2020). While in Africa, marriage refers to a union between a man and a woman in order to procreate. It is generally acknowledged that it refers to a relationship that is both social and legal between men and women (Bandyopadhyay & Green, 2021; Davis & Friedman, 2020; Melesse et al., 2020).

Traditional unions foster the development of couples' commitment, happiness, communication, and conflict-resolution abilities. Although modernity extols the virtues and worth of its capacity to offer, in contrast to the traditional era, opportunity, freedom, love, dignity, success, association, happiness, and solidarity, among other qualities, the institution of marriage appears not to share the foregoing sentiment (Gores & Kapinga, 2020; Parkin, 2021; Vaidyanathan, 2019). Recent research and reports on marriage from the late 1950s to the present attest to the institution of marriage's failure to endure

in comparison to traditional marriage and to fulfill the practical socioeconomic and cultural daily functions it once did (Budasi & Suryasa, 2021; Guetto, Vignoli, & Bazzani, 2021; Sassler & Lichter, 2020).

Single-parent households increased in Canada from 18% in 2001 to 19.3% in 2011. Additionally, according to estimates from 2011 (Laidley & Tabbara, 2021; Lut et al., 2021; Montreuil, Wellman, & O'Loughlin, 2020), there were 1.6 million people cohabiting, an increase of 13.9% from 2006 (Laidley & Tabbara, 2021; Lut et al., 2021). Additionally, there were approximately 64,575 same-sex couples in 2011—a 42 percent increase from 2006. Additionally, in 2011, about one-fifth of all people of marriageable age were single and did not reside in a couple or family. Marriage rate was 4.4 (per 1,000 people) in 2008, and the divorce rate was 2.11 as well (Bernardi, Mortelmans, & Larenza, 2018; Hemalal, Yee, Ross, Loutfy, & Librach, 2021; Whitehead, Dawson, & Hotton, 2021).

The African traditional family has undoubtedly changed from what it was fifty to one hundred years ago due to the influences of the Western money economy, industrialization, migration, and urbanization (Cotran, 2021; Gluckman, 2020; Sennott, Madhavan, & Nam, 2021). New medical technology, the legalization of marriage, changes in sexual norms, gender roles, women's increased economic independence, the rise of social insurance programs, and the infiltration of market and consumer values into family life. Due to these modifications, new types of marriage, such as modern marriage, have been adopted (Donina, Salikhova, Aryabkina, Kovardakova, & Chernova, 2021; Hopkins, 2019; Trifonova, 2020).

The focus of modern marriage is on fostering an individual's self-worth, self-actualization, and self-expression as the foundation for marriage life style freedom (Bubber & Gala, 2022; Parkin, 2021; Trifonova, 2020). Individual freedom in choosing a spouse, romantic love as the primary factor in marriage, the importance of the intimate partnership, the structure of the nuclear family, and neo-local living are characteristics (Burgess, 2018; Moret, Andrikopoulos, & Dahinden, 2021; Nwoko, 2020). Recent studies and reports on marriage, especially those from the late 1950s to the present, attest that the institution of marriage has failed to endure in comparison to traditional marriage and to fulfill practical socioeconomic and cultural daily functions. After a plethora of social issues like rape, homosexuality, lesbianism, divorce, and prostitution, among others, certain marital ills develop over time and deal a devastating blow to society. He also noted that the number of these cases is rising quickly (Pietrusza, 2019; Van Buren & Van Gordon, 2020).

Although the majority of divorce cases in Tanzania have not been registered, several studies show that there was a 49 percent increase in divorce cases from 2007 to 2009. Furthermore, the various studies depicts that 23% of women of marriageable age in 2012 had never been wed (Berliana et al., 2021; Sassler & Lichter, 2020). Some early researchers reveal that 230,755 separated couples, 683,617 divorcees, and 8,465,009 people have never married despite being of legal marriageable age (Caplan, 2020; Hugo & Lusekelo, 2021; Leavens, Gugerty, & Anderson, 2019; Mwingira, Msuya, Kisinza, & Kathet, 2022). As a result, over time, certain problems have arisen in marriages that have dealt a fatal blow to society. This has resulted in a wide range of social issues, including rape, homosexuality, lesbianism, prostitution, single parenthood, cohabitation, divorce, and separation. Divorce causes behavioral and emotional issues, stress, violence, poor parenting, drug abuse in children, the problem of street children, a lack of education and basic services for children, and the inability to manage relationships, among other social issues that affect society as a whole (Abalos, 2017; Mortelmans, 2020; Nordberg et al., 2020; Van Winkle & Leopold, 2021).

For instance, data from the District Social Welfare Office for Mbinga district in 2015 show that there were 67 divorce cases, 256 cohabiting couples, 864 single parents as a result of divorces, 678 pregnancies conceived outside of marriage, and 43 remarriages as a result of divorces (Sanga, 2021). The reasons why modern marriages in Mbinga, Tanzania, fail will be discussed in this paper specifically on the type and severity of marriage failure in Mbinga district. It important to note that in Mbinga, Tanzania, socio-cultural, political, and legal factors all contribute to the failure of modern marriage. These factors also play a role in the economic and socio-legal failure of modern marriage.

Literature review

The literature review of all pertinent empirical materials on the topic of marriage failure is covered in this section. As a result, a variety of books, journals, dissertations, theses, newspapers, and periodicals were used to identify the gap, support the study, and enhance the results. The conceptual framework guiding and informing the research gap, the description of key terms, and the limitation and delimitation of the study are additional significant research aspects covered in this chapter.

Definition of the Key Terms

General Meaning of Marriage

In order for society to function properly and reproduce itself successfully, marriage is a social institution that is linked to other institutions such as socio-economic, cultural, and political institutions (Braunstein, Bouhia, & Seguino, 2020; Braunstein, Seguino, & Altringer, 2021), marriage is a binding legal agreement between a man and a woman that lasts for the rest of their lives and is frequently even irrevocable. When two incomplete beings who are mutually dependent on one another come together, it is the expression of deeper, internal conditions. For the purpose of this study, marriage is the voluntary and everlasting union among the adult men and women for procreation and child rearing as the primary function.

Tradition Marriage

A given nation, particular religion, or particular social group at a given time recognizes traditional marriage. The culture uses marriage between men and women as an argument against same-sex unions by requiring the families of the bride and groom to participate in rituals, pay visits, and exchange gifts (Sentana, WayanCika, Suarka, & Kusuma, 2021; Wahyudi, Mclean, & Nuryadin, 2022). The basic requirements of a traditional marriage are procreation, gender roles, and permanence. Additionally, traditional marriages are characterized by commitment and satisfaction, communication, and conflict resolution skills to deal with marital issues. In addition, traditional marriage is characterized by the value of being a communal issue, necessity for any adult, creativity, and value of status and dignity. Also the main purpose of traditional

marriage was to fulfill needs for love and companionship rather than basic needs for food production, shelter, and physical safety. For the purpose of this study, traditional marriage is the one that was dominant before the modernization process of the given countries particularly before 1950s years ago for developing countries (Mehrabanifar, Dezbord, & Emami, 2021)

Notion of Modern Marriage

Modern marriage has become widespread in urban areas since the 1950s and in rural areas over the last two or three decades. Modern marriage is distinguished by individual choice of spouse, romantic love as the criterion of marriage, importance of the modern marriage. Furthermore, modern marriages are more individualized and place a greater emphasis on a person's sense of self-development. conjugal relationship, nuclear family structure, and neo-local residence (Kinney, 2021; Lechkar, 2022). Therefore, for the purposes of this study, the dominant type of marriage is the modern marriage, which evolved from the traditional marriage that predominated before that era and became prevalent after the modernization of the given countries, especially after the 1950s for African countries.

Concept of Divorce

The term of divorce is defined as the dissolution of the matrimonial bond, in which the spouses separate and are no longer considered to be a married couple under the law (Lawler & Salzman, 2022; Rasheed, Amr, & Fahad, 2021). It is frequently the end result of a long-term process of marital dysfunction, strife, and miscommunication. Conflict, strong feelings, resentment between the couple, distance, poor communication, a lack of common interests, differences in opinions among the couple members, lack of interest, lack of love, infidelity, and attachment to someone else are all possible reasons for divorce (Hwang, Cakirsoy-Aslan, Brown, & Silverstein, 2021; Milton & Qureshi, 2021).

Term of Cohabitation

Cohabitation is frequently referred to as a period of living prior to marriage and some synonymous terms like "prelude to marriage," "trial marriage," or "stage in the marriage process (Muthengi, Muthoni, & Austrian, 2022; Sassler & Lichter, 2020)." It might not necessarily be a rejection of marriage; rather, it might be a decision made because a temporary union is more suitable for the uncertainties of life. Cohabiting individuals may present as a couple in public and typically benefit from economies of scale. Likewise, it is a slippery slope into cohabitation because housing, finances, and convenience are more likely to influence their choices than a long-term commitment. It begins as an uncommon practice, gains acceptance as a prelude to marriage, and then spreads more widely as marriage and cohabitation converge (Echagüe, 2020; Gottschalk, 2021).

Empirical Literature Review

Global Context of Traditional and Modern Marriage

In terms of the rest of the world, marriage in America today and how Americans are looking to their marriage to achieve different goals than in the past, which calls for less time and effort spent on the marital relationship. They prioritize psychological needs, such as the need for personal development, over fundamental physiological and safety requirements (Belozerovala, Krikun, Davityan, Artyukh, & Andreeva, 2020; Yu, 2021). Additionally, marriage remained a financial institution, though nowadays, love and companionship are increasingly the main drivers of marriage. Therefore, the main purposes of marriage are to meet the needs of love and companionship and to aid the spouses in their journeys of self-discovery and personal development (Cohen & Strong, 2020). Furthermore, divorce is widely accepted in America (Kalmijn & Leopold, 2021; Mo, 2020). Similar to this, the widespread rejection of traditional marital gender roles is reflected in the prevalence of non-adherence to traditional gender roles among married couples, as well as the repeal of most regulations that enforced or encouraged such duties. (Geyken, 2022).

In addition, the couple could become engaged as young as age 7, with the option to call off the engagement once they reached the legal minimum age of consent. Additionally, one essential requirement for a legally valid marriage was the completion of a marriage contract, also known as a spousal's act, in which the bride and groom expressed their vows. This process was accompanied by a church ceremony, and it occasionally occurred without parental consent, witnesses, or being consecrated in a church; nonetheless, it had the same legal validity so that lovers could wed covertly (Geyken, op. cit.). Individuals' preferences for specific characteristics in a spouse increasingly influence their choice of partner in developed nations (Berrington, 2020). This is especially true when people consider a range of potential partners and assess them according to the resources they can provide; the most crucial resources to take into account and evaluate are socioeconomic resources, such as social status, education, and cultural characteristics. However, that process is controlled by prudential restraints, which began as the status of women in society and the law was rising. The study also found that people are forced to postpone marriage and marry at ever-earlier ages as a result of the years of saving necessary to meet the financial requirements for marriage. However, the percentages of people who never marry are rising, non-marital cohabitation has become a common feature of youths' lives, and it's likely that cohabitation will become more prevalent as divorced people choose to cohabit more often than they do to get remarried and as cohabiting couples sign partnership contracts in place of marriage certificates (McDonald, 2020; Utomo, 2020).

Failure of Modern Marriage and Its Effects to the Western Nations

The break up rate in the United States is amplified by 3.7% in 2005, while cohabitation increased by 9.3%. Similar to this, little (2012)'s study in Canada found that the percentage of single-parent households increased from 18% in 2001 to 19.3% in 2011 (Delaney, 2021; Parker, Russo, Sommer, & Yaeger, 2018). The number of people living together was estimated to be 1.6 million in 2011, an increase of 13.9% from 2006. There were approximately 64,575 same-sex couples in 2011, up 42% from 2006. In 2011, about one-fifth of all people of marriageable age were single and did not reside in a couple or family. In 2008, there were 4.4 marriages for every 1,000 people, and there were 2.11 divorces. The sharp decline in first marriages

and the sharp increase in divorce rates are the two most notable aspects of contemporary society in Europe (Grover, 2017; Mo, 2016). The divorce rate in the United Kingdom increased by 9.8% in 2005, while cohabitation increased by 11.8%. Moreover, in 2008, 20% of French and 30% of British divorces resulted in single-parent families (Jeffreys & Pan, 2013; Stearns, 2020; Valenzuela, Halpern, & Katz, 2014).

The certain studies clarify traditional African marriage in relation to the fundamental values and principles that kept them alive in all African cultures as well as the process by which they evolved into modern ones (Ahinkorah, 2020; Garenne, 2022). A husband and wife's lifetime partnership was seen as a source of support for one another and offspring to maintain the family line and advance the welfare of the tribe or clan because marriage is necessary for every adult and is the only means of human survival. Anyone who, under normal circumstances, chooses not to get married is, in the eyes of society, committing a serious offense, and they will be opposed. The ideal time for a man to get married is when he is older and financially stable so that he can start a family on his own (Lawson, Schaffnit, Hassan, & Urassa, 2021; Santoso, Trinugroho, & Risfandy, 2020).

Every effort was made to get people ready for marriage and get them to think about getting married. For instance, parents in some African countries choose their children's spouses even before they are born when it comes to partner or mate selection. This is being done to ensure that they do find someone to wed. In other places, the young people's relatives made the decision for them, whereas in another, it was customary for the young people to make their own decisions about who they wanted to marry and then tell their parents or other family members. They had the chance to do this thanks to social events, dance, community service, and their familiarity with other residents of the area (Judiasih, Rubiati, Yuanitasari, Salim, & Safira, 2020; Lamanna, Riedmann, & Stewart, 2020).

Additionally, dowry payments were made when a daughter left her parents' home. The groom's side was required to give the bride's side the dowry in the form of money, land plots, clothing, jewelry, copper, and other valuable properties as compensation for their daughter and to prevent their married son and daughter from taking advantage of them. Accordingly, virginity is regarded as advantageous, so virgins received high bride fees because, one of the main goals of the bride price in sub-Saharan Africa is to forge a kinship alliance (Lebni, Solhi, Azar, & Farahani, 2020; Olamijuwon & Odimegwu, 2022).

Furthermore, because it was geared toward procreation, sexuality value was of the utmost importance. It is employed for social, religious, and biological purposes (Hamrick, DiGangi, Travers, & DiGangi, 2020; Newlands, Brito, & Denning, 2020). Marriage's sexual dynamics were governed by the traditional social structures of the community and family in particular. Through social initiation rites, young people were prepared for reproductive life in accordance with the structure. Also, there was a lot of ritual symbolism surrounding sexual activity. There were many taboos surrounding it, and it was frequently dramatized in dances and the arts. Therefore, in a given community, sexual offenses such as fornication, incest, rape, seduction, homosexual relationships, sleeping with a prohibited relative or domestic animals, closeness between relatives, and children watching the genitalia of their parents all constituted sexual offenses and posed a threat to society (Rao et al., 2022; Schlagdenhauffen, 2021).

Additionally, the importance of married couples' status and dignity, and to illustrate this point, he used the Kgatla proverb, "A pretty girl either steals or wets her bed." They imply that a wife's physical attractiveness is not the only quality to consider (Baum et al., 2021; Mukashema, Gumira Hahirwa, Hakizamungu, & Havugintwari, 2021). According to the ethnic group, a physical job, treating elders with respect, and having a generally good reputation are the most important qualities for both partners. These qualities were evaluated based on the parent's own traits.

Likewise, the importance of bilateral orientations and kinship affiliations, where marriage should follow either the matrilineal or part-lineal system of the given society, as, for instance, among the Akan speaking Ashanti of Ivory Coast and Ghana, or the bakwaya of Tanzania (Stewart, 2020; Vercillo, Weis, & Luginaah, 2020). This established the foundation for all social relationships, including the bond between a mother and her child and the bond between a father and child, which is solely one of love because a father has no legal authority over his children. For a significant religious purpose, children's names should, for instance, be derived from those of their own ancestors.

Similar to this, the value of gender roles accords the wife with certain rights and the husband with corresponding obligations, and vice versa (Nawaz, Shabbir, Shaheen, & Koser, 2021; Rugadya, 2020). After having completed all required rituals (presentations), a man was granted a number of rights, including those of a father. This implies that the man should perform domestic duties because he must care for, protect, and provide for his wife, children, and other family members. Additionally, the fact that women give birth and breastfeed children make them the natural caregivers for children. However, historically speaking, women's reproductive roles did not automatically exempt them from economic labor or result in male dominance (Game, Pringle, & Grace, 2020; Michener & Brower, 2020).

In the meantime, social change is a multifaceted and ongoing reality everywhere, according to (Shorter, 1975). The African traditional family has undoubtedly changed from how it was fifty to one hundred years ago as a result of influences from the Western money economy, industrialization, migration, and urbanization, among others.

Furthermore, the process of marriage in Africa adapting to modernization and industrialization was a challenge (Atakilit, 2020; Muli, 2020; OLLE, 2020). The processes that led to the advent of Christianity and the exposure of Western values ostensibly altered socioeconomic and cultural aspects, ultimately changing the fundamental structure and value of the traditional African marriage to the new form of marriage with the establishment of marriage law, modifications to sexual norms, advancements in medical technology, modifications to gender roles, the rise of social insurance programs, the expansion of the market, and drawbacks. Additionally, it encouraged women to fight for their right to vote, take part in politics, own property, use birth control, go to college, and have control over their own bodies. On the other hand, the study carried out in Nigeria gives an overview of marriage in Africa today (Odhiambo, Mumiukha, & Makori; Ononokpono,

Adebola, Gayawan, & Fagbamigbe, 2021). According to this definition, marriage is the state of being linked as husband or wife with a person of the other sex; it is also the reciprocal relationship between the husband and wife in a particular sort of social and legal dependence for the aim of starting and maintaining a family. The legal connection of a man and woman is represented by marriage, which encompasses all the behaviors, conventions, roles, expectations, and values related to that relationship. It is regarded as denoting a lifetime commitment between two people, and it is represented by a legal contract approved by both the government and, for many, God.

The study also found that the spouses choose one another, and that it is becoming more common for men and women to wed near where they work or go to school. The majority of factors, including educational level, physical attractiveness, and religious affiliation, are prerequisites for selecting a spouse. Family history and ethnicity, which played a big role in traditional marriage practices, have been replaced by love and affection between partners, and passionate love, which was before unimportant, is now the prerequisite to marriage (Aman, Abbas, Lela, & Shi, 2021; Yamani Ardakani, Targari, & Roudi Rashtabadi, 2020) nations have passed laws that push for the permission of the intended spouses, as is the case with the Tanzania marriage statute of 1997. Adoption of this act encourages the existence of the acceptance that it is the right of prospective partners to choose their partners as well as the recognition of the consent of the parties to be married. A man will not marry his fiancée until she is pregnant, and some parents do not want their daughters to interact with males until they are engaged. This serves as protection against the prohibitions on divorce imposed by ordinance marriage, particularly those based on infertility (Therborn, 2006).

Marriages are often organized with a division of labor between the partners, and the majority of married people live apart from their parents. Additionally, many married women value their independence and enjoy it, especially when it comes to their freedom of choice, romantic love, and companionship. They also demand the right to vote, participate in public life, own property, use birth control, go to college, and have control over their own bodies (Therborn, 2006).

Under these circumstances, the researcher found that, despite the fundamental principles and ideals of contemporary and traditional marriage being provided above and their relative strengths and weaknesses, traditional marriage appears to be more enduring than modern marriage. However, the discussion of different types of marriage typically focuses on demonstrating characteristics rather than their capacity to support marriage and vice versa.

The Context Modern Marriage in Tanzania Today

Following the previous studies Tanzania has seen substantial social and cultural change over the past century, which has had a significant impact on marriage and caused the collapse of conventional marriages (Isager, Fold, & Mwakibete, 2022; van der Plas et al., 2021). Higher rates of divorce, cohabitation, and single motherhood are the result of this. Additionally, a woman's social standing, educational level, or earning capacity in the modern economy have supplanted virginity as the prerequisite for females before marriage, and money is now a typical replacement for the traditional dowry.

Many of the fundamental duties of Tanzanian women have also altered, and the distribution of labor between the wife and the husband is now more equitable, leading to an increase in wage work. Additionally, both the husband and wife have a duty to support one another. Married women also have the legal right to engage into contracts, own property, and bring or defend legal actions related to those contracts or property. The country's law, however, supports divorce in such a way that any married person may apply to the court for a decree of separation or divorce on the grounds that their marriage is invalid, and divorced people have the right to remarry and collect maintenance from their ex-spouses under any orders (Reid, 2020; van der Plas et al., 2021)

Failure of Modern Marriage and Its Consequences

Although there is tremendous concern among them that the majority of divorce cases have not been documented, numerous studies in Tanzania show that there was a 49 percent increase in divorce cases from 2007 to 2009 (Brockington, 2021; Kongela, 2020). Furthermore, according to the Human Rights Report (2012), 23% of women who were of marriageable age in 2012 were never married. Additionally, REPOA (2010) noted that spouse beatings, which have been widely blamed for or linked to marriage failure in Tanzania, are prevalent. Similar signs of the demise of modern marriage have been seen in the Mbinga district. For instance, data from the District Social Welfare office for 2015 reveal that there were 67 divorce cases, 256 cohabiting couples, 864 single parent households as a result of divorces, 678 pregnancies conceived outside of marriage, and 43 remarriages as a result of divorces.

Additionally, divorces caused behavioral and emotional issues, stress situations associated with poverty, violence, ineffective parenting, and substance abuse in the children. While non-marital children experienced issues such as less education, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral issues, step families, and relationship issues. As a result, failing to marry has many ramifications for society (Laletas & Khasin, 2021; Tullius, De Kroon, Almansa, & Reijneveld, 2022). Additionally, the DHHS and ACF study from 2006 found that cohabitation resulted in partner abuse and infidelity, poverty, as well as slow language and cognitive development in the children.

Methods and materials

The setting for this study was Minge Mjini ward which lies in the Mbinga administrative district, in the Ruvuma Region of Tanzania. The Mbinga District was a crucial decision due to the prevalence of high rates of indicators of modern marriage failure; it is necessary to choose a suitable research site due to the potential for accessing the data. In contrast, Mbambi and Mahera streets of Mbinga Mjini ward are typical townships; as a result, their residents are from many regions of the country (Tanzania), and they have contributed their expertise and experiences to the study. Because there are no longer any chances for the researchers to misunderstand and misinterpret the practices in the field, Mbinga district was chosen as the starting point for creating a database for the elements contributing to the failure of contemporary marriage in Tanzania.

The study used two distinct but complementary designs, based on the disposition of the research objectives and questions. Descriptive and exploratory research designs fall under this category. The study's exploratory approach was utilized to provide answers to why and how questions, generate insights and familiarity with fundamental facts and concerns, create a well-rounded image of the scenario being developed, and generalize new concepts and assumptions about the issue being studied (Hallingberg et al., 2018).

The qualitative method investigated all underlying and unempirical issues, including perceptions, the nature of marriage failure, power dynamics between married couples, social meaning and expectations of marriage, values and norms of marriage, communality of marriage, and influences of various social institutions on contemporary marriage, among other relevant aspects, in order to understand the factors influencing the failure of contemporary marriage. On the other hand, the quantitative aspect focused on all empirical aspects, including income, indicators of marriage failure, rate of marriage failure, particularly the number of married couples and singles with an appropriate marriage rate, divorce rate, conflicting marriage, cohabitation rate, and father/mother of children born outside of marriage.

The documentary analysis, social survey, and in-depth interview were used to collect data using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Through the use of an interview guide, the in-depth interview approach was employed to gather qualitative data from interviews with religious, police, ward and VEO leaders, customary leaders and hamlet leaders, and social welfare officers. Utilizing a questionnaire containing pertinent questions pertaining to the study's goal, the social survey approach was used. The questionnaire utilized to get data from singles. The researchers reviewed the documents and made basic notes on the contents of the elements influencing the breakdown of modern marriage from published and unpublished documents such as memos, newspapers, and personal journals as a method of data collecting. Both qualitative and quantitative data were presented using this manner. The formula used to determine sample size was created by the University of Minnesota's RDNEA (Neuman, 2006). The equation is $n = N \div (1 + N(e)^2)$ N=Total Population size e=Sampling error n=Sample size.

The data revealed that there are around 28672 married persons, 704 unmarried people of legal marriage age, 667 cohabiting couples without children, 1256 divorced people without children who are single parents, 678 wed-rock pregnancies, and 43 couples with conflicting marriages. The total sample size for this study was 119 respondents, but only 97 were chosen using an automatic sampling formula, which necessitates pre-determining the confidence level but prefers 90% and that it fall within the +/- 1 range. Additionally, 22 were chosen in accordance with the saturation point of the available information. However, to obtain single people who completed the questionnaires, simple random sampling procedures were used. Purposive sampling was also used to find respondents who were trustworthy for the study and more educated on marriage-related issues, notably the elements that contribute to the collapse of modern marriages, as well as police officers, ward and VEO officers, and social welfare officers.

Two distinct methods of analysis were used in the data analysis to affect both quantitative and qualitative data. Regarding the qualitative data, the information gleaned from the interview and the documentation was analyzed using content analysis. Using the software program SPSS version 20, descriptive statistics were used to assess quantitative data. This required data preparation, which included validating the data, cleaning the data, and checking the data for accuracy, assigning codes to each response item, inputting the data into the computer, clearing the code for missing values, transforming the data, and creating and maintaining a database. The researchers produced figures, frequency tables, charts, and pie charts after performing tabulation. Therefore, following a thorough process of data analysis, the overall conclusion was established.

Results and discussion

Participants in the study fell into two categories. 84 social workers, police officers, religious leaders, public figures, estranged couples, parents of unmarried children, divorcees, and single people of legal marriage who completed questionnaires made up the first category. The second category included 35 estranged couples, parents of unmarried children, divorcees, and single people of legal marriage who took part in interviews. This part's initial portion provides a profile of the respondents to questionnaires. The profile contains data on the respondents' sex, age, occupations, marital status, marital status, religions, income levels, and academic standing.

Table 1: Respondents' Distribution by Demographic Characteristics

Category	Frequency	Percent
Women	40	47.6
Men	44	52.4
Age		
15-24	7	8.3
25-34	39	46.4
35-44	26	30.9
45-54	8	9.5
55-64	3	3.6
65 and above	1	1.2
Marital status		
Never married	21	25
Married	36	42.8
Divorced	19	22.6
Cohabited	8	9.5
Education level		
Primary level	33	36%
Assistant secondary level	37	42%
Certificate level	14	22%
Employment status		
Self-employee	34	41%
Public employee	32	38%
Public employee	18	21%
Religious status		
Roman Catholic	65	77.4%
Muslims	12	14.3%
Traditionalists.	7	8.3%

Based on the roles and interactions between men and women in the particular population, the goal of examining the gender distribution is to identify trends. Unique social roles and relationships between men and women are a result of gender viewpoint. The percentage distribution of responses by gender categories is shown in the table. The percentage of responders by gender showed a very little difference. Women made up only 47.6% of the population, while men made up the remaining 52.4%. Men are so numerous because they are most affected by the breakdown of marriages from one society to the next. It has been noted that gender has an impact on the marital quality, with wives frequently expected to support and contribute more to their husbands' well-being while husbands do not have the same obligation to their wives. As a result, wives' emotional and practical burdens on the marriage lower their own marital quality while raising their husbands.

Composition of respondents by age

This study included more respondents between the ages of 25 and 34 and 35 and 44 since these age ranges had the highest percentage of respondents who were actively involved in modern marriages, which accounted for 46.4% and 30.9%, respectively. As a result, the respondents were elders, notably opinion and traditionally influential leaders who were interested in sharing their experiences and expertise on marriage failure, and 1 (1.2%) had an age spanning between 65 and above years. Age may be a factor in determining the quality of a marriage, and individuals who marry young have lower marital quality and a higher probability of divorcing as an illustration (Brauner-Otto, Axinn, & Ghimire, 2020; Huston, McHale, & Crouter, 2021).

Out of the 84 respondents, 36 were married, making up 42.8% of the total respondents that answered the surveys. Police officers, opinion leaders, religious leaders, social welfare officials, ward and street executive officers, and other members of the affected group of discordant marriages made up the majority of those who responded. 48 (57.1%) of the respondents were individuals whose marriages had failed in a way that left them either single and of legal marriage age, divorced, or cohabiting. This represents the high rate of marital failure in the society.

The table shows the distribution of respondents according to their academic standing, with 33 (36%) having completed primary level studies, 37 (42%) assistant secondary level studies, 14 (22%) having completed certificate level studies, and none having completed none (uneducated). Nevertheless, the certificate level rank, which makes up more than one-third of the entire sample, dominates this group. As a result, it was discovered that practically all responders had completed grades from primary to university. The table (Table 1) then displays the respondents' employment status. It is shown that 18 (21%) are private employees, 32 (38%) are public employees, and 34 (41%) are self-employed. This suggested that the majority of respondents were employed in some capacity. The table lists the respondents' religious affiliations. The table shows that

65(77%) of the respondents are Roman Catholics, who make up the majority of the sample. This is due to the fact that the study area's residents are naturally R.C. members as a result of earlier missionaries who propagated Christianity in Western nations. The remaining group, which includes the 12 (14%) and 7 (9%) traditionalists/atheists, are Muslims.

Respondents experiences on the failure of modern marriage

General perceptions of respondents on the failure of modern marriage

The study looked into how the general respondents perceived the things that modern marriages fail because of. The major goal was to learn more about how respondents felt generally about the study. In light of Table 4.9's summary of the findings, the researchers were better able to understand what society's members believed to be the general causes of modern marriage's failure.

Table 2: General factors contributing to the failure of modern marriage

General Factors Contributing to the Failure of Modern Marriage		Frequency	Percentage	
Economic hardship	Failure in the provision of social and basics services to the family	15	34	41
	It leads to hooliganism and sexual trade	6		
	Failure in marriage preparation particularly payment of bride price and accommodation	3		
	Women become dependent to their men	10		
Demoralizations of marriage norms and values	Sexual deviation and hooliganism	3	18	21
	Child marriage	2		
	Abrupt marriage	2		
	Marriage as a business	3		
	Lack of respect, tolerance, trustfulness and true Love	4		
	Individualized marriage	1		
	Marriage for luxury	1		
	Lack of marriage training	2		
	Patriarchic system	Men monopolization of resources of production e.g. land, houses		
Men control of products and harvests e.g. salary		2		
Men use women as the tool of production		2		
Men becoming as decision makers while women to be as implementer		3		
Men oppression against women through beating and insult		3		
Effects of social change	Inter marriage	7	22	26
	Marriage for luxury	5		
	Uses of family planning	3		
	Abrupt marriage particular in the entertainment places like disco	4		
	Influences of social networks	3		
Effects of democratic system	Equity and equality right	4	15	18
	Individualized marriage	2		
	Freedom of living the way you wish about marriage	7		
	Abolition of traditional leaderships	2		
Drunkenness	Oppression against women particularly through insults	4	7	8
	Failure in fulfilling marriage duty and responsibility	3		

	It leads to hooliganism especially during the night	6		
Decline of religions Power	No fear of God commitment particularly on marriage chaos	3	9	11

One may state that 41% of the respondents who participated in this study indicated that the economic difficulty of society was the biggest contributing element. This is taking into account those who had a basic understanding of the broad factors causing the breakdown of modern marriage. This was presumably due to the way their nation and society operated economically. However, additional variables such as the impact of societal changes, the demoralization of marriage standards and values, the consequences of democracy and patriarchy, the fall of religion's power, and intoxication account for 26%, 21%, 18%, 16%, 11%, and 8% of respondents, respectively, to the study. Due to the fact that the vast majority of respondents had marriages end in divorce, there was a very high level of comprehension of the causes.

Economic factors leading to the failure of modern marriage in Mbinga

A question about the economic causes that contributed to the demise of modern marriage was posed to the respondents. The question was posed under the presumption that respondents may have encountered economic factors that contributed to the breakdown of their marriage. As shown in Table 2, the respondents claimed that they had encountered certain economic issues that, in some way or another, contributed to the dissolution of their marriage.

Economic Factors Contributing to the Failure of Modern Marriage

Economic Factors Contributing to the Failure of Modern Marriage		Frequency	Percentage
Busily in economic production	No/short time for marriage matter	9	25
	Marriage leads to high expenditure	10	
	Marriage is the business of others	6	
Economic hardships	Failure in providing social and basic services	16	36
	Failure in affording marriage preparation	12	
	Sexual trade and hooliganism	8	
Unofficial employment	Oppression for involvers. e.g. petty food sellers	14	14
Marketing system	Sexual trade and hooliganism	14	20
	Availability of domestic services and needs from the markets	6	
Economic classes of people	Well off snatch men/women of poor	10	27
	Well off buy sexual from poor	7	
	Poorer oppression in the marriage	6	
	Poorer inferiority complex in approaching rich one	4	

The results of Table 3 showed that the majority of respondents had marriages end in divorce due to financial difficulties. 36 (43%) of the respondents claimed that their marriage had broken down due to financial difficulties. However, 27 (or 32%) of the respondents stated that they had a failed marriage as a result of social classes in the community. This is presumably related to the oppression perpetrated by the wealthy and the poor. Additionally, it was noted that some marriages failed due to economic issues, which included being overly preoccupied with economic output, commodity reification, and unofficial work, accounting for 30%, 24%, and 17% of all marriage failures, respectively.

The social-cultural factors leading to the failure of modern marriage

The educational status, political and legal factors

The purpose of the study was to gather data on the respondents' perceptions on the social and cultural elements that contribute to modern marriage failure. About 34% of couples who reported marriage failure due to differences in educational attainment among the partners noted that their union had failed for a variety of reasons, including inferiority complexes and oppression, particularly for those with higher levels of education toward those with lower ones. The purpose of the study was to gather data on respondents' perceptions on the political elements influencing modern

marriage's demise. In Tanzania, the results of the former approach showed that 48 respondents, or equivalent to 57%, responded that political issues have no bearing on the failure of modern marriage, while 36 respondents, or 43%, agreed that there are some political factors that contribute to the failure of modern marriage. These results are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: Political factors contributing to the failure of modern marriage

Political factors contributing to the failure of modern Marriage		Frequency	Percentage
Gender policy equity	Women being involved in political leadership led to the failure in fulfilling family responsibility	3	10.7
	Women being involved in politics led to the inferiority complex to their couple	4	
	Couples conflict to competition	2	
Political election	Campaign provide loophole for sexual deviation	5	
	Busy in election led to the failure in affording marriage responsibility	8	
	Special seats representative system installed fear to the couples particularly on what criteria are used	4	
Multiparty	Different political ideology among the couples led to conflict	10	

General analysis of Table 4's findings revealed that 36 (43%) of the respondents claimed that their failed marriages were caused by political concerns. The results show that 17 respondents claimed that political elections contributed to their marriage's demise by pressuring them to have more affairs. They noted that some couples used the election campaign as a cover for engaging in extramarital affairs, and that the representatives for special seats are questionable in particular when it comes to the criteria they use.

Law factors to the failure

The question about respondents' experiences with marital failure as a result of marriage law was posed in order to learn more about the respondents' perspectives on the failure of marriage. Table 5 supports the results.

Table 5: Marriage law as contributing factors to the failure of modern marriage

Marriage law as contributing factors to the failure of modern marriage		Frequency		Percentage	
Divorce law	Easing divorce cases	23	27.4	27.4	
	No clarification for divorced one on sexual satisfaction thus, hooliganism				
Polygamies	Easing divorces cases	10	11.9	11.9	
	Sexual jealousy among the wives and resulted to conflict				

According to the data in Table 12, there is evidence that many respondents claimed their marriages had failed as a result of the couples' marriage laws. This observation reveals that approximately 23 (70%) are related to divorce laws that facilitate divorces and lack clarity for divorcees regarding sexual satisfaction, which leads to hooliganism, and approximately 10 (30%) are related to polygamies that are associated with facilitating divorces and sexual jealousy among the wives that led to conflicts.

The experiences of nature and extent of the failure of marriage

Respondents also went on to arrange the signs in accordance with their own lives, starting with a discordant marriage and moving on to discuss cohabitation, never-married individuals, never-married persons, and lastly divorces (Cohen & Strong, 2020; Huston et al., 2021). However, the information gleaned from the interview supported the idea that society's citizens have extensive understanding of the signs of marriage failure.

Furthermore, findings from one interviewed stated that;

"Marriage today is nothing because people get married at short notice like a thunderstorm, they get married after being motivated by finance in such that, businessmen influence people to get married so as to sell their goods, religions leaders motivate them so as to collect sacrifices and grievances, the couple get marrieds so as to get contributions from their fellows and friends particularly during the wedding. All this do not consider the basis of marriage and after that, conflict s start in the house, then stress and finally divorces, while the poverty has been welcomed to that house because they have spent a lot for wedding. Now, consider after divorce what next? Cohabitation, children who are born out of wedlock are a result of that. So, no need of marriage today".

The argument above marked that, people have lost the meaning, ethics and values of life and seeing marriage as no longer an issue in their life.

One interviewee argued that;

"I'm sure that, each and every member of our society knows about the indicators of the marriage failure, look on conflicting marriage, divorces, cohabitation, children born out of wed locks and never married people although they have this criterion are so many in our society. All these are not the basis of our common marriage that demanded peaceful life, over and everlasting, marriage for procreation and child caring. So, these new forms of marriage mark the failure of our marriage today".

According to the remark above, the majority of the people in the society are aware of the signs that marriage is failing in their culture. In addition, respondents said that despite recognizing the failure of marriage as a grave issue in their culture, there is no discussion about it in their community. The majority of respondents indicated that they have personally experienced marriage failure. This is likely a result of the absence of external influence and incentive from groups like the government, civil society, and non-governmental organizations.

However, one interviewed stated that;

"In our society there is no any community discussion on the failure of marriage because each and every care for his/her marriage without looking others. He added that, once you discuss the marriage of others, you become labeled as scandal monger and leads to conflict in the society particularly between the families. So, no need of discussing the marriage of other people let them sort out their problems on their own".

This implies that, the marriage nowadays is a personal issue and the society believes that couples have the responsibility to solve their problems without involving other people in the society.

Conclusion and recommendations

As a result, the study has shown that the variables for modern marriages to collapse are not as specific as originally believed. Global influences, the economy, technology, media, politics, formal education, religious convictions, and employment situations have all had an impact on the marriage. Economic, socio-cultural, and political variables were identified to be the three primary areas in which the reasons why modern marriages fail.

The study advises the residents of the Mbinga district that modern marriages frequently fail and that the influx of new types of marital failure is a fact of life in this community. The report advises policymakers to carefully monitor developments and conduct research on the severity of the outcomes that result from changed failure of modern marriage. Additionally, the study discovered that the reasons causing marriage failure are multifaceted and cross-cutting, allowing for accurate and inclusive findings that may be used by scholars, the community, and policy makers.

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