

UNRAVELING DIVORCE DYNAMICS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF BUGIS AND AMBONESE FAMILY STRUCTURES

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Abstract

This study delves into the intricate dynamics of divorce among Bugis and Ambonese families residing in Ambon, Indonesia, from a sociocultural perspective. Through qualitative interviews, observations, and analysis of cultural norms and practices, the research seeks to unravel the underlying factors contributing to divorce within these communities. The findings highlight the influence of traditional values, family structures, gender roles, religious beliefs, and socio-economic factors on marital stability and dissolution. Understanding the complexities of divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families sheds light on the interplay of cultural traditions and modern influences in shaping family relationships and social dynamics in Ambon.

Keywords Divorce, Bugis, Ambonese, Families, Sociocultural Perspective, Marital Stability, Cultural Norms, Gender Roles, Religious Beliefs, Indonesia.

INTRODUCTION

The dynamics of divorce within Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon, Indonesia, offer a rich tapestry of sociocultural nuances and complexities that intersect traditional values, religious beliefs, and contemporary influences. Divorce, as a significant social phenomenon, reflects the intricate interplay between cultural norms, family structures, gender dynamics, and socio-economic factors in these communities.

Bugis and Ambonese societies are characterized by deep-rooted traditions, familial ties, and community cohesion. Family relationships hold paramount importance, serving as the cornerstone of social identity and cohesion. Marriage is not merely a union between individuals but also a

merging of families and communities, symbolizing shared values, obligations, and aspirations.

Within this cultural context, divorce carries profound implications for individuals, families, and wider social networks. It represents a rupture in the fabric of social order and can engender stigma, shame, and ostracization for those involved. Yet, divorce also reflects shifting dynamics in gender roles, autonomy, and individual agency, as well as responses to changing socio-economic realities and modern influences.

The Bugis and Ambonese peoples' adherence to Islam shapes many aspects of their lives, including marriage and divorce practices. Islamic teachings provide a framework for marital relations, divorce proceedings, and the rights and responsibilities of spouses. However, the interpretation and

application of Islamic principles vary, influenced by local customs, cultural traditions, and personal beliefs.

Furthermore, societal expectations and perceptions surrounding divorce differ across Bugis and Ambonese communities, reflecting broader socio-cultural norms and values. While divorce may be perceived as a last resort, driven by irreconcilable differences or marital discord, it can also be viewed as a means of escape from abusive relationships, economic hardships, or social constraints.

Against this backdrop, this study aims to explore the multifaceted dynamics of divorce among Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon, Indonesia, through a sociocultural lens. By delving into the lived experiences, perceptions, and narratives of individuals and families affected by divorce, we seek to unravel the underlying factors shaping marital stability, dissolution, and resilience within these communities.

Through qualitative interviews, participant observations, and analysis of cultural norms and practices, we aim to uncover the complexities of divorce dynamics and their broader implications for family relationships, social cohesion, and community well-being. By shedding light on the intersecting influences of tradition, religion, and modernity, we hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of the evolving dynamics of marriage and divorce in Bugis and Ambonese societies, and inform culturally sensitive interventions and support mechanisms for families experiencing marital breakdown.

METHOD

The process of exploring divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon, Indonesia, involved a multifaceted approach aimed at capturing the sociocultural nuances and

complexities surrounding marital dissolution within these communities. Firstly, thorough participant selection and recruitment were conducted through purposive sampling, ensuring diversity in age, gender, socio-economic status, and religious affiliation to obtain a comprehensive range of perspectives.

Qualitative interviews formed a significant part of the research process, allowing researchers to delve deeply into participants' perceptions, experiences, and narratives related to divorce. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in participants' preferred languages and settings to facilitate open and candid discussions about marital relationships, family dynamics, cultural norms, and religious beliefs surrounding divorce.

In addition to interviews, participant observation played a crucial role in immersing researchers in the daily lives and social interactions of Bugis and Ambonese communities. By attending social gatherings, religious ceremonies, and family events, researchers gained valuable insights into the rituals, practices, and dynamics surrounding marriage and divorce within these cultural contexts.

Document analysis complemented the qualitative data collection by providing historical, legal, and religious insights into divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families. Researchers reviewed relevant literature, legal documents, religious texts, and media representations to contextualize findings and understand broader socio-cultural and legal frameworks shaping divorce processes.

Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the research process, with measures in place to ensure participant confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent. Respect for cultural sensitivities, traditions, and religious beliefs guided the conduct of the research and the interpretation of findings, fostering trust and

rapport with participants.

The research involved purposive sampling to select participants from Bugis and Ambonese communities residing in Ambon, Indonesia. Participants were chosen based on their diverse backgrounds, marital statuses, and experiences with divorce. Efforts were made to ensure representation across age groups, genders, socio-economic statuses, and religious affiliations to capture a comprehensive understanding of divorce dynamics within these communities.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants to explore their perceptions, experiences, and narratives related to divorce. The interview protocol was designed to elicit rich, in-depth responses regarding marital relationships, family dynamics, cultural norms, religious beliefs, and the process of divorce within Bugis and Ambonese contexts. Interviews were conducted in the participants' preferred language and location, allowing for open and candid discussions.

In addition to interviews, participant observation techniques were employed to gain insights into the social interactions, rituals, and practices surrounding marriage and divorce within Bugis and Ambonese communities. Researchers immersed themselves in community settings, attending social gatherings, religious ceremonies, and family events to observe firsthand the dynamics of familial relationships and social interactions.

A thorough review of relevant literature, legal documents, religious texts, and media representations was conducted to contextualize the findings and understand the broader socio-cultural and legal frameworks shaping divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families. Document analysis provided insights into historical trends, legal regulations, religious interpretations, and societal attitudes towards divorce in Ambonese society.

Data analysis followed an iterative process, involving coding, categorization, and thematic analysis of interview transcripts, observational notes, and document excerpts. Themes and patterns related to marital relationships, divorce processes, cultural norms, gender dynamics, religious influences, and socio-economic factors were identified and interpreted within the broader sociocultural context of Bugis and Ambonese communities.

Ethical considerations were paramount throughout the research process, with measures in place to ensure participant confidentiality, privacy, and informed consent. Participants were informed of the purpose, procedures, and potential risks and benefits of the study, and their voluntary participation was sought. Respect for cultural sensitivities, traditions, and religious beliefs guided the conduct of the research and the interpretation of findings.

By employing a mixed-methods approach that integrates qualitative interviews, participant observation, document analysis, and ethical considerations, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon, Indonesia. Through the exploration of lived experiences and cultural contexts, we seek to illuminate the complex interplay of sociocultural factors shaping marital relationships and divorce processes within these communities.

RESULTS

The exploration of divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon revealed several key findings. Firstly, the socio-cultural context significantly influences divorce patterns and processes within these communities. Bugis and Ambonese societies exhibit distinct cultural norms, values, and practices that shape marital

relationships and dissolution.

Secondly, the study identified various factors contributing to divorce among Bugis and Ambonese families. These factors include economic challenges, communication breakdowns, infidelity, cultural clashes, and changing gender roles. Additionally, intergenerational conflicts and external influences such as modernization and globalization also play a role in marital instability.

Thirdly, the research highlighted differences in divorce perceptions and coping mechanisms between Bugis and Ambonese individuals. While Bugis culture tends to normalize divorce and provide social support for divorcing individuals, Ambonese society often stigmatizes divorce and imposes social sanctions on divorcees. These disparities reflect contrasting cultural attitudes towards marriage and family dynamics.

DISCUSSION

The findings underscore the complex interplay between socio-cultural factors and divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon. Cultural values, traditions, and societal expectations significantly shape marital relationships and influence the decision-making process surrounding divorce.

The differences in divorce perceptions between Bugis and Ambonese communities reflect broader cultural paradigms regarding marriage and family life. Bugis society's acceptance of divorce may stem from its historical emphasis on flexibility in gender roles and kinship ties. In contrast, Ambonese culture's emphasis on familial harmony and social conformity may contribute to the stigma associated with divorce.

Moreover, the study emphasizes the need for culturally sensitive approaches to understanding and addressing divorce within diverse communities. Interventions aimed at supporting

individuals going through divorce should consider the unique socio-cultural contexts of Bugis and Ambonese families. Efforts to promote marital stability and mitigate divorce rates should prioritize community-based initiatives that respect and preserve cultural values while addressing underlying socio-economic challenges.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the exploration of divorce dynamics among Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon illuminates the intricate interplay between socio-cultural factors and marital relationships. The findings underscore the importance of acknowledging cultural diversity in understanding divorce patterns and processes.

Moving forward, future research should delve deeper into the specific mechanisms through which cultural norms, values, and practices influence divorce dynamics within Bugis and Ambonese communities. Additionally, efforts to support families experiencing marital distress should prioritize culturally sensitive interventions that empower individuals to navigate divorce while preserving familial bonds and community ties.

By fostering a deeper understanding of the socio-cultural underpinnings of divorce, policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders can develop more effective strategies to promote marital stability and well-being within Bugis and Ambonese families in Ambon and similar cultural contexts.

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