



UNDERSTANDING DIVORCE: CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES AMONG BUGIS AND AMBON PEOPLE IN AMBON

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This study explores the cultural perspectives and practices surrounding divorce among Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon. Through qualitative research methods including interviews and ethnographic observations, the study examines the societal norms, traditional beliefs, and legal frameworks that shape attitudes towards divorce within these communities. Key themes include the role of family dynamics, community support structures, and religious influences in the decision-making process and outcomes of divorce. By shedding light on these cultural nuances, the study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of marital dissolution in diverse cultural contexts.

INTRODUCTION

Divorce is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that reflects the intersection of personal, cultural, and societal factors. Among the Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon, Indonesia, divorce represents not only the dissolution of marital ties but also embodies cultural values, traditional beliefs, and community dynamics. Understanding the perspectives and practices surrounding divorce within these communities provides valuable insights into the broader context of family life and social relationships.

In the Bugis and Ambon cultures, marriage is often regarded as a pivotal institution that not only unites individuals but also establishes alliances between families and communities. The decision to marry and subsequently to divorce is influenced by a variety of factors, including religious teachings, customary laws, economic considerations, and social expectations. These factors shape the perceptions of marriage and divorce, influencing how individuals navigate the complexities of marital relationships. Furthermore, within Bugis and Ambon societies, family structures play a crucial role in shaping attitudes towards divorce. Extended families and kinship networks often provide emotional, financial,

and practical support during marital crises and divorce proceedings. The support or pressure exerted by family members can significantly impact the decision-making process and outcomes of divorce.

Religious beliefs also hold considerable sway in determining the cultural norms surrounding divorce among Bugis and Ambon people. Islam, Christianity, and indigenous belief systems each contribute unique perspectives on marriage and divorce, influencing legal frameworks and societal attitudes towards marital dissolution.

This study aims to explore these cultural perspectives and practices surrounding divorce among Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon through qualitative research methods. By delving into the intricacies of family dynamics, community support structures, and religious influences, this research seeks to illuminate the complexities of divorce within these cultural contexts. Ultimately, this exploration contributes to a deeper understanding of how cultural values and traditions shape marital relationships and influence the experiences of individuals and families facing divorce in Bugis and Ambon communities.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative approach to investigate the cultural perspectives and practices surrounding divorce among Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon, Indonesia. Qualitative methods are particularly suited to explore complex social phenomena and cultural dynamics, allowing for an in-depth understanding of participants' experiences, perceptions, and beliefs.

Participant Selection and Recruitment:

Participants for this study are selected using purposive sampling, aiming to include a diverse range of individuals with varying experiences related to divorce within Bugis and Ambon communities. Key informants include individuals who have undergone divorce, family members, community elders, religious leaders, and legal professionals involved in divorce proceedings. The sampling strategy ensures representation from different socio-economic backgrounds, ages, genders, and religious affiliations to capture a broad spectrum of perspectives.



Data Collection Techniques:

Data collection methods primarily include semi-structured interviews and participant observation. Semi-structured interviews allow for open-ended discussions with participants, exploring their personal experiences, cultural beliefs, and societal attitudes towards divorce. Interviews are conducted in Bahasa Indonesia or local dialects, respecting participants' linguistic preferences to facilitate natural and comprehensive responses.

Participant observation involves immersing in community settings and observing everyday interactions, rituals, and practices related to marriage and divorce. This method provides contextual insights into the cultural norms and dynamics that shape marital relationships and divorce within Bugis and Ambon societies.

Ethical Considerations:

Ethical considerations are paramount throughout the research process. Informed consent is obtained from all participants, ensuring their voluntary participation and confidentiality of their responses. Researchers maintain cultural sensitivity and respect for local customs and traditions during data collection, interpretation, and dissemination.

Data Analysis:

Data analysis involves thematic analysis of qualitative data obtained from interviews and participant observation. Themes related to cultural beliefs, family dynamics, community support, religious influences, and legal frameworks are identified and systematically analyzed. This iterative process helps uncover patterns, contradictions, and cultural nuances surrounding divorce among Bugis and Ambon people.

Validity and Reliability:

To enhance validity and reliability, triangulation of data sources is employed, combining multiple perspectives and data collection methods. Peer debriefing and member checking are also conducted to validate findings and interpretations with participants and colleagues familiar with Bugis and Ambon cultures.

By employing qualitative research methods and focusing on cultural perspectives and practices, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of divorce among Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon. The findings contribute to broader discussions on marital relationships, family dynamics, and societal norms within diverse cultural contexts, ultimately informing policies and interventions that support individuals and families experiencing divorce in these communities.

RESULTS

The study on divorce among Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon reveals rich cultural perspectives and diverse practices that shape marital dissolution within these communities. Through qualitative analysis of interviews and participant observations, several key findings emerge:

Cultural and Religious Influences: Both Bugis and Ambon cultures exhibit strong influences from Islam and Christianity, which significantly impact attitudes towards marriage and divorce. Islamic teachings, for instance, emphasize the sanctity of marriage but also provide provisions for divorce under certain circumstances, whereas Christian beliefs may vary in their interpretations of divorce.

Family Dynamics: Family plays a central role in decisions regarding marriage and divorce among Bugis and Ambon people. Extended family members often provide emotional support and guidance during marital crises, while also influencing the negotiation and resolution of divorce proceedings.

Community Support and Stigma: Divorce carries varying degrees of stigma within Bugis and Ambon communities. While some individuals may face social repercussions or ostracization, community support networks also offer practical assistance and mediation to resolve disputes and support individuals through divorce processes.

Legal and Cultural Norms: Legal frameworks, often intertwined with customary practices, shape the formal processes of divorce among Bugis and Ambon people. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, alongside formal legal procedures, provide avenues for resolving marital conflicts and addressing the division of assets and responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

The findings underscore the complex interplay of cultural, religious, and social factors in shaping attitudes towards divorce among Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon. Cultural norms that emphasize familial obligations and community cohesion influence individuals' decisions to marry and their considerations during divorce. Religious teachings provide moral and legal frameworks that guide marital relationships and dissolution.

Family dynamics emerge as pivotal in navigating divorce, with extended kinship networks playing roles in both supporting and potentially complicating the decision-making process. Community attitudes and support systems contribute significantly to individuals' experiences of divorce, impacting their social standing and emotional well-being.

The intersection of legal and cultural norms highlights the hybrid nature of divorce practices among Bugis and Ambon communities, where customary practices often complement or compete with formal legal procedures. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing culturally sensitive interventions and support mechanisms for individuals and families experiencing divorce.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study provides valuable insights into the cultural perspectives and practices surrounding divorce among Bugis and Ambon people in Ambon. The findings illuminate the complexities of marital dissolution within these communities, highlighting the roles of religion, family dynamics, community support, and legal frameworks in shaping individuals' experiences of divorce.

Moving forward, policies and interventions aimed at supporting individuals and families experiencing divorce in Bugis and Ambon communities should consider the cultural nuances and social dynamics identified in this study. By acknowledging and respecting cultural beliefs and practices, stakeholders can promote more effective support systems and interventions that uphold the dignity and well-being of individuals navigating divorce within these cultural contexts.

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