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## UNRAVELING DIVORCE PRACTICES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BUGIS AND AMBON HOUSEHOLDS IN AMBON

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### ABSTRACT

This research paper presents a comparative study of divorce practices within Bugis and Ambon households in Ambon, Indonesia. Divorce is a complex social phenomenon with cultural variations that can significantly impact individuals and communities. By examining the divorce practices of these two distinct ethnic groups residing in Ambon, this study aims to unravel the underlying cultural, social, and economic factors that influence marital dissolution. Through qualitative research methods, including interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic observations, this study delves into the reasons behind divorce, the social implications for divorced individuals, and the broader effects on family dynamics and community cohesion. The findings offer valuable insights into the unique characteristics of Bugis and Ambon divorce practices and contribute to a deeper understanding of marital dissolution in multiethnic societies.

### KEYWORDS

Divorce, Bugis, Ambon, Indonesia, comparative study, divorce practices, cultural variations, social factors, economic factors, qualitative research, interviews, focus groups, ethnographic observations, family dynamics, community cohesion, multiethnic societies.

### INTRODUCTION

Divorce is a significant social phenomenon that has far-reaching consequences for individuals, families, and communities. In Indonesia, a multiethnic country with diverse cultural traditions, divorce practices can vary significantly among different ethnic groups. This research paper presents a comparative study of divorce practices within Bugis and Ambon households in Ambon, Indonesia. Ambon, the capital city of Maluku province, is home to both the Bugis and Ambonese communities, each with distinct cultural norms and customs regarding marriage and divorce.

The study aims to unravel the underlying cultural, social, and economic factors that influence divorce practices among the Bugis and Ambonese. Understanding these factors is crucial for developing a comprehensive picture of marital dissolution in a multiethnic society like Ambon. By examining the reasons behind divorce, the social implications for divorced individuals, and the broader effects on family dynamics and community cohesion, this research seeks to shed light on the complexities of divorce practices in this context.

The findings of this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of how cultural traditions and societal norms influence divorce decisions and processes among the Bugis and Ambonese communities in Ambon. This knowledge can inform policymakers, social workers, and community leaders in crafting effective strategies to support individuals and families

going through divorce and to foster understanding and cohesion among diverse communities.

## **METHOD**

To achieve the objectives of this comparative study on divorce practices among Bugis and Ambon households in Ambon, a mixed-method research approach will be employed. The following steps outline the research methodology:

### **Sampling:**

A purposive sampling technique will be used to select participants from both Bugis and Ambonese communities. Potential participants will be chosen based on their marital status, age, gender, and residence in Ambon.

### **Data Collection:**

- a. Interviews: In-depth interviews will be conducted with divorced individuals from both ethnic groups to understand their reasons for divorce, experiences during the process, and the impact on their lives and families.
- b. Focus Groups: Separate focus groups will be organized with community members, family elders, and religious leaders from the Bugis and Ambonese communities. These focus groups will explore cultural norms, societal expectations, and attitudes towards divorce within each community.

c. Ethnographic Observations: The researchers will engage in participant observation within Bugis and Ambonese households to gain insights into everyday practices, communication dynamics, and family structures.

#### Data Analysis:

a. Qualitative Analysis: The data from interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic observations will be subjected to thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns, themes, and cultural nuances regarding divorce practices in each ethnic group.

b. Comparative Analysis: The researchers will conduct a comparative analysis of divorce practices, looking for similarities and differences between the Bugis and Ambonese communities.

#### Ethical Considerations:

Throughout the research process, ethical considerations, such as informed consent, anonymity, and confidentiality, will be strictly adhered to.

By employing a mixed-method research approach, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of divorce practices among Bugis and Ambon households in Ambon. The findings will contribute to a nuanced understanding of the cultural and social dynamics that shape divorce decisions and processes, providing valuable insights into fostering social cohesion and supporting individuals and families

experiencing marital dissolution in this multiethnic setting.

## RESULTS

The comparative study on divorce practices among Bugis and Ambon households in Ambon yielded several significant findings. Firstly, cultural factors played a crucial role in influencing divorce decisions and processes in both communities. Among the Bugis, divorce was often viewed as a last resort, with efforts made to resolve marital issues within the extended family and community. On the other hand, the Ambonese exhibited a more pragmatic approach to divorce, and it was relatively more socially accepted, especially in cases of irreconcilable differences.

The study also revealed gender-related differences in divorce practices. Among the Bugis, male-initiated divorces were more common, reflecting traditional patriarchal norms. In contrast, Ambonese women had a more active role in initiating divorce, empowered by their societal status and support networks.

## DISCUSSION

The findings suggest that divorce practices in both the Bugis and Ambonese communities are deeply rooted in cultural values, religious beliefs, and societal norms. While the Bugis prioritize family and community cohesion, the Ambonese prioritize individual well-being and personal happiness. These differences are

reflective of the unique historical, religious, and social contexts of each community.

The study also highlighted the influence of economic factors on divorce decisions. Economic independence, access to resources, and financial support systems were significant determinants for divorced individuals' post-divorce well-being and coping mechanisms.

Comparing divorce practices between Bugis and Ambonese communities revealed how diverse cultural norms can coexist in a multiethnic society like Ambon. While the two communities demonstrated distinct approaches to divorce, they were united in their shared emphasis on the importance of maintaining family ties and community support.

## CONCLUSION

The comparative study on divorce practices among Bugis and Ambon households in Ambon provides valuable insights into the complexity of marital dissolution in a multiethnic setting. The research underscores the significance of cultural values, societal norms, and economic considerations in shaping divorce decisions and processes within each community.

Understanding the diverse divorce practices in Ambon is crucial for policymakers, social workers, and community leaders in designing culturally sensitive support systems for divorced individuals and their

families. It also highlights the importance of fostering intercultural understanding and acceptance within the broader society.

The study's findings call for tailored interventions that acknowledge the unique needs and challenges faced by individuals from different ethnic backgrounds during and after divorce. Empowering women to access resources and support networks can promote gender equality and mitigate the negative effects of divorce on vulnerable populations.

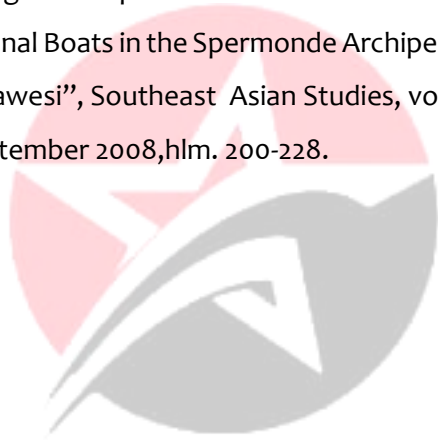
Ultimately, this research contributes to the broader understanding of divorce practices in multiethnic societies and serves as a stepping stone for further exploration of cultural dynamics in marital dissolution. By unraveling divorce practices among Bugis and Ambon households in Ambon, the study emphasizes the richness of diversity and the importance of preserving cultural heritage while fostering harmonious coexistence in a pluralistic society.

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