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**THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON THE DETERMINANTS OF  
DIVORCE : A CASE STUDY IN UITM KOTA SAMARAHAN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The divorcing is a common things that happened nowadays. The divorcing cases keep on increasing in every year. It gives a major concern toward the family institutions as it can give negative impacts to the divorcee and the society. The divorcing cases in Malaysia happened due to few reasons or determinants. Thus, this study is to identify the determinants of divorce among the public. We have used a convenient sampling technique and 254 questionnaires has been distributed among the staff at Uitm Kota Samarahan, Sarawak. The objectives of this study is to study divorce from traditional Malaysia perspectives, to identify the determinants of why people are divorcing and to determine the determinants of divorce from the gender perspectives.

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## CHAPTER 1

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This study will be focusing in the determinants of divorcing. Every married couple dreamed a happy life that will remain until the end of their life. However, there are many of the married couples use divorcing as a short cut to ends their conflicts in life. Divorce can lead to a social problems and it have a great impact on the family institution.

An increasing incidence of divorce all over the world has drawn greater attention to the demographers. The term divorce refers to 'perceraian', which means dissolution of marriage from a legal perspective under the civil or religious court (English-Malay Dictionary of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka). It gives the right to a spouse to remarry after the divorce case has been settled (United Nation, 2011).

Divorce and couples' destructive conflicts are considered as major perilous factors causing mental disorders and psychological traumas in the family, while endangering the mental health of society (Ata. S, Ali-Mohammad Nazari, Masoomi. M, Painaz Ebrahimi, & Saba Danai, 2013). There are many studies show that divorce rate is increasing around the world, while separations are caused by different reasons (Bower, 2011).

## 2.2 Divorce from Traditional Malaysian Perspective

Divorce do happens and it can happen to anyone without discrimination through ethnics, contexts and cultures. People tend to see a divorcing case as a negative things happened to them. Generally, the perception about divorce in most societies tends to be one-sided because it has been associated with negative impacts to the divorcee. A pool of resources from Malaysian literature such as newspapers, local journal articles, and Malay studies provide information on the definition of divorce, the main causes for divorce, popular reasons to file for divorce, and the consequences of divorce (Chan and Mustaffa, 2008; New Straits Times, 2011).

Malaysian people see divorcing as a social taboo and most of them blame the wives for divorcing. This perspectives leads to the stereotypes and prejudices issue in our society. According to Kassim 2011, they were generally perceived as those who did not know how to take care of their spouses (Kassim, 2007). The wives always be the one that get blame for not taking care of their husband and they become the main reason why the divorce happen. This situation is quiet unfair for the wives because the reason of divorcing is not only comes from wives but husband also contributes the reason why they getting divorce.

Besides, the issues of bias in society will occurs when divorce happen in their surrounding. When a person get divorced, people viewed it as a failure and unaccepted in society. Society see a divorcee as a bad person because they think that divorce is a sign of