

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

The family consisting of father, mother and children is the smallest group of parts in the society. Every family member, especially children certainly want to have a peaceful family that can make them feel to be loved, comfort and secure. Unfortunately, not all the children could imagine what it would be like to have a harmonious family. Family conditions that are not harmonious, there is always a commotion in a household, husband and wife who interact roughly will affect the children which will create a feeling of discomfort to mentally burdened with problems that arise in their family which can lead to rebellion in their soul. These children prefer to spend their time outside the house because they are reluctant to go home just to see the fights that occur in their families (Muklhis, 2015). Because the behavior of children is fabulously dominated by the influence of the atmosphere of a house where they live, the atmosphere of the environment around the house to the atmosphere of interaction between the family members (Djamaluddin, 2004). The behaviors shown by broken home children with different problem backgrounds tend to have similarities in the form of mental depression (Muklhis, 2015). The involvement of problems that often lead to disputes and quarrels as well as differences of opinion that occur between parents has become something that is considered normal happening in a family. Regrettably, if these fights and disputes occur continuously in a family, the affection of love between the family member could be disappear and cause hatred, prejudice, and loss of trust between one another (Matondang, 2014).

One of the problems that arise and considered fatal in the family system is parental infidelity that could lead into divorce (Loudová et al., 2013). Divorce of parents or the parents who have remarried will make children grow faster than their age, because these children are forced by the circumstances to be able to stand between two worlds in understanding the series of events that have changed their lives. So often these children have a much more mature mind and independent than

children who grow up in a harmonious family environment and often they must take responsibility for themselves and their siblings (Wallerstein, 2005). Although each children shown and vents their emotions in different ways, both in positive and negative ways. Parental infidelity has various consequences for the children based on gender, age and even their culture (Lusterman, 2005). Even so, the impact caused by parental infidelity also has a different impact on children and teenagers. As (Duncombe et al., 2004) mentions its impact on children, their cognitive and emotional state can inhibit or perpetuate one-sided loyalty to their parents and feelings of guilt, betrayal, and abandonment when they face in parental infidelity. That it allows the children to become a person who tends to be quiet, gloomy, or even angry. While teenagers are less blaming themselves, even though they still have difficulty dealing with the causes and consequences of parental infidelity, still their confusion can turn into fear that can shape the mindset of teenagers thus creating a sense of trauma and fear to get involved in matters related to committed relationships.

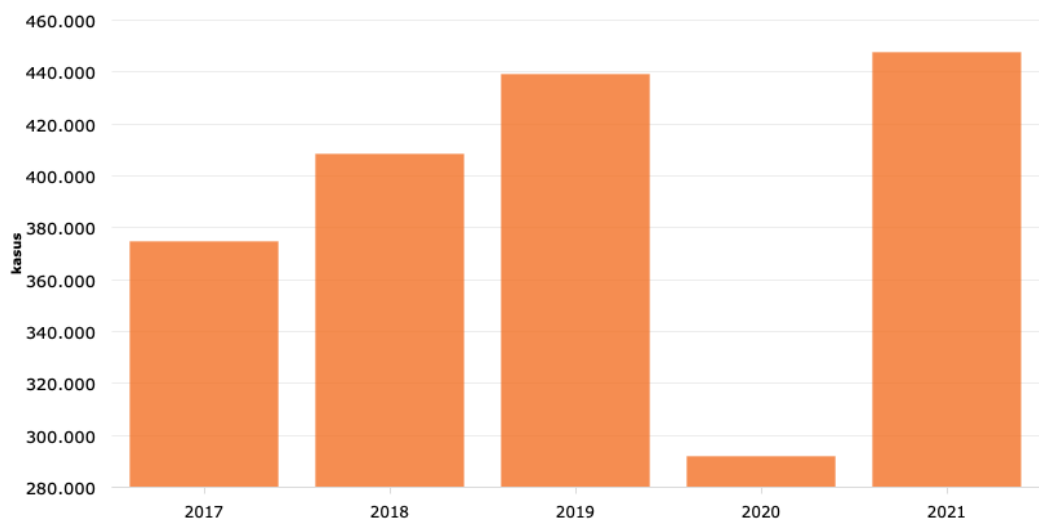
Based on the previous study conducted by (Greene, 2006) stated that young people's awareness of their parent's infidelity did not have any effect on the level of commitment, trust, or dysfunctional beliefs in a romantic relationship. This statement apparently contradicts to the one of informants in this study, which VPM admitted that her father's infidelity made her not at all interested in being involved in a committed relationship and even said that she did not want to get married. VPM admits she's better off on her own, no boys mean no cases. According to her, the best option is to avoid the root of all the problems that exist in a committed relationship, which is not getting involved in a committed relationship or getting married.

The statement stated by VPM also reinforced by previous study conducted by (Koski, 2001) Parental infidelity provides a relationship to the perception of adult children who are becoming the victims of parental infidelity about love, marriage, and intimate relationships. Where the subjects consider a trust in a relationship as very important and if it has been damaged it will be difficult for them to be able to trust again. The subjects also considered marriage as unnecessary although some others still thought marriage was important. Love is still something that the

subjects want, even though they are aware of the potential of love to cause hurt and create conflict in it. This study shows that adult children who experience parental infidelity has quite an influence on the formation of these adult children's perception of love, marriage, and intimate relationships. Seeing this, researcher is eager to find out what are the reasons behind the formation of teenagers' perception in seeing a committed relationship after they are exposed to their parents' infidelity. On the other hand, the researcher also wanted to know whether the teenagers who had been exposed to this parental infidelity had the potential to repeat what their parents had done before. Then, the researcher will also discuss clearly what the reactions are shown by these teenagers and find out the factors that influence the perception patterns of these teenagers after being involved in the infidelity of their parents in assessing a committed relationship.

Reporting the data from the website [Databoks.katadata.co.id](https://databoks.katadata.co.id), *Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia (BPS)* stated that between 2017 to 2021, divorce cases in Indonesia massively increased. The statistics indicates that there were 447,743 divorce cases in 2021 which led to a 53.50% increase in divorce cases compared to 2020, which had only 291,677 divorce cases.

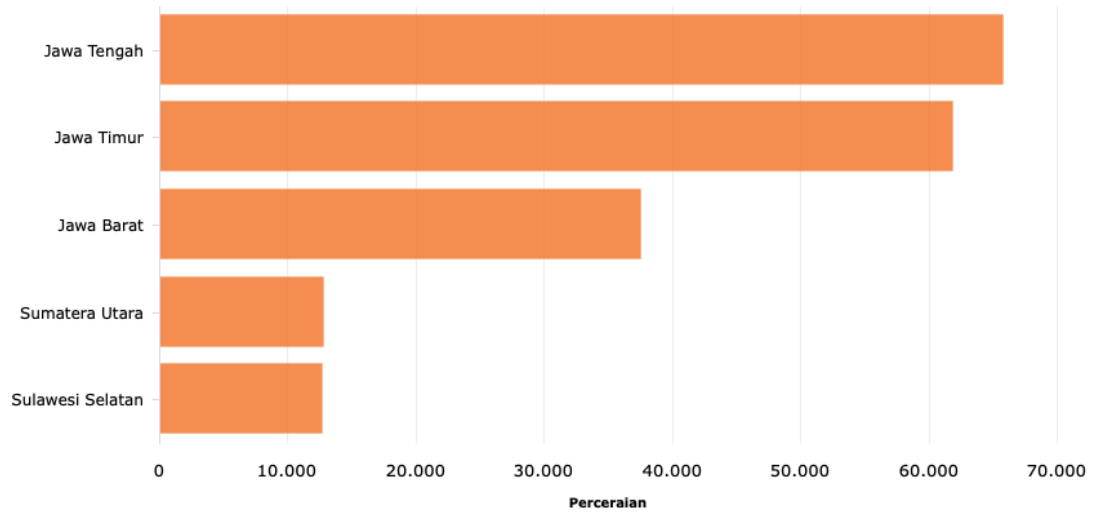
*Figure 1 Number of Divorce Cases in Indonesia (2017-2021)*



Source: <https://databoks.katadata.co.id/datapublish/2022/02/28/kasus-perceraian-meningkat-53-mayoritas-karena-pertenggaran>

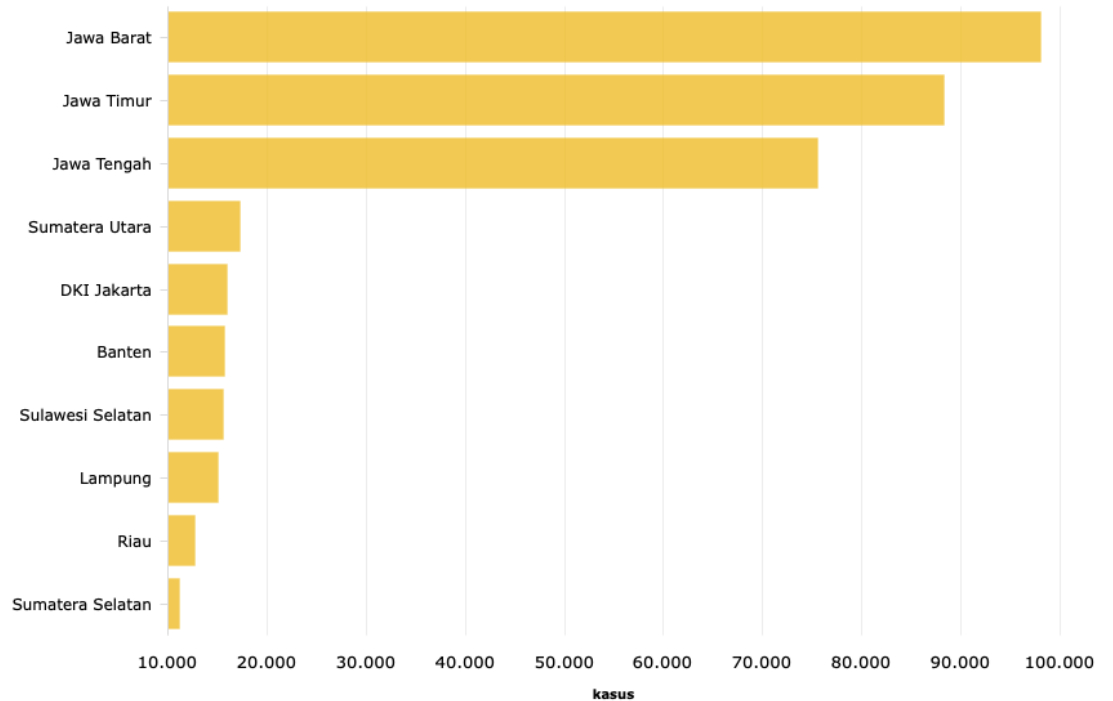
In Indonesia, one of the provinces with the highest rates of divorces cases is North Sumatra. *Badan Pusat Statistik Indonesia (BPS)* ranked it as the fourth province with the highest number of divorces cases in Indonesia after a growth of divorce cases in 2021 to 17.270 cases from only 12.809 cases in 2020.

*Figure 2 Province with the highest Divorce rate in Indonesia (2020)*



Source: <https://databoks.katadata.co.id/datapublish/2021/05/16/angka-perceraian-di-jawa-tengah-tertinggi-nasional-pada-2020>

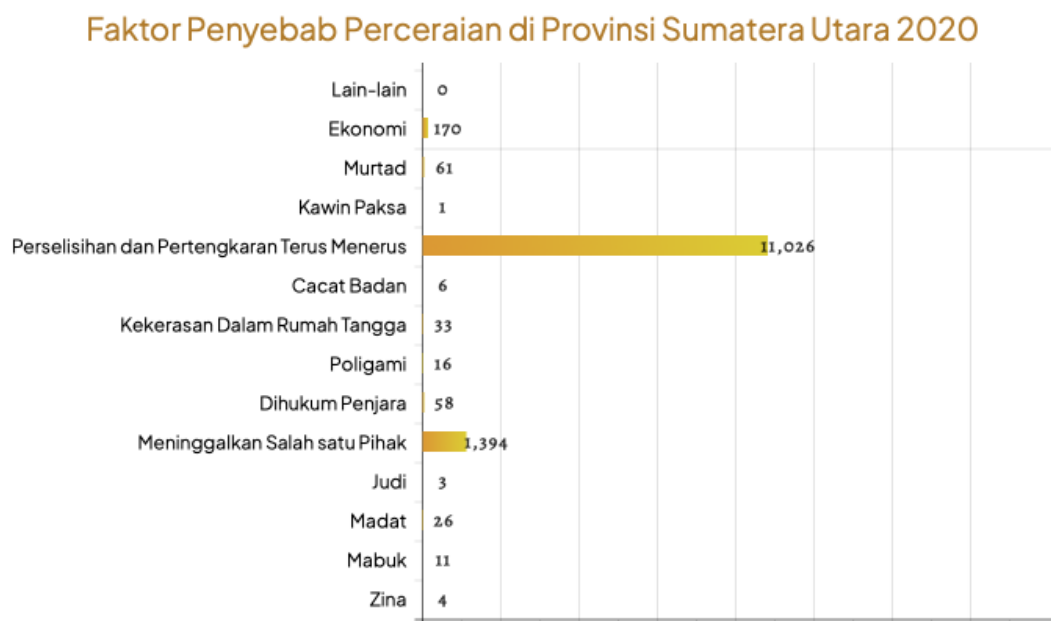
*Figure 3 Province with the highest Divorce rate in Indonesia (2021)*



Source : <https://databoks.katadata.co.id/datapublish/2022/02/28/angka-perceraian-naik-paling-banyak-terjadi-di-jawa-barat>

There are several underlying causes behind Indonesia's high divorce rate, that puts North Sumatra at the fourth position. *Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) Provinsi Sumatera Utara* stated conflicts and disagreements are continuously the leading cause of divorces cases in North Sumatra in 2020.

Figure 4 Factors causing Divorce in North Sumatra (2020)



Source : <https://sumut.bps.go.id/statictable/2021/04/21/2288/jumlah-perceraian-menurut-kabupaten-kota-dan-faktor-di-provinsi-sumatera-utara-2020.html>

According to a report from sumupdate.com, Husna Ulfa SH, a Junior Registrar of law at *Pengadilan Agama (PA) Klas I Medan* said that young couples who were not emotionally or financially prepared for marriage accounted for most of the divorce cases she handled. While to the couples who have been married for a long time, the occurrence of divorce is caused by shifts in partner attitudes over time, such as a wife who becomes more demanding to her husband and a husband who grows tired of his wife's attitude, that ultimately becomes the original reason of the trigger for the occurrence of an infidelity. (<https://sumupdate.com/2020/01/19/wow-kasus-perceraian-tembus-3-457-di-medan-sosmed-penyebab-awal-selingkuh/>).

Given the large number of divorce cases in North Sumatra, as shown by the statistics above. North Sumatra was eventually chosen as a research location since it piqued the curiosity of the researcher. Furthermore, it was easier for researcher to approach informants in North Sumatra since most of the informants were having a close relationship with the researcher and were somehow intimately involved in the research phenomenon that made it easier for the research to proceed. Moreover, there are not many studies that have looked directly at how teenagers in North Sumatra perceive a committed relationship in face of their parents' infidelity. This piques the researcher's interest and inspires a desire to contribute to the study in the belief that this research may yield conclusions and solutions. Especially to the future researchers who will look more into issues that are directly related to the Teenagers Perception of committed relationship on their parents' infidelity. The research is being conducted as a way for researcher to assist in the creation of understandings that will be useful and have their own role for education, knowledge, or as a reference. Based on the explanation above, the researcher has a reason for conducting this research and raised the title "Teenagers Perception about Committed Relationship on their Parents Infidelity in North Sumatera".

## **1.2 Research Question**

1. What is the perception of Teenagers about Committed Relationship on their Parents Infidelity in North Sumatera?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

Based on the problems that have been formulated above, the objective of this research is:

1. Knowing the Teenagers Perception about Committed Relationship on their Parents Infidelity in North Sumatera.

## **1.4 Significance and Contribution**

### **1.4.1 Theoretically**

Researcher hopes that this research can be useful as education, knowledge, and reference for further research, especially in the field of communication science

about Teenagers Perceptions about Committed Relationship on their Parents Infidelity in North Sumatera.

#### 1.4.2 Practically

- a. For the author, hopefully this research can be useful as additional knowledge about Teenagers Perception about Committed Relationship on their Parents Infidelity in North Sumatera.
- b. For readers, hopefully it can be useful as additional information about Teenagers Perception about Committed Relationship on their Parents Infidelity in North Sumatera.

#### 1.5 Research Time and Period

The followings are the times and periods that the researcher used for this research:

*Table 1 Research Time Schedules*

| NO | TYPE OF ACTIVITIES                | Years 2022/2023 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
|    |                                   | 5               | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 |
| 1. | Background preparation            |                 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |
| 2. | Formulation of research questions |                 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |
| 3. | Determine research objectives     |                 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |
| 4. | Collecting Theories and Concepts  |                 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |
| 5. | Reviewing related journals        |                 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |
| 6. | Determine the type of research    |                 |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |

|     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 7.  | Data collecting<br>formulation         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.  | Research Method<br>Analysis            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.  | Desk Evaluation                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. | Interviewing the<br>informants         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. | Analyze<br>informant's data            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. | Discuss the<br>research findings       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13. | Making<br>conclusion and<br>suggestion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14. | Submit the<br>Research                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15. | Thesis Defence                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |