
DIVORCE AND ITS IMPACTS ON WOMEN: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**Smt.Mallavva G.Jalaraddi**

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Abstract

If marriages are made in heaven then divorces are made on earth. The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret .A divorce often comes as a crisis, even if desired by both spouses. Divorce is considered to be the situation where a husband and wife terminating or dissolving their marital bond legally. Divorce destructs the family institution severely in numerous ways. This research is aimed to find out the reasons behind the divorce which were proposed by different researchers in the field of sociology. Divorced women's precarious economic well-being is a key factor underlying concerns about high levels of divorce in the contemporary United States. Women experiencing separation or divorce typically undergo marked declines in family. This is a review article based on secondary data. Today, the act of divorce functions as a serious crisis amongst many countries of the world. However, with regard to the divorce trends in Karnataka, it is evident that there's a substantial improvement in the present. . Industrialization, the advancement in gender equality, easiness in the laws of getting divorce, foreign employment, dowry, drug addiction, sexual related conditions, violence, disloyalty and betrayal are the underlying reasons which induce the divorce in the society

Keywords: Divorce, Dowry, Legally, Society, Impact, .crisis.

Introduction

Divorce can be one of the saddest times in one's life as it brings end to one's dreams and hopes for a happy & prosperous marital relation. In India the rate is very low, only **1.1 percent**. But the divorce cases are in an increasing trend among professionals at Bangalore. Bangalore is becoming the divorce capital of India with about 300 in every 1,000 married couples seeking separation from their partners. Family is the most important primary group in society. Family and marriage are considered to be the two pillars of any society and as such they are the two most important societal institutions. In India, traditionally and from time immemorial, marriage has been hallowed as sacred; and marriage for most Indians is not merely a sacrament but is sacrosanct. Once the couple enters into the bond of marriage, the Relationship is considered perpetual—till death does them apart. In other words, marriage used to be for life and it worked as a bulwark against social vulnerabilities. It had an inbuilt system of checks and balances, and roles and priorities were defined by the society for the couple. What distinguished marriage in India from marriage in the West were the sanctity attached to marriage; a sense of perpetual bonding and an element of divinity in it. Around 20 years back India had a negligible divorce rate of around 5%. But based on the increasing number of divorce being filed today, the divorce rate in India is expected to rise up at a faster rate by the ensuing year.

With the popularity of a more westernized culture, there seems to be a slow shift in our society's way of thinking; 'Marriage' is more of a "bad" word than 'divorce', at Least among the younger generation - the opposite of which was true just a couple decades ago. Internet sites that cater exclusively to divorcees are more famous than ever. While 50% of marriages in US end in divorce, 1 out of 100 couples in India seek divorce. Although the rate of divorce in India is not as high as in Western countries, the number of divorce cases is definitely increasing due to various social and economical changes. In modern Indian society the role of female is not limited to the caretaker of household. The new gen women have attained economic equality to that of men. The concept of "compromise in marriage" is gradually fading as women feel economically independent and liberated. Modern Indian men and women no more believe in marital compromise the way our past generations used to do.

CONCEPT OF DIVORCE

The word Divorce in English derived from the Latin word divertive which again is derived from Dis" which means apart and vertere which means to turn Divorce is the dissolution of the tie of marriage. So divorce is the turning away of partners from each other. It truly is a complete turn from the way of life the couple had so far. Divorce in the proper and strict sense of the term means complete rupture of the marital bond; the persons divorced returning to their original state of being free to marry.

The definition of the Encyclopedia Britannica about divorce is as follows. "The legal act by which a valid marriage is properly dissolved is the divorce." (Encyclopedia Britannica:1989) The Oxford dictionary identifies divorce as "the legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body." (Oxford Dictionary:2001) There are some concepts which are closely related to the idea of divorce, such as Separation, Desertion and Annulment.

"The divorce lets the husband and wife to permanently dissolve the marital union and frees both parties to remarry." (Pothem; 1996, p.5).

Impact of Divorce on Women

- **Social Impact of Divorce on Women**
- **Economic Impact of Divorce on Women**
- **Psychological Impact of Divorce on Women**

Social Impact of Divorce on Women

Divorce also tends to have social effects Divorce impacts more than the individuals who choose to end their marriage. It has taken a toll on society. Research shows that the divorce rate is falling, in part because millennial wait longer to get married than previous generations. Nonetheless, the divorce rate still hovers around 50 percent of all married couples. And each divorce has a far-reaching impact on families' financial livelihoods, children, and the workplace. When a couple divorces, they will likely see their social circle change. They go from a couple to half a couple. They likely spent their marriage befriending other couples. The couple may have spent time doing activities with others, as a couple.

Economic Impact of Divorce on Women

- **Impact on Finances**

Divorce during and aftertakes a toll on a family's income. When couples get divorced, it's important that the custodial parent understand that child support eventually ends. Also, courts don't always award alimony. And recent tax laws ending deductibility for alimony payments may result in a downward trend in alimony awards.

Divorced women and their children are more likely than divorced men to receive public assistance while living in poverty. Further, even if women don't drop into extreme debt, their standard of living decreases more so than divorced men. Although both spouses are worse off financially after divorce, research shows that women's finances are negatively impacted at a higher rate.

- **Impact on Children**

Ending a marriage can be difficult on children. Many children blame themselves for their parents' divorce, creating guilt and sadness. Divorce often impacts children's education, resulting in slowed academic progress or limited financial support for learning opportunities. Additionally, children from single-parent households often experience developmental issues, impacting their behavioral and emotional well-being.

Because of substantial changes to the family dynamics and depleted finances, children from divorce exhibit riskier behavior than children from households with both biological parents. For example, children are more prone to experiment with drugs and alcohol. Behavioral issues can lead children to criminal acts or unplanned teenage pregnancies. Finally, without a good model of a lasting marriage during childhood, children can experience relationship issues as adults.

- **Impact on Employment**

Divorce impacts the workplace as well. Employees going through a divorce can experience higher levels of absenteeism, presenteeism, stress, anxiety, and health issues. These factors might lead to them exhibiting poorer performance and lower productivity when they are at the office.

A distracted, depressed, or unengaged employee negatively impacts an employer's cash flow. A recent study by the Global Corporate Challenge found that presenteeism—being present at work but not performing—costs U.S. businesses ten more times than absenteeism. Worrying about child support or who gets the house can easily distract an employee.

The effects of divorce on employees can extend for years. Many employees experiencing emotional distress increase errors or exhibit poor lack of judgment. Additionally, the emotional upheaval of a divorce can create anxiety, causing additional health problems. These health issues might result in additional time away from work, ultimately affecting an employer's bottom line.

Understanding the divorce process can help alleviate stress and anxiety, on both the divorcing couple and the children. If a marriage can't be saved, a couple can work together to end the marriage amicably, allowing for a more straightforward, less stressful, and less costly divorce. With all of the negative effects caused by divorce, it's helpful to understand what's to come so damages can be minimized.

Psychological Impact of Divorce on Women

Stress: Stress can be defined as a bodily reaction that can occur in response to either internal, cognitive stimuli or external environmental stimuli. A stimulus that causes stress is known as a stressor. The stress, which is experienced, consists of bodily responses, increased heart rate and blood pressure, dry mouth, rapid breathing and so forth. The stressors producing these responses are our own internal reactions or comments of our friends and neighbours. Significant events, such as marriage, death of a family member and divorce disrupt normal life and cause more stress. These stressful life events may have negative effect on health. In a scale developed for ranking the stressful life events, divorce acquires the second rank; it has been rated as a chronic stressor.

As stated earlier, stressful events lead the body to undergo several minor or major physiological changes. These changes are very important to understand because they can

lower the body's resistance to disease. The fact that many diseases are either caused by or made far worse by stress, has been accepted by the medical practitioners as well.

Low Self-esteem and a Feeling of Failure: The divorce sometimes leaves a negative effect of reduced self-esteem on the partners. It can affect one's performance in day-to-day activities.

Rise in Aggressiveness or Anger: Many a times, the negative emotions may lead to mental imbalance of the people, which can result in raised anger or aggression in the temperament.

Depression: Divorce has been rated as the second main cause of stress for the partners and their children. The process tires a person mentally as well as physically, sometimes resulting in depression and sense of regret.

Rise in Delinquency: It has been found through various studies that the major percentage of the delinquents and rise in crime among the young people result from children coming from broken homes or a single parent family.

Marriage is strongly institutionalized, not just in India but everywhere in the world and is a preferred context for intimate relations. It is the cornerstone of family life. Marriage offers stability, providing an atmosphere of love, encouragement, acceptance and trust.

Conclusion

Divorce is multidimensional and it involves multifactor social events. It can be found in each and every society, which may be either in customary, or in legal form. Basically it occurs easily within more open and industrial society. It is emerging a form of new sociological events due to the pattern of socio-cultural changes by the process of modernization and simultaneously urbanization. In our context it should be sociologically investigated. This study has been an attempt to identify the causes of divorce and its impacts of women which provides sociological insight to further researcher. Various parties are affected by the divorce. Primarily it has an effect on the children and the spouse and secondarily on the society. There are various influences enforced on the spouse and children by a divorce

- Women and children facing issues from single parenthood
- Physical and mental hurt of children due to the second marriage of the parent.
- Being socially stigmatized
- Economical hardships

The divorce is beginning to be a concerning social issue in the India cultural environment. Even though divorce has resulted in physical and mental suffering for women in the society

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