



Major causes of divorce among Muslim women in Kashmir

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Abstract

The present study was an attempt to explore major causes of divorce among Muslim Women in Kashmir. The sample was selected through multi stage sampling technique. For the sample 600 divorcee women were selected from urban and rural areas of Kashmir. The sample was collected with the help of self-constructed questionnaire. The study shows that rejection by husband was the main reason for taking divorce among most of the women. The findings revealed that there has been also contribution of in-laws in divorce. Majority of divorcee women found nobody provide them moral support.

Keywords: divorce, causes, Muslim, women, Kashmir

Introduction

Divorce usually takes place due to the disparity in gender roles, when the rewards for maintaining a relationship are lower and the costs higher than those available in another relationship or by living alone then it results in divorce (Naz *et al.*, 2012) ^[10]. Some demographers consider divorce to be a result of growing individualization and secularization in society. These two processes put pressure on the traditional values of marriage and raising children, leading to an increased divorce rate (Dronkers *et al.*, 2006) ^[3]. A long absence of the husband without any information, long imprisonment, refusal to provide maintenance for his wife, impotence etc., are some of the grounds on which a wife can ask for divorce, however cannot divorce herself straight away (Hossain, 2003) ^[5]. Several theoretical frameworks suggest possible structural determinants of the divorce rate for national populations. This issue may be addressed through four main perspectives in which societal-level divorce rates are related to (a) Socioeconomic development (b) Women's status and female labour force participation, (c) sex ratios and (d) religion. (Trent and South, 1989) ^[16]. Childlessness or involuntary barrenness topped the factors as being responsible for marital instability (Adegoke, 2010) ^[11]. There are varied and complicated causes and reasons for divorce, each one of them specific to a particular couple's marital relationship, experience at individual level and personal problems. The following are certain common causes; Infidelity: this refers to abuse in all possible ways (physical, sexual, emotional), alcohol addiction, substance abuse, differences in personal and career goals, unemployment, financial problems, lack of communication between spouses, intellectual incompatibility, sexual incompatibility, falling out of love, religious conversion or religious beliefs, cultural and lifestyle differences, criminal behaviour and incarceration for crime, lack of commitment to the marriage, inability to manage or resolve conflict, interference from parents or in-laws, lack of maturity, lack of trust and or feeling of insecurity (Premsingh and Philip, 2014) ^[11].

Review of Literature

Mahmood *et al.* (2016) ^[6] analysed the social and economic determinants of divorce in Pakistan. Studies showed that majority of divorced women were less educated. Arranged marriages were not successful and the reason behind this was that usually parents of child decide their marriage in their early years and after marriage their preference changed. Education of husband was also found important factor of divorce in Pakistan as majority of husbands were found primary educated who had broken up their marital relation and were involved in drug abuse. Another leading factor known as Bata system which means exchange marriage which was strongly practiced in Pakistan usually in rural areas thus majority of women found divorced due to this bata system. Mostafaei (2016) ^[8] investigated the factors influencing divorce. The results showed that most of divorces take place in the first five years after marriage (38.4%), couples Education below Diploma (60%), and divorce is more in family's workers (41.6%). Chi-square test results showed that communication problem (60%), low acquaintance before marriage (59.2%), aggression and violence, 54.4%), family intervention (38.4%), drug addiction (18.4%), and moral perversion, infidelity, and sexual problems (12%) are involved in a divorce. Communication problems and low acquaintance before marriage is significant at level of 0.05 and factors sexual perversion and betrayal, sexual dysfunction, interfering in life, and drug addiction is significant at level of 0.01, and means that the factors mentioned were effective in the forecast of divorce.

Qureshi *et al.* (2014) ^[12] presented the marital difficulties were prominent even in the life histories of older women, although divorce was uncommon and members of the extended family stepped into reconcile couples. The results showed that factors in marital conflict, found were domestic violence, lack of personal compatibility, infidelity. It was also found that love marriages are more risky than arranged marriages, lack of romantic love and personal fulfilment seems to be increasing important in processes of marital instability.

Zainab *et al.* (2014) [19] conducted a study on marital breakdown in Muslim community. The results found that people living in poor areas and those having low level of urbanization have higher percentage of divorce. In this study the most cited reasons for divorce found were polygamy, jealousy, sexual problems, forced marriages, lack of religious education, dishonesty, violence, and physically handicapped.

Meler (2013) [7] examined the reasons for Israeli Palestinian women seeking divorce. The principle cause cited by most of the women was violence. An additional factor found was husband's infidelity. Lack of independence was also found as a factor that complicated their lives and strengthened the desire for divorce. Some women initiated their due to lack of agreement with their husbands regarding the desirable marriage pattern.

Akter and Begum (2012) [2] explored the factors responsible for divorce among women who had undergone divorce process. Results indicated that extramarital affairs, substance abuse, physical abuse, dowry related problems, abandonment, interference from in-laws, polygamy, personality problems, criminal activity and unemployment of husbands were the primary factors responsible for divorce among women in Bangladesh.

Nassehy (1991) [9] categorized the causes of divorce in Iranian women as economic (i.e., incapability of husband to support the family, voluntary or involuntary absence of the husband due to drug addiction, imprisonment and abandonment), sexual incoherence (polygamy, extra marital relations, lack of physical attraction) and family conflicts, age differences and personality conflicts.

Objectives

The present study is based on the following objectives:

1. To study Divorce among Muslim Women in Kashmir.
2. To explore major causes of Divorce among Muslim Women in Kashmir.

Material and Methods

The present study was an attempt to observe causes of divorce among Muslim women in Kashmir irrespective of their dwelling, work status and motherhood. The information was gathered from divorcee women from urban and rural areas of Kashmir region. The study was investigated through multi stage sampling technique. This type of sampling was taken because the size of population (i.e. Kashmir) was very large and was scattered as per socio-economic characteristics of divorcee women. The sample selected by this method was more representative of population. It permitted the fieldwork to be concentrated and yet large area covered. Sample was selected from Kashmir region-600 divorcee women were selected for the purpose, 300 divorcee women from urban areas and 300 divorcee women from rural areas. The tool used for the study include a detailed questionnaire. The data obtained was carefully scrutinized, categorized and coded in order to fulfill the objectives. The data was analysed applying appropriate statistical measures.

Results and Discussion

The continuous post married stress and conflict repeatedly leads to separation between husband and wife, which continue

for years and decades. The reasons found for separation given by women in Kashmir where undesirable behaviour by in-laws, misunderstanding between husband and wife, husband's suspicion about his wife's extra marital relations, physical assault of wife. Disagreement over roles and power relationships is the other most cited reason for divorce.

Major Causes of Divorce among Muslim Women

Table 1 shows reason for divorce in rural and urban area. It is found that 41 per cent ($f = 123$) rural divorcee women's reason for taking divorce was rejection. While as, 35.7 per cent ($f = 190$) urban divorcee women's reason for taking divorce was self-respect. Such opinion shows significant differences among rural and urban divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 8.303, p < 0.05$. Negatively significant correlation is found between dwelling and this notion $r (600) = -0.108, p < 0.05$. Furthermore, it is observed that 40 per cent ($f = 120$) rural divorcee women and 38.4 per cent ($f = 115$) urban divorcee women found sometimes in-laws contributed in their divorce. However, such concept shows insignificant differences among rural and urban divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 4.708, p > 0.05$. Attitude related to in-law's contribution in divorce shows positively insignificant correlation with dwelling of divorcee women $r (600) = 0.053, p > 0.05$. Were (2012) conducted a study on divorce and child socialization. The findings revealed that majority of respondents reported that outside interference in marriage mostly from in-laws and marriage at tender age were most cited causes of divorce among them.

Reason for taking divorce as per work status

Table 2 shows reason for divorce as per work status. It is found that 37.3 per cent ($f = 112$) divorcee women who earn cash for their work, reason for taking divorce was self-respect. While as, 38.3 per cent ($f = 115$) divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work, reason for taking divorce was domestic violence. Such opinion shows highly significant differences among working and nonworking divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 16.533, p < 0.01$. Positively significant correlation is found between occupation and this perception $r (600) = 0.094, p < 0.05$. Furthermore, it is proved that 38 percent ($f = 114$) divorcee women who earn cash for their work found always in-law's contributed in their divorce. Whereas, 43.4 per cent ($f = 130$) divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work found sometimes in-law's contributed in their divorce. However, such notion shows insignificant differences among working and non-working divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 4.542, p > 0.05$. Attitude related to in-law's contribution in divorce seems negatively significant correlation with occupation of divorcee women $r (600) = -0.084, p < 0.05$. Tembe (2010) conducted a study on causes of divorce. The findings found that most of the respondents had no problem with their in-laws, which indicated that the in-laws contributed less to the rate of divorce. Moreover, it is found that the most cited reasons for divorce reported by respondents were unfaithfulness both through premarital sex and extra-marital sex. Lack of understanding, abuse of women by men, abuse of rights of women. Moreover, it is revealed that majority of respondents reported that marrying outside their culture and tribes are unlikely to divorce.

Reason for taking divorce as per motherhood

Table 3 shows reason for divorce as per motherhood. It is found that 35.4 per cent (f = 106) childless divorcee women and 39.4 per cent (f = 118) divorcee women having children, reason for taking divorce was rejection. Such attitude shows insignificant differences among divorcee women with or without live children $\chi^2 (2,600) = 1.385, p > 0.05$. Positively insignificant correlation is found between motherhood and this view $r (600) = 0.026, p > 0.05$. Furthermore, it is found that 38 percent (f = 114) childless divorcee women and 40.3 per cent (f = 121) divorcee women having children found sometimes in-law’s contributed in their divorce. However, such attitude shows insignificant differences among divorcee women with or without live children $\chi^2 (2,600) = 0.434, p > 0.05$. Perception related to in-law’s contribution in divorce shows negatively insignificant correlation with motherhood of divorcee women $r (600) = -0.016, p > 0.05$. Gravningen *et al.* (2017) ^[4] undertook a study on reasons for breakdown of marriage and cohabitation. It is found that the most common reasons cited by divorcee women experienced in recent breakdown of marriage were lack of respect, grew apart, arguments, and unfaithfulness. Few respondents reported that the reason for their divorce was domestic violence. Furthermore it is revealed that difficulties in sex, not having children, drinking, drug abuse, gambling were the other reasons cited by divorcee women.

Reason of commitment and equality as per dwelling

Table 4 seems reason of commitment and equality in rural and urban area. It is found that 44.7 per cent (f = 134) rural divorcee women found always divorce happens due to lack of commitment. While as, 37 per cent (f = 111) urban divorcee women found sometimes divorce happens due to lack of commitment. Such opinion shows significant differences among rural and urban divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 8.597, p < 0.05$. Negatively insignificant correlation is found between dwelling and this notion $r (600) = -0.010, p > 0.05$. Furthermore, it is observed that 43 per cent (f = 129) rural divorcee women and 37.7 per cent (f = 113) urban divorcee women agree that divorce happens due to lack of equality. However, such notion depicts insignificant differences among rural and urban divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 1.838, p > 0.05$. Attitude related to divorce due to lack of equality shows positively insignificant correlation with dwelling of divorcee women $r (600) = 0.054, p > 0.05$. Shanavas (2012) ^[4] reported that the counsellors of family court believing that the rising trend of divorcees could be caused by an array of obvious factors ranging from dowry harassment, domestic violence and alcoholism to extra marital affairs, mental stress, emotional incompatibility, religious differences and adjustment problems within in-laws.

Reason of commitment and equality as per work status

Table 5 reveals reason of commitment and equality as per work status. It is found that 39.7 per cent (f = 119) divorcee women who earn cash for their work and 38 per cent (f = 114) divorcee women who don’t earn cash for their work found always divorce happens due to lack of commitment. Such opinion shows insignificant differences among working and

non-working divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 0.210, p > 0.05$. Positively insignificant correlation is found between occupation and this perception $r (600) = 0.006, p > 0.05$. Furthermore, it is proved that 43 per cent (f = 129) divorcee women who earn cash for their work and 37.7 per cent (f = 113) divorcee women who don’t earn cash for their work agree that divorce happens due to lack of equality. However, such notion shows insignificant differences among working and non-working divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,600) = 2.564, p > 0.05$. Attitude related to divorce due to equality seems positively insignificant correlation with occupation of divorcee women $r (600) = 0.065, p > 0.05$. Scott *et al.* (2013) ^[13] conducted a study on reasons for divorce and recollections of premarital intervention: implications for improving relationship education. It is found that majority of respondents reported major contributors to divorce were lack of commitment, infidelity, and conflict/arguing. Furthermore, it is found that domestic violence and substance use were most cited reasons for divorce.

Reason of commitment and equality as per motherhood

Table 6 analysis reason of commitment and equality as per motherhood. It is found that 39.3 per cent (f = 118) childless divorcee women and 38.3 per cent (f = 115) divorcee women having children found always divorce happens due to lack of commitment. Such attitude shows insignificant differences among divorcee women with or without live children $\chi^2 (2,600) = 0.068, p > 0.05$. Positively insignificant correlation is found between motherhood and this view $r (600) = 0.002, p > 0.05$. Furthermore, it is found that 38.7 per cent (f = 116) childless divorcee women and 42 per cent (f = 126) divorcee women having children agree that divorce happens due to lack of equality. However, such attitude shows insignificant differences among divorcee women with or without live children $\chi^2 (2,600) = 3.129, p > 0.05$. Notion related to divorce due to equality shows negatively insignificant correlation with motherhood of divorcee women $r (600) = -0.004, p > 0.05$. Yodanis (2005) ^[18] undertook a study on Divorce culture and marital gender equality and found that a divorce culture on the national level is associated with greater marital equality. In countries where divorce is accepted and practiced, the distribution of work is equal in marriage. These findings found that the possibility of divorce provides worth with leverage to gain more status within equality.

Table 1: Reason for divorce (as per dwelling)

Variable	Rural (n=300)		Urban (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Reason for taking divorce ($\chi^2 = 8.303, df = 2, p = 0.016$) ($r = -0.108, p = 0.008$)				
Self-respect	75	25	107	35.7
Domestic violence	102	34	92	30.6
Rejection	123	41	101	33.7
In-law’s contribution in divorce ($\chi^2 = 4.708, df = 2, p = 0.095$) ($r = 0.053, p = 0.196$)				
Sometimes	120	40	115	38.4
Always	117	39	100	33.3
Never	63	21	85	28.3

Table 2: Reason for divorce (as per work status)

Variable	Earn for cash (n=300)		Don't earn for cash (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Reason for taking divorce ($\chi^2 = 16.533$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.000$) ($r = 0.094$, $p = 0.022$)				
Self-respect	112	37.3	70	23.4
Domestic violence	79	26.4	115	38.3
Rejection	109	36.3	115	38.3
In-law's contribution in divorce ($\chi^2 = 4.542$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.103$) ($r = -0.084$, $p = 0.039$)				
Sometimes	105	35	130	43.4
Always	114	38	103	34.3
Never	81	27	67	22.3

Table 3: Reason for divorce (as per motherhood)

Variable	Childless (n=300)		Having children (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Reason for taking divorce ($\chi^2 = 1.385$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.500$) ($r = 0.026$, $p = 0.531$)				
Self-respect	91	30.3	91	30.3
Domestic violence	103	34.3	91	30.3
Rejection	106	35.4	118	39.4
In-law's contribution in divorce ($\chi^2 = 0.434$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.805$) ($r = -0.016$, $p = 0.691$)				
Sometimes	114	38	121	40.3
Always	112	37.3	105	35
Never	74	24.7	74	24.7

Table 4: Reason of commitment and equality (as per dwelling)

Variable	Rural (n=300)		Urban (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Divorce due to lack of commitment ($\chi^2 = 8.597$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.014$) ($r = -0.010$, $p = 0.809$)				
Sometimes	92	30.7	111	37
Always	134	44.7	99	33
Rarely	74	24.6	90	30
Divorce due to lack of equality ($\chi^2 = 1.838$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.399$) ($r = 0.054$, $p = 0.190$)				
Agree	129	43	113	37.7
Disagree	91	30.3	97	32.3
Neutral	80	26.7	90	30

Table 5: Reason of commitment and equality (as per work status)

Variable	Earn for cash (n=300)		Don't earn for cash (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Divorce due to lack of commitment ($\chi^2 = 0.210$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.900$) ($r = 0.006$, $p = 0.885$)				
Sometimes	101	33.7	102	34
Always	119	39.7	114	38
Rarely	80	26.6	84	28
Divorce due to lack of equality ($\chi^2 = 2.564$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.278$) ($r = 0.065$, $p = 0.114$)				
Agree	129	43	113	37.7
Disagree	94	31.3	94	31.3
Neutral	77	25.7	93	31

Table 6: Reason of commitment and equality (as per motherhood)

Variable	Childless (n=300)		Having children (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Divorce due to lack of commitment ($\chi^2 = 0.068$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.967$) ($r = 0.002$, $p = 0.964$)				
Sometimes	101	33.7	102	34
Always	118	39.3	115	38.3
Rarely	81	27	83	27.7
Divorce due to lack of equality ($\chi^2 = 3.129$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.209$) ($r = -0.004$, $p = 0.928$)				
Agree	116	38.7	126	42
Disagree	104	34.7	84	28
Neutral	80	26.6	90	30

Conclusion

The results found that rejection by husband was the main reason for taking divorce among most of the women. Clearly, the results of the study, indicates that nobody provide Divorcee Women moral support. Greater number of divorcee women found divorce happened due to lack of commitment and lack of equality. Success of marriage is totally dependent on ability to make adjustments so, for that purpose both spouses are required to make all efforts in this direction to develop a good compatibility. Unnecessary interference by parents and in-laws should be avoided after marriage and couples should be given freedom and privacy in order to avoid divorce. For a successful marriage, both partners need to be psychologically mature and they should have a good understanding of each other before they get married.

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