



Factors Contributing to Divorce in Hazara, KPK, Pakistan; a Survey Study.

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Abstract

The present study was an effort to find out the causes of divorce in Hazara division of KPK Pakistan. It was a survey study that hypothesized that lack of commitment to marriage, abuse i.e physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, wife's economic independence, and dowry will be the factors of divorce. Purposive sampling technique was utilized to select the sample for the study and total size of the sample was 200 divorced people including 100 divorced females and 100 divorced males. Marital Adjustment Scale developed by Sadiqa Bibi and Dr Farhana Kazmi (2010) was used to collect the data. The scale has total 45 items and participants marked their responses on a likert-type scale ranging from 1 to 5 i.e strongly agree to strongly disagree. The reliability of the scale is .95. After collecting the data, chi square χ statistics was used to analysed the data on SPSS. The results confirmed that commitment to marriage, abuse, wife's economic independence, and dowry all are contributing factors of divorce.

Keywords: Divorce, Commitment, Abuse, Economic Independence, Dowry.

Introduction

Human beings cannot live in isolation as they are social animals. They have a genetic need to be mixed up with other people and to have a very close and intimate relationship with a person of an opposite gender and marriage is the only solution which is permitted by the society for the individuals of opposite sex to live together. (Walsh, 2008).

Marriage is a very beautiful gift of Allah. It is considered as a very holy institution in all the cultures but unluckily this institution is getting shattered because most of the couples do not understand the worth of this institution and they start quarreling which give rise to misunderstandings and finally leads to divorce. (Khursheed & Khatoon, 2012).

Family shatters because of divorce because divorce is a curse. In all the cases of divorce, the members suffer with acute pain and sometimes this pain remain with them whole life. (Wickham, 2008).

In Pakistan, divorce rate is high in elite class. Middle class people consider divorce as a stigma. But causes like less income, dissatisfaction with life and low self-image among

women also lead toward divorce. Divorce rate is very low among lower middle and it is increasing especially in upper and middle classes of Karachi. (Mazher, 2011).

There are many causes of divorce which are complex as well as common such as lack of commitment to marriage. Commitment to any issue means, to do the things which are fruitful and to avoid the things which are harmful for that issue. (Martincade, 2007). Commitment is an integral part of a successful relation. The presence of commitment to a relation serves as glue to that relation and gives it strength and makes it healthy and long lasting. (David, 2012).

Larson (2010) revealed the importance of commitment to marriage and reported that 95% of happy couples have high scores on commitment while only 23% of unhappy couples took high scores on commitment.

Another common and unfortunate reason of divorce is **abuse**. In past physical abuse was a leading cause of divorce. In these days emotional, verbal or even sexual abuse also lead to divorce. (Bulletin,2011).

Women independence is also a leading factor of divorce. The role of women is changed because they can work outside their homes as well. They struggle for their career and economic independence. This economic independence of women is also a cause of divorce. (Kekec, 2011).

Volkov, (1982) has found that the new status of women influence the process of formation of the family, its development, and its breakup. Working women had a 22% higher risk of divorce than women who did not work.

Dowry is also a factor that leads to divorce. In Pakistan where most of the population is facing the problem of not having even the basic needs like education, health, sanitation, electricity, and water etc, growing trend of dowry is increasing the problems of poor people. In Pakistani culture dowry is causing psychological and emotional problems generated by greedy in laws husbands. (Perveen, 2006). In most of Asian family of groom expect rich dowry from bride's family and if there expectations are not satisfied, they forced their son to divorce his wife. (Gebremedhin, 2002).

Nock (1995) investigates the relationship between commitment and divorce. Results indicate that commitment of the spouse has a highly negative influence on marriage. Many marriages result in divorce because of lack of commitment of spouses. Many couples are not committed to marriage because of lack of interest in spouse. (Zehr, 2011).

It is also highlighted by West (2011) that a strong commitment to marriage leads to the success of marriage whereas lack of commitment to marriage is also a leading cause of divorce. Anamika (2010) explained that for some couples do not think that commitment nurtures the relation of marriage and they are more prone to divorce than the couples who are committed to their marriage.

Commitment to marriage and marital stability was also investigated by Pope and Mueller, (1976). The divorce rate was very high among the couples who were committed less to their marriage. Alhashmi (2007) revealed that in United States lack of commitment to marriage is one of the top reasons that end a marriage into divorce.

Glenn and Kramer (1987) investigated the proneness of divorce in U.S. using national surveys conducted from 1973 to 1985. Analysis revealed that a lower-commitment-to-marriage is strongly associated with divorce. Savaya and Cohen (2003) investigated the reasons of divorce among Arab women. Lack of commitment to marriage of the husbands was the frequently reported reason of divorce along with some other reasons.

Ambekar, (2009) revealed that physical abuse is a major leading factor of divorce. Ganes (1999) also reported that when a wife is harmed physically, fear takes place in her heart so she thinks it is better for her to leave this relation. Abuse can lead to divorce and it has many forms such as calling bad names, taunting for weight, race or intellect, threats, forcing sex etc. (Tramilton, 2011).

When husband calls names of the wife, he wants to realize her that she is a worthless thing and she should be thankful to her that as he loves her because nobody will love such worthless creature. This is emotional abuse which breaks the marriage. (Karney, 2011).

Keefer (2009). Most of the women are afraid to live with their abusive husbands so they leave their abusive husbands. Strasser (2010) found that domestic violence among couples is one of the more commonly highlighted reasons to file for divorce. Physical, emotional, psychological, and even sexual abuse mostly results in divorce.

Kruz (1996) also investigated the relationship between violence and divorce. Walsh (2011) found that physical and emotional abuse is really traumatic experiences and break up the relation. Zachariades, Koumoura and Agouridak (1990) examined 546 divorced women with facial injuries in a longitudinal study of two and half years. About 67%, of the injuries were related to violence by their husbands.

Lowers of United States also confirmed that women independence is a leading factor of women filing for divorce even for very small reasons. (Dobson, 2006). Techman, (2010) also found a positive correlation between women economical independence and divorce among Whites of United States. Nock, (2001) also investigated that in marriages of equally independent spouses wives initiates the divorce. Women are more committed to there marriage because they are financially dependent on their husbands.

Admin (2010) also stated that women, who are financially independent and whose husbands are rude or intolerable, break their marriage. Mahey, (2007) reported that in Pakistani society high position of wife is a reason of divorce. Schoen, Astone, Rothert, Standish and Kim (2002) also confirmed the relationship between women's employment and the risk of divorce.

Nayyab, (2010) found that divorce rate is increasing in Pakistan since last two decades because of financial independence of women. Tariq (2010) also found that one of the top reasons of divorce in Pakistani society is highly career oriented women.

Anamika (2010) revealed that dowry is one of the main reasons, especially in India, for divorce. Davis and Bach (2010) also stated that dowry in South Asia and Bangladesh create serious problems for women and is a leading factor of divorce. Sing (2005) also revealed that the practice of dowry is increasing rapidly in India and results in divorces.

Chaudhry (2004) reported that in Toba Tek sing Panjab Pakistan 3% of the marriages end in divorce because of the small quantity of dowry given to the bride. Small dowry is also a leading factor of physical torture and divorce among Brahmins in India. (Sing & Bhanu 2004). Dowry is not a leading factor of divorce not only in India but also in Bangladesh. (Peters & Wolper, 1995).

The present study aimed to assess the causes of divorce in Hazara, KPK Pakistan. It was a very interesting and important study. It was helpful in the sense that the causes of divorce were highlighted and information was gathered in this regard. This information has a definite utilization for the people who are going to be married or who have marital problems. The study is very helpful the people how to save their marriage by coping with the problems that can lead to marriage breakdown.

Methodology

Statement of the problem

The problem under study was to explore the most common causes of divorce in Hazara division KPK Pakistan.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is as follows.

- To investigate the factors leading to divorce among couples
- To compare the factors contributing to divorce among the divorced male and divorced female

Research Hypothesis

- i. Lack of commitment to marriage would likely to be the factor of divorce among couples
- ii. Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse would likely to be the factors of divorce among couples.
- iii. Wife's economic independence would likely to be a contributing factor of divorce
- iv. Dowry would likely to be a contributing factor of divorce

Independent variable

Independent variables in this research will be the factors leading to divorce i.e lack of commitment, abuse, wives' economic independence, and dowry.

Dependent variable

Dependent variable will be marital relation which can be terminated.

Research Design

The study was mainly a survey because survey method was used to collect the data which was widely scattered in the different areas of Hazara division of Pakistan.

Sample of the study

The total data for the study was 200 divorced people (n= 200) i.e. 100 divorced males and 100 divorced females. The whole data was gathered from Haripur, Abbottabad, and Mansehra by using purposive sampling technique.

Research instrument

Marital Adjustment Scale developed by Sadiqa Bibi and Dr. Farhana Kazmi (2010) was used as instrument to collect the desired information from the divorced couples.

The scale has 45 items divided into 5 categories i.e. lack of commitment, abuse, wife's economic independence, and dowry. The participants marked their responses on a

likert-type scale ranging from 1 to 5 (strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree). The reliability of the scale is .95.

Procedure

In the present study, data collection was not an easy task. The respondents were approached and questionnaires were distributed in face to face fashion. All the respondents were requested to read the instructions and then write their responses on the questionnaires carefully. They were asked to read the items carefully and then mark in the relevant response category very honestly. It was requested to complete the questionnaires and then return it. It was make sure that their identity will not be revealed. They were also thanked for their amazing cooperation.

Analysis and interpretation of data

After the completion of data collecting process through questionnaires, the whole data was interpreted and analyzed in the light of objectives of the study. Five point response categories was used for each item i.e. Strongly agree= 1, Agree=2 Undecided=3 Disagree=4 and Strongly disagree=5. The responses of the participants were arranged and descriptive statistic chi square was applied to assess the significance of the results and hypothesis. The data was presented in the form of tables.

Results

Table. 1. *Cross tabulation of Frequencies of Demographic Variables (Gender and place of residence) of divorced men and women (N= 200)*

Gender	Place of Residence			Total
	Haripur	Abbottabad	Mansehra	
Male	76	15	9	100
Female	49	36	15	100

Table. 2.

Results of χ^2 to see the difference between the responses of male spouses and female spouses that lack of commitment to marriage can lead to divorce.

Gender	SA	A	ND	DA	SDA	Total
Male	175	293	119	375	157	1100
Female	148	295	97	332	228	1100
Total	323	558	216	689	385	2200

$$\chi^2_{\text{cal}} = 18.91, \alpha = .00$$

The above table shows that the calculated value 18.91 is greater than the tabulated value 18.47 $\alpha = .00$ which indicates a significant association between the responses of male and female spouses that lack of commitment to marriage leads to divorce.

Table. 3.

Results of χ^2 to see the difference between the responses of male spouses and female spouses that physical abuse to marriage can lead to divorce.

Gender	SA	A	ND	DA	SDA	Total
Male	148	85	34	13	20	300
Female	83	88	21	52	56	300
Total	231	173	55	65	76	600

$$\chi^2_{\text{cal}} = 62.71, \alpha = .00$$

The above table shows that the calculated value 62.71 is greater than the tabulated value 18.47 $\alpha = .00$ which indicates a significant association between the responses of male and female spouses that physical abuse is a major cause of divorce.

Table. 4.

Results of χ^2 to see the difference between the responses of male spouses and female spouses that sexual abuse to marriage can lead to divorce.

Gender	SA	A	ND	DA	SDA	Total
Male	90	43	46	14	7	200
Female	55	37	14	59	35	200
Total	145	80	60	13	42	400

Table. 5.

Results of χ^2 to see the difference between the responses of male spouses and female spouses that emotional abuse in marriage can lead to divorce.

Gender	SA	A	ND	DA	SDA	Total
Male	463	228	93	71	145	1000
Female	201	246	79	241	233	1000
Total	664	474	172	312	378	2000

$$\chi^2_{cal} = 218.32, \alpha = .00$$

The above table shows that the calculated value 218.32 is greater than the tabulated value 18.47 $\alpha, = .00$ which indicates a significant association between the responses of male and female spouses that emotional abuse is a root cause of divorce.

Table. 6.

Results of χ^2 to see the difference between the responses of male spouses and female spouses that women economic empowerment can lead to divorce.

Gender	SA	A	ND	DA	SDA	Total
Male	80	107	399	162	152	900
Female	142	207	162	243	146	900
Total	222	314	561	405	298	1800

$$\chi^2_{cal} = 165.61, \alpha = .00$$

The above table shows that the calculated value 165.61 is greater than the tabulated value 18.47 $\alpha, = .00$ which indicates a significant association between the responses of male and female spouses that women economic empowerment is a root cause of divorce.

Table. 7.

Results of χ^2 to see the difference between the responses of male spouses and female spouses that Dowry can lead to divorce.

Gender	SA	A	ND	DA	SDA	Total
Male	140	152	378	197	133	1000
Female	194	233	49	265	259	1000
Total	334	385	427	462	329	2000

$$\chi^2_{cal} = 329.77, \alpha = .00$$

The above table shows that the calculated value 329.77 is greater than the tabulated value 18.47 $\alpha, = .00$ which indicates a significant association between the responses of male and female spouses that Dowry is a root cause of divorce.

Discussion

Divorced is a phenomenon which is prevalent in all the societies. It is considered as a very unpleasant event but it happens.

The first objective of the study was to check that lack of commitment to marriage has a positive correlation with divorce and it was hypothesized that lack of commitment to marriage can lead to divorce. The results on χ^2 supported the hypothesis and strong association was found between the responses of male and female spouses that lack of commitment is a leading factor of divorce.

Panes (2011) revealed that lack of commitment to marriage is a strongest reason that can break a marriage. Lee (2010) also confirmed that lack of commitment to marriage can break the knot. Ambrosini (2011) has also reported that lack of commitment to marriage is also a leading factor of marriage breakup. Hall (2012) also found that the absence of commitment ends the marriage into divorce.

Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse was also under investigation in the present study as a factor of divorce. Findings have supported that physical, sexual, and emotional abuse can be a cause of divorce. Perry (2012) declared that any type of abuse is harmful for marital relation. Khurshid, Khatoon, & Khurshid (2012) investigated the factors leading to divorce in Rawalpindi and Islamabad and they found that any type of abuse is a leading factor of divorce.

Another objective of the study was to explore the association between wife's economic independence and divorce. The results of the study confirmed that wife's economic independence is strongly associated with marriage break up. Literature has confirmed that when a wife is economically independent she has a high sense of independence and it also reduces husband's sense of obligation which compels both of them to end the relation. (Dechter, 1993; Jalovaara, 2002; Kumar, 2010).

The last and major objective of the study was to check whether dowry is a factor of divorce or not. Again the results of the study supported that dowry is a factor that can lead to divorce. A rich literature was found that the family of bride has to give rich dowry to the bride in order to make her life happy in future and less dowry has terrible effects on the life of girls and breaks the marriage. (Ruksana, 2011; Beauty, 2010).

Some limitations of the Study

This study was only a small effort to explore the causes of divorce among couples which has opened ways for larger researches in this field in future.

Another demerit of the present research is that it has covered only a limited area including Haripur, Abbottabad, and Mansehra.

Still another limitation of the study was its limited sample. i.e. only 200, so the generalizability of the study is also questionable.

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