A SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF DIVORCING FACTORS - A SOCIAL PROBLEM

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ABSTRACT

Marriage is an important social event from which a person starts his/her marital union. In twentieth century there is increased rate of divorce. The past one year has witnessed 43,000 divorces across the country. Objectives of the study was to know the socio demographic profile of the divorced couple. Find out the reasons associated with the divorced among married couple. It is recording based descriptive study. Previous 2 years data was collected from September 2012 to August 2014 from records maintained by Family court. Results: Maximum divorced couples were from urban area (80.8%) and Hindu religion (92.8%). Majority of wives and husbands were educated up to higher secondary (37.6%) and graduation (54.4%) respectively. 50.4% of the couple had divorce earlier in 1-4 yrs of marriage. 71.2% couple were having no children. 60.8% divorced female were married between 18-22 yrs of age. Most common reason for divorced of married couple was cruelty and desertion. Conclusion: Most of divorce cases were seen in initial 1-4yrs of marriage and most common reason was cruelty and desertion. Family life education is needed to prevent the divorce.

 Key words: Socio-demographic factors, Divorced.

INTRODUCTION

In the shastras marriage was viewed as a sacrament. The relationship of husband and wife, once established through proper customs and rituals, was believed to be irrevocable.[1] Marriage is an important social event from which a person starts his/her marital union. Marriage can protect mental health by giving people a greater sense of emotional support and care in their lives and allowing them to fill multiple social roles. Married people have higher levels of psychological and physical well-being than individuals who are single, separated or divorced.[2] In India, marriage is the institution through which society provides legitimacy and ensures the smooth functioning of a family. Societal sanctions and norms are transmitted through family members from generation to generation with various additions and deductions according to the belief systems of the era in which the society exists.[3] One of the marked demographic trends observed in twentieth century is increased rate of divorce and changing marriage pattern. Urbanization, industrialization and education lead to a change in society, family structure and preoccupation of women into labour force which help them come out of unhappy marriages. Married persons are generally more secure and protected and they usually lead a more sober life than those who are unmarried. All these factors are thought to contribute to lower mortality rates among married persons.[4] Marriage is no longer sacred word and divorce no longer a taboo. With the passage of time a large number of Indians are flooding the divorce.[5] Divorce or dissolution ofmarriage is the termination of a marriage that cancels the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage. It dissolves the bonds of matrimony between two persons and alters various sociocultural obligations of both parties to each other.[6] The past one year has witnessed 43,000 divorces across the country. Among states with the highest number of divorces, Maharashtra topped the list in the past year, accounting for nearly 20,000 cases. Around five years ago, the ratio was one divorce per 1,000 marriages in India, and today statistics indicate that there are 13 divorces for every 1,000 marriages.[7]

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the study was to know the socio demographic profile of the divorced couple and to find out the reasons associated with the divorced among married couple.

MATERIALS & METHOD

It was record based descriptive study. Previous 2 years data was collected from September 2012 to August 2014 from records maintained by Family court. The court was established in January 2012. It mainly covers corporation area but judgement of some cases of rural area initially was passed because of less number of cases initially. There is only one family court in Solapur. Initially judgements of divorce cases from rural and urban area were passed from judicial court.   125 divorced couple were taken as cases where both the partner had attended the court and where judgement was passed. The permission from Principle Judge of Family court was taken with request to accord permission to carry out the study. The study was carried out under the clerk supervision in court. The judgment was given as divorced on ground of cruelty and desertion, mutual consent, mental disorder, venerable diseases, leprosy, adultery, not heard for 7 years.8 Socio-demographic variables such as education, occupation and income were studied. The results were analyzed by proportion & percentages. The chi – square test was applied.

Exclusion Criteria: Those divorce judgement where only one partner attended the court was excluded in the study. And in the cases that were dissolved or dismissed by court were not included in study.

RESULTS

The present record based descriptive study was carried out among 125 cases who filed for divorce and get judgement for that in family court.

Table 1: Distribution of divorced couples according to residence, religion and income

Variable	Frequency (n=125) (%)
Residence	
Rural	24 (19.2)
Urban	101 (80.8)
Religion	
Hindu	116 (92.8)
Muslim	2 (1.6)
Christian	7 (5.6)
Per month income of couple in ₹	
<10,000	41 (32.8)
10,000 – 20,000	31 (14.8)
20,000 – 30,000	17 (13.6)
30,000 – 40,000	13 (10.4)
40,000 – 50,000	13 (10.4)
≥ 50,000	10 (8)

Table 2: Distribution of divorced couples according to education (n=125)

Education of couple	Couples (%)
Both are equally educated	53 (42.2)
Husband is more educated than wife	58 (46.4)
Wife is more educated than husband	14 (11.2)

$\chi^2 = 27.83$, df = 2, $p < 0.001$, statistically significant.

Table 3: Distribution of divorced couple according to age at time of marriage of female, Children ever born, duration of married life and spouse who filed application for divorced (n=125)

Variable	Frequency (%)
Age at time of marriage in years	
Less than 18	8 (6.4)
18– 22	76 (60.8)
23 – 27	35 (28)
28 – 32	6 (4.8)
Children ever born	
No child	89 (71.2)
1	26 (20.8)
2	10 (8)
Duration of married life in years	
1-4	63 (50.4)
5-8	31 (24.8)
9-12	15 (12)
13-16	15 (12)
17-20	1 (0.8)
Spouse who filed application for Divorced	
Both	03 (2.4)
Husband	51 (40.8)
Wife	71 (56.8)

Table 4: Distribution of divorced couples according to reasons for divorce (n=125)

Reasons for divorce	Frequency (%)
Cruelty and desertion	60 (48)
Mutual consent	33 (26.4)
Adultery	20 (16.0)
Mental Disorder	9 (7.2)
Communicable Disease	2 (1.6)
No resumption (Presumption of death)	1 (0.8)

$\chi^2 = 123.41$, df = 5, p<0.001, statistically significant

Table 1 showed socio demographic distribution of divorce couples that 80.8% couple were from urban area 19.2% from rural area. Among the divorced couples, highest (92.8%) were Hindu followed by Christian (5.6%) and Muslim religion (1.6%). This result may be due to the separate court is available for divorced of couple of Muslim religion. Distribution according to per month income of couple showed that, the highest (32.8%) number of couples who came for divorce were having per month income less than 10,000 rupees as compared to divorced couple who were having monthly income more than 50,000 rupees.

Table 5: Multiple linear regression analysis of socio – demographic factors leading to divorce Parameter Estimates

Applicant [a]		B	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Female	Intercept	3.542	6.652	.284	1	.594	
	Age of wife	-.584	3.579	.027	1	.870	.558
	Age of Husband	.427	.341	1.572	1	.210	1.533
	Duration of marriage	.188	3.554	.003	1	.958	1.207
	Age at marriage of women	.125	3.563	.001	1	.972	1.133
	Income	.000	.000	4.465	1	.035	1.000
Male	Intercept	5.112	6726	.577	1	.447	
	Age of wife	-.452	3.578	.016	1	.899	.636
	Age of Husband	.348	.345	1.021	1	.312	1.417
	Duration of marriage	.081	3.553	.001	1	.982	1.084
	Age at marriage of women	.034	3.563	.000	1	.992	1.034
	Income	.000	.000	7.400	1	.007	1.000

a. The reference category is: Both

Classification

Observed	Predicted			Percent Correct
	Both	Female	Male	
Both	1	2	0	33.3%
Female	0	58	13	81.7%
Male	0	34	17	33.3%
Overall Percentage	.8%	75.2%	24.0%	60.8%

In table 2 showed that highest divorced occurring in couple where male was more educated than female (42.2%) followed by couple who were having equal education (42.2%) and female more educated than male (11.2%). The difference was found to be statistically significant. In our study, maximum number of females were educated up to higher secondary school (37.6%) and minimum number were illiterate (2.5%). Maximum (54.4%) number of males were had education up to graduation (54.4%) and minimum were illiterate (0.8%).

In table 3, among the divorced couples, age of marriage for female was highest (60.8%) in between 18 – 22 years followed by 23 – 27 years (28%) and 28 – 32 years (4.8%). Distribution of divorced couples according to number of children showed that maximum (71.20%) number of couples those who had divorced were having no child followed by couple having one child (20.80%) and minimum couple were having 2 children (8%). Distribution of divorced couples according to duration of married life revealed that maximum number of couples had divorced within 1 – 4 years of their marriage, followed by 5 – 8 yrs. (24.80%) and minimum (0.80%) couple had divorced after completing 17 – 20 yrs. of their marriage. It showed that as duration of married life increases number of divorce decreases. Table no. 3 showed distribution of divorced couples according to spouse who filed application for divorce showed that maximum (56.80%) number of applicants for divorced were female followed by male (40.80%).

Table 4 showed the reasons for divorce, the majority of divorces were due to cruelty and desertion (48%) followed by mutual consent between the couple (26.40%), adultery (16%), mental disorder (7.20%), veneral disease (1.60%) and not heard for 7 years (0.80%). Reason wise difference in divorce was found to be statistically significant.

In table 5, for applying multiple regression analysis, female and male applicant was taken as dependant variable and age of husband, age of wife, age gap between couple, duration of marriage age at time of marriage of wife and income was taken as independent variable. After application of multiple regression analysis, it was found that lower

incomewas main factor which is statistically highly significant for divorce in both male and female applicant (p<0.05).

DISCUSSION

Our study showed that the highest numbers of couple were from urban area. This may be due to family court covers mainly corporation area but judgement of some cases of rural area was passed initially. In our study majority of divorced couples belonged to Hindu religion, two couple had inter-cast marriage. Similar finding seen in study conducted by Grace Bahalen et al[2], he showed that maximum (66.8%) divorced were seen in Hindu religion but contrast to our finding it showed higher cases of divorced in rural area (74.2%). Similar finding was seen in study conducted by Abhijeet Faye et al[9], showed that the majority of the participants were Hindu (91%).

According to education profile comparison in our study, it revealed that highest divorced occurring in couple where male was more educated than female and which was found to be statistically significant. In our study, maximum numbers of female were educated up to higher secondary and maximum number of males was graduate. Similar finding was seen in study conducted by Abhijeet Faye et al[9] showed that 70% were educated up to or more than secondary level. In contrast to our finding, Grace Bahalen et al[2] showed that among higher number of divorced couple wife (44.7%) was illiterate and also husband (35.9%). Bindhu et al[10] also showed that the divorce rate is more among the people who were having college education in both the genders (Male – 36.6%, Female – 48.3%).

In our study, among the divorced couples, age of marriage for female was highest in between 18 – 22 years. Similar finding was seen in study conducted by Abhijeet Faye et al[9], showed that, 53% of participants were married at 19–25 years of age. Grace Bahalen et al[2] showed that maximum women who married above 19 yrs. had maximum (36.9%) number of divorces.

In our study maximum number of divorced couples had no child. This may be the reason because the child act as binding factor between mother and father. Similar finding seen in study conducted by Zeng Yi et al[11], they showed that the number of children is negatively correlated with risk of divorce, and the estimates were highly significant. In contrast to our study Bindhu et al10 showed that maximum couple who had divorced had one child (43.3%).

In study couple, who were getting divorce, maximum (50.40%) number of divorced occurred in coupe who were having 1 – 4 years of married life.

This may be due to the problem in adjusting and understanding to each other in early years of marriage. Similar to our study Bindhu et al[10] showed that maximum (35%) number of couples had 1 – 4years of married life. In divorced cases, majority of cases filed by female partner (56.80%). Similar finding was seen in study conducted by Abhijeet Faye et al[9] showed that 57% of the divorce cases were filed by women.

Majority of divorce were due to cruelty and desertion followed by mutual consent and adultery, which was statistically significant. In a study conducted by Abhijeet Faye et al[9] showed that the most common single reason for divorce in our study was interpersonal problems between spouses (34%). In a study conducted by Ramachandrappa et al[12] that the real reason for divorce in many cases is lack of understanding and communication between the spouses among the couple interviewed in Bangore city.

CONCLUSION

Our study revealed that couple without child had maximum divorced and divorces were more commonly seen early years of married life. More number of females filed application for divorce. The main reason for divorced were cruelty and desertion and mutual consent. In our study, among male and female applicant with lower income was seen to be significant factor for divorce among all the variables.

Limitation of study

The reasons given in the court were influenced by the advocates, relatives and the so-called well-wishers. AS it is recording based study, we were unable to study other variables such as type of family, specific reason for divorce etc.

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