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Shivaleela Basavaraj



A SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF DIVORCEES IN BIDAR CITY

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ABSTRACT

Divorce, a subject which was once a social stigma, has become increasingly popular in recent years. Divorce refers to the legal dissolution of a socially and legally recognized marital relationship that alters the obligations and privileges of the two persons involved. It is also a major life's transitional phase that has far reaching social, pathological, legal, personal, economic and personal consequences. Combination of factors contributes to the growing number of couples who decide to part their ways. With this background, the present paper tries to examine the causes for the increasing rate of divorce in urban India and analyze the socio economic reasons behind growing divorce rates. The parameters used in the current study are education, income and caste of the divorcees. These parameters are used to determine the rate of divorce in the city of Bidar.

KEYWORDS :socio-economic ,divorce,major life's ,obligations and privileges .

INTRODUCTION

Divorce refers to the legal dissolution of a socially and legally recognized marital relationship that alters the obligations and privileges of the two persons involved. It is also a major life's transitional phase that has far reaching social, pathological, legal, personal, economic and personal consequences.

Divorce, a subject which was once a social stigma, has become increasingly popular in recent years. It is observed that married couples in the contemporary world are walking away from their

marriages for varied reasons. Earlier, there were very few instances of divorce and the main causes were adultery and domestic violence. In most cases, women continued with their broken marriage for the sake of fear, kids and money. But, nowadays, women do not hesitate to call off their marriages. The rising trend is seen not only in the metropolises but also in the semi-urban and smaller cities, including rural areas, where there may not be divorce in legal terms but women are seen living separately. In recent years higher percentage of married couples in India are walking away from their marriages. Court figures and data from crime record bureau reveal that over the past decade, divorce rates have doubled and in some cities even trebled. This trend is evident not just in metropolises but in smaller cities and semi-urban areas as well. It is a reflection of India's changing socio-economic landscape where this phenomenon is not restricted to the affluent, urban populace as it used to be in 1980s.

Figures suggest that higher percentage of people belonging to middle class and lower middle class families are opting out of unhappy alliances.

Incompatibility and adultery are among the most cited reasons by those filing for divorce, a substantive number of young couples. A combination of factors – nuclear family structure, professional ambitions, mismatched expectations and modern life styles is contribution to the increase in the number of couples that decide to part their ways. Youth today do not subscribe to the rigid notions of sanctity of marriage as an institution.

REASONS FOR THE INCREASING RATE OF DIVORCE IN URBAN INDIA:

- Earlier a woman when divorced was subject to severe social criticisms. She faced a kind of social ostracism. Somehow or the other it was the wife who was be blamed for the breakdown of the marriage. Even parents often reluctantly accepted the divorced woman when she returned to her parental home. But now the views are gradually changing. Parents now believe that it is definitely not the end for their daughter even after her marriage has been dissolved.
- Due to globalization and the IT boom, the Indian social life has become more faster. In order to excel in one's own field of occupation, hardly any interest grows in the minds of individuals to ponder and judge other's personal matters like divorce. Hence, unlike earlier days, the divorced couple is saved from the critical glare of the society.
- With the spread of female education in India, women are getting the privilege to work and earn for their own living. Well paid women are even at the advantage of supporting their own children. So, if a woman undergoes unbearable mental and physical torture, she can now easily move away from the marriage without giving much thought on the post divorce financial condition.
- As the world is getting smaller, globalization is bringing about trade of cultures and ideologies: there has been a significant change in the attitude towards marriage in modern India. Due to the presence of a workaholic environment in common households of urban India, marital incompatibility is the obvious consequence of such a situation. Hardly spouses get the time to share their thoughts and affections with each other and a growing dissatisfaction instigates the sacred marriage to turn into a grim divorce.

Last 2 decades have witnessed rapid changes in socio-economic conditions of people. Information revolution, globalization and liberalization have resulted in rise in divorce rates not only in metro cities but also in small cities and rural areas. In this backdrop an effort is made here to study the divorce and its relationship with caste, education and income in Bidar city.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this paper are to know how education, income and caste influence divorce.

- 1) To study the education level of divorcees.
- 2) To know the income of divorcees.
- 3) To identify the caste status of divorcees.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the city of Bidar. Primary data has been used to gather the data from a sample of 240 divorcees – among whom 120 are male and 120 are female as per the records of family court in Bidar. Data was collected with the help of a questionnaire –cum-interview schedule.

ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVORCEES:

TABLE – 1: EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Sl. No.	Education	Frequency	Percent
1.	Illiterate	12	5.0
2.	1 to 10 th	124	51.67
3.	PUC	51	21.25
4.	Degree	39	16.25
5.	Above graduation	14	5.83
	Total	240	100

Data presented in the above table indicates that in Bidar district respondents with primary education are among the highest percentage having opted for divorce. Among those with school education, the divorce rate stands at 51.67% whereas respondents with PUC level education it is 21.25% and those with degree the rate is 16.25%. This shows that higher the level of education sought, lower is the rate of divorce. Respondents with above graduation levels were found to be only 5.89% who got divorced. Therefore it can be inferred that as the study area was predominantly rural and backward, 95% of the respondents with less education were more among those opted for divorce.

TABLE – 2: ANNUAL INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl. No.	Income/month	Frequency	Percent
1.	Less than Rs. 1000	34	14.17
2.	Rs. 1001 to 3000	135	56.25
3.	Rs. 3001 to 10000	51	21.25
4.	Above 10000	20	8.33
	Total		100.00

The above table shows that respondents with no income had higher divorce rate (14.17%) and respondents with income ranging between Rs. 1001 to Rs. 3000 the rate of divorce was (56.25%) while income of Rs. 3001 to Rs. 10000 had a divorce rate of (21.25%). Whereas respondents with an income of Rs. 10000 & above per month displayed a divorce rate of just 8.33%. Hence, from the above data it can be observed that divorce rate is high among low income groups in comparison with the higher income

groups. To quote Chowdhari (1988) would be apt here, who has considered income as a resource variable. Income and divorce rate are interrelated.

TABLE – 3: CASTE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl. No.	Caste	Frequency	Percent
1.	SC	144	60
2.	ST	12	05
3.	OBC	48	20
4.	Others	36	15
	Total	240	100

It can be concluded from the table that divorce rate is high (60%) among scheduled caste when compared to other backward castes (20%). Nowadays people are exposed to mass media, market & public life. Therefore, it was felt necessary to examine the extent to which caste & divorce are interrelated with each other. Data presented in table -3 shows that scheduled castes & backward castes have higher divorce rate (60% & 20%) respectively. Whereas ST have a divorce rate of just 5%, similarly other castes including upper caste and Muslims had low divorce rates of 15%. Among Muslim community it was observed that people widely approached their religious leaders for solving problems related to divorce. And Among the upper castes, the prestige factor prevented them from approaching the court. Therefore it was found that divorce rate are relatively less among upper castes.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

After having analyzed the reasons for divorce, it can be aptly concluded that, divorce rate is high (60%) in scheduled caste and other backward castes (20%) when compared to forward caste (15%) respondents.

Education is found to be an important variable influencing divorce which could be inferred from table 1 which shows that the largest group of the respondents (51.67%) belonged to those who attained a level of education between 1st to 10th class, followed by PUC studied group (21.25%). This shows that the divorce rate is high among less educated people.

And lastly, from the caste point of view, one can conclude from table -2 that (56.25%) of respondents of divorcees are in the slab of income/month of Rs. 3000, followed by 21.25% of respondents with income between Rs. 3001 to 10,000 per month. It can be seen that low income group are having maximum divorcee rates.

Overall picture of divorce in the city of Bidar portrays that the divorce rate is high among SCs and Backward castes, less educated and low income group respondents.

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