

## **Socioeconomic Factors Affecting Divorce in Islamic Republic of Iran (Yazd)**

**Seyed Mohammad Reza Ghaem Mohammadi**  
Master of Prevention of Social Pathologies  
Tehran Social Welfare University

**Dr. Fariba Chavoshzadeh Tafti (Corresponding Author)**  
**Yazd Social Welfare University (Taft)**

### **Abstract**

*Marital separation and divorce can be the most unpleasant event in the adult's life; families will be hurt by divorce event. The prevalence of divorce has been increased in last decades. Therefore, this study was conducted to identify the divorce cause among the divorce seeking men and women in Yazd, Iran. This study was conducted among 2000 women and men subjects who requested for divorce and were referred to Yazd welfare advice office during 2013. The research study is a secondary analysis of data. Data were analyzed by Chi-Square test (SPSS version 20). The results showed that there is a significant relation between addiction and divorce such that more than 26 percent of men and more than 8 percent of women were drug addicts. Among other results of these paper, the direct relationship between divorce rate and monthly income that more than 40 percent of men and 60 percent of women have combined income of less than 4 million Rials. Besides, results showed that education of applicants divorce has been under graduate largely and approximately 43 percent of them without children and near 30 percent of them have one child.*

**Keywords:** Divorce, Socio-economic factors, Iran

### **1. Introduction**

Divorce is related with marriage and family, and is a social innovation; it had been used as an instrument exposing failure through marriage. Divorce causes personal, domestic and social disintegration, and in most cases has greater banes for women compared to men. Studying historical trend of divorce phenomena, among contemporary societies, revealed that whatever we shift from feudal system to liberal and industrial society, the divorce possibility and frequency will increase.

Divorce rate has increased since the 1950s. Divorce has increased even in countries that have strong legal and religious barriers. According to Administration Documentation America records in 1998, than one million children each experience parental divorce that half of them are under 18 years of age. Between 1960 and 1970 the divorce rate in Great Britain steadily increased 9 percent per year. The divorce rate doubled during the decade to 1972 and as well as this figure has risen from 2/8 per thousand in 1981 to 3/1 per thousand in 1993. Although the divorce rate in Great Britain is very similar to the United States but not much different from many other European countries. In Denmark, the divorce rate is high and after that are Germany and France. Reports show that in America 3/2 marriages will end in divorce. The divorce rate in America is 60 per cent higher than in Sweden and England and Canada and are almost three times more than Germany and France and are 10 times more than Italy. The number of people those have been divorced in American has reached from 4/3 million people in 1970 to 17/6 million people in 1995. Likelihood of divorce and separation in today marriages in America is estimated 60 percent (Tavakoli, 2013). The probability of divorce in the first marriage of young Americans is 40 to 50 percent. It is estimated that the probability of divorce in the first marriage is 50 to 67 per cent and 10 per cent increase in second marriage. Iran is not an exception such that, according to official Statistics of Organization of Registration and Record of Iran, more registered divorce had happened last years and its trend was ascendant. Only in 2006, about 9400 cases, 258 cases per day, had been registered. Different factors affect divorce including economic, social, psychological and internal and external stressful factors.

Through this paper we are going to study some economic and social factors effects on divorce and we want to recognize the relationship between Iran's social-economic factors and divorce.

## 2. Types of Divorce

Generally, a divorce can be divided into two categories. Hidden divorce and flagrant divorce (Chavoshzadeh Tafti, 2013)

1. Flagrant divorce is that couples are separated from each other by referring to family courts and have invalidated the marriage certificate. In this type of divorce, there is possibility of remarriage for divorced couples.

2. Hidden divorce

Hidden divorce is the divorce that has all the features of the first type but does not appear due to cultural and spiritual barriers and special rules. In fact, divorce can happen without invalidation of marriage and couples may have wasted years under the same roof with minimum communication (even verbal communication). In western countries, flagrant divorce is extremely high and has risen significantly. In contrast, in many Asian countries hidden divorce is common. Both type of divorce, are major crises in family life but have advantages over each other. In hidden divorce the chance to solve the problem does not reach to zero. Mutually, flagrant divorce occurs acute and specifies the duties of family members while hidden divorce remain chronically.

## 3. Theoretical Background and Literature Review

Divorce as a social phenomenon is not considered from theoretically one .so, several theories have been used in this study to investigate the factors affecting divorce.

### 1. Homogamy Theory

Homogamy between two individuals not only attracts them but also will strengthen the bond between them. In other words, dissonance between two is a source of family conflict. According to Hill, people tend to choose a spouse who more homological and if this rule is not respected due to some reason so couples are likely to experience conflict and finally separated. Bowerman says man knowledge or unknowable is following the selection of a spouse that has similar attributes. People married with those are homological in terms of marital status. According to Wood, marriage according to religious view, whatever racial and religious similarly between two is less, different and conflicts between them are more. Cheny and Yamamura believe that more strong ethnic and cultural relationship between husband and wife will be less risk at separation. Whatever the degree of parallelism is much more so husband wife relationship will be steadier and stable (Sarokhani, 2006). Therefore, according to homogamy theory strong and stable family is caused by the similar characteristics between men and women.

### 2. Exchange Theory

This theory considers social behavior as a tangible exchange activity and more rewarding through at least two people (Ritezz, 2007). According to Homans theory, social exchange is based on personal interests and combination of mental and economic needs (Ritezz, 2007). Individual behavior will vary by rewards and cost. According to this theory, relationship between husband and wife is an exchange that begins from the beginning of life. Their life flows based on mutual exchange if we consider as a reward and expenses from the perspective of mutual rights. On the other hand, in equability of cost and reward for couples, leads to feeling of injustice and in equability in exchange and eventually led to detachment of a couple's relationship (Jalilian, 1996)

According to the basis of theory, many different researches carried out on the relationship the effective factors on divorce.

Saifollahi nanakaran (1993) in research in Iran reached the conclusion that the most important causes of divorce are moral disagreement, family dispute, lack of consistency, addiction, failure to comply, infertility, no children and lack of support. The most important and effective number of marriages, place of birth and being a citizen.

Rahimi (1996) in his research by survey questionnaires and interview methods and tools reached the conclusion that several factors are involved in the divorce such as moral disagreement between men and women, age difference, ethics behavior and spousal abuse, addiction, unemployment. But economic difficulties in various ways are the most important reasons for divorce.

Sphryan (2000) in research has concluded that incompatibility of moral behavior, interference of relations and family, taking or having another women, moral corruption, addiction, alcohol and gamble, the lack of man sense responsibility toward family, harassment by male, hatred of marriage, mental illness, livelihood problems, early marriage, age difference, cultural difference by priority are most effective factors of divorce.

Keldi and Shabani(2001) in their research by using a combination survey in Iran, descriptive and sectorial and analytical methods came to the conclusion that there is a significant relationship between involvement of others and divorce.

Ghotbi (2004) by using questionnaire with interviews came to the conclusion that lack of mutual understanding (83 per cent) addiction (42 per cent) family involvement (33 per cent) are the most common causes of divorce. Financial and mental illness are other factors affecting divorce in Iran.

Vilcon and Karen (1983) investigate the main causes of divorce after long years of life. In this research they got that the number of people who got divorced after years of marriage was increasing. This research was tested on couples who divorce after age 60. According to this examination most of the elderly are kind and in economic terms, they are low statues and religiously are weak and they mostly stayed in the city. For these reasons, some people believe that they are victims of divorce and others who wish to experience divorce.

Keyz (1989) in his research concluded that use of one liter of alcohol leads to increase divorce by rate of 30 per cent. In other research concluded that the divorce rate of 1 per cent thousand is increasing with the alcohol related cost of 10 per cent. Researcher concluded that alcohol is effective factors in increasing divorce. This study confirms the increased costs resulting from alcohol. In other words, there is interaction between alcohol consumption and divorce rates. Increase in alcohol consumption leads to increase in divorce and vice versa.

Moor (1993) investigates the causes of divorce among black couples and white couples. He concluded that the main cause of divorce among black couples is remarriage, abuse and freedom, and care of children and their education is a cause of divorce among white couples.

**4. Hypotheses**

Hypotheses are:

- 1) There is significant relationship between divorce and nationality.
- 2) There is significant relationship between divorce and education.
- 3) There is significant relationship between divorce and addiction.
- 4) There is significant relationship between divorce and number of children.
- 5) There is significant relationship between divorce and monthly income.
- 6) There is significant relationship between divorce and location.

This study was conducted among 2000 women and men subjects who requested for divorce and were referred to Yazd welfare advice office during 2013. The research study is a secondary analysis of data. Data were analyzed by Chi-Square test and we have used the SPSS version 20 in our analysis. The following tables are output results of software.

**Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Divorce According to Nationality**

	Men		Women	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Iranian	1726	98/63	1729	98/97
Non-Iranian	24	1/37	18	1/03
Total	1750	100/00	1747	100/00

According to above table, 98/63 (1726 Number) percent of men and 98/97 percent (1729 number) of women are Iranian and 1/37 percent (24 Number) of men and 1/03 per cent (18 Number) of women are non –Iranian.

**Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Divorce According to Education**

	Men		Women	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	54	3/07	50	2/83
Elementary	310	17/61	210	11/88
Guidance School	435	24/72	318	18/00
High School	164	9/32	130	7/36
Diploma	463	26/31	548	31/01
Student	24	1/36	75	4/24
Diploma Degree	99	5/63	118	6/68
Bachelor	170	9/66	282	15/96
Master	31	1/76	26	1/47
PH.D	7	0/40	7	0/40
Regional	3	0/17	3	0/17
Total	1760	100/00	1767	100/00

The above table shows that the highest divorce rate among men in terms of education are diploma 26/31 percent (463 Number), guidance school 24/72 percent (435 Number), elementary 17/61 percent (310 Number) and the highest divorce rate among women in terms of education are diploma 31/01 percent (548 Number), guidance school 18/00 percent (318 Number), Bachelor 15/96 per cent (282 Number). In other words, nearly three-quarters of applicants divorce are a lower secondary diploma level.

**Table 3: Frequency Distribution of Divorce According to Addiction**

	Men		Women	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Addiction	428	26/82	136	8/62
Lack of Addiction	1168	73/18	1441	91/38
Total	1596	100/00	1577	100/00

According to above table, 26/82 percent (428 Number) of men and 8/62 percent (136 Number) of women have addiction and at the same time 73/18 percent (1168 Number) of men and 91/38 percent (1441 Number) of women have not any addiction

**Table 4: Frequency Distribution of Divorce According to Number of Children**

	Men		Women	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Children	725	44/10	699	42/36
One Children	486	29/56	509	30/85
Two Children	268	16/30	274	16/61
Three Children	95	5/78	95	5/76
Four Children	39	2/37	40	2/43
Five and more than Five Children	31	1/89	33	2/00
Total	1644	100/00	1650	100/00

According to table 4, most of applicant of divorce do not have a child or have one child. More precisely, 44/10 percent (725 Number) of men and 42/36 percent (699 Number) of women do not have a child and 29/56 percent (486 Number) of men and 30/85 percent (509 Number) of women have one child.

**Table 5: Frequency Distribution of Divorce According to Monthly Income**

	Men		Women	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Revenue	36	2/79	85	15/32
Below one million Rials	36	2/79	26	4/68
One million Rials up to two million Rials	77	5/96	82	14/77
Three million Rials up to four million Rials	411	31/84	148	26/67
Five million Rials up to six million Rials	374	28/97	102	18/38
Seven million Rials up to eight million Rials	174	13/48	55	9/91
Nine million Rials up to ten million Rials	89	6/89	24	4/32
Over ten million Rials	84	6/51	26	4/68
Over twenty million Rials	10	0/77	7	1/26
Total	1291	100/00	555	100/00

According to table 5, most of divorce has income between three to four and five up to six million Rials. In other words, 31/84 percent (411 Number) of men and 26/67 percent (148 Number) of women have income of three up to four million Rials and 28/97 percent (374 Number) of men and 18/38 percent (102) of women have five to six million Rials income.

**Table 6: Frequency Distribution of Divorce According to Location**

	Men		Women	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Urban Area	1490	96/82	1489	96/44
Rural Area	49	3/18	55	3/56
Total	1539	100/00	1544	100/00

The above table shows that 96/82 percent (1490 Number) of men and 96/44 percent (1489) of women are from urban area and 3/18 percent (49 Number) of men and 3/56 percent (55 Number) of women are from rural area.

## 5. Conclusion

In this paper we aimed to find socio-economic factors affecting divorce in Yazd, Iran. The presented study revealed that education, addiction, monthly income and number of children are most important factors. The results show that there is significant relationship between monthly income and divorce such that low income level will lead to higher divorce rate and also addiction is too high causing divorce.

## 6. Recommendation

Based the results of this study suggest that families before marriage should consider familiar conditions psychological, personality, cultural and economic and moral higher among boys and girls, perhaps with more knowledge of each other in addition to getting advice on choosing a spouse, material conflict and divorce can avoid somewhat of a divorce.

## Footnotes

SPSS (version 20) is software for Statistical Analysis in the Social Sciences that all table of the paper is the output of this software.

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