

Developmental Optimism and Altering Approaches of Divorce

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Abstract—*The present study was an attempt to study approaches of divorce among Muslim Divorcee 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 Divorce Attitude Scale constructed by Anupama Shah, Anjali Gupta and Jyoti Mazumdar 1993. Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of overall approach towards divorce among Muslim Divorcee Women irrespective of their dwelling, occupation and motherhood.*

Keywords: *Divorce, divorcee, Kashmir, Muslim women.*

Introduction

Divorce represents the end of the hopes that two people had for each other, it is the certificate that their relationships failed. Divorce is related to marriage and family, which are the most important institutions of human society. Divorce is the legal dissolution of marriage and it has great socio-cultural implication (Ramachandrappa, 2012). It is becoming a common event in the lives of many people. It is now easier to dissolve marriage (Hawkins, 1976). In most countries available data, the proportion of women who are divorced is at least 25 percent higher than the proportion of men who are divorced. Overall, the disparities between women and men in those regard are higher in developing than in developed regions (women's world 2015). Muslim divorce rates, particularly in Western countries have been on the rise in recent years. Statistics show alarming increase in Muslim divorce rates in Western countries including United States, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom, where so called online divorce gained great popularity among Muslims in recent years. The fact that divorce rates among Muslim communities is on the rise signals that are more Muslims could not grasp the rights and benefits of marriage as stipulated on the Holy Quran and Sunnah (Maha, 2011).

Review of Literature:

Rootalu and Kasearu (2016) examined attitudes toward divorce in Estonia across 2 generations: children of both sexes (14–17 years old) and their mothers. The results indicate some divorce attitude transmission from mothers to daughters but not to sons. These findings also suggested that the relationship between children and parents had a significant influence on the perception of divorce by children and on how children cope with family dissolution.

Alqashan and Alkandari (2010) investigated attitudes of Kuwaiti young adults toward marriage and divorce. The findings revealed that adults whose parents divorced carried more positive attitudes toward divorce. Furthermore, gender was found to be an important factor in shaping attitudes toward marriage and divorce.

Miles and Seib (2010) examined attitudes toward marriage and divorce among single young adults. In this study results indicated that individuals who had experienced parental divorce reported lower levels of marital commitment and more pre-divorce attitudes than their peers from intact families. The results found suggested that attitudes toward marriage and divorce are partially reformulated beliefs individuals carried into their relationships.

Diaz et al. (2013) explored attitudes toward divorce. Results indicated that the majority of students had favorable attitudes toward divorce overall, perceiving divorce as a solution to unhappy marriage. The results revealed that there were strong feelings regarding marital obligation and the effect of divorce on children and society. Attitudes toward divorce were associated with spiritual beliefs and parental bonding.

Whitton et al. (2013) undertook a study on attitude towards divorce, commitment and divorce proneness. The results found that remarried adults, whether or not they brought children from a previous union into the remarriage, reported marital quality equal

to those in first marriages. They also reported more positive attitudes towards divorce, which were associated with higher divorce proneness

Objectives

The present study is based on the following objectives:

1. To study approaches of divorce among Muslim Divorcee Women in Kashmir.
2. To assess attitudes of divorce among divorcee women irrespective of their dwelling, work status and motherhood.

Material and Methods

The present study was an attempt to study approaches of divorce among Muslim Divorcee Women in Kashmir irrespective of their dwelling and work status. 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 includes Divorce Attitude Scale constructed by Anupama Shah, Anjali Gupta and Jyoti Mazumdar 1993. 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

Nearly half of the marriages today end in divorce, people hold a pessimistic approach about divorce and believe that divorce is an easier alternative than working on divorce. Therefore it is expected that having a favorable attitude towards divorce would lead to low commitment through a self-fulfilling prophecy (Frank et al. 2010). It is found that older children are likely to more likely than younger children advice divorce as a solution to an unhappy marriage (Mazur, 1993).

Approach towards divorce as per dwelling

Table 1 demonstrates that rural divorcee women have greater mean score for personal approach towards divorce ($M = 16.49$, $SD = 2.320$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of personal approach towards divorce among rural and urban divorcee women $t(600) = 2.62$, $p = 0.29$. Furthermore, rural divorcee women have greater mean score for social approach towards divorce ($M = 16.08$, $SD = 1.882$, $N = 300$). Significant differences are observed in the mean scores of social approach towards divorce among rural and urban divorcee women $t(600) = 2.22$, $p = 0.041$. Moreover, rural divorcee women have greater mean score for familial approach towards divorce ($M = 10.97$, $SD = 2.196$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of familial approach towards divorce among rural and urban divorcee women $t(600) = 0.51$, $p = 0.489$. However, rural divorcee women have greater mean score for approach towards economic status of divorcee women ($M = 11.62$, $SD = 1.885$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of approach towards economic status of divorcee women among rural and urban divorcee women $t(600) = 1.42$, $p = 0.180$. Furthermore, urban divorcee women have greater mean score for overall approach towards divorce ($M = 48.21$, $SD = 4.258$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of overall approach towards divorce among rural and urban divorcee women $t(600) = 1.14$, $p = 0.169$.

Approach towards divorce as per work status

Table 2 demonstrates that divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work have greater mean score for personal approach towards divorce ($M = 16.36$, $SD = 2.201$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of personal approach towards divorce among working and non- working divorcee women $t(600) = 0.77$, $p = 0.848$. Furthermore, divorcee women who earn cash for their work have greater mean score for social approach towards divorce ($M = 9.44$, $SD = 1.758$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of social approach towards divorce among working and non- working divorcee women $t(600) = 1.68$, $p = 0.277$. Moreover, divorcee women who earn cash for their work have greater mean score for familial approach towards divorce ($M = 11.00$, $SD = 2.200$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of familial approach towards divorce among working and non- working divorcee women $t(600) = 0.90$, $p = 0.066$. However, divorcee women who earn cash for their work have greater mean score for approach towards economic status of divorcee women ($M = 11.60$, $SD = 1.911$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of approach towards economic status of divorcee women among working and non- working divorcee women $t(600) = 1.07$, $p = 0.101$. Furthermore, divorcee women who earn cash for their work have greater mean score for overall approach towards divorce ($M = 48.12$, $SD = 4.174$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of overall approach towards divorce among working and non- working divorcee women $t(600) = 0.61$, $p = 0.731$.

Approach towards divorce as per motherhood

Table 3 demonstrates that divorcee women having children have greater mean score for personal approach towards divorce ($M = 16.34$, $SD = 2.286$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of personal approach towards divorce among divorcee women with or without live children $t(600) = 0.53$, $p = 0.848$. Furthermore, childless divorcee women have greater mean score for social approach towards divorce ($M = 9.40$, $SD = 1.783$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of social approach towards divorce among divorcee women with or without live children $t(600) = 1.23$, $p = 0.115$. Moreover, divorcee women having children have greater mean score for familial approach towards divorce ($M = 10.97$, $SD = 2.286$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of familial approach towards divorce among divorcee women with or without live children $t(600) = 0.50$, $p = 0.693$. However, childless divorcee women have greater mean score for approach towards economic status of divorcee women ($M = 11.61$, $SD = 1.804$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of approach towards economic status of divorcee women among divorcee women with or without live children $t(600) = 1.28$, $p = 0.345$. Furthermore, childless divorcee women have greater mean score for overall approach towards divorce ($M = 48.04$, $SD = 4.461$, $N = 300$). Insignificant differences are observed in the mean scores of overall approach towards divorce among divorcee women with or without live children $t(600) = 0.16$, $p = 0.909$.

Table 1: Approach towards divorce (t-test) as per dwelling

Variables	As per dwelling	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	p-value
Personal approach towards divorce	Rural	300	16.49	2.320	2.62	0.29
	Urban	300	16.08	2.289		
Social approach towards divorce	Rural	300	9.48	1.882	2.22	0.041
	Urban	300	9.14	1.800		
Familial approach towards divorce	Rural	300	10.97	2.196	0.51	0.489
	Urban	300	10.87	2.337		
Approach towards economic status of divorcee women	Rural	300	11.62	1.885	1.42	0.180
	Urban	300	11.40	1.923		
Overall approach towards divorce	Rural	300	47.82	4.152	1.14	0.169
	Urban	300	48.21	4.258		

Table 2: Approach towards divorce as per work status

Variables	As per occupation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	p-value
Personal approach towards divorce	Earn for cash	300	16.21	2.418	0.77	0.848
	Don't earn for cash	300	16.36	2.201		
Social approach towards divorce	Earn for cash	300	9.44	1.758	1.68	0.277
	Don't earn for cash	300	9.18	1.928		
Familial approach towards divorce	Earn for cash	300	11.00	2.200	0.90	0.066
	Don't earn for cash	300	10.84	2.331		
Approach towards economic status of divorcee women	Earn for cash	300	11.60	1.911	1.07	0.101
	Don't earn for cash	300	11.43	1.900		
Overall approach towards divorce	Earn for cash	300	48.12	4.174	0.61	0.731
	Don't earn for cash	300	47.91	4.243		

Table 3 Approach towards divorce as per motherhood

Variables	As per motherhood	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	p-value
Personal approach towards divorce	Childless	300	16.24	2.339	0.53	0.848
	Having children	300	16.34	2.286		
Social approach towards divorce	Childless	300	9.40	1.783	1.23	0.115
	Having children	300	9.22	1.908		
Familial approach towards divorce	Childless	300	10.87	2.249	0.50	0.693
	Having children	300	10.97	2.286		
Approach towards economic status of divorcee women	Childless	300	11.61	1.804	1.28	0.345
	Having children	300	11.41	2.001		
Overall approach towards divorce	Childless	300	48.04	4.461	0.16	0.909
	Having children	300	47.98	3.943		

Conclusion

It is conclude from the study that divorce is a challenging and dreadful societal concern in Kashmir valley. Most of the divorcee women in Kashmir found medium attitude towards economic status towards divorce as per their dwelling, work status and motherhood is concerned.

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