

Perception of Muslim divorcee women towards their status in Kashmir

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Abstract

The present study was an attempt to observe the attitude of divorcee Women towards their status in Kashmir irrespective of their dwelling, work status and motherhood. 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 self constructed questionnaire. The study shows that the majority of divorcee women in Kashmir found medium level personal, social, familial attitude towards divorce. Most of the divorcee women found moderate attitude towards economic status of divorcee women.

Keywords: divorcee, perception, personal, social, familial, Kashmir.

Introduction

Women have equal participation in human development. She is half of the human race. But she lacks in society. Lot of crime against women is seen in modern society (Nandal and Rajnish, 2014) [4]. Divorce among women is a controversial and catastrophic social issue. Technological advancements and increased urbanization have elevated the rates of various problems including divorce (Zandiyeh, 2014) [8]. Increasing violence, cruelty, character assassination alcoholism, problems of adjustment especially in a joint family, growing individualism of the wrong type, extra marital affairs and the undesirable impact of the outside world in terms of falling values and lack of role models are major reasons that led for opting out marriages these days (Trivedi *et al.* 2009) [6]. Divorce is the legal dissolution of socially and legally recognized marital relationship that alters the obligations and privileges of the two persons involved. It is also a major life transition that has far reaching social, legal, personal, economic and personal consequences (Sharma, 2011) [9]. In common terms it is considered as the ending of a marriage. A breakup in relationship is obviously the most awful situation for a person that results into emotional setback. The mental health indicators which are affected by divorce relate to depression, anger, low self-esteem and anxiety. The person affected may blame himself/herself for such a blunder. There is no doubt, adapting to divorce can be a tedious process despite seeking relief of termination of problematic marriage. Many a times proceeding in a disparaging and dissatisfied marriage has had greater effect on the psyche of spouse and children rather than opting to be parted amicably or through court (Nayak, 2014) [10]. Divorce usually takes place due to the disparity in gender roles, when the rewards for maintaining a relationship are lower and the costs higher than those available in another relationship or by living alone then it results in divorce (Naz *et al.*, 2012) [11].

Review of literature

Jan and Gowhar (2017) [3] observed the attitudes of divorcee women towards their marital status and compared the attitude of divorcee women in urban and rural areas. It was found that

majority of divorcee women belonging to rural area disagreed that divorce helps them to start an independent life. It was found that majority of women from urban area disagreed that when woman are frustrated divorce was better than committing suicide. Furthermore it was found that divorcee rural women disagreed that their parents and relatives were over burdened when they became divorcee. In urban areas divorcee women disagreed that divorce ruins the life of their children. The results revealed that urban divorcee women disagreed that their children's education was adversely affected and hence divorce should be avoided.

Jan and Gowhar (2016) [2] undertook a study on the Impact of age on attitudes of divorcee women towards their status and compared the attitude of divorcee women in different age groups. The results revealed that divorcee women belonging to young age group and old age group were satisfied with having divorce but the divorcee women belonging to middle age group are unhappy with having divorce. It was found that majority of divorcee women were in the age group of 36-52 years, agreed that divorce makes them feel insecure. Majority of divorcee women in young age group agreed that divorce is better than committing suicide. Furthermore it was found that it was not difficult for divorcee women in the old age group to interact with the society. Divorcee women between the age group of 53-70 years were enjoying their life because they feel free and independent after having divorce.

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.

Valadan *et al.* (2015) [7] compared the causes of divorce, attitudes to divorce and mental health in women with uncontested divorce and contested divorce. The study showed that there was no significant difference between women with uncontested and contested divorce in terms of attitude towards divorce. In other words, according to the mean of the

measurements, the two groups had similar attitudes about divorce. Therefore, difference in attitude between the two communities in divorce cases was not confirmed. In this study, attitude towards divorce was found negative. Results showed that there were also no significant differences in the causes of divorce and mental health between both groups.

Diaz *et al.* (2013) [1] 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.

Objectives

The present study is based on the following objectives:

1. Perception of Muslim divorcee women towards their status.
2. To assess the attitude of Muslim women regarding divorce.

Material and Methods

The present study was an attempt to study the attitude of Muslim divorcee women in Kashmir irrespective of their dwelling, work status and motherhood. 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 include a detailed questionnaire. 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

Attitude towards divorce as per dwelling

Table 1 signifies that medium personal attitude towards divorce is observed 63 per cent (f = 189) among rural divorcee women. Similarly, 65.3 per cent (f = 196) urban divorcee women also have medium personal attitude towards divorce. Furthermore, medium social attitude towards divorce is found 37 per cent (f = 111) among rural divorcee women and 41.7 per cent (f = 125) among urban divorcee women. Moreover, medium familial attitude towards divorce is found 44.7 per cent (f = 134) among rural divorcee women and 47.7 per cent (f = 143) among urban divorcee women. However, medium attitude towards economic status is revealed 41.7 per cent (f = 125) among rural divorcee women and 45 per cent (f = 135) among urban divorcee women. Moreover, medium overall attitude towards divorce is observed 50 per cent (f = 150) among rural divorcee women and 54 per cent (f = 162) among urban divorcee women. However, such opinion among dwelling, regarding personal attitude towards divorce are found insignificant χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 3.841, $p > 0.05$; social attitude towards divorce χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 5.585, $p > 0.05$; familial attitude towards divorce χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 8.417, $p >$

0.05; economical attitude towards divorce χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 3.618, $p > 0.05$; and overall attitude towards divorce χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 3.639, $p > 0.05$. In dwelling and personal attitude towards divorce among divorcee women shows negatively insignificant correlation r (600) = -0.083, $p > 0.05$. Social attitude towards divorce depicts negatively significant correlation r (600) = -0.092, $p < 0.05$. Familial attitude towards divorce reveals negatively insignificant correlation r (600) = -0.030, $p > 0.05$. Economical attitude towards divorce shows negatively insignificant correlation r (600) = -0.051, $p > 0.05$. Overall attitude towards divorce found positively insignificant correlation r (600) = 0.055, $p > 0.05$.

Attitude towards divorce as per work status

Table 2 reveals that medium personal attitude towards divorce is observed 61.4 per cent (f = 184) among divorcee women who earn cash for their work. Similarly, 67 per cent (f = 201) divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work also have medium personal attitude towards divorce. Furthermore, medium social attitude towards divorce is found 41.7 per cent (f = 125) among divorcee women who earn cash for their work and 37 per cent (f = 111) among divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work. Moreover, medium familial attitude towards divorce is found 46.7 per cent (f = 140) among divorcee women who earn cash for their work and 45.7 per cent (f = 137) among divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work. However, medium attitude towards economic status is revealed 41.7 per cent (f = 125) among divorcee women who earn cash for their work and 45 per cent (f = 135) among divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work. Moreover, medium overall attitude towards divorce is observed 51.7 per cent (f = 155) among divorcee women who earn cash for their work and 52.3 per cent (f = 157) among divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work. However, such opinion among occupation, regarding personal attitude towards divorce are found insignificant χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 4.951, $p > 0.05$; such notion among divorcee women towards social attitude towards divorce are found significant χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 10.602, $p < 0.05$; such attitude among divorcee women shows familial attitude towards divorce are found insignificant χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 8.092, $p > 0.05$; economical attitude towards divorce χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 3.427, $p > 0.05$; and overall attitude towards divorce χ^2 (4, N = 600) = 1.679, $p > 0.05$. In occupation and personal attitude towards divorce among divorcee women shows positively insignificant correlation r (600) = 0.036, $p > 0.05$. Social attitude towards divorce among divorcee women depicts negatively insignificant correlation r (600) = -0.055, $p < 0.05$. Familial attitude towards divorce among divorcee women reveals negatively insignificant correlation r (600) = -0.041, $p > 0.05$. Economical attitude towards divorce among divorcee women shows negatively insignificant correlation r (600) = -0.039, $p > 0.05$. Overall attitude towards divorce among divorcee women shows negatively insignificant correlation r (600) = -0.015, $p > 0.05$.

Attitude towards divorce as per motherhood

Table 3 depicts that medium personal attitude towards divorce is observed 62.3 per cent (f = 187) among childless divorcee women. Similarly, 66 per cent (f = 198) divorcee women having children also have medium personal attitude towards divorce. Furthermore, medium social attitude towards divorce is found 41 per cent (f = 123) among childless divorcee women

and 37.7 per cent (f = 113) among divorcee women having children. Moreover, medium familial attitude towards divorce is found 46 per cent (f = 138) among childless divorcee women and 46.3 per cent (f = 139) among divorcee women having children. However, medium attitude towards economic status is revealed 43.7 per cent (f = 131) among childless divorcee women and 43 per cent (f = 129) among divorcee women having children. Moreover, medium overall attitude towards divorce is observed 51.6 per cent (f = 155) among childless divorcee women and 52.3 per cent (f = 157) among divorcee women having children. However, such opinion between motherhood and personal attitude towards divorce are found insignificant $\chi^2 (4, N = 600) = 3.46, p > 0.05$; social attitude towards divorcee $\chi^2 (4, N = 600) = 5.15, p > 0.05$; familial

attitude towards divorce $\chi^2 (4, N = 600) = 2.495, p > 0.05$; economical attitude towards divorce $\chi^2 (4, N = 600) = 7.26, p > 0.05$; and overall attitude towards divorce $\chi^2 (4, N = 600) = 4.757, p > 0.05$. In motherhood, and personal attitude towards divorce among divorcee women shows positively insignificant correlation $r (600) = 0.020, p > 0.05$. Social attitude towards divorce depicts negatively insignificant correlation $r (600) = -0.056, p < 0.05$. Familial attitude towards divorce reveals positively insignificant correlation $r (600) = 0.014, p > 0.05$. Economical attitude towards divorce shows negatively insignificant correlation $r (600) = -0.041, p > 0.05$. Overall attitude towards divorce found negatively insignificant correlation $r (600) = -0.020, p > 0.05$.

Table 1: Attitude towards divorce (as per dwelling)

Variable	Rural (n=300)		Urban (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Personal attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 3.841, df = 4, p = 0.427$) ($r = -0.083, p = 0.42$)				
Highly Positive	3	1	2	0.7
Positive	50	16.7	38	12.7
Medium	189	63	196	65.3
Negative	57	19	60	20
Highly Negative	1	0.3	4	1.3
Social attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 5.585, df = 4, p = 0.232$) ($r = -0.092, p = 0.024$)				
Highly Positive	46	15.3	30	10
Positive	97	32.4	89	29.7
Medium	111	37	125	41.7
Negative	43	14.3	53	17.6
Highly Negative	3	1	3	1
Familial attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 8.417, df = 4, p = 0.077$) ($r = -0.030, p = 0.466$)				
Highly Positive	18	6	23	7.6
Positive	105	35	89	29.7
Medium	134	44.7	143	47.7
Negative	43	14.3	39	13
Highly Negative	0	0	6	2
Attitude towards economic status of divorcee women ($\chi^2 = 3.618, df = 4, p = 0.460$) ($r = -0.051, p = 0.208$)				
Highly Positive	49	16.3	47	15.7
Positive	113	37.7	98	32.7
Medium	125	41.7	135	45
Negative	13	4.3	19	6.3
Highly Negative	0	0	1	0.3
Overall attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 3.639, df = 4, p = 0.457$) ($r = 0.055, p = 0.177$)				
Highly Positive	5	1.7	4	1.3
Positive	28	9.3	36	12
Medium	150	50	162	54
Negative	114	38	94	31.4
Highly Negative	3	1	4	1.3

Table 2: Attitude towards divorce (as per work status)

Variable	Earn for cash (n=300)		Don't earn for cash (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Personal attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 4.951$, df = 4, p = 0.292) (r= 0.036, p = 0.376)				
Highly Positive	4	1.3	1	0.3
Positive	46	15.3	42	14
Medium	184	61.4	201	67
Negative	62	20.7	55	18.4
Highly Negative	4	1.3	1	0.3
Social attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 10.602$, df = 4, p = 0.031) (r= -0.055, p = 0.176)				
Highly Positive	39	13	37	12.3
Positive	97	32.3	89	29.7
Medium	125	41.7	111	37
Negative	39	13	57	19
Highly Negative	0	0	6	2
Familial attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 8.092$, df = 4, p = 0.088) (r= -0.041, p = 0.317)				
Highly Positive	18	6	23	7.6
Positive	104	34.7	90	30
Medium	140	46.7	137	45.7
Negative	38	12.6	44	14.7
Highly Negative	0	0	6	2
Attitude towards economic status of divorcee women ($\chi^2 = 3.427$, df = 4, p = 0.489) (r= -0.039, p = 0.335)				
Highly Positive	54	18	42	14
Positive	107	35.7	104	34.7
Medium	125	41.7	135	45
Negative	14	4.6	18	6
Highly Negative	0	0	1	0.3
Overall attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 1.679$, df = 4, p = 0.794) (r= -0.015, p = 0.722)				
Highly Positive	4	1.3	5	1.7
Positive	34	11.3	30	10
Medium	155	51.7	157	52.3
Negative	105	35	103	34.3
Highly Negative	2	0.7	5	1.7

Table 3: Attitude towards divorce (as per motherhood)

Variable	Childless (n=300)		Having children (n=300)	
	F	%	F	%
Personal attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 3.46$, df = 4, p = 0.483) (r= 0.020, p = 0.625)				
Highly Positive	1	0.3	4	1.3
Positive	48	16	40	13.3
Medium	187	62.3	198	66
Negative	62	20.7	55	18.4
Highly Negative	2	0.7	3	1
Social attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 5.15$, df = 4, p = 0.272) (r= -0.056, p = 0.174)				
Highly Positive	41	13.7	35	11.7
Positive	95	31.6	91	30.3
Medium	123	41	113	37.7
Negative	38	12.7	58	19.3
Highly Negative	3	1	3	1
Familial attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 2.495$, df = 4, p = 0.645) (r= 0.014, p = 0.726)				
Highly Positive	16	5.3	25	8.3
Positive	102	34	92	30.7
Medium	138	46	139	46.3
Negative	41	13.7	41	13.7
Highly Negative	3	1	3	1
Attitude towards economic status of divorcee women ($\chi^2 = 7.26$, df = 4, p = 0.122) (r= -0.041, p = 0.312)				
Highly Positive	45	15	51	17
Positive	114	38	97	32.4
Medium	131	43.7	129	43
Negative	10	3.3	22	7.3
Highly Negative	0	0	1	0.3
Overall attitude towards divorce ($\chi^2 = 4.757$, df = 4, p = 0.313) (r= -0.020, p = 0.624)				
Highly Positive	6	2	3	1
Positive	32	10.7	32	10.7
Medium	155	51.6	157	52.3
Negative	101	33.7	107	35.7
Highly Negative	6	2	1	0.3

Conclusion

It is concluded from the present study that majority of divorcee women in Kashmir found medium level personal, social, economic, and familial attitude towards divorce irrespective of their dwelling, occupation and motherhood. Most of the divorcee women in Kashmir also found medium attitude towards economic status towards divorce irrespective of their dwelling, work status and motherhood

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