

Divorce: Is Not Always Negative

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ABSTRACT

Marriage is the legal bond between a man and a woman to live together. Sometimes this important bond turns into divorced due to various reasons. There is no doubt that divorce has the negative consequences among human life and society as well. Even after knowing the negatives impact of divorce the rate is increasing around the world. This is also evident in Bangladesh. The divorce rate is 42 percent in the entire country in terms of its total population. Rajshahi division is at the top in the country in terms of divorce, according to the preliminary report of "Population and Housing Census 2022" To find in-depth of divorce, the study conducted 15 case studies (10 female and 05 male) from the village Khatiamari of Bogura Districts of Rajshahi Division. The objective of this paper is to understand the reasons for divorce are on the rise despite social stigmatization are those always negative. The study found some reasons for divorce were not negative. Sociologists and psychologists say that as the education rate among women is increasing, their awareness and self-dependence is also increasing. Therefore women do not accept wrongdoing to them. They prefer divorce than to unhealthy conjugal life even having child with them. The study also found continuation of extramarital relations without divorce is dishonorable to conjugal life. Divorce allows the freedom to meet the person were meant to be with. In this study divorce proves that divorcee have the courage to live a life of happiness.

Key words: Divorce, Marriage, Single parenting, Infidelity

INTRODUCTION

According to the social scientists society and state are necessary for the development of human civilization. The first step of society is the family. Family life begins with marriage. Therefore, the importance of marriage in the development of human civilization is immense. Marriage is the legal bond between a man and a woman to live together. They begin their journey together, sharing all their emotions, feelings, and sorrows with each other. It is through marriage that a man and a woman become partners in each other's activities. (<https://opentextbc.ca>). Sometimes this important bond turns into divorced due to various

reasons. Divorce is a formal ending of a marriage. It's more permanent than a separation and involves a legal process. If someone gets a divorce, that means the marriage is officially over. Divorce also has social consequences for adults, children and society as well. In the patriarchal society like Bangladesh divorce is considered dishonorable to the divorce and also to the family. Because of that, in most cases they prefer to keep the issues hidden if possible. Due to which divorce is still a kind of taboo in the society. Renowned Bangladeshi Sociologist Mahbooba Nasreen said that the effect of divorce on men and women is different. "I think all over the world divorce affects women more than men. Because we think they are dependent," she said. "There is a concept called feminization of poverty in economics. Women are the poorest of the poor. If they are not economically and socially dominant then the impact of divorce on them is negative compared to men." She also mentioned that the society does not try to understand the mental condition of women and they are blamed more for divorce (<https://www.thedailystar.net>).

Even after knowing the negatives impact of divorce the rate is increasing around the world. The divorce rates around the world is 4.08 per 1,000 married persons as of May 2022. Divorce is becoming more widespread in today's society.

Country wise divorce rate

Rank	Country	Divorces per 1,000 people per year
1	Maldives	5.52
2	Kazakhstan	4.6
3	Russia	3.9
4	Belgium	3.7
5	Belarus	3.7
6	Moldova	3.3
7	China	3.2
8	Cuba	2.9
9	Ukraine	2.88
10	Denmark	2.7

Source: <https://www.advokatsmart.no>

"Coming out of the penumbras: World culture and cross-national variation in divorce rates," was published in the December 2018 issue of *Social Forces* by the sociologist Irvine Cheng-Tong Lir Wang and Evan Schofer. The report was based on the analyzed nearly four decades of divorce data (1970-2008) from 84 countries around the world. They looked at changes in rates of divorce over time and in different places. According to the report globally, in between 1970 and 2008, the divorce rate has more than doubled, from 2.6 divorces for every 1,000 married people to 5.5. Those results are averaged across all the regions of the world that they studied. They indicated some societal factors that might be relevant to rates of divorce, such as a nation's

level of economic development and the proportion of their women who are in the workforce. They also wanted to learn about global norms and values, such as the belief in human rights and gender equality, and whether they had anything to do with rates of divorce. (<https://www.psychologytoday.com>).

Besides those reasons recently, the pandemic has added more strain and caused damage to relationships. For this reason, divorce rates around the world remain high (<https://jbsolicitors.com.au>). This is also evident in Bangladesh. The divorce rate is 42 percent in the entire country in terms of its total population. On the other hand, married people comprise of 65.26 percent of the population. Rajshahi division is at the top in the country in terms of divorce, according to the preliminary report of "Population and Housing Census 2022". The rate of divorce in the division is 61 percent, shows the report released on July 27, 2022. (<https://www.thedailystar.net>). According to the BBC in the capital city Dhaka, there was one divorce every 38 minutes in 2020 (<https://www.bbc.com>).

To find in-depth of divorce, the study conducted 15 case studies (10 female and 05 male) from the village Khatiamari of Bogura Districts of Rajshahi Division. The objective of this paper is to understand the reasons for divorce are on the rise despite social stigmatization are those always negative.

Divorce a new lease on life

By analysing the overall dowry situation, reported statistics indicate that it is only the tip of the iceberg, mentioned Taskin Fahmina on her study "Are you a silent observer of dowry and related violence?" (<http://odhikar.org>). The same study reported that every year many women in Bangladesh are killed and physically abused and many committed suicide because of the vicious dowry practice and related violence. This study found poor men are more likely to marry into financially solvent families than their own. Many of them had the tendency to start business with dowry. When they did not get the money as their demand, they physically abuse the wife. The study also found that one of the respondents was afraid that she would be sold to be sent to work as maid in the Middle East Country illegally for not being able to pay the dowry. Respondents and her family no longer wanted to tolerate all the oppression and injustice with them. They protested. Even if there was no remedy, they decided divorce was better than enduring torture. No doubt that marriage is a sense of security of relation but in this case divorce gives them a new lease on life.

Single parenting better than bad parenting

Children are the main victims of divorce. They grew up as children of 'Broken Families' which hinders their normal mental growth. They suffer from a kind of 'identity crisis' Psychiatrists feel, "If children are deprived of the normal companionship and love of their parents, their lives become abnormal. They see the society, the family as negative that is horrible."

Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, a researcher and writer on marriage, family, child rearing, wrote in a book called "The Divorce Culture", published in 1997, that in the 1950s, most unhappy couples in the world did not divorce because of children and fear of social stigma. The relationship between husband and wife became bitter, but they kept the unhappy relationship by the sake of child's. In the 1960s, the divorce rate increased rapidly. Considering the welfare of children and adolescents in the family, the divorce laws in the United States have been made difficult

and various restrictions and compensations have been imposed on the divorcee. But the law soon proved ineffective. In a 1962 opinion poll of women, 51 percent of women said they would not stay in an unhappy relationship just for the sake of the child. In a similar survey in 1977, the number of women giving the same opinion increased to 80 percent. In UK 200 case studies conducted to know the effects of parental separation on children. Studies have shown that the effects of parental separation on children are temporary. Sometimes the child suffers from mental depression and lethargy. Then with the passage of time the difficulties are overcome earlier compare to children of unhappy couple.

In the society of Bangladesh has becoming a part of globalization experiencing similar incidents. (<https://www.dw.com>).

In the study area one of the respondents mentioned her husband used to come drunk every day and beat her in front of the child. Child was cried and scared. Once her husband beat her and broke her arm. She decided to divorce. She thought that the child is freed from the daily fear and that is good for mental health.

Infidelity

Mistrust is increasing between husband and wife due to various reasons. Now both are working, going out mingling with their colleagues, friends and acquaintances. Social scientists think that some men and women are involved in extramarital romance after marriage due to mistrust. Negatively use of mobile phones, internet and social media enhance extra marital relation. One of the respondents said that his wife had an extramarital affair with someone she knew through Facebook. The respondent tried to get his wife out of the extramarital affair. His wife promised that she would not continue any more extramarital affairs but continued. Respondent divorced his wife and said that he was free from that awful feeling from being with the wrong person. He wanted to start a new family again.

Financial control

American couples find themselves facing there are many ways finances can cause problems in a relationship. Those are mainly:

- Disagreements overspending or saving habits
- Issues with power dynamics due to different incomes
- Financial instability
- One spouse holding control of all finances

(<https://www.orshanlaw.com>).

These issues are common in some cases. A respondent said that she earned but her husband took all her money and spending on addiction. She could not help her poor parents even in times of need. Another respondent said that he is the only son and earning member of his parent. His wife disagreed whenever he wanted to pay money for his mother's illness. Two respondents reported that quarrels had become their daily routine. These two respondents said that the decision to divorce before having children was appropriate because the problems with financial disagreement would never be solved.

Prolonged absence

Psychologists found physical intimacy, spending quality time is essential for emotional bonding and happy married life (<https://www.oprahdaily.com>). When husband and wife are away from each other for long periods of time there is no opportunities showing regular affections, care and respects. When the intimacy stops the conjugal life might be in threat. The case found a husband and wife stayed together for only two months after marriage. Husband went out of the country. No communication except for occasional phone calls during data collection. It was two years of marriage. The wife's family decided to divorce as they thought it was not a healthy married life rather barrier for new steps of life.

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that divorce has the negative consequences among human life and society as well. The study found some reasons for divorce were not negative. Sociologists and psychologists say that as the education rate among women is increasing, their awareness and self-dependence is also increasing. Therefore women do not accept wrongdoing to them. They prefer divorce than to unhealthy conjugal life even having child with them. The study also found continuation of extramarital relations without divorce is dishonorable to conjugal life. Divorce allows the freedom to meet the person were meant to be with. In this study divorce proves that divorces overcome the social stigma and they have the courage to live a life of happiness.

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