

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TALAQ WOMEN IN BANGALORE – A STUDY

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Abstract: Today families are facing unprecedented and varied challenges like urbanization, drug/alcohol abuse, breaking down of marriages, changing and social condition etc. Lack of family unity due to divergent objectives, ambitions, thoughts and ideas; decrease in the family control due to competition; lack of control and unity; conflicts between parents and children due to undue expectation of authority and freedom, and all such precarious areas have become a challenge of modern family. In addition, laxity in marital bonds, availability of alternative satisfaction, misuse of economic freedom etc. yielded up the cause of divorce. With the changing concepts, values, added stress and challenging roles of Indian women, marriage in itself has become more of a challenge than ever. Marriage in Indian society is more a religious institution than a legal one. It is understood as a relatively permanent union of two peoples implying a number of interlocking status and roles. Muslim marriage is a social contract. Family is never merely a personal matter, because society is much affected by the quality of its families.

Keywords: Problems Of Divorced Women, Broken Relationship, Scientific Advice.

Introduction: Marriage and family are ancient institutions and around them have grown up deep and powerful sentiments and traditions. Family is the institution which forms the basis of every other institution on the face of the earth. This important institution is formed on another institution, namely, marriage. In most societies marriage is considered as a permanent union. We come across many passages to support the view that marriage is union made by God himself and hence none should break it. In the Holy Bible it is written: Man must not separate what God has joined together. In Hindu text is, still more intense view is expressed. For a Hindu, marriage is a sacrament and hence unbreakable. Despite all these there has been a significant change in the views and attitudes towards sanctity of marriage in the recent past, especially in cities. Marriage is no longer held to be a 'divine match' or a 'sacred union'. Once the rock on which society was founded, marriage has been becoming increasingly unstable in many countries for the past few decades and divorce rate is mounting.

Concept of Divorce: The word 'divorce' in English is derived from the Latin word *divortium* which again is derived from *dis* which means 'apart' and *vertere* which means 'to turn'. Divorce is the dissolution of the tie of marriage. So, divorce is the turning away of partners from each other. Divorce in the proper and strict sense of the term means complete rupture of the marital bond; the persons divorced returning to their original state of being free to marry. Divorce is the word we use to mean the legal ending of a marriage. In the legal language, it might appear as a simple phenomenon, but in practical life its implications are massive. Divorce 'represents the end of the hopes that two people had for each other; it is the certificate that their relationship failed'. Divorce is a way of dissolving a legal marriage that permits the partners to

remarry if they choose. Divorce involves the recognition that marriage has irreparably failed and that at least one of the partners has no desire to continue the marital relationship. Total dissolution of the bonds of a valid marriage is what is now generally meant by divorce (Arora, 2006).

Divorce or the legal termination of a marriage has been called the most detestable of all permitted things. The reasons for this may be that no other process known to man causes such utter devastation to the family unit, socioeconomic status of the family, and the psychological well-being of all those involved. With such noticeable changes, the fabric of Indian society is being affected by this shift. Indian women are educating themselves, choosing professional careers and becoming independent. The impact of cable and satellite television, the Internet and Western influences have all contributed to women raising their expectations of marital life. Financial security and dependency on the man, as once practiced in the past, is now no longer the case. Professional women are making their own choices and financial stability is giving them the confidence which was not present in the past. However, this evolution is now damaging the sacred institution of marriage because separation and divorce rates in India are rising.

Where marriage was central to the social status of the Indian women, today it is not the case as younger women are breaking the mold and are becoming more intolerant of their partners. Many unhappy women are now taking the stance to leave relationships compared to those of the past that took everything that was literally thrown at them, for the sake of honor, family and society. Abusive relationships are one key reason for many splits, where the women feel enough is enough. Violent and abusive partners

are no longer being tolerated. Families of the women are also becoming more understanding. In general, Indian women today are becoming physically, financially and sexually more demanding than past generation (Madan, 2003).

Recent Trend of Divorce in India: In recent years more and more 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 more people from middle class and lower middle class are opting out of unhappy alliances. Delhi leads the way registering about 9,000 cases every year, a huge increase from the average 1,000 cases that were registered in the 90s. A significant upshot is that more women are filing petitions for dissolution of marriage something that was unheard of in the 70s and 80s.

Divorce can have negative impact on families especially children who bear the brunt of failed marriages. The problem confronts people all over the world and there is no solution which can make everybody happy. It is a reality that calls for us as individuals and as a society to make adjustments to our ideas and expectations of marriage. There is need to have strong support system for people who decide to go for divorce. Divorce was not even a remote possibility or even thought of until recent times. In India, there is a cultural, religious, and social stigma associated with divorce. Community disapproval is stronger for divorced women than it is for divorced men. Studies of divorced, separated, and deserted women show that a majority of them experience serious financial problems, and as a result, many of them are unable to provide food, clothing, and shelter for themselves and their children (Mehta, 1975).

Family Structure and Divorce: Joint family or nuclear families are found in most communities of India. It has the cases of marital disruptions in different level and ratio. The reasons of divorce under the nuclear family are sexual or socially gap between the spouses due to the job distance, problem in cohabitation, freedom, out of control from their family, equal status and adjustment problem, education and awareness. There are different traditions, value systems, and role-performing practices are exercised in joint family structure. New couple may not be satisfied and felt uneasy to adjust and adopt in the joint family guided by traditional practices and value system.

Occupation and Divorce: The nature of occupations of the people is determining the social and economic

status. It affects the individual behavior. The occupational mobility of the spouses makes relations broad. "Divorce is relatively high among persons engaged in occupation necessitating frequent absence from home, involving, and intimate contact with the opposite sex, and controlled relatively little by the community".

Economic Condition and Divorce: Economic aspect is the crucial, dominant and effective component of the society. Every happiness, trust, support and sympathy or tension, clash, quarrel, and maladjustment or marital incompatibility in the family is the causes of economic factors. Economic factors also contributed to rising divorce rates. Changing work patterns, diminished occupational opportunities, and men's declining labor force involvement, stagnant wages. The divorce rate is found higher if spouses have more expectation from each other, faced economic hardship and gone far from their residence due to the economic achievement. Women's economic independence plays a central role in marital and family dynamics, and there is evidence for the idea that women's earnings have a nonlinear influence on the probability of disruption. It is not surprising that two thirds of recent divorces have been initiated by women (Ahrns, 1994).

The level of Educational Attainment and Divorce: Inequality in education between the spouses creates different ideas about their lives, ways of thinking and expectations. Therefore education is an important decisive factor in rating marital relationships either happiness or creates aware. Educational condition is performed multidimensional role whether occurred divorce or compatibility in marital relations.

Women, Work and Divorce: Another factor that needs to be examined is the rise in the participation rate of women in the paid workforce. A number of international studies have shown that there is a real connection between the two, married women in the paid workforce are much more likely to see their marriage end in divorce than those who work at home. Sweden is an example. It has one of the highest rates of female labor force participation in the world. It also has one of the highest divorce rates in the world.

The experience of divorce: Divorce can be a devastating experience while the divorce is in progress, and for sometime afterward both parties her likely to feel personally rejected, cheated in the economic arrangements, misrepresented legally, bitter about the cope rental arrangements, lonely because they have lost friends, and afraid of living alone. Children are distressed when their parents' divorce. Children under the age of five may react with rage grief, as if they themselves where being divorced by parent's older children grasp the situation better but sometimes tend to blame themselves. Adolescents are likely to

the angry at their parents to feel socially embarrassed by the break up. Even grown children may be upset and angry, although they're able to adjust more quickly because they are less depression on the marriage.

Consequences of Divorce: Divorce is widely viewed as a serious problem. The word divorce conjures up images of divided families, vulnerable children, failed marriages, forgotten commitments, long expensive legal battles, resentment, hostility, bitterness, and economic hardship. It is understandable that people do not think positively about divorce.

Economic: There is great disparity between the economic ramifications of divorce between men and women. Men remain relatively unaffected while women, especially those with children, have difficulty "providing food, clothing and shelter for themselves and their children." Often a woman is not able to rely on her family for support because many parents "feel they have discharged their obligations to a daughter by arranging her marriage and providing a dowry." Also, due to the social stigma of divorce, women find it difficult to remarry and usually attempt to establish an independent household (Amato, 1994). The economic costs of divorce are greater for women because most marriages and divorces involve children, and mothers continue to devote substantially more time to caring for children than fathers do. The time women invest in child care and other unpaid family labor restricts their educational and occupational opportunities as well as their income. Another major reason for women's economic disadvantages after divorce is that compliance of child support awards by fathers is rare (Acock, 1994).

Social: While India feels that one should have the right to divorce, it is still a highly stigmatizing action. Women are looked upon more harshly than men in this regard. There continue to be segments of Indian society that feel divorce is never an option, regardless of how abusive or adulterous the husband may be which adds to the greater disapproval for women. A divorced woman often will return to her family, but may not be wholeheartedly welcomed. She puts, especially if she has children, an economic burden on her family and is often given lowly household tasks to perform. There is also the risk that a divorced woman's presence would ward off possible marriages for other daughters within the household. Unavoidably, the overall status of the family and household are lowered by having a divorcee living with amongst them. A woman's class and caste are a major factor in her acceptance back into society. Women from higher classes tend to have an easier time than middle or lower class women in returning to the social order after a divorce.

All professionals – the judges, the lawyers, the family counselors, the workers and activists of women's or-

ganizations – the researcher came across during the fieldwork affirmed that divorce is becoming more common, particularly among the urban educated middle and upper class people. According to the present study, the number of matrimonial cases filed in the Sessions Court, Bangalore has increased steadily year by year from 141cases in 2000 to 361cases in 2008.

Effects on Children: According to number of researches, hostility within the family has a stronger influence on the child than does family structure. Furthermore, it has also been found that parental conflict has been found to have a negative impact on children's and adult's self-esteem, educational attainment, parent-child relationships, courtship and marriage experiences, and psychological adjustment. Collectively, these studies highlight that parental conflict is damaging and disadvantageous to many areas of development for children, children with parents who constantly fight have been found to be worse off than children from families in which divorce brings an end to the quarrelling (Weiss, 1989). Family is said to be the first school of children with parents expected to be with them in building a strong foundation. Almost everything that makes up the personality of children comes from what has been learned in the family (Amato & Booth, 2000) is so concern about families and children.

Medical and psychological implications: Children of divorced parents (those entirely from unhappy families) are reported to have a higher chance of behavioral problems than those of non-divorced parents (a mix of happy and unhappy families). Studies have also reported the former to be more likely to suffer abuse than children in intact families, and to have a greater chance of living in poverty. Studies have claimed that people who have been in divorced families have higher rates of alcoholism and other substance abuse compared to those who have never been divorced. Studies have also claimed positive correlations between divorce and rates of stroke, cancer, acute infectious diseases, parasitic diseases, illnesses, digestive illnesses, and severe injuries. Married cancer patients are also more likely to recover than divorced ones.

Combined with job stress, divorce led to a 69% increase of death rate among men with above average risk of heart disease.

Conclusion: Multifarious socio-economic problems are making the major detriments on the way of rapid socio-economic growth and development in Bangalore. Divorce is such a problem that breeds many other social, economic and cultural constraints which compel the divorced women to lead a traumatic life behind the screen of society. Women are disregarded and deprived in all spheres of social life. Moreover the problem like divorce thrashes them to social exclusions. Fundamental rights: feeding, clothing, shel-

tering of the divorcee women living under hard core poverty remain off their hand inaccessibly auxiliary. They are not equally employed and economically well off as men are in the society. Social miseries of all issues of divorcees remain beyond off the records. Parents fail to make their offspring established in the society owing to scarcity of resources in the family. Consequently, women rely on their husbands and

comply with subjugation in all aspects of life. Due to divorcee status children also become deprived of the parental affection substantially that influences their socialization process negatively (Rahman 2007). Thus, due to divorce the divorced women pay a lion share of the social costs of consequences from their familial to social life.

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