

An Analysis of the Influence of Economic Issues on Divorce: An Empirical Study at Nintavur, Sri Lanka

M.M. Jaseela Nashri

Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Colombo

mmjaseelanashri@gmail.com

Abstract:

The past few decades have witnessed dramatic increase in divorce in most of the countries. According to this, the purpose of this study is examining whether economic issues influence on divorce or not at Nintavur. Survey was conducted between the year 2010 and 2016 June. The study takes the form of qualitative quantitative and descriptive analysis and depends on structured questionnaires, focus group discussions and key informant interviews which are both primary and secondary. The collected data were analyzed by chi – square analysis. Result of the study disclosed, that economic issues influence on divorce at Nintavur. Moreover, this research draws up few recommendations such as raising self–employment opportunities, providing knowledge of financial planning and awareness of religious and counseling to find out the solution.

Keywords: *Divorce, Economic issues, Financial planning.*

Introduction

Divorce is the legal separation of men and wife, for cause, by the judgment of a court and either totally dissolving the marriage relation, or suspending its effects so far as concerns the cohabitation of the parties (low dictionary).

Divorce is a major stage in life for large numbers of men and women in many countries. The past few decades have witnessed dramatic changes in family life in all industrial countries and the divorce rate more than doubled in most westernized countries. The department of social services states that, the present record of divorce in Sri Lanka is at 400 per day and it is a serious social issue (Sri Lanka's alarming divorce statistics).

Divorce is bad for the economy. Most of the research findings portrays, that high divorce rates have negative impact on the economy. That's because divorce negatively affects productivity which, in turn, places a burden on the economy.

This research is based on Nintavur divisional secretariat area. It is located on the East Cost of Ampara district of the Eastern province. Nintavur divisional secretariat area consists of 55.6 square KM and it is divided into 25 Granma Niladhari Administrative Divisions. Nintavur is a densely populated village with a population of 30746 people, comprising of 9377 families, as of 2015. Nearly 97% are Muslims and 3% are Tamils in this divisions.

Research Problem

Divorce adversely impacts the economy. In Islamic religious aspect, it is undesirable one. Although most of the people in Nintavur are Muslims, divorce rates are increasing nowadays. And it has more negative impacts on women and children. It affects the social wellbeing of this society and will lead to slow the economic growth of our country. This issue incited me to do this research.

Research Question

This Study aims to find out the answer for the following questions.

1. What are the factors influences on divorce?
2. Do economic issues influence on divorce?

Research Objectives

Increasing divorce rate has more negative impacts in the society. It leads to destructive ways of handling conflict, diminishes social competence, leads to early loss of virginity. This study is aimed,

1. To identify the issues faced by divorced families in Nintavur.
2. Examine whether economic issues influence on divorce or not.

Literature Review

Evidences from the literature show, that a positive correlation between the unemployment rate and the divorce rate (Amato P.R. & Rogers, S.J, 1997; Yukichika kawata, 2008). Seth Mayer's PSY.D (2012) explained that money problems are one of the most signification factors that can lead to divorce.

Further, in another previous study related to divorce, Jeffrey dew, Sonya Brief and Sendra J Huston (2012), explained that financial disagreements are stronger predictors of divorce relative to other common marital disagreements.

Research Methodology

The study takes the form of qualitative, quantitative analysis. In this research, primary and secondary data were collected which depends on questioners, key informant interview and focus group discussion. This study considered 100 widows, who got divorce as a convenient sampling method for getting the data. Data were analyzed using chi-square analysis.

Hypothesis of the study:

H₀: Economic issues do not influence on divorce at Nintavur

H₁: Economic issues influence on divorce at Nintavur

Limitation of the Research

This study uses a convenient sampling method for collecting data from respondents and used only 100 respondents for undertaking this study. This sample size may not be enough to generalize the findings. When increasing the sample size, this study

may be strengthened further, in further studies; this short coming could be removed. The data were collected from the year 2010 to 2016 June.

Analysis and Findings of the Study:

Divorce and related Issues

Although most of the people are Muslims in Nintavur and divorce is most hateful in the sign of almighty Allah, the rate of divorce has been increased nowadays.

Table No- 1

The Details of the Divorce in Ninatvur for the Periods, 2010 to 2016 June, 2016.

Year	Divorce		
	Thalaak (Divorce by Husband)	Pasahu (Divorce by Wife)	Total
2010	18	40	58
2011	35	32	67
2012	46	22	68
2013	34	36	70
2014	43	52	95
2015	36	62	98
2016, June	15	24	39
Total	227	268	495

Source: the report of quazi court, Nintavur 2010 – 2014, June

According to the table, divorce increased by nearly 69 % from 2010 to 2015. At the same time, Pasahu is higher than the Thalaak. Further, quazi described that, nearly 65% was divorce and 35% was settlement out of total complaint, registered in quazi court for the period of 2010 to 2013. But, for the last two years, it was changed as a 80% is divorce and 20% is settlement. Poverty and the long term separation for employment are identified problems to indicate here.

Further, according to the research, the data reveals several reasons for divorce at Nintavur. Low income and no proper income of the family, loan burden, lack of understanding, early marriage, separation due to foreign employment, and interference of other family members are specially identified reasons in the research area. However, it was identified that mostly hidden issues within marriage are all associated with economic pressure.

Table no: 2
Observed Contingency Table

Divorce	Types of Economic Issues			
	Low and No Proper Income	Loan Burden	Others	Total
Thalaak	20	14	15	49
Pasahu	33	05	13	51
Total	53	19	28	100

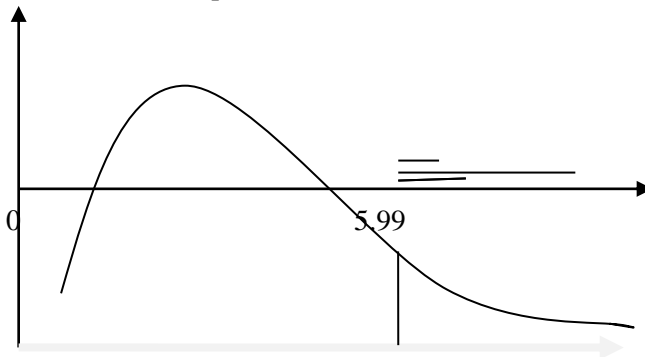
Source: survey data

Table No: 3
Expected Counts Contingency Table

Divorce	Types of Economic Issues			
	Low and No Proper Income	Loan Burden	Others	Total
Thalaak	25.97	9.31	13.72	49
Pasahu	27.03	9.69	14.28	51
Total	53	19	28	100

Source: survey data

df = 2
 $X^2 = 7.55$ (Chi-Square value)



As chi – square test value, 7.55 belongs to rejected area, hypothesis H_0 is rejected. Therefore, divorce and economic issues are not independent. Economic issues have an influence on divorce.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

According to the analysis, economic issues influence on divorce in Nintavur. Further, we identified several reasons such as low income, no proper income, foreign employment, loan burden, lack of understanding and interference of family

relatives for divorce, and mostly the problems are associated with economic pressure. Thus, Economic problems are the prime cause for divorce. As divorce has a negative impact on the economy, it must be mitigated and it is important to increase the wellbeing of the women and children to achieve the social welfare and increase a positive economic growth of our country.

Thus, providing self-employment opportunities and related training, and increasing income sources in families, providing knowledge of financial planning, aware the people especially in religious and counseling programs should be implemented in order to find a solution to this problem, divorce.

References

1. Ameto, P.R and Rogers,S.J (Aug,1997), “ A Logitudinal Study of Marital Problems and Subsequent Divorce”, *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 59, pp 59, 612.
2. Ann Laquer Estin,(1995), “ Economics and the Problem of Divorce”, *Volume 2, Issue2, Article 9,University of Chicago*, pp 517-597.
3. Fizal Mahmood, (29, March, 2009), “Divorce among Sri Lankan Muslims” ,*Article*, accessed from <http://www.newspapers.com/news/2009/3/4/583>.
4. Jeffrey P.Dew and Robert Steward,(2012), “ A Financial Issue , A relationship Issue or Both?” , *Journal of Financial Therapy*, volume3, Issue 1, Article4, Utah State University.
5. Friedberg,L and Stern,S,(2003), “ The Economics of Marriage and Divorce” ,*University of Virginia*, Article, accessed from <http://peoplevirjina.edu/sns5r/resint/msrriages/econut>.
6. Sedacca,R, (2012), “ Marriage ,Divorce and the Economy”, Article, accessed from <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rosalin-sadaca/marriage-divorce-and-the-b1958557.html>.
7. Seth Meyers psy,D,(Dec, 2012), “ How Financial Problems and Stress Cause Divorce”, Article, accessed from <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/insight-is2020/201212>.
8. Kawata.Y,(2008), “ Marriage ,Does High Unemployment Rate Result in a High Divorce Rate?”,*Inicio* volume 11,no: 2,Obhiro University,Japan, Pp149-164.