

# **“Social status of divorced woman: A sociological study with reference to Meerut District”**



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# SUMMARY OF THESIS

## Rationale of the Problem

This chapter is the summary of the thesis and as such it capsules the findings and conclusions so that suggestions may be made for reduce the divorce problem between couples in society. During the past few decades it has been seen that development has significant impact on family dynamics in different parts of the world. Various changes are occurring in the family and marriage patterns worldwide, which include change in the process of mode of choice, change in the period of co-habitation, change in the age for marriage and changing living arrangements.

Recent changes in the society like rapid industrialization, urbanization, globalization, migration and presence of media have brought enormous changes in every field of society and family, marriage and divorce is no exception to this. This has increased self-centeredness; following of western style, active participation of women in every arena of life, women empowerment and economic independence of women this resulted in the change of the attitude of society regarding marriage and divorce. The impact of development can be seen in both urban and the rural areas. Social institutions like marriage and family has also affected by development, Joint families are diminishing in villages as people tend towards nuclear family. The institution of marriage is declining. In earlier times marriage was considered as pious (sanskar) and created by God, but now it is losing its ground.

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. Divorce is also viewed of social invention and a socially devised means of dealing with marriage failure. Divorce is the turning away of partners from each other. It truly is a complete turn from the way of life the couple had so for. Divorce in the proper and strict sense of the term means complete rupture of the martial bond; the persons divorced returning to their original state of being free to marry. **(Ramachandrappa, 2012, pp: 6-7.**

Divorce and separations are augmenting day by day in India. But least attention has been paid to post divorce life of a divorced women. How they manage their life and livelihood with their children, and what are their rights and entitlements from the marital family. In the recent times few of the studies conducted on separated women, particularly widows, shows their poor, social and economic condition. Some of these studies show that the condition of separated and deserted woman is worse than that of widow.

There are so many studies not in India but also outside, sociologists have focused on different issues of divorce. Sociologists like, **S. Ramachandrappa, (2012), A.K. Singh (2001); N.H. Mattoo & Y Ashai, (2012); E.S. David and Y. Linda, (2013); S. Kavas and A.G. Hosgor (2009); J.G. Mone, (2011); L. Nielsen, (2011); etc.** have paid attention to the issues of causes and consequences of divorce, growing incidence of divorce in Indian cities, impact of divorce upon the attitude and social relations of women, family problems of divorce and general causes of family divorce, parental divorce affects the marriage and divorce experiences of professional women, family members narratives of divorce and inter parental conflict and shared residential parenting plans after divorce. Very few empirical studies exist on how divorce affected the social life of women and their children, and how they face problems to readjust in society after their divorce. Therefore this study has been planned. The study focused on “Social status of divorced woman: A sociological study with reference to Meerut District”.

### **Objectives of the study:**

In the light of the above mentioned framework following objectives have been undertaken:

1. To assess the socio-economic profile of divorced women.
2. To know the attitude of divorced women towards, remarriage, husband and family
3. To know the status of divorced women in society.
4. Problems faced by divorced women during their divorced cases and after the divorce.

The **First objective** takes note of the “socio-economic profile of the respondents” in terms of age, caste/category religion, education, occupation, income, age at marriage, forms of marriage, marriage pattern, family structure, mode of choice of the husband, duration of marriage, initiation of divorce, counselling before divorce, advise of counselling, monetary problem during divorce, how long did the family court take, children of divorced women.

The **Second objective** “attitude of divorced women towards remarriage, husband and family” takes note structure of the newly gained family, caste/category and religion,

education & occupation of the divorced women, economic status of the informants husband, age at the time of marriage, mode of choice of the husband, forms of marriage, marital understanding, duration of marriage, separation from the husband, initiation for divorce, marital problems leading to divorce and attitude towards re-marriage.

The **Third objective** “status of divorced women in society” takes note role of natal family, attitude of siblings, friends, relatives and neighbours towards informants after divorce, participation of divorced women in family functions, divorced women experience towards society and attitude of colleagues/peers at work place.

The **Fourth objective** “problems faced by divorced women during their divorce cases and after the divorce” takes note problems of marital life and post-divorce problems of marital life such as: social rejection, blame, family support, challenges related to getting a separate house, economic hardships, harassment and exploitation, harassment by lawyer, psychological and emotional problems and problems related to upbringing of children.

## **Propositions**

The following propositions have been formulated thinking that they could be tested. The propositions findings are given below:

1. Divorce cases are much more in joint families than in nuclear families.
2. Divorce cases are more in rural areas rather than urban areas.
3. Divorced cases are more common in arrange marriage than in love marriage.
4. Divorce is more among literates than the illiterates. It is also found that illiteracy is more common in Muslim community. Being illiterate they faced more problems and challenges to earn their livelihood.
5. Divorce cases are more in housewives rather than working women. Majority of the informants were housewife (non-working).

## **Area of study:**

The study is confined to Meerut District. Meerut is a city in the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh. The city lies 72 Km. Northeast of the National Capital New Delhi and 453 Km. northeast of the State Capital, Lucknow. The population of district Meerut according

to 2011 census is 1.309 million. Meerut district is divided into three tehsils namely Meerut, Mawana and Sardhana. These Tehsils are further divided into 12 blocks. Meerut city has a cosmopolitan nature also it represents rural and urban continuum up to a fair extent. Its culture is a mixture of tradition and modernity.

Researcher have been selected Meerut district because there are also many changes occurring due to the reason of development its effects on family and marriage by which husband-wife relationship are also affected. Researcher opted this area because there has not been any research work done on the topic of divorce, while the cases of divorce are increasing day by day. Researcher also found four years record (from 2013 to 2016) procured from the family court is as follows: In the year 2013 total number of 1765 divorce cases were filed in family court; in 2014 total number of divorce cases i.e. 1769 were filed through couples (either husband or wife); in 2015 total number of divorce cases were 2012 whereas in 2016 total number 2077 divorce cases were filed in the family court. Family court cases also shows that daily five to six divorce cases are filed in family court through couples. It shows the increasing number of divorcees in Meerut district.

## **Methodology**

No research can be completed without use the proper methodology. Methodology is very important for scientific research. Target group for the study was Meerut district in which urban and rural divorced women were included. All the informants have been taken under aegis of Meerut family court. This study has been based on the descriptive research design. Descriptive studies are those studies which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular, individual, or a group. This research work based on the interview and case study method.

## **Universe and sample design**

Universe of the present study is divorced women of Meerut city. It was not possible to contact every divorced woman in Meerut city for interview. Therefore it had been decided to collect the cases from family court of Meerut district. A list of all the divorced cases decided by family court during (2001 to 2011) has been procured. After doing lot of exercise only 60 case diaries of divorced women were collected from family court. Efforts have been made to contact all the 60 divorced women, but due to non availability on the

given addresses only 38 women were contacted. All the 38 women were interviewed through structured interview – schedule.

### **Methods of Data Collection and Analysis & Interpretation of Data**

Both primary and secondary data have been used in the study. The primary data have been collected from personal interview. As the researcher had to meet the objectives of the study structured interview – schedule was prepared to collect, maximum information. Interview schedule is prepared comprising mixed questions both open and close ended to share their experiences about their divorce. Data collected from the 38 divorced women have been presented in the form of case histories.

Secondary data have been collected from Meerut family court. On the basis of 60 family court cases a documentary schedule, have been prepared through which information have been collected about socio-economic (marriage and divorce) profile of divorced women. Secondary data also have been collected from the published reports, government data, thesis, journals and newspapers.

After getting the data, efforts have been made to analyze the data. Data analysis of 38 cases have been analyze and interpretive as expressed by the respondents. This description has been defined through case study method.

### **Findings**

#### **Socio —Economic profile of the Respondents:**

Data analysis regarding socio-economic profile of the divorced women has been presented in third chapter. In this chapter the socio-economic profile of 60 cases, selected from Meerut family court has been given. The socio-economic profile of the divorced women plays a crucial role as it impacts every aspect of divorced women. The socio-economic profile the following variables have been included as: age, caste/category, religion educational qualification, occupation, Income, age at marriage, forms of marriage, marriage pattern, family structure, mode of choice, duration of marriage, initiation of divorce, counseling before divorce monetary problem, family court take (in years) and presence of children. The main findings of this chapter are as follows:

**Age:** Majority of the respondents i.e. 52 (86%) were in the age group of 20-40; whereas a small number 1(2%) of the divorced women were above age of 50.

**Category:** majority 34 (57%) of the divorced women belong to general category, while smallest no 5 (8%) belong to SC/ST category. It shows that divorce rate is more in general category.

**Religion:** Majority of the divorced women i.e. 44 (73%) follow Muslim religion, while 16(27%) belong to Hindu religion.

**Education:** Majority 26(43%) of the divorcee women were educated up to higher secondary level, while 14(24%) educated up to graduation and 20(33%) were illiterate. It shows that divorce is more common among literates.

**Occupation of the Divorcee women:** As far as the occupation of the respondents was concerned majority 34(57%) of the divorcee women were housewives, and were not involved in economic activities, while large number 18(30%) of the divorced women stated that for livelihood they had to involve in the work of domestic chores, stitching clothes, cook food in dhaba and prepare tea in a tea stall, whereas 8(13%) were engaged in teaching.

**Occupation of the husband:** Majority 35(58%) of the husband belong with various occupation like: car-painter, carpet weaver, mason, mechanic, contractor, fruit seller, work in restaurant, shop of electronic parts, milk and vegetable, while few number 4(7%) of the husband were involved in agricultural activities and another 4(7%) were teachers. Thus the majority of the husband was working in unorganized sector.

**Income of divorcee women:** Large number 34(57%) of the divorcee women have no source of income, 18(30%) earned below 5000, while few 2(3%) belong to 15000-25000 income group.

**Income of the husband:** Majority 35(58%) of the husband earned below 5000 while few 8(13%) earned between 15000-25000.

**Age of the husband at the time of marriage:** Majority 22(37%) of the husband age at the time of marriage was between 24-27, while 11 (18%) of the husband age at the time of marriage was less than 24.

**Age of the divorcee women at the time of marriage:** Majority 32(54%) of the divorced women age at the time of marriage was less than 21, while 8(13%) were married at the age above 27.

**Marriage pattern of the divorcee women:** Majority 54(90%) of divorcee women were in favor of arranged and traditional pattern of marriage, while 6(10%) of them had love marriage. It shows that there is divorce rate more in arranged marriage than love marriage.

**Structure of the newly gained family:** Majority 42(70%) of the divorcee women belong to joint family whereas 18(30%) belong to nuclear family.

**Mode of choice of the Husband:** Majority 53(88%) divorcee's parents selected the life partner for them, whereas 7(12%) divorcees took self decision for life partner because they opted love marriage.

**Duration of marriage of the divorcee women:** Majority 54 (90%) of the divorcee women remain in the relationship with the husband between 1 year – 6 years, while 6(10%) had relationship with the husband above 6 years. It shows that first few years play a crucial role for marital stability.

**Initiation for divorce:** Majority 31(52%) of the husband filed the divorce case by themselves whereas 29(48%) of the divorcee women took initiative for divorce. It shows that women also took the initiation for divorce.

**Counselling before divorce:** Majority 48(80%) of the divorcee women went for counseling whereas only 12(20%) of didn't take the advantage of counseling.

**Advise of counselling:** Majority 39(65%) of the divorcee women got advice of counseling through parent and siblings and few 9(15%) got advice through relatives.



**Monetary problem during divorce process:** Majority 34(57%) of the divorcee women faced monetary problem during divorce process whereas 26(43%) had not faced monetary problem.

**How long did the family court take (in years?):** Majority 57(95%) of the divorcee women got the divorce less than 3 years, while few 3(5%) got divorce up to 3 years.

**Children of divorced women:** Majority 33(55%) of the divorced women did not have any child while 27(45%) had children.

**After divorce children are with whom:** Large number 23(38%) divorcee women mentioned that after divorce children were residing with mother while 4(7%) were residing with father.

**Bearing the expenses of children:** Large number 23(38%) of the divorcee women and their parents beard the expenses of their children after divorce while few 4(7%) husband beard the expenses of their children.

**Attitude of divorced women towards remarriage, husband and family.**

**Structure of the newly gained family:** Choudhry studied 125 cases of divorce adjudicated between 1977 and 1982 in jaipur (Rajasthan) found that there is a significant relationship between the type of family (joint or nuclear) and marital stability or divorce. There are more divorce among persons living in joint families He also found that the urban areas produce more divorces than the rural areas, or residential background of the people (urban and rural) affects the marital duration and divorce. (Ahuja .2013: pp-181).

Informants of this research work were questioned about the family structure of the marital family. There were mixed replies about family structures. Field work shows that **Majority 42 (70%)** of the respondents stated that they married in a joint family, while **some 18 (30%)** married in a nuclear family.

Researcher found different experiences of the respondents. **Some (Eleven out of thirty eight)** informants shared that it doesn't matter for them that it was a joint family, but the acceptance and affection of in-laws was important for them. Likewise **Some (six out of thirty eight)** thought that even though they had tensions with their in-laws, but their

husband was more important for them. But **few (two out of thirty eight)** stated different experiences that the structure of the family might have a role, but the understanding between husband and wife is personal and essential. Thus the structure of the family is secondary for few respondents. While **one informant** said that the liabilities in joint family was more. **Another (two out of thirty eight)** reported that their parental family was a nuclear family so it was very typical to adjust in joint family because they had no experience about joint family system.

Above discussion shows respondents perception about joint or nuclear families, but in reality they faced adverse circumstances that the respondents left with no option other than divorce. In joint families men hold the strong position in decision making as compare to women. Husband also seeks the advice of his family members to take the decisions. These all circumstances widened ideological differences between the couples. Findings show that joint family plays the crucial role in marital maladjustment.

**Education & occupation:** The most important factor for any person's life is education, which may affect every aspect of the life. Economic achievements depend on the educational background. This study shows that divorce to have strong inverse relation with education and it is more common among literates than the illiterates. **Majority 34 (57%)** of the informants were housewife (non-working). And for livelihood, day-today needs and children upbringing they had to depend on their parents and siblings. Researcher also found that illiteracy is more common in Muslim community. Being illiterate they faced more problems and challenges to earn their livelihoods.

**Some 18 (30%)** of the divorced women stated that for livelihood they had to involved in the work of domestic chores, cooked food in the dhaba, prepare tea in a tea stall, stitched clothes, and escort (aaya) in school or do packaging tasks at home. **(Five out of thirty eight)** of the divorced women had jobs at the time of their marriage, in which few left their jobs after marriage because they thought that a job become an hindrance to their newly married life. **Few** respondents shared that their mother-in-law was very unhappy with their decision to continue, their study. It shows that higher studies against in-laws will considered by them as disrespect for them, which was not expected from a good bride? As

a result they had tensions in their everyday life, which was multiplied by their decision to continue her studies and job.

**Economic status of the informant's husband:** Economic status is an important factor in the selection of grooms. Data shows that **most (twenty seven out of thirty eight)** of the informants stated that their husband's educational qualification was inadequate; **some (six out of thirty eight)** divorced women opined that their husband qualifications were only satisfactory while **(one)** stated that her husband educational qualification was matched to hers. Those informants shared that their life partner involved in various vocations for instance: Businessman, lawyer, policemen, mason, mess-in-charge cobbler, generator repairer, home-guard, truck-driver, gas-welder, car-painter, carpet-weaver, mechanic, contractor, fruit-sailor, teachers & involved in agriculture. Research work shows that **majority 35 (58%)** of the informants, husband income below 5000. They also stated that their husband economic position was not satisfactory and they opted that life partner because it was their parents consent. It shows that probability of divorce was higher where divorced women have more expectations with each other and husband could not fulfill their expectations. Economic position of the husband also plays an important role in marital stability.

Fonseca in her study of divorcees in Bombay found that the highest rate of divorce is found among persons engaged in occupations with low or lower middle status likewise choudhry studied 125 cases of divorce adjudicated between 1977 and 1982 in Jaipur (Rajasthan) found persons engaged in the middle and low-status occupations are more prone to divorce than those engaged in the high-status occupations. **(Ahuja, 2013, pp: 180-181)** Above findings are also similar according to present study because divorce rate are more in those cases in which informants, husband were involved in low status occupations.

**Age at the time of marriage:** Age at marriage in a society depends on various cultural and socio-economic factors. Socio-economic factors such as education, occupation, and income before marriage determine the age at marriage. Present study strongly supports **(Glick and Norton 1977; Tilson and Larson 2000; Yietal.2002)** findings that persons who marry at

younger ages have higher incidences of divorce in comparison to those marrying late because research work shows that **Most 32 (54%)** of the divorced women age at the time of marriage was less than 21. It shows that divorce rate is more common in younger ages. But researcher also found the age gap of ten years and more between couples in some cases.

**Mode of choice of the husband:** **Husain** conducted a study on divorce and remarriage among Muslims in Bihar, found majority of women 98% whom researcher interviewed had been married in the traditional way. They said that it was the duty of parents to arrange the marriage of their daughters have inevitably to agree to what their parents decide. Researcher found that present study has similarity with the above study. **Majority (Eighteen out of thirty eight)** of the respondent's parents stated that the marriage of a girl should be arranged by her parents or by senior relatives, thus in **most** of the cases informants got married to the groom whom their parents selected for them. **One** informant shared that absence (death) of father had a negative impact on other family members to select groom for her, other **some (six out of thirty eight)** narrated that they saw their husband first time after marriage. Thus most of the people agreed to this idea that the selection of life partner for marriage must be done by the parents.

**Forms of marriage:** The informants of this study were asked about the form of their marriage. The cultural construction of marriage in Meerut encourages arranged marriages, but love marriage are also prevalent Earlier study of **Nayak** on life after divorce of women shows most of the respondents was in favour of arranged and traditional pattern of marriage whereas few opted love marriage. This research work also have similarity to earlier study because researcher found **majority 54 (90%)** of the respondents had opted for arranged marriages according to their parents consent, while **6 (10%)** opted love marriage. From the analysis it is clear that in joint family arrange marriages were given preference. In which **some** of the informants shared that their consent about life partner were not given importance. Even they saw their husband first time after marriage. Earlier people opt for traditional pattern of marriages (arranged marriage) and divorce rate was less, but in the present study researcher found , today people also opt for traditional method like arranged marriage even then divorce rate is increasing. In this the impact of education seems

prominent because researcher found divorce is more common in literates. Today's women are more sensitive towards her rights and vehemently oppose the exploitation against her.

**Marital understanding:** In this research work **majority (thirty two out of thirty eight)** of the informants, told that the marital understanding was good at the beginning of their conjugal life, while **some (five out of thirty eight)** reported that the conjugal relationship was bitter from the very beginning. Informants also shared that problems arose from fifteen days to eight months after their wedding. **(One)** informant faced problem in their conjugal life within twelve months after their wedding. It shows that initial period after marriage is very sensitive and important for couples to develop their proper understanding with each other and to maintain their basic relationship for a long time.

**Duration of marriage:** Damle's study included 363 cases of legal divorce and permanent desertion in Poona found that the mean marital span was 8.9 years. It shows that people do not rush for divorce but try to adjust. Only when they fail in adjustment they break their marital bonds. While **Fonseca's** study of divorcees in Bombay included cases in which the Bombay city civil court was approached between January 1954 and July 1961 for a decree of divorce (of Sociological Bulletin, September 1963, vol.XII, No -2:14- 33) on the basis of 894 divorcees she concluded that the first five years after marriage are the most perilous years, and that as the marital span increases, the rate of divorce decreases. **(Ahuja, 2013: 178-179).**

Present study strongly support Earlier studies conducted by **(Ahmed 1987 & Rafat** study on divorce or separation because they found that initial five years of marriage are very sensitive for marital adjustment. The findings are similar from the present study because researcher found that **majority 54 (90%)** of the divorced women had relationship with their husband up to 6 years. It shows that duration of marriage was decreasing between the couples. Among the divorced women, the tragedy struck them within the first few years of marriage though there were also **few 6 (10%)** cases where the divorce took place after several years of marriage. This lends itself to a possible inference that the first few years of a marriage are crucial.

**Separation:** The informants stated that in extreme situations they finally decided to divorce their counterparts. They shared that they separated from their husbands when their marriage reached extreme situations. By extreme situations they meant the level of their husbands and in – laws violent acts towards them. Case studies reveals that the duration of separation for, **some (nine out of thirty eight)** of them was one month to three years. **Some (seven out of thirty eight)** of the informants left their husbands houses with the intention to separate from their husbands without thinking about divorce. And another **Some (eight out of thirty eight)** reported that they left their husband houses to teach a lesson but later on they filed case for divorce. Above findings shows that the respondents took decision for divorce when the situation became very critical and they had no other option rather than to think of divorce.

**Initiation for Divorce:** Research work shows that **most 31 (52%)** of the informant's husband filed the divorce case by themselves they also shared that their husband made no effort to save their marriages. While **29 (48%)** of the respondents made effort to save their marriages in which they got counselling first and gave spouse another chance trying to make the marriage better. In this they garner the support of their parents and relatives. Data from the judicial courts explicitly shows that in the last few decades woman are taking the initiative as petitioners to approach the courts for divorce.

The Research work shows that women also took the initiation for divorce. This implies at present time women are exercising the decision making power. Now she takes decision on her own. If marital problems or conflict arose more in their marital life, then they are free to terminate their marital relationship. Now a day's women are not bound to continue their married life if their marital relations are not good. Impact of education has changed their mindset. In this study researcher found that **majority 48 (80%)** of the women opted for counselling to save their married life but when nothing fruitful Come out of it they decided to terminate their relationship. **Most** of the women are of the view that their counter parts are responsible for this divorce, because there were no attempts and efforts of reconciliation by their husbands after the initial separation.

**Marital problems leading to divorce:** The empirical studies of damle, fonseca and choudhry give as some idea regarding the causes of divorce. Damle found that the important causes of divorce are: domestic disharmony (including quarrels between husband and wife, ill –treatment by husband , and quarrel with in – laws), barrenness of wife , immoral conduct of spouse, spouse inability to fulfil marital obligations due to disease Fonseca, on the other hand, found that the primary causes of divorce are: desertion and cruelty (69.1%), adultery (20.6%) impotency(8.3%), and miscellaneous (2.0%), while choudhry (1988:50-76) has classified the factors in divorce into two groups: environmental factors and personality factors. In the former, he includes illicit relations, inadequate home – life, physical assault, poverty and non – support, wife’s working – life and role- conflict. In the latter category, he includes irritative nature, chronic disease, impotency, barrenness, wide age disparity and domineering nature Choudhry (ibid: 90-92) found five significant causes: desertion, cruelty, adultery, impotency and chronic disease. However, desertion as a ground of divorce was used more in cases where husband took the initiative for divorce while cruelty was used more as a ground where wife took the initiative for divorce. (Ahuja, 2013, pp: 181-182).

Other Empirical studies conducted by (Trivedi et. al. 2009 , Parvez 2011, Rafique &Singh 2004) on causes of divorce reveals different causes which are responsible for marital termination such as: Second marriage and dissatisfaction by husband cruelty, character assassination, alcoholism, problems of adjustment especially in a joint family, extramarital affairs, dowry, husbands failure in provider role, incompatibility , lack of love and commitment between couples, non- cooperation from the in-laws or hostile attitude of other members of the family.

Present study also shows the similar causes. Data revealed that the **most common reasons for divorce was alcoholism of drug abuse**, other significant reasons included physically torture, verbally abuse, extramarital affairs, emotionally torture, financial problem , cultural differences, inability to produce a male child, infertility, problems, related to sexuality and reproduction, dowry disease involvement of sister-in-law, forced marriage , cruelty, lack of interest in sexual intercourse after birth of a child, attitude of step mother towards the children, wife’s abortion and religious implications outlook,

problem of adjustment in a joint family and husband failure in provider role. Large number of the women reported that verbal abuse by the husband and, in some cases, by in-laws particularly the husband's mother & sister – in-law also the main cause for breakdown.

**Attitude towards remarriage:** Most of the informants were unfavourable to remarriage because they believed in marriage as a sacrament, they said a 'patiwarta' marriages only once in life and remarriage is a 'sin or curse' In Hindu community (**Nine out of thirty eight**) divorced women were not ready to remarry of grounds of the sacramental character of Hindu marriage stigma of remarriage and upbringing problems of children. Research work also shows, **some (Five out of thirty eight)** informants had remarried during interview process, while **some (Five out of thirty eight)** wanted to remarry. When researcher asked about their husband remarriage then **most (thirty one out of thirty eight)** of the respondents revealed that their husband did not remarry till now while (**seven out of thirty eight**) stated after their marital termination, early their husband remarry.

#### **Status of Divorced Women in Society:**

In Indian society social stigma is attached with divorced couples especially with women. Divorce is not easily accepted in Indian society. In India divorce is highly stigmatizing and undesirable. Status of husband and wife after the divorce process from a variety of deprivation. Social exclusion, impaired social relations of life. Sometimes treatment with divorced women in society is such that they feel have no place and importance in society. Even family members have different attitude and reactions towards daughter after their divorce. Public reaction was reflected in the form of dislike and hatred. Most members often faced taunting and humiliation from the public. After divorce, women tend to be low on confidence. They are unsure about themselves and find themselves unable to form new relationships. Such a feeling is normal and it will take time to regain that confidence that once was. Divorcees have smaller social networks and are more likely to lack social support. **Earlier studies** also revealed that natal family does not welcome and support their daughter after their divorce (**Pothan, 1986; 196**).

**Role of natal family:** Divorced women faced lack of social support at the time of marriage termination; financial inability; heavy dependence on their parents and brothers;



feeling of being guardian less; support less; public ridicule and insecurity in their post divorce life (**Bhuiya et. al.2005**). Divorcees have smaller social networks and are more likely to lack social support Gahlar, 2006. (**Trivedi, 2009**)Present study shows that **majority(twenty three out of thirty eight)** of the respondents stated that they lived with their parents house after their divorce, while **some(six out of thirty eight)** of them reported after their divorce they were not having good experiences as their parents were under mental pressure; parents feel burden about their daughter's remarriage, but later on their behaviour have been changed, gradually they came out of their mental pressure and they had to accept the truth of their daughter's life. **Some (four out of thirty eight)** of the divorced women informed that they got mental and moral support from their parents after their divorce. Other **few (three out of thirty eight)** stated that they had to live separately because parents were having economic burden. (**Two out of thirty eight**) informants shared that consent was not taken at the time of marriage therefore their parents terminated the relationship with them.

**Most (thirty two out of thirty eight)** informants thought that their parent's social status was deteriorated because of their divorce. **Some (six out of thirty eight)** of the informants said that their divorce caused damage to the personal relations of the family. In **few (three out of thirty eight)** cases informants didn't get support from their natal family so they had no option but to live separate from the natal family members.

**Majority** of divorced women in the present study were dependent on their parents only a **few** educated women were economically independent. Above discussion shows that parent's attitude plays an important role in post divorce life of their daughters. The informants whose parents were not supportive towards them, they faced more social challenges in society. If informant's parents were not supportive after their divorce then it was a big challenge to them to readjust in the society. It was also observed that perception and attitude of the parents changed in this due course of time towards their daughter after their divorce.

While the informants whose parents were supported towards them they didn't face problems to readjust in society and upbringing of their children, even they did not face the

problems of financial inability; guardian less; support less and insecurity in their post divorce life. Thus parent's attitude and support plays an important role for their divorced daughter's readjustment in society.

**Attitude of siblings and friends towards informants after divorce:** Siblings and friends are an essential part of family or social life. Their presence or absence actually makes a difference. Their attitude whether negative or positive for them is vital. The friendship network might provide emotional support and information besides being the only source of socializing and leisure activities outside of the family.

Most (**eighteen out of thirty eight**) of the respondents shared that the attitude of younger members of their families was changed towards them after their divorce. They were not given respect as before marriage. The respondents shared that they did not have the same relations with their siblings as it was before divorce. And they were disappointed and frustrated of their sibling behaviour. **Majority (thirty two out of thirty eight)** of the informants revealed they did not have same kind of relationship with her friends as previously.

. **Two** informants opted love marriage, without their parent's consent and this sole decision also adversely effected their relation with their siblings so in both the cases the siblings terminated the relationship with the informants. Some of the informant's reported that after divorce their sibling's attitude has not changed, they have good relation with them because their siblings and friends behavior became inspiration for their life.

Above discussion shows that attitude of siblings and friends changes towards informants after their divorce. As in most of the cases the relationship between the informants and their siblings and friends changed significantly.

**Attitude of relatives and neighbours towards informants after divorce:** Though the relatives and neighbours do not have any direct access in one's life, but their comments and appreciation affects one's life up to a great extent. In regions where there is more disapproval of divorce, both men and women experience greater decline in friends, relatives and neighbourhood contacts after divorce (**Kalmijn and Uunk 2007**).

**Majority(twenty eight out of thirty eight)** of the informants stated that their relations with their relatives and neighbors were not satisfactory as their relative's never casted comments directly on their face but left no occasion to criticize them at their back. Many informants thought that their divorced status created difficulties for their family too. **Some** other informants were disappointed and frustrated by the reactions of the relatives after their divorce. At the same time, the informants reported that the problem was not one sided. They mentioned that neighbours and relatives always casted derogatory remarks to the informants. They always suggested informants that they must have adjusted in their marital family come what way. It shows that society always expect from the women to adjust and sacrifice in her relationship and not the men.

Thus the statements reveals that on a whole in our society the divorce are not welcome and approved and for this women are blamed. In evaluating the role of the family as a source of social support it can be concluded that the divorced woman almost always returns to the family of her origin, either to her parents or sibling or to other relatives (**Choudhary, 1988; Mehta, 1975; Pothen, 1986**). In this research, researcher also found that majority of the informants stated that they returned to the family either to her parents or sibling after their divorce. They also shared that they provided housing, financial support, child care and emotional support.

**Participation of divorced women in family functions:** Earlier studies shows that, women with children were less active in social activities and had fewer friends then did their counterparts without children (**Milardo 1987**). Due to divorce, women are very prone to live under the disguise of social stigma than men in the society (**Rahman 2007**).

In the study it was observed that **most (thirty five out of thirty eight)** of the informants felt lonely, helpless, hopeless, lack of identity and lack of confidence. Due to the reason of divorce most of the respondents tried to avoid attending social gatherings and completely changed their dressing style. Due to depression they had developed poor food and eating habits. Due to loneliness, traumatic depression, frustration it was very difficult for them to handle the responsibility of their children.

Majority (**thirty two out of thirty eight**) informants have been reported that there is lack of participation in family functions due to the reason of divorce & social stigma. While only few informants were stated that they participate in family functions after their divorce. They are reluctant to attend the important social functions.

**Divorced women experience towards society and vice-versa:** All of the informants shared their experiences about the attitude and perception of society towards them in which most have bitter experiences. Most of the informants faced negative or biased attitude from the society. Society always expect from the female to adjust in a relationship at any cost. As male's hold superior position in the society. If women is uneducated and do not have her parents support then the condition became graver for them.

**Attitude of colleagues/peers at work place:** Most of the informants were housewife and they were not working outside. Therefore they have not experience about work place, while **some (three out of thirty eight)** other informants had the different experience because they were exploited at work place. **One** informant reported that she hid her divorced status in social spheres as much as possible in order to avoid harassment or exploitation.

**Some (three out of thirty eight)** of the informants experienced harassment at their work place from their colleagues due to their divorcee status. Divorced women, especially if without children or if without of their parents support, are treated as an easily available commodity of sexual pleasure. At work places male counterparts indirectly invited them for sexual activity. Thus divorcee women are greeted with an unfavourable attitude from the family, family functions and gatherings, neighbourhood and co-workers at the work place.

Thus above discussion shows that status of women after the divorce process have many restraints i.e. social seclusion, impaired social relations of life. Sometimes treatment with divorced women in society is such that they feel that there is no place for them in society. They had to face lot of difficulty in the upbringing of their children especially financial and emotional. They blamed their partner for their divorce and hated their ex-husbands.

**Problems faced by divorced women during their divorced cases and after the divorce:**

There were several problems which were faced by the respondents in their pre and post divorce life. Seclusion by the society, burden to their parental family, not given priority in family decisions; always considered as needy, neglected by their peer group, victims of exploitation or harassment, problems of upbringing of children, problems related to emotional attachment, social psychological traumas, to see her doubt and suspicion, taunting and humiliation, were faced by the divorced women.

**Problems of marital life:** Findings Shows that **Few (five out of thirty eight)** informants shared that their understanding with their mother-in-law was not good. Other **Few (two out of thirty eight)** shared that their father-in-law wanted with them physical intimacy. It was the main cause of their marital termination. While **one** informant shared that there was excessive interference of sister-in-law in her husband's life. She made false complains to her husband and against her. This aggravated the violent behaviour of her husband towards her.

Respondents stated that their in-laws inflicted several atrocities on them, they further said if their husband loved them then they would have adjust in any condition but the disrespect and the problem such as: husband non-supportive nature, exploitative behavior, in-different attitude became more problematic. In addition to this there were serious problems which were not tolerable for the informants. **Some** of the informants reported the involvement of their husband in extramarital affairs. This made them to feel betrayed. Other problems were: comment for male child; physically, emotionally, verbally and mentally tortured; alcoholism and drug addiction, cheating, abnormal behaviour, experienced the pressure of dowry and problems, related to emotional attachment.

On the basis of field interview and observation of earlier studies it can be concluded that women play a central role in family. When a new marriage is formed and bride enters into the family a mother feels insecure as earlier she enjoys the prime position in the family. She consider herself as the only women in her son's life to whom, he shares his feelings. While a daughter-in-law may also be guarded because she doesn't know what

to expect and whether she'll be accepted. Such types of anxieties create a sense of insecurity on both sides.

Researcher found in field interview that among the problems from marital family the acrid relationship between the respondent and their mother-in-law was responsible for the marital termination after their husband. Informants also shared that their mother-in-laws usually commented or exploited them for: domestic chores; for male child; dowry and insecurity (**mother-in-law feel insecure about her prime position in the family**).

The behaviour of the husband family towards a daughter-in-law after she enters the marital home is remarkably ambivalent. On the one hand, there are great expectations from her. On the other, she is subjected to teasing and taunting by her matrimonial family. If the daughter-in-law shows patience and forbearance and the teasing and taunting remains within reasonable limits, things eventually improve and the daughter-in-law is able to carve out a place for herself in the family. However, if the teasing and taunting arises from some genuine grievance with respect to dowry, the way the marriage was arranged or the character of the daughter-in-law, it can persist and lead to family discord.

**Post divorce problems:** After divorce women faced different type of problems such as; social rejection, blame by relatives and siblings, family support, challenges related to getting a separate house, economic hardships, harassment and exploitation, problems related to emotional attachment, psychological problems: depression, health problem, tried to kill herself, trauma, feeling lonely and alone & lack in confidence and problems related to upbringing of children.

**Few (four out thirty eight)** stories of women revealed that divorce resulted social rejection. **Some (eight out of thirty eight)** of the respondents also shared that they were treated as belonging to a different group because of their divorce. And they did not share same kind of relationship with her friends as earlier. They stated that the status of divorced women deteriorated as compared to married one. They feel ashamed of their status and too frightened to make contact with their friends. They also shared that before marriage and after marriage friends have same relationship but when they know about divorce they try to keep distance due to their social prestige. (**Eighteen out of thirty eight**) informants shared

that they did not have the same relation with their siblings as it was before divorce. **Few** of them identified the reasons for the bad relation with the siblings. **Few (Two out of thirty eight)** of the informants shared that they were blamed for their divorce, especially by their relatives or some times by their sibling's.

**Field work shows that Majority (twenty three out of thirty eight)** of the divorced women reported that they lived with their parent's house immediately after their divorce. In which **some (six out of thirty eight)** shared that they had not good relations with their parents at the beginning because their parents were under mental pressure due to the social stigma. **Most** of the respondents found strength from their children and parents who provide great motivation to help them to move forward.

Listening to women experiences, that how family supports them to a great extent. If the parents do not give support then it was very difficult for them to come out from the difficulties or trauma. After divorce for a daughter her parents support is very important. If her parent did not support her then this condition becomes worse for her life.

According to the data obtained during interview, researcher found that before getting divorce only **(five out of thirty eight)** informants stayed separately while **mostly** those respondents who opted love marriage faced more social problems and challenges to find a separate house for themselves and being a divorced woman they were unable to get it.

The other theme that identified was economic consequences of divorce on women. The problem of women after divorce is an economic issue also. This is for women with lower level of education (only literate) and skills to make it worse. Family member has different reactions to divorce and separation. Sometimes women, do not get support of spouse and children. Women are put under immense pressure to bear the burden of a single parent. Times were difficult when there were two family members earning and now it has come down to one, and that situation is very critical and tough for her. Financial crises were the major problem with **some** of the divorcee women. It came difficult in meeting the basic needs of children such as food, clothing, school fees, and basic expense.

**Most** of the informants also shared that in our society women face difficulties and are abused in every class. But the uneducated women take it as destiny. They further stated that quality education and economic independence in life strengthens the mental power which in turn makes a person capable to fight against odd circumstances. Most of the informants were not involved in a job before divorce, but they had to involve in vocational work after their divorce to adjust to their economic expenses. The informants reported that they started to work so that they did not become burdens to their families. They shared that they also involved themselves in a job in order to get rid of the mental trauma. Therefore, they left with no other options except to have a job in order to bear their children's expenses. Informants also reported that they got a little financial help from their parents.

Women, who were previously responsible solely for taking care of matters of the house, now have to take up jobs to survive. From paying rent, household amenities and if children are involved, their education and necessities, women who were housewives now have a lot of responsibility besides, they also have to think of tomorrow and not just live for the day. They must consider investments and health and life insurance to safeguard themselves as well as their children.

Separated women tend to suffer from a feeling of isolation and lack of identity after divorce. This is true of women whose identity was earlier attached with that of their husbands most of the women were having guilt feeling, shame resentment, anger and anxiety. Lack of emotional attachment was identified by **few (five out of thirty eight)** informants. Divorcees received less emotional support from their husband.

The other identified theme was the psychological problems of divorce on divorced women that influenced directly or indirectly them. Under this broad category, there are sub themes which are categorized for an easy understanding. Based on the interviews conducted on divorced women, different forms of psychological consequences were identified.

Kalmijn et.al. (2006) conducted a study on negative aspects of divorce on well being dependent on marital quality? Found that divorce leads to higher levels of depressive symptoms for women, rather than men. Marital aggression seems to increase the negative



effect of divorce, especially among women. Depression in a spouse is an issue that most couples will face at some point in their marriage. Symptoms of depression include feelings of sadness, hopelessness, helplessness, anxiety, irritability, agitation, fatigue, low energy and a reduced activity level are common and there is also withdrawal from social contact and loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities, including sex. The informants reported great psychological stress regarding their family support and attitude of society. When the informants were asked about the psychological impacts of their divorce, **(fourteen out of thirty eight)** informants of them reported that the divorce left them in depression and health problems because they had not been able to continue their marriage for the rest of their life. Moreover reaction of society towards them and their family and the acrid relations within the family as a consequence of the social taboo of their divorce, made them emotionally shattered in their post divorce life. The main problem after divorce is the perception and reaction of the society. Divorced women faced several challenges in every strata of society. People comment on them does not welcome them and treat them as if they are culprit.

Unsuccessful marital life has a immense negative effect on the mental and physical health of couples. Marital annulment is a serious social issue as it bears strong negative consequences for the mental and physical health of partners and their offspring. **One** informant shared that her health was badly affected during the divorce process and she underwent depression too.

The other form of psychological consequence that investigated through in depth interview was the problem of feeling lonely and alone. **Few (three out of thirty eight)** participants expressed that their life as divorced women was feeling lonely and alone. **One** respondent tried to kill herself due to under the pressure of social stigma of divorce.

Among psychological problems loss in confidence is also seen as an important problem among the respondents after divorce. **Few** of the respondents even said that they started disbelieving themselves and tried to find out the loop holes in their personalities. Post divorce life broke their confidence up to the great extent that the victims felt that she is even not capable to do her daily routine works.

The impact of divorce on women has psychological implications which completely shatter women's self-esteem. It influences positivity. She feels insecure and considers herself worthy. Divorce is characterized by mixed feelings of depression, anger, seclusion, helplessness, guilt and other negative emotions.

Thus on the basis of above discussion and earlier studies it can be concluded that divorce is a stressful experience and puts a great amount of strain or depression on divorced women. The marital termination is traumatic for the women since they feel they are defying the norms set by the society. Woman whose feelings of self esteem get affected, sometimes she starts thinking that this happened to her only because she is lacking a good personality and they feel alone and in turn slips into depression. This leads to deterioration in self-esteem. Which leads to feelings of insecurity? Due to trauma sometimes they opt for suicide.

#### **Problems related to upbringing of children:**

Family court cases shows that **majority 33 (55%)** of divorcee women didn't have any child; **most** of the informants had either one or two children and **rest** of them had three, four and six children. It is interesting to know that **majority** of the wife and her parents took the responsibility of upbringing of kids.

Divorced women also stated that they were worried about the livelihood of their kids, because **most** of the divorcee women & their children lived with their parents after their divorce. Therefore they opted the professions like: stitched clothes; maid servant; cooked food in the dhaba; prepare tea in a tea stall to meet their basic needs. Even their counterparts didn't felt responsibility of their kids and they didn't have any maintenance. In terms of the impact of divorce on children, **few** of the respondents stated that their divorce did not have any effect on their children behaviour immediately because that time they were too small to realize their parents' divorce. But in the coming years the influence of divorce can be easily depicted on their behaviour.

Researcher also found that **most** of the children of divorced couples are under nourished, do not get proper nutrition thus they usually suffer from deficiency diseases. These children also developed the habits of anxiety; sadness; loneliness; depression;

inferiority complex; lack of concentration; poor communication skills; lying and theft. They also feel that they do not hold respectful position in the society. Psychological distress may occur during the period immediately after divorce.

Above discussion shows that how children affected form their parents' divorce. On the basis of above discussion it can be concluded that divorce often results in the loss of contact with one parent and with this loss children also lose the knowledge, skills and resources (emotional, financial) of that parent.

Divorce often results in several changes living standard of children, particularly schooling. Their parental termination creates difficulties in their life, such as inferiority complex; drop out of school, poor mental health and anxiety. They are more likely to be disadvantaged in society. Earlier studies also show that divorce has adverse impact on the overall personality of children.

Socialization is very crucial process for children rearing. It is a process by which the identity develops and thereby integrates itself to the external world. Improper socialization leads to broken personality. Both husband and wife play a significant role in upbringing the child. In patriarchal family father is the head of the family and bears special position in society. The presence of the father plays a great role in socializing children and controlling the family members and absence of father affect proper socialization. Thus socialization of children in a secluded family assumes a challenging task for the mothers.

The financial problem of respondents especially who are mothers are more serious. Most of the respondents stated that the sole liability to raise children is fully on them and their parents; even they didn't get financially help from their ex-husbands. As economic problems and limited resources makes it difficult for the mothers to meet the basic needs of children such as food and clothing. Respondents also shared that they divorced their husbands not for their happiness but for the sake of their children future. They also said that the violent attitude of their ex-husband adversely affected the personality of their children. Thus informants faced many challenges and hardships in the upbringing of the kids.

## Conclusion

Though the rate of divorce is not too high in India as compare to other countries. Yet the cases are augmenting day by day. The sanctity and values attached to institution of marriage are diminishing day by day. Divorce is based on marriage laws. Human beings have often to pay the price of being sensitive and possessing an independent will. If men and women take the utmost care in selecting their partners, differences arose between them afterwards are equally possible. Only disloyalty cannot be considered as the only reason for the couple not having a pleasant time together. It is not very rare that interests and dislikes of a husband and wife differ so radically as to ruin all the happiness. Woman suffers in the same way if married, a husband she dislikes, although she has been gifted with a greater perseverance and great adjustment qualities. To her home is important that her counterpart. Her love for her children is very natural. She posses greater affection generally, and greater attachment to her husband in particular. She would take any in convenience and trouble rather than to leave her husband, and her home.

Divorcee whether a man or women is not respected by society because of the taboo attached to it. Society in general not welcome divorce, for it results in family disintegration. Hindu culture and society also teaches a woman consider her husband a 'deity'. She must have complete devotion and service to her husband. On the other hand, she would consider it of the greatest merit to put up with any degree of suffering rather than think of separation or divorce while Islam allows divorce but only as a last resort and as necessary evil.

Our society is patriarchal society; women posses secondary position. If they are working they are bound to perform all duties at office as well as to home. Divorce gave rise to several other economic cultural and social constraints which force the divorced women to live a traumatic life. Children of divorced parents receive less parental affection, which influences their socialization process negatively. Due to divorce the divorced women pay huge social costs of consequences from their familial to social life. Divorce and separation creates is a big challenge or problem for the divorced women as she becomes an alone has to depend on menial work for survival.

After divorce, the women whose job earlier was to take care of the house now had to take up jobs to survive. They had to furnish all the duties such as: children expenses and household amenities. Earlier a woman when divorced was subjected under social criticisms always females are blamed for breaking of relationship. Even the parents often reluctantly accepted their divorced daughter when she had return to her parental home. But now their perception and views are changing about their divorced daughter. Parents now believe that it is not the end of their daughter's life even after her marriage is being terminated. Due to development, and globalization, the Indian social life has become more faster and advancement has made human super busy. In order to success in one's vocation, hardly any interest comes in the minds of people to think or react other's personal matters like divorce. With the spread of women education in India, Women are getting the chance to earn for their livelihood. Also women getting good remuneration and are capable to take care of their children. She is not depends on anyone and can severe the relation in the dire circumstances. Conflicts arose regarding distribution of household responsibilities which also influence professional life. Tensions often arise if the husband considers that career of his counterpart is secondary where working women expects her husband's contribution in household responsibilities. Empowerment of women has started the termination of marriage in cities as well as in villages also financially educated women are now opens to the option of ending the relationship rather than to bear lifelong abuses silently.

Conjugal relations become bitter when there is a difference of opinion regarding each other duties as husband and wife. When the aspiration and expectations either of the counterpart are not fulfilled. Sometimes due to the lack of funds husbands do not meet the desires of the wives; this give rise to dissatisfaction and acrimonious relationship between couples. Ultimately, situation becomes uncontrollable. And bring about disruption of the family. The effect of western education is also responsible for complex relations between couples. Modern education has changed people's attitude on life. People are becoming more materialistic which is leading to diminishing of moral values.

Divorce affects children also. Divorcees, children face several problems such as: issue of custody; losing either parent's love or affection. For a child both of his parents are important for the development of his social values. The sudden interruption of the mother

and father relationship is a shock to his developing personality. The cases where either mother or father of the child, with whom they are living, decides to remarry, children face the problem of step-parent. Children are also subject to social criticism often they are teased and taunted by their school mates and friends. In this way breaking of the conjugal family negative influences the development of child.

Researcher shows that most of the women feel loneliness after their divorce. Many divorced women sometimes feel guilty about being broken families are struggling and fear of the uncertain future of their children too. The decision to end a close relationship is not trivial. Divorced women are often looked upon with doubt and suspicion in the society. Sometimes some of the respondents treated badly in the society. People generally dislike them. Most members often faced taunting and humiliation from the public. A woman who has the burden of taking care of children are filled with anxiety as to how they are now going to handle the situation all on their own, and many times women may suffer from chest pain or headache.

Women and divorce, when used together, spells out tensions and depression. Due to which one indulges in eating or drinking excessively, excessive sleeping, or substance abuse. These signs of depression need to be taken seriously and treated as well. Society treats women as the gum to the family and if the family is broken sole responsibility, lies on her. After divorce, women become low on confidence and find herself unable to form successful relationships.

## **Recommendations**

On the basis of personal observation, of field interview and family court cases and discussion with friends, supervisor and NGO workers few suggestions are given below to make a successful marriage.

1. For marriage choose the partner carefully. Don't haste in selecting the partner.
2. For the selection of partner you can consult a counselor.
3. In arrange marriage parents must consider likes and dislikes of their children in selecting the life partner for them.

4. Parents should give importance to value based education along with intellectual education.
5. One must meet with their partner several times in order to discuss their future plans and their responsibilities regarding their respective families.
6. Don't take decision on the other's opinion. One must check the real circumstances himself/herself before taking the decisions.
7. Parents should give knowledge about family and marriage education to their children.
8. There must be open communication between couples. Share your views with your partner openly. Avoid the controversial conversation.
9. There must be immense trust between the partners. Never doubt your partner.
10. For a successful marriage positive attitude is vital.
11. Partners must spend quality time with each other.
12. After having babies partner should not ignore their basic relationship.
13. Partners must complement each other. They should complete the house-hold work together.
14. Couples should not expect in excess from each other.
15. Couples must respect each other like/dislikes.
16. Mother must avoid the involvement in their daughter day-today life.
17. In case of remarriage don't compare your new relations with the old one.
18. If the partner is divorcee and bears an issue then conform that whether he is legally separated and whether you can adjust with it or not.
19. To make a marriage successful, understanding and respect between each other is essential.
20. Laughter is also a vital ingredient for a happy marriage.