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## Status of Divorced Women in Society: A Sociological Study of District Bulandshahr

\*<sup>1</sup>Preeti Singh and <sup>2</sup>Dr. Mamta Sagar<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, S.M.P. Girls PG College, C.C.S. University Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India.<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, S.M.P. Girls PG College, C.C.S. University Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India.

### Abstract

Divorce means the end of marriage life. It is the situation when both husband and wife decide not to stay together any more. It is an unplanned event in family's life. The word divorce in English is derived from the Latin word "divertive" which again is derived from "Dis" which means "Apart and venture" which means "to turn". Divorce is the dissolution of the tie of marriage.. This paper was conducted on the status of divorce women of Bulandshahr district. In this research paper, we discussed the socio economic profile of divorce women, factors affecting divorce and problems faced by women after divorce. Data was collected through primary and secondary sources for this paper. Some specific techniques were used for data collection such as interviews, observations, and schedule method.

**Keywords:** Marriage, divorce, women

### Introduction

#### Need of the Study

India is a male dominate country. Marriage is compulsory in Indian society. Many caste and religion's people are living in India, so India have many problems in Indian society as caste system, religious problems, domestic violence, divorce problems and many more. Divorce is a major problem in India at present scenario. In this research paper, we discussed the status of divorced women of Bulandshahr district. We discussed the socio-economic profile of divorced women, factors affecting to divorce and the problems faced by divorced women after divorced.

#### Marriage

Marriage is the legally recognized union of two people in a personal relationship. A legally registered marriage comes with financial and governmental benefits and rights. The Cambridge dictionary of sociology (P. 354) states that. Marriage is a social institution defined bylaws, culture, and religion. Marriage in the traditional Hindu Society, regarded essentially as dharma (Religious) is gradually becoming secularized in the modern era. The trend is towards making it consensual. The Hindu has idealized marriage in a big way. In the patriarchal society of Rig Vedic Hindus, marriage was considered as a sacramental union and this continued to be so doing the entire provide. The Hindu marriage is not really a social contract but a religious sacrament.

- Marriage is a relatively permanent bond between permissible mates.
- (Lowie)
- Marriage is a social arrangement by which a child is given a legitimate position in the society determined by parenthood in the social sense. (Redcliff Brown)
- Marriage is a stable relationship in which a man and a woman are socially permitted without loss of standing in community to have children. (H.M. Thouson)

#### Hindu Religion Marriage

Marriage being mainly performed by Dharma and not for pleasure, it was considered a sacrament among Hindus. Several reasons may be given for considering the Hindu marriage sacred:

- i). Dharma (fulfillment of religious duties) was the highest aim of marriage;
- ii). Performance of the religious ceremony included certain rites like Haven, Kanyadan, Panigahana, Saptodi etc. Which being based on the sacred formula, were Considered sacred,
- iii). The rites were performed before Agni (the most sacred god) by reciting Mantras (passages) from Vedas (the most sacred scriptures) by a Brahmin (the most sacred person on earth)
- iv). The union was considered indissoluble and irrevocable and husband and wife were bound to each other not only until death but even after the death;

- v). Though a man performed several sacraments during the cause of his like; a women performed only one sacrament of marriage in her life, hence its greatest, importance for her;
- vi). Marriage was considered to be a “social Duty” towards the family and the community and there was little idea of individual interest and aspiration. Since Hindu marriage has undergone changes in the last few decades.

The change in the marriage system of Hindus may be analyzed in

Seven areas:-

- a) Change in the object of marriage, that is, from dharma as the chief object to championship as the main object.
- b) Change in the form of marriage that is from plurality of partners or Polygamy to one partner or monogamy.
- c) Change in the process of mate selection (permissibility of inter Caste marriages), change in the party to selection (that is from parental selection to joint and individual selection) and change in the party to selection (that is from parental selection to joint and individual selection) and change in family and individual selection. Change in stability of marriage that is introducing divorce in Hindu society.
- d) Change in economic aspect of marriage that is in the dowry System.
- e) Widow Remarriage one of the changes of modern India is the Change in the attitude towards marriage; hence the necessity of Laws on different aspects of marriage. The important legislations relating to these six aspects of marriage passed from time to time

**Are:**

- i). The child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
- ii). The Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Act, 1946 and Hindu
- iii). Marriages Validity Act, 1949.
- iv). The Special Marriage Act, 1954.
- v). The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
- vi). The Dowry Act, 1961.
- vii). The Widow Remarriage Act, 1856.

### **Characteristics of Marriage**

- i). Marriage is a universal social institution. It is found in almost all societies and at all stages of development.
- ii). Marriage is a permanent bond between husband and wife. It is designed to fulfill the social, psychological, biological and religious aims.
- iii). Marriage requires social approval. The relationship between men and women must have social approval without which marriages is not valid.

All marriages cannot succeed; some end in disharmony. In source marriages which fail, some fatalists, believing in an inescapable destiny, just drag on and pull, over some optimists, who think that happiness is a state of mind try to road just themselves; but some breath their marriages of those who break their marital bonds, some break them functionally and some structurally. Desertion and divorce are structural breakups. Desertion either temporary or permanent is illegal and unofficial and is an irresponsible departure from the home on the part of either husband or wife, leaving the family to fend for it; divorce is legal severing of marital ties or final termination of bonfire marriage.

The formal legal or socially sanctioned termination of a marriage. Divorce may be partial or absolute. The former is called “Judicial Separation”. It does not dissolve the marriage and as such spouses cannot remarry till the case is finally decided. Absolute divorce is legal dissolution of marital ties. It leaves both partners in a status of single unmarried persons.

### **Divorce**

Divorce (also known as dissolution of marriage) is the process of terminating a marriage or marital union. Divorce usually entails the concealing or reorganizing of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country or state. It can be said to be a legal dissolution of marriage by a court or other competent body. It is the legal process of ending a marriage.

### **The Concept of Divorce**

Marriage is considered one of the most important aspects of life and especially in a country like India; it is not only important but sacred too. In our country rituals and religious ceremonies play a huge role during the marriage and because marriage is still considered to be a very sacrosanct one. Thus the concept of holiness that comes with marriages makes the concept of divorce very much alien to the mandate of the religion.

The concept was divorce was not accepted in the pre-independent era. But with the changes in times people have stated accepting the divorce is not a sin but a remedy which is available to an individual in situations where in he/she cannot more ahead with their respective marriages. It is an option which gives an individual to walk out of their marriages is situations which cannot be mended. During the British era, Indian only had the Divorce Act, 1869, which provided for the divorce procedure in India for people proffering the religion of Christianity. But other than that, three seemed to lack any enactment for the divorce process in India. It was only eight years after independence that independent Indian parliament through it incumbent to enact a law on marriage and related laws. As a result the Hindu marriage act, 1955 was enacted.

### **Various Personal Laws Governing Divorce in India**

**The Hindu Marriage Act (1955):** The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provides for marriage and divorce for Hindus. Buddhists, Sikhs, and Jains are considered to be Hindus under the scope of this Act. However, this act must be read along with its supplementary legislation, for example, the Hindu adoption and maintenance act etc.

**The Muslim Law:** Muslim law is mainly governed by “Sharia” through unmodified customs and practices. Quran and rules laid down under it play a pivotal role in shaping the Muslim law. But the rules for divorce differ to some extent between the two major sects of Muslims the “Sunnies” and the “Shias”.

**The Divorce Act (1869):** The Christians in the country are governed under the act.

**The Special Marriage Act (1954):** The act mainly brings inter-faith marriages under its ambit. The act paves the way for the special situation of an inter-religious marriage. The existence of such a law is reflective of the progressive and liberal mind set of our lawmakers.

**Types of Divorce:** In most jurisdictions, a divorce must be certified or ordered by a judge in a court of law to come into effect. The terms of the divorce are usually determined by the

courts. There are two basic approaches to divorce, “fault based” and “No-fault based” At fault based divorce. Before the late 1960s, nearly all countries that permitted divorce required proof by one part that the other party had committed an act incompatible with the marriage. This was termed & grounds for divorce (popularly called fault) and was the only way to terminate a marriage fault based divorced can be contested; evaluation of offences may involve allegations of collusion of the parties (working together to get the divorce) or condonation (approving the offence), connivance (tricking someone into committing an offence) or provocation by the other party. Summary divorce: A summary (or simple) divorce, available in some jurisdictions, is used when spouses meet certain eligibility requirements or can agree on key issues before hand key factors : short marriage (less than 5 years), no children (or, in some states, when the spouses have resolved custody and set child support payments for children of the marriage). Uncontested divorce. It is estimated that upwards of 95% of divorces in the U.S. are “uncontested” because the two parties are able to come to an agreement about the property, children and support issues.

### Methodology

In this research paper, the data was collected from 100 respondents using simple random sampling. The primary data was collected with the help of Observation, Interview scheduled and case study method. The data would be

### Discussion of Objectives Bellow

analyzed by simple statistical method like tabulation coding etc., the secondary data shall be extracted thereafter.

### Objectives

Objectives of this research paper are given blow:

- What is the socio-economic background of divorced women?
- What are the factors affecting to divorce?
- What are the problems faced by women after divorce.

### Area of Study

This study was conducted on the status of divorced women. All the divorced women are selected in Bulandshahar district.

### Discussion

Discussion of this research paper is to analyze the socio economic condition of divorced women as age, caste, respondent’s education, family monthly income, respondent’s religion, class, type of family, size of family. Second question of this research paper is to find out the factors affecting to divorce, as behavior of husband, behavior of in laws, alcoholic husband, husband’s extra marital affair, money problem, husband opposite behavior and many more. Another concern knows the problem faced by women after divorced as care of children, occupation problem, living problem, social status, health problems and many more.

**Table 1:** Socio-economic status of divorced women:-

S. N.	Variable	Largest no of Respondents	Lowest no of Respondents
1.	Age	48 (29-39 Age Group)	03 (51 to above Age Group)
2.	Religion	67 (Hindu)	04 (Sikh)
3.	Category	67 (General)	10(S.C.)
4.	Caste Group	23 (Sharma Caste Group)	01 (Dhingar & Kannojiya Caste Group)
5.	Class	62 (Middle Class)	13 (Lower Class)
6.	Type of Family	59 (Joint Family)	11 (Large Family)
7.	Size of Family	57 (Medium Family, 6-8 Member)	13 (Very Large Family, 11 to above Member)
8.	Education	71 (Secondary Education)	17 (Illiterate)
9.	Occupation of Women	58 (Engaged in Private Job)	13 (Engaged in Labour Work)
10.	Type of Marriage	53 (Love Marriage)	11 (Court Marriage)
11.	Choice of Spouse	43 (By Parents)	07 (Suggest by Friends)
12.	Duration of Marriage	84 (5-10 Years)	13 (15 to above Years)
13.	Living Place after Divorced	87 (In City)	03 (In Village)
14.	Living Pattern after Divorced	41 (In Rented House)	09 (With Parents)

**Table 2:** Factors affecting to divorce.

S. N.	Factors Affecting to Divorce	Numbers of Respondents
1.	Behavior of Husband	42
2.	Behavior of In-Laws	53
3.	Alcoholic Husband	69
4.	Husband's Extra Marital Affair	37
5.	Family Money Problem	69
6.	Opposite Husband Wife Behavior	13
7.	Physical Violence by Husband	71
8.	Physical Violence By In-laws	31
9.	Husband Don't like a Working Women	24
10.	Have not a Child	56
11.	Age Gap	35
12.	Girls Child	28
13.	Illness of Husband	26
14.	Impotence of Husband	07
15.	Respondents Illness	03
16.	Forcefully Marriage	06
17.	Respondent's Parents lived with them	04
18.	Dowry	59

**Table 3:** Problems faced by Women after Divorce.

S. N.	Problems Faced by Women after Divorce	Number of Respondents
1.	Care of Children	71
2.	Living Problem	63
3.	Occupational Problem	89
4.	Mental Health Problem	94
5.	Social Status	21
6.	Emotions Share Problem	37

### Findings

The above tables explain socio-economic condition of divorced women, factors affecting to divorce and the problems faced by women after divorce. Some findings are given below:

- The majority of women belong to 29-39 age groups when she takes divorce.
- The majority of divorced women belong to Hindu religion.
- The majority of divorced women are belonging to General Category.
- The majority of divorced women are belonging to Sharma Caste Group.
- The majority of divorced women are belonging to joint family.
- The majority of respondents (57) are belonging to medium family, (6-8 members in family.)
- The large segments of respondent's are belonging to Secondary Education.
- The majority of divorced women are engaged in private job.
- The majority of divorced women done Love Marriage.
- The majority of women who takes divorced, her spouse choose by their parents.
- The majority of divorced women marriage duration are 5 to 10 years.
- The majority of respondents are living in city after divorce.

- The majority of divorced women are living in a rented house after divorced.

### Factors Affecting to Divorce are below

- Behavior of Husband.
- Behavior of In-Laws.
- Alcoholic Husband.
- Husband's Extra Marital Affair.
- Family Money Problem.
- Opposite Husband Wife Behavior.
- Family Money Problem.
- Opposite Husband Wife Behavior.
- Physical Violence by Husband.
- Physical Violence by In-laws.
- Husband doesn't like a Working Women.
- Have not a Child.
- Age Gap.
- Girls Child.
- Illness of Husband.
- Impotence of Husband.
- Respondents Illness.
- Forcefully Marriage.
- Respondent's Parents lived with them.
- Dowry.

### Problems Faced by Women after Divorce are below

- Care of Children.
- Living Problem.
- Occupational Problem.
- Mental Health Problem.
- Social Status.
- Emotions Share Problem.

### Limitation

Due to financial restrictions and shortage of time for the data collection, we have limited number of divorced women available for interviews.

The study is confined to only divorced women in district Bulandshahar.

### Conclusion and Suggestion

This paper is based on a study conducted on divorced women on her social, economic and mental status in district Bulandshahar. It was found that the socio economic status of women after divorce, factors affecting to divorce and the problems faced by women after divorce. Hence we suggest that in the future there should be more research on divorced women in other aspects. The area could be undertaken in the field of research. We suggest that divorce is major social problem in India. We worked that the divorce affects to man and women both, divorce affecting to children, so we will work in these aspects on divorce.

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