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TITLE: DIVORCE – A COMMON SOCIETY ASPECT

ABSTRACT

The researcher, in this paper has provided a deep insight into the contemporary socio-legal issue of the increased rates of divorce presently. The researcher commences the article with a brief introduction to the topic followed by analysing and explaining the causes of divorce. The researcher also explains the current social trends triggering legal separation known as divorce followed by analysing the impact of divorce on children. This article is based on a keen analysis of every significant aspect of divorce by the researcher of this paper. The article terminates with a conclusion, summing up the article.

KEYWORDS: increase in divorce, causes, current social trends, impacts, conclusion

INTRODUCTION

Family is a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children. Family is the biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children. Marriage basically means a stable relationship which admits a man and a woman to have and create a family life. According to Horton and Hunt, 'Marriage is the approved social pattern whereby two or more persons establish a family'¹. Breakdown of a marriage leads to breakdown of family, which is apparently becoming a common society aspect. Breakdown of marriage, technically termed as 'divorce', is basically the legal termination and separation of a marriage. Divorce, dissolves and terminates all matrimonial bonds and responsibilities. Some reasons for divorce can be adultery, unreasonable nature and behaviour, getting into relationship for marriage for the wrong reasons or at an early stage, no compatibility or lack of compatibility between partners, financial issues, abusive nature, wrong addictions, no patience and understanding or maturity to sort disputes in a peaceful manner, difference in opinions and many other. Divorce is an aspect that splits up a happy family. Divorce can have ill effects on children and elders of the family. The rates of divorce have had a sudden rise, especially in developed nations. There are certain current social trends that are triggering divorce. The tension as well as hesitation regarding marriages is on an increasing level these days. The society apparently is now accepting the concept of divorce very commonly. Therefore, the focus for this research paper was chosen as divorce and the unfortunate breakdown and disintegration of families. The main problem faced by majority people these days is the harsh disintegration of a family due to many reasons which will be briefly explained in the research paper further. Couples getting divorced is a common issue these days which is getting a cause of concern. There are many factors and causes that trigger a conclusion of divorce. Divorce rates are getting higher and the general public are now considering it as an easy method to make their way out of a marriage that they are not comfortable in. Divorce have an ill impact of children because ultimately it happens so that the child is unable to live with both his parents which he is habituated to. The auspicious relation of marriage these days has lost its significance unlike the traditional times. There is a harsh disintegration of families, most due to lack of understanding and maturity between couples.

¹ Marriage: Characteristics and types of marriage (your article library)
< <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/> > accessed on 29 December, 2020

The divorce rates are on an increasing trend day by day. People are highly misinterpreting divorce as an easy method to cut down relations with their spouse. The sole purpose of this research paper would be to create an awareness about the causes and factors due to which a divorce is most probable to occur.

REASONS FOR GROWTH IN DIVORCE RATES:

Apparently there is a lot of instability in families these days. The disintegration and dissolution of a traditional family was not easy. The protocol towards family and life has been changed by the modern family. The young generation do not like any interference of parents and elders. There is a decrease in faith among family members. The problems of working women have hindered the development of children and led to increased conflicts between a husband and a wife. Few conflicts lead to the weakening of a marriage. Some of the reasons for the growth in divorce rates are as follows:

- **SELECTION OF PARTNERS BY PARENTS** – The selection of partners for marriage is usually done by the parents or elderly members of the family because it is considered that they are more experienced than the youngsters. The desires of the partners are often neglected this way since they are forced to get into a marriage even in discomfort and knowing each other well. The method of choosing a partner by parents has changed with the generation which many families fail to understand. Therefore, in the long run, this often leads to divorce.

- **ABUSE AND VIOLENCE** – Women are a primary victim of domestic violence and abuse by their partner. There comes a stage which crosses certain level of tolerance for women after tolerating violence. This often tends to get couples divorced. According to the research conducted, it is known that round about 25 – 40 per cent of women appealing for divorce, states domestic violence and abuse as the main cause. This kind of environment creates some kind of emotional distress among the family. Usually, anger issues are the main cause of aggressive and abusive behaviour. The abuse may be physical or emotional. Too many

conflicts may act as an intoxicant to the marriage, therefore, couples find it wiser to get separated.

- **FINANCIAL ISSUES** – As per researches conducted, 36.1 per cent of divorce take place due to financial problems. It is a clear fact that money is a significant factor to live a jolly life. When none of the partners are earning well, there is a rise in stress and tension in the marriage. One may wish to save for a better future, while one may be a spendthrift. Couples may have contradictory thoughts and ideas as far as finance is concerned. Hence, lack of money can be considered as a valid and important reason for divorce as one requires finance for fulfilment of basic amenities of life.

- **DIFFERENCE IN CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS** – When a husband and a wife get married they do not realize the ill impacts of having different cultural backgrounds. It might get difficult to adapt and adjust to each other's culture. It leads to misunderstanding when couples fail to follow each other's tradition, standards etc. There may also be a vast difference in taste, choices and preferences between each other. This is one of the main reason for the increase in divorce rates these days.

- **CHILD MARRIAGE** – Children, especially teenagers, often get infatuations at their age. In the case of child marriage, the decision of parents are given more importance than the wishes and sentiments of children being married. Children get married without consent of their parents, out of immaturity. Till the time they get mature, they realize they took a wrong decision in getting married as a child. As they develop and grow, they may create their own personality and their tastes may change. They may find interest in someone else. This tends to increase divorce.

CURRENT SOCIAL TRENDS TRIGGERING DIVORCE:

- **ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE** – Men and women in the modern family are financially independent. Women, do not have to rely on their husbands for finance unlike the past.

Women are getting highly educated and working independently to run the house like men which has affected the attitude of women. They get more egoistic as they do not have to depend on anyone like before. This egoism, sometimes may lead to fights and differences in opinions which some couples continuously fight upon. This arguments and fights ultimately lead to divorce.

- **CHANGING ATTITUDES TO FAMILY LIFE** – According to research conducted, it can be concluded that divorce is a common aspect in a working class family where both, the husband and wife have to work to fulfil basic amenities of life. There is lack of time to spend with one another. This often leads to lack of understanding between partners, hence conflicts. The younger generation's attitude towards sexual behaviour, marriage and gender divisions differ from their parents.

- **EGO CLASHES** – The current generation is getting egoistic as there is a lot of independence, especially financial independence unlike traditional families. There is also professional competition among the spouses. The spouses these days are quite immature. Economic prosperity takes up a toll on the marital status and therefore breakdown of a marriage. It is the modern culture and materialistic nature of couples that tend to get them divorced. There is so much ego in couples that they do not even consider their children to be a factor stopping their separation.

- **AGE DIFFERENCE** – Marriages these days consider age as an essential factor. It is considered that there becomes a difference in behaviour, likes, dislikes, attitude, when an elder and a youngster marries. When there is a vast age difference between married couples, marital adjustment often becomes complex and difficult to adapt to. This may lead to instability in the family in the long run. There becomes lack of compatibility between partners. The couples get deviated from performing their marital responsibilities towards each other. Therefore, vast difference in age at times may encourage divorce these days.

- **ADULTERY** – If a husband or wife are found cheating on each other, having illicit relations with someone else other than his own wife or her own husband, there becomes lack of trust among the married couple. Adultery is illegal in the eyes of law and the partner can file for divorce to his/her spouse on grounds of adultery.

IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON CHILDREN:

- **EMOTIONALLY SENSITIVE** – Divorce can bring several types of emotions to the forefront for a family, and the children involved are no different. Feelings of loss, anger, confusion, anxiety, and many others, all may come from this transition. Divorce can leave children overwhelmed and emotionally sensitive². Hence, divorce has a major impact on the emotions and feeling of a child and in such a condition, a child must be approached to someone near whom they can freely vent out their feelings.
- **POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE** – Children are highly sensitive in nature. They are most of the times unable to adapt themselves to the changing dynamics. They often remain disturbed and distracted and hence unable to pay their focus on the studies required for their age. There is a major interruption in their routine work like going to school and studying. Therefore, divorce has an ill impact on children as far as academics is concerned.
- **DIFFICULT TO ADAPT TO CHANGES** – New situations and new living style are very difficult for children to adapt to. There is a complete change in dynamics, family, learning, nature and this all has a severe impact on children. Children often prefer being reserved after their parents undergo a divorce.
- **FEELING OF GUILT** – Children to most extent are immature enough to understand why a divorce at the first place is occurring in their family. They are often startled after knowing

² What are the effects of divorce on children? (familymeans)
< <https://www.familymeans.org> >, accessed on 29 December, 2020

the fact about separation of parents. They are not really habituated to the fact of living with a single parent. This stress and pressure at times may lead to depression and other kind of serious health issues.

CONCLUSION

From all the possible researches conducted, it can be concluded that divorce, even though a common society aspect, turns out to be unhealthy for the society as a whole. A divorce is not an easy process to go through and it has its own ill impacts on the couples getting separated, on elderly people of the primary family and the worst effects on children. There should be more of a common opinion regarding mediation rather than choosing the last resort of divorce. Ego clashes should be avoided when in a marriage. A couple should be well educated about the consequences of physical and mental abuse towards each other. A couple should be tolerant towards each other.

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