Research on Why People Get Divorced

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**Abstract**

Data from the national panel will illustrate the rate of divorce in the nation whereby open-ended responses obtained from questions on people whose marriages ended up in divorce will be classified. Divorce affects not only the couples but also the children of the respective families. Over the years, infidelity is most reported as the main reason behind the escalated rate of divorce. Despite this, incompatibility, drug abuse, alcoholism and continuous growing apart are also causative factors of divorce. The key reasons for separation vary based on social class, gender and life courses. Former wives and husbands tend to blame their ex-spouses on most occasions rather than themselves when stating the problems that led to their separation. Despite this, men further claim that the women or their spouses initiated the divorce after the escalation of challenges within their marriage. Often, spouses who attribute to the cause of the separation to the marriage itself, rather than external and internal self-factors tend to encounter the best post-divorce adjustment. However, separation amongst married couples is a complex event often viewed from varying perspectives. Therefore, different approaches can be deployed to down surge the rate of separation amongst the married couples. Marriage is an important aspect of the society thus the study aim at addressing the current factors that escalate the event. On the other hand, divorce rates have been on the decline in the recent years. However the notion can be ascertained to be aggravated by the down surge of marriage within the society. The capability to understand how families relate to each other facilitates ease in comprehending the reason behind the escalating rate of separation in marriages.

**Statement of the problem**

Recent statistics indicate a drastic rise in the divorce rates when compared to the past. This is a problem that has resulted in negative effects in children as well as the parents involved. Studies done have outlines a number of reasons that could be tied to this, but research is still needed to identify the specific reasons why the divorce rates are increasing each day. Among the common factors are infidelity, immature marriage, unrealistic expectation, financial issues among others (Betsay, 2007). Majority of these factors can be fixed as soon as they are determined. The main question is what are the factors that are increasing the current divorce rates and what can be done to eliminate them?   
**Background of the study**

The family unit is an important social institution. Issues of marriage and divorce, which inform the structure of the family, are very common in the contemporary society. According to Newman (2008), recent trends indicate that the marriage rates in America and across many parts of the globe are drastically reducing, while divorce rates are on the upward surge. Sociological concepts and frameworks are important in explaining the causes and extent of this alarming trend. Changes in the family structure, such as long working hours, distance between two married people, and division of financial responsibilities have been brought about by many factors. These changes have had enormous impacts on the American society as the marriages have become more tensional and many opting not to marry at all. This research highlights the experiences of marriage and divorce, and the various effects of divorce. Through the analysis of research done, the paper hopes to shed light on pertinent causes of divorce.

**Purpose of the study**

In the recent past, the symbols attached to marriage and divorces have undergone an enormous transformation. More people are conceiving marriage as a temporary arrangement that is based on feelings of intimacy and not as a lifelong commitment. The study aims at identifying the factors the result in divorce. As many studies have indicated, the effects of divorce are enormous, and especially to the children who are left to lead a life where they need to see their parents separately. As such identifying the various causes of divorce is important, because it will help in changing the current traits within married couples and hopefully result in less divorce rates in future.

**Research hypothesis**

Both parties in a relationship play a big role in facilitating divorce.

**Research questions**

1. What are the main causes of divorce?
2. Research indicates a number of factors such as lack of respect in marriage, infidelity and financial problems result in divorce. What can be done to lower the current divorce rates?

**Nature of the study**

Qualitative research method will be the most ideal in collecting information relevant to the study. Using this method, enough data will be collected and many facts gathered after the data is analyzed. For instance, there will be interview conducted to the married couples to collect information based on personal experiences. The research paper will makeuse of online surveys to get valid data on the current divorce rates, and information regarding factors that lead to divorce. The main idea is to collect as such information as possible and provide evidence to support the hypothesis.

**Definition of terms**

There are number of terms that will be used in the research. Among these terms are:

Appeal- This is an application requesting the court to reverse its decision regarding divorce.

Custody- This is the protective care or guardianship of a child after divorce

Dissolution- This is the breaking of marriage after divorce

Divorcee- This is a person who has been divorced

Mediation- This is an intervention process between the divorced parties to look for a common agreement point.

**Operational definitions statement**

To carry out the research, a set of interview questions will be developed, to determine the current divorce rates and factors associated to them. I will also make use of questionnaires to get valid data on the effects of divorce both to the involved parties and children.

**Significance of the study**

Over the years, the marriage institution has been crippled with divorce thus the reason behind the reluctance to get married. The study aims at identifying the different causes propagating divorce rate within the society. As such, various approaches can be enhanced to down surge the rate. Divorce affects both the couple the children within respective families. The study signifies marriage as an important aspect of the society thus aims at bringing a halt to the escalating menace. The identification of the various causative factors will prove useful to the community and organizations fighting against divorce amongst married couples. In contrast, the study will be useful to other researchers or individuals within the society who aim at getting married based on the fact that the factors leading to divorce will be addressed. Despite this, the study will be useful to recently married couples as it will help them identify reasons behind the increased divorce rates thus mitigate to save their respective marriages.

**Literature review**

Key factors contribute to the increased rate of divorce over the past 150 years (Betsay, 2007). Despite the rise of divorce cases over the last 15 decades, the rates have been on the decline in the past quarter of the century. However, such trends can be linked to the down surge of marriage rates whereby the importance of marriage at different points in life have often changed (Betsay, 2007). According to Betsay, the rising rate of divorce has often been followed by high remarriage rates with a combination of a decline in the age gap amongst the couples.

On the other hand, cohabitation has been an important aspect in the marriage market as it has emerged as the step on the path to marriage. Some of the main drives behind these changes can be ascertained to be changes within the wage structure, changes in home technologies, the rise in the use of the birth control pill, increased rate of women protecting their fertility and the emergence of the internet (Betsay, 2007). The sociological perspective offers a compelling platform as it enhances the capability to understand personal lives of students and how sociologists explain and understand families (Newman, 2008). Newman, 2008 examines the sociological knowledge within families providing meaningful debates that aim at ascertaining the driving factors of divorce.

Understanding how families relate to each other enhances the capability to understand the reason behind the increased rate of marriage divorce and falling rates of marriage over the years. The sociological perspective by Newman is applicable at aim individuals level based on their respective family experiences. Understanding the sociological perspective within families widens the scope on identifying the various approaches that can be implemented to foster marriage in the current society (Newman, 2008).

In the American life, marriage maintains the central role. However, over the years the divorce rates have been rising. Despite this, the failing of marriage has seen decreased numbers of individuals ready to take their positions at the family level. On the other hand, out of wedlock fertility has been on the rise with the subsequent decline of the shotgun marriages (Stevenson & Wolfers). According to Wolfers and Stevenson, addressing the key factors behind divorce can enhance bring a halt to the escalating menace.

However, according to Ambert, not all marriages end up in divorces. People are often misled by the media which is their main source of information thus stating that divorce rates are high. As such the peak time statistic is stuck within or imagination and the media. Despite this, simplistic ways are often used to ascertain the divorce rates in the society (Ambert, 2009). For instance, one commonly used measure is dividing the number of divorces annually with the number of marriages. However, the past decade has experienced a decrease in marriage rates, as such the proportion of divorce will be high despite the fact that they have remained the same (Ambert, 2009).

Research

**Participants**

The target population will consist of married couples who are residing in households within the United States with a telephone; both partners are present and both being 50 years of age or younger. Random sampling will be conducted through phones collected from random households. Second random sampling will be carried out on the telephone with one of the spouse, either the husband or the wife.

**Data collection**

Information will be collected through open-ended interviews conducted through the telephone. The second random sampling will be carried out to ascertain the state of their marriage whereby the data gathered will be coded for further analysis. As such, individuals who will have had divorce amid the two interview sessions will be asked open-ended questions to gain reflection in their current state, which is ‘why did you get divorced? The open-ended responses from the interviews will be used to ascertain the identical factors associated with divorce amongst couples.

**Data analysis**

After the collection of open-ended responses, all responses will be read, responses associated with naturally occurring clusters will be placed together, and preliminary labels will be created for these categories. The answers will be placed in groups such as lack of communication between couples, incompatibility, and infidelity. The data collected will be compared to the U.S census data with respect to race, age, and the presence of children, home ownership, and urban residence.

**Expected findings**

The information collected will aim to ascertain the reason behind the escalation of divorce in the past decades. Some of the primary reasons behind the escalating menace will be expected to be infidelity, too much arguing and lack of communication. Despite this factors such as lack of equality, lack of commitment, incapability to have children and abuse cannot be ruled out as causative factors.

**Assumptions**

According to the study, it is assumed that the recent decline in marriage rates has minimal effect on the proportion of divorce rates thus the reason behind its rise. Despite this, it is also assumed that increase in divorce rates have a significant effect on the overall community morality. On the other hand, some consequences have been attributed to be on the rise due to the increased divorce rates.

**Scope and limitations**

Over the years, the marriage institution has been crippled with divorce thus the reason behind the reluctance to get married. Divorce is a complex phenomenon with the inclusion of some interlocking factors that revolves around cultural, legal and social contexts. Thus, a clear identification of the scope and the factors driving the recent increase in divorce rates is highly challenging. Despite this, different marriage institutions are often crippled by varying factors thus unifying the causation factors prove to be some generalizations. Despite this, the information provided by couples regarding the divorce is somehow limiting. Often, couples provide a glimpse of the factors that drive toward their separation, as such some information in the study will be based on assumptions.

References

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