

Women's Perception of Divorce in Shymkent

Samettin Gündüz

Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University, Faculty of Science and Literature, Turkey

ABSTRACT: This study was conducted in 2016 in Shymkent, the southern province of Kazakhstan. The universe and its sample consists of 183 divorced women living in Shymkent. The universe sample consists of 2% high school, 78% under graduate degree and 20% post graduate women. 98% of the participants were university graduates. Profession distribution consists of 38% teachers, 20% nurses, 20% police officers, and 2% non-professionals. The education level of the former spouses of women was found to be 4% in high school, 76% in under graduate and 20% in graduate level. 50% of women in the sample were married for 0-5 years, 40% for 6-9 years and 10% for 10-14 years. 50% of the causes of divorce is shortage of livelihood, 30% of their husbands' family and the environment, 6% of being said lie and 4% of the former spouses' alcohol consumption. It has been determined that 50% of divorced women have two, 30% of them one and 20% have three children. It was determined that 20% of the divorced women made their second marriage, 80% did not marry for their children and did not think about getting married again.

The divorce rate in South Kazakhstan is 15,169% in 2013. However, this divorce rate is 24.66% in the center of Shymkent. This result is 60% higher than the overall average. We think this is a significant difference. 40% of these divorces are made by court decision. The other 60% of divorce is through the traditional way of abandonment. Only 16% of divorced women receive alimony. The divorce rate increased by 5,20% and the marriage rate increased by 6,744% in 2013. And there is 1.544% difference in favor of the state of marriage.

KEYWORD: Family, Divorce, Kazakhstan, Shymkent

Date of Submission: 30-12-2018

Date of acceptance: 15-01-2019

I. INTRODUCTION

The family is the institution, which is accepted as the core of the society and marriage brings out the family. Marriage is defined as the formalization of the life of two different sexes.

The fact that every person wants to have a good marriage in his life, but whether a person makes a good marriage reflects a controversial situation. It is not possible to obtain a good marriage by trial and error. No one makes marriage for experience. Marriage is made for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a peaceful family life. It is not possible for the remaining marriages to maintain the family values or the peaceful family life for a long time. Although there are serious differences and changes in different beliefs and societies in the world, it is seen that marriages form common goals. If there are problems in sharing, sacrifice, tolerance, love, respect and patience among couples, the common reasons and justifications of divorce are formed due to the negative effects on family life.

Divorce is a threat for the individual and society, and at the same time a social dissolution. If spouses have difficulty in fulfilling their responsibilities, apply to violence or if they cannot live together, divorce has become mandatory. The divorce becomes inevitable if it cause physical and psychological violence and possible death. The process of divorce should be legal, religious and moral as well as in line with human values. The divorce that will arise under these conditions can be a new beginning of life in a peaceful way for the spouses.

Divorce is official and legal termination of marriage. When the literature on the causes and consequences of divorce is reviewed, it is seen that the impact on parents and children is examined by a wide variety of disciplines. A wide range of written sources and books on divorce (McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994) as well as the lifelong adaptation of children and their parents post-divorce (Amato, 1994), the level of stress and adaptation of men and women after divorce (Heath & Orthner, 1999), widows and divorced women's children success rate (Biblarz & Gottainer, 2000), the economic status of children in non-divorce families (Manning & Brown, 2006) have been extensively studied and researched by sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers.

The overall marriage and divorce figures in the South Kazakhstan region are 20772 marriages, 3151 divorce in 2012, and 22181 marriages and 3455 divorce in 2013. In Shymkent; 5145 marriages, 1269 divorce took place in 2012, and 5492 marriages, 1335 divorces took place in 2013. Source: Kazakhstan Statistics Authority <http://stat.gov.kz>

Marriage and divorce figures in Kazakhstan :

The number of marriages: 164681 in 2012, 168417 in 2013, 159328 in 2014, 148769 in 2015, 140840 in 2016, and 105396 in 2017.

Divorce Figures: 48513 in 2012, 51482 in 2013, 52673 in 2014, 53293 in 2015, 51775 in 2016 and 40503 in 2017. [source: Kazakhstan Statistical Institute

6. <http://stat.gov.kz>: 7. <http://www.zakon.kz/4774401-v-kazakhstane-sedmoji-gog-podrijad.html>]

When the indicators are analyzed, it is seen that divorce does not decrease. Parental and child social harmony, mental health, cultural and economic status, legal dimension, adaptation to divorce, children's school success, single-parent family, violence and abuse seem to cover divorce issues.

II. METHOD

The study was conducted in Shymkent, the southern province of Kazakhstan. The universe and the sample consist of 183 divorced women living in Shymkent. The participants were informed about the research and interviews were made when their acceptance was confirmed.

III. FINDINGS

When the educational status of the participants was examined, it was found that 2% of them were high school, 78% were undergraduate, and 20% were at graduate level. 98% of the participants were university graduates. Considering the level of development and national income of the country, it is seen that the level of education is very high. In other words, the indicators at the educational level are above the country's level of development. It can be stated that the high level of education of women in Kazakhstan, the willingness of women to stand on their own feet and Soviets are policies of education and culture were effective.

Occupational distribution of the participants consists of 38% teachers, 20% nurses, 20% police officers, 2% of them do not have an occupation. These results show that 98% of participants employed and divorce is not happened due to the unemployment but indicate different reasons. Participants' choice of profession is mostly determined by fixed income via state. Preferred occupations found to be intensely concentrated in teaching and nursing professions in Kazakhstan as in many other countries in the world.

When the education levels of the divorced spouses were examined, it was found that 4% of them were high school, 76% were undergraduate and 20% were at the graduate level. The educational level of the participants is higher than the divorced spouses and it is 2% at the high school-bachelor level. Education level is equal at the graduate level. The distribution of the ex-spouses is composed of 48% police officers, 24% doctors, 24% teachers and 4% non-professionals. It is determined that the professions are consisted of police-doctor-teacher, 2% unemployed and significant number of non-professionals.

When the education levels of the parents of the participants were examined, it was found that 20% were high school, 70% were undergraduate and 10% were graduate level. The education level of families is mostly a bachelor's and master's degree, and the rest is a high school education level which viewed positively. The high level of education of families is not reflected positively in the divorce rates in Kazakhstan which is a developing country.

When the annual income level of the participants' family is examined, it is seen that 2% has 300,000 Tenge, 20% has 450,000 Tenge, 38% has 600,000 Tenge, 20% has 1,000,000 Tenge and 20% is around 1,200,000 Tenge. The main reason for the low level of annual income is that the South Kazakhstan region is located in the poor regions of Kazakhstan. It is seen that the people of the region do not benefit sufficiently from the national income increase in the country and the welfare has not spread to the region. It also means that the income level in Kazakhstan differs according to regions. Increased National Income does not provide an increase in the income of the people or is an indicator of inequality in income distribution.

Husband's parents' education (mother-in-law and father-in-law) level show 34%, the annual income level of husband's parents (father-in-law and mother-in-law) is around 40%, 500,000 TENGE, 20% 600,000 TENGE, 20% 800,000 TENGE and 20% 1,000,000 TENGE.

It is seen that the family of men has higher income than women. The simple average of men family is 725,000 TENGE and 710,000 TENGE for women family. There is no big difference in the simple average of men and women. Income levels can be considered equivalent. For this reason, we do not think that divorce does not take place due to money, habit or difficulties in living. It is appropriate to search for divorce reasons outside of these.

When the age of marriage of women is examined, it is determined that 40% is 15-18 years old, 50% is 19-22 years old and 10% is between 27-30 years old. The fact that girls living in the southern part of Kazakhstan are married at a young age can be traced back having an early adolescence, tendency for romance and their concerns about not finding husband due to conditions in the south.

The most important factor that attracts attention here is the average age of marriage in the countries with higher income levels increases while 40% of girls are married under the age of 18. In other words, marriage takes place at younger ages.

When marriage age of the male participants is examined, 40% of them at the age of 19-22, 40% of them at the age of 15-18 and 20% of them married at the age of 27-30. The reason why men marry at a young age is related to their parents' desire to have grandchild or bride services early on.

Examining how the participants got married indicate, 50% by love, 30% by willingly escape, about 10% by the parents' decision and 10% of them were married by involuntary abduction. Those who marry by love are those who marry without making a plan for the future. Those who have escaped voluntarily do not take their family status or consent into account. Because the children in the south take their parents' recommendations more into consideration.

Examining participants' marriage durations indicate, 50% were stayed married for 0-5 years, 40% were stayed married for 6-9 years and 10% were stayed married for 10-14 years. It is understood that the first five years in the marriage process are very important and 50% of the divorces take place in the first five years. Nine years later divorce rate is at 90%. These rates threaten the family and society. Considering the 80% of marriages take place at the age of 15-22 and difficulty of being a divorced woman at a young age, the percentage of those who make second marriages is 20%, while the ratio of those who do not make second marriage is approximately 80% which indicates the size of the threat.

When the reasons of divorce were examined, it was found that 50% of the families were affected by their livelihoods, 30% of them were affected by family and environment, 6% were related to lying and 4% were related to drinking. Young people who married early without putting their lives on the road are faced with the difficulties of life and divorce. The fact that newlyweds who had to live with their husband's family (parents, siblings) without leaving home, prevent the young couple from adapting to life and one-to-one. As a result, 50% of divorces occur due to economic reasons while the other 50% are divorced by non-economic reasons.

When the number of children was analyzed while divorcing, it was found that 50% of the participants had 2 children, 30% of them had one child and 20% of them had 3 children. In Kazakhstan, the court decides that divorced families' children stays under the custody of mother. The most important reason for this is due to the approach of children in need of nursing and care. Spouses with single children are expected to divorce more where 50% of couples with 2 children divorce.

Examining how participants divorced indicate 40% by court decision, 30% by mutual agreement and 30% bilateral agreement. This shows that divorce is not a difficult process. The most important indicator here is the legal decision to terminate the divorce with court decision is 40%. The other 60% is not legally terminated. Therefore, it is clear that inheritance will not be available to children in the future. This must be studied socially in separate manner.

When whether participants received alimony analyzed, it was found that 80% of them said no and 20% said yes. When we asked how much money they take as alimony, it turned out to be around 10,000-20,000 TENGE.

80% of respondents say no because it is related to the irresponsibility of those who prepare the court decision. In the decision of the court, if the mother does not appeal to receive alimony, the father should pay the child support. The most important issue here is that 40% of the divorces are made by a court decision and 80% of these does not receive alimony. As a result, in the total only 16% receive alimony. If, as a social state, these families were made a great help, there would be no problem for living. Thus, it is obvious that women and children are in great economic hardship as a result of separation.

Analysis of participant's post-divorce life point out that, 70% live with their children, 20% live with their parents and 10% responded that they live with their relatives.

Analysis of person who give children good manner after divorce shows, 70% of the participants stated that school teach good manner and 30% of the participants responded their parent educated/teach good manner. Participants do not seem to have an endeavor for children's education. It can be considered that the mother or father does not have any time for children or they do not have enough experience or knowledge, or do not take the time for their children. Even though they are university graduates, they leave teaching good manner or education to school or parent should be discussed. It can be said that women trying to survive for themselves do not fulfill their maternity responsibilities.

Examining the question of how interested fathers in education of children reveals that fathers had no interest in the education of children, 30% of the children had occasional meeting with their fathers, and 70% of the children did not want to talk to their father. Reasons for not meeting with father's reveals, 50% of fathers do

not want to talk to children, 10% of children do not want to talk to their fathers, 20% of mothers opposed to children meeting with their fathers, 20% of the problems that do not allow children to meet with their fathers.

Analysis of responses received from the participant whether they discuss the future of their children with ex-spouses (the father of the children) or exchange of ideas, 30% responded yes, 70% responded no. The reason for this is that their ex-husbands are married to someone else or not to talk to their children or to accept their children.

When what the participants do to prepare their children for life analyzed, 100% responded they prepare their children for life and prevent lack of father role in children's life. They stated that they were working to do this and they were ready for everything. Such a situation shows that; women are forced to divorce. It can be said that they are in an understanding to have close relationship with their children.

When participants' opinion about the second marriage were examined, 20% stated that they made second marriage, 80% did not marry for their children and they did not think about getting married. Because the stepfather cannot take care the stepchild as their own child and wants a child. They reported that there were no good men to marry and had no idea to marry for the second time.

When the issues that women should pay attention to before the marriage, 30% love, 20% emotionality, 10% character or temper suit, 35% sacrifice-loyalty and 5% education levels should be the same.

When whether the participants had enough information about the divorce laws analyzed, 60% of them had enough knowledge about divorce and 40% did not have information about divorce. Despite this, the number of divorced by the court decision is 40%.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Kazakhstan's divorce rate is at the top of the world rankings. The province of Shymkent is a cosmopolitan center where Russian and other minorities live. According to the northern states of Kazakhstan, the divorce rate is expected to be lower, but it is not. While the influence of Islam in this region on the divorce rate reflects the expectations of the people, religious belief does not affect the divorce. On the other hand, the high level of the divorce rate of both the undeveloped region and the region which has mostly Islamic beliefs in the south region brings about multifaceted problems.

As a result of the research, the findings obtained as the reasons for divorce;

1. The difference in education between the spouses is 2% in women, this does not cause divorce and the higher education rate is high on both sides.
2. The lack of livelihood is reflected in the divorce by 33%,
3. The divorce separated by consultation between families or spouses rather than from the court,
4. Women who divorced at a young age has low rate for second marriage,
5. Fathers do not meet with their children,
6. Women's marriage age is lower than men,
7. Participants mostly do not receive alimony, even if they are separated by the court,
8. The effect of belief and moral values in the divorce process is weak,
9. 50% divorce take place in the first five years of the marriage and 90% in the second five years,
10. There is a high level of education among the families of spouses as there is no difference in education between them,
11. The results of the study revealed that there was no significant difference in the income level of their families.

In general, the total divorce / marriage rate in South Kazakhstan in 2012 is 15,169% and in 2013 the rate of divorce / marriage is 15,576%. Compare to 2012, the marriage increase in 2013 was 6,767% and the divorce increased by 9,647%. There is a relative overall increase of 2.88% in divorce.

In the same period in the center of Shymkent; The rate of divorce / marriage in 2012 was 24,664% and 2013 was 24,308%. Compare to 2012, there was an increase of 6,802% in 2013 and divorce increased by 5,200%. The difference between marriage and divorce is 1,602% in favor of marriage.

The divorce rate in Shymkent is 66,660% higher than the general state average. We think this is a meaningful size. The reason for this is that the divorces in the rural areas can be considered as less and more in the center. Therefore, the overall average is 15,169%. The rate of divorce increased by 5,20% in 2013 and 6,744% in marriage. The difference between marriage and divorce only has a surplus of 1,544% in favor of marriage.

There is not a large increase in the divorce rates in the Shymkent and there is a 2.88% increase in the divorce rate in the state average. This means that divorces have increased in suburban areas outside the center of Shymkent. We think this value will be synchronized with the center over time.

If the country develops and 80% of the population is in large residential areas, then there is the fact that every 4 marriages will result in divorce. In this case, it is a very serious social problem for Kazakhstan. It is known that it is lower in southern province than other states. In this southern part, it is the region where Islam is more common than other states. Therefore, the public has the belief that the divorce is low in this region. However, it seems that belief has no effect on divorce.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Amato, P. R. (1994). Life-span The Future of Children, Children and Divorce, 4 (1), 143-164.
- [2]. Biblarz, T. J. & Gottainer, G. (2000). Family structure and children's success. Journal of Marriage and Family, 62 (2), 533-548.
- [3]. Heath, T. D. & Orthner, D. K. (1999). Stress and adaptation of male and female single parents. Journal of Family Issues, 20 (4), 557-587. DOI: 10.1177 / 019251399020004007
- [4]. Manning, W. D. & Brown, S. (2006). Children Journal of Marriage and Famil, 68, (2), 34511362.DOI: 10.1111 / j.1741-3737.2006.00257.x
- [5]. McLanahan, S. & Sandefur, G. (1994). Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps. Harvard University Press. USA.
- [6]. Source: Statistics Agency of Kazakhstan stat.gov.kz
- [7]. [<https://www.zakon.kz/4774401-v-kazakhstane-sedmoji-gog-podhrad.html>]

Samettin Gündüz" Women's Perception of Divorce in Shymkent" American Journal of Engineering Research (AJER), vol.8, no.01, 2019, pp.128-132