

DIVORCE: IS ATTITUDES CHANGING TOWARD IT?

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Abstract

Purpose of this study is investigating changing attitudes toward divorced which has begun by delivering questionnaires among students in Germi. In sampling questionnaires were randomly distributed among male and female students of Islamic Azad University, Germi branch in different age groups and 100 male and female students, single or married, were randomly selected. Data were gathered through standard questionnaires based on Likert 5-scores item and their validity and reliability were measured byCronbachAlpha. Findings show we do not mean giving men's right of divorce to women but we are trying to introduce equality of man and woman rights in this category, so everyone can save himself/herself in the case of violating rights considering equal rights.

Keywords: Divorce, Positive Attitude, Negative Attitude

1- Introduction

History shows that husband or wife' belief in divine sources or material power of kings or obligating to ethics alone is not guarantee for family survival and vice versa. But what guarantees family survival is acceptance and mutual understanding and for this reason the most developed regulations and powerful courts and careful authorities cannot measure judicial, social and economic value of elements constituting couples' love to each other and their children because these elements are not earthly, but they are divine, spiritual and metaphysical. And there are many people who see their solution in referring to courts and regulations. These decrees cut the chain of couples' love but they did not consider children whose parents were divorced. Therefore, decrees based on regulations did not protect family but somehow they destroy it and how mindless those who think divorce will resolve their problems but they didn't know that divorce has thousands untold problems (Bazgir, 2004: 22).

Unfortunately, divorce has so praised in resolving problems that most couples do not tolerate family problems and they consider divorce as a good act.Changing attitudes toward divorce has an overall concept which covers all reasons resulted in divorce and changes attitudes toward divorce and finally some women concluded that they had suffered many years because lack of knowledge and now encourage youth for divorce while continuing family life needs observing all criteria by husband and wife.

It seems that excellent purpose for balancing attitudes toward divorce is meeting husband and wife rights in society, gender equality, family solidarityand supporting children and it major purpose is development, prosperity, welfare, protection and meeting rights of girls and women in various individual, family and social aspects.

Why Islam has given right of divorce? Was it better to made divorce forbidden? Was it better to give right of divorce to beneficiary and not one-sided? In Quran divorce is premised. 2 sentences in verse 120 Nisa reads: "and if they found no way for reconciliation, they may separate and God has grace, generosity and knowledge". There are lots of advices for preventing divorce in Islam (4: 128). Some of these issues are about arbitrary between husband and wife but if their conflict reaches to a height that neither they can resolve their problems nor two appointed arbiters the life will be so bad that

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none of them could bear it. Although Islam dislikes divorce and the worst *halal*, but it is not satisfied that husband and wife waste their life in conflict, therefore it permits divorce.

There are 21 verses in Quran about divorce that their register and style is very interesting and useful. Although these verses express legal issues they are full of comments and ethical points. Violence is one of important factors in suffocating love, friendship and mutual understanding in family and questions purpose of forming family (which is mental peace between couples) (Rume: 21). On the other hand, forbidding divorce legally is not solution and it has no merit save unethical and illegal behavior and increased conflicts.

This is the question that majority of women ask. Is it meaning that woman has no will and authority and man can behave as he wants and divorce her when he wants? Answers are not convincing. First, good mode and respect is basic principle in dealing with wife which is emphasized in Islam and man cannot behave as he wants. But practically we see this case. Second, holding right of divorce for man is conditional and if man did not observe that condition Islam has given authority to woman to take his right of divorce. This advantage is considered for woman when she stipulates in the marriage contract that if his husband has not done his duties she has right of divorce based on right of divorce. As we know it is conditioned to acceptance of husband that they refuse most of the times. Imam Khomini has argued that Islam gives the right of divorce woman as it gives it to man (Imam Khomeini, 1980: 131). Third, for continuing and solidarity of family life Islam has given right of divorce to man with its conditions, especially when there are conflicts in the marriage that if right of divorce was in the hand of woman most marriages fail because sensitive and emotional feelings of woman. But because of man's knowledge from society and the ability that God has bestowed him man usually hesitates in decision for divorce. But the question is if right of divorce belonged to both of them from beginning conflicts did not decrease? Or when they point to emotions of woman they didn't question her responsibility? If woman tolerates all difficulties and problems, life continues but at which price?? Shall wife tolerate unsuitable and unethical behavior of husband for maintenance? It is clear that most women deal with their husbands' poverty or their bad tempers, considers his inability for having child as a part of their destiny and indebted themselves to their husbands all their life but when a woman cannot have child which husband tolerates it? If the wife has any weakness which man tolerates it? It is interesting that unfortunately society gives right to man as if it is carved in all minds that boy is good and value and heir of family and the right is for husband because he is bread-bringer... and wife, if she was bread-bringer of family must always fear from his husband and his family. Her money is spent but has not value and she cannot consider as bread-bringer. Bread should have which color to be considered as bread? Fourth, basis of marriage is on emotional relations not legal relation where man has no tendency for continuing life. Certainly if he had not right of divorce in this case he will change life to hell for his wife and make situation more difficult for wife. Does wife has not heart? And if she didn't want to continue life what should she do? It seems that right of divorce is a valuable instrument for man. Did you know that in addition to right of divorce man has power?? If man wants to divorce his wife he should give her *mahr* and because he didn't want to pay he uses his power and beats his wife until his wife forgives her *mahr*. In this point, man will remarry readily. Mottahary has stated that man need woman (her body) but woman needs his heart, so it is difficult for woman to tolerate a life without love. Is not difficult for man to live without woman??? If women maintain their value they will be valued higher but there are women who lose their value and value of all women.

In order to prevent divorce and attitudes about it we must consider laws of Islam. One of important advices of Islam is that marry with one with same class. This is so important that can wipes right of father for giving permission. ShahidAval says: if father did not give his daughter to suitable man (if there was such a man and daughter wants marry her) there is discussion and difference in destroying guardianship of him.

Most important factors for changing attitudes of modern generation originates from here that if my mother has tolerated everything for 30 years and after this time my father has divorced her, now

what should she do? Was not she more successful if she had divorces 30 years ago, because it was better for us to not born. Now people are aware that not only divorce is a success and freedom key but also prevents unwanted children. Woman thinks that she has wasted her life and when modern youth examines this concluded that divorce is the only element which prevents wasting life.

If one marries without awareness it has not good consequences and will divorce to save his life. Most girls at the beginning have harmful thoughts: I'm not marring his father, it is he that is important; I don't care his past, he has divorced his wife perhaps his wife was to blame; I don't care wealth because Islam emphasizes that don't insist on wealth; it is true that I'm some years older but love is important not age; it is true that he has more years old than me but he will keep me; it is true that he has a child but I will care his child as my child. It is true that he is unemployed but he will find a work.

Mohammad AbdohBrojerdi says: similarity of man and woman means equality of religion, religiously and equality in class, wealth, honor, science and others in custom. Another point is that woman's tendency for having supporter and severity of her emotions which disturbs decision making and right of man for divorce will change mentality of every woman (MesbahYazdi, 2008: 278).

One of the other factors for weak attitude toward divorce is inequality and lack of rules' enforcing. Negative attitudes toward women and girls and limited control of women on their life are other reasons which have undesired effect on divorce. Solutions for creating reasonable attitude toward divorce:

1. Enhancing regulations, reforming institutions and improving norms and procedures which eliminate discrimination against women. Guaranteeing complete respect for personality, actions for reaching rights and destroying forcing regulations.
2. Moderating social, cultural and behavioral patterns for eliminating prejudices and traditional ways which are based on women's inferiority thought.
3. Using mass media which are effective factors in moderating gender attitudes.
4. Educating common beliefs about causes and consequences of divorce through socialization or socializing which includes: process of learning values, conceptions and learning suitable behaviors based on society's norms.
5. On the other hand, necessity of explaining Islam view as a comprehensive and balanced school which has answers for all human needs makes it necessary to consider woman and her rights as a human and answer some ambiguities.
6. Woman has a legal entity which is originated from his motherhood or being wife and we must consider that real and legal entities of woman are not necessarily same.
7. What is neglected in most researches is importance of family and defending its rights. Sometimes, dealing with problems of husband and wife without considering their position in family sacrifices and oppresses both of them so it is necessary to examine family right carefully.
8. Extent of wife obeying from husband is observed in families but husband's obeying has certain problems and unfortunately we see husbands who give no right to their wife and want obeying.

It is suitable that Islamic scholars and jurisprudence take steps in this way. Women's right must be revised from three points of view: a. violating right of wife in family, b. violating women's right through wrong rules imposed by governments which have direct dependence, c. violating women's right in international level as wars and armed conflicts.

In the case of solutions for resisting against extremists views about divorce all related individuals and institutions like government, NGOs, media and etc must be considered because of its complexity. These classifications are as below in moderating thoughts about divorce: divorce victims, divorce factors, government, regulation institution, educational system, health system, NGOs, international society (like UN) and media. This long list indicates diversity and difference of solutions on one hand and complexity of resisting against extremist views, on the other hand.

Therefore, fighting this harmful social phenomenon needs cooperation and coordination of all mentioned factors.

In sum, it seems that the most important solution for preventing and eliminating extremist views about divorce is implementing rules of Islam without deviation, reforming rules and educational and cultural actions and cultural improvement through media, holding educational workshops before marriage and basic actions in continuing moderation of attitudes about divorce.

2- Methodology

Purpose of this study is investigating changing attitudes toward divorced which has began by delivering questionnaires among students in Germei. Data were gathered and analyzed and statistical calculations were used. Since this research is descriptive fact-finding it describes changing attitudes toward divorce in Germei. Since gathering all society population in a certain time for answering problems is not possible we tried to ask questions from small groups in different times. Multi-step cluster sampling was used: this province has three regions north, center and south. Then two regions were selected from each region which equals with 6. Then three cities and one university from it will be studied. Because of problems for data gathering in universities, systematic random sampling was used.

In sampling questionnaires were randomly distributed among male and female students of Islamic Azad University, Germei branch in different age groups and 100 male and female students, single or married, were randomly selected. Data gathering was done by questionnaires. Data were gathered and analyzed. Finally, statistical calculations were used by determining percent of answers and graphs.

Therefore, data gathering was done through questionnaire and multiple choice questions were same including a. very high; b. high; c. moderate; d. very low and f. low. There were ten open-ended questions with two different alternatives. Questions about divorce, positive and negative attitudes about divorce and etc were asked.

As we said, purpose of this study is investigating positive and negative attitudes about divorce and its harmful or positive effect. In this study, in addition to library sources, data were gathered through standard questionnaires based on Likert 5-scores item and their validity and reliability were measured in Europe and US. Because these questionnaires are translated their validity and reliability must be determined again with re-test, peer method and Cronbach alpha. SPSS and EXCELL software were used.

Results

As pointed out, from 100 respondents 30 were male and 70 were female. 74 were single and 24 married. 77 were in first age group 18-28 years old, 13 in second age group 29-39 years old and 10 were in third age group 40-49b years old. Among 100 respondents 45 were accounting students, 36 management students and 19 computer students. 6 respondents have upper diploma, 90 have B.A and 6 have M.A. 46 subjects have low income, 12 have moderate and 12 have high income. 88 subjects live in city and 12 in village.

Table 1: demographical results

Marital status			
Percent	Frequency	Gender	
30%	30	Husband	Value
70%	70	Wife	
100	100	Total	
Percent	Frequency	Marital status	
74%	74	Single	Value
26%	26	Married	

100	100	Total	
Percent	Frequency	Age	
77%	77	18-28	value
13%	13	29-39	
10%	10	40-49	
100	100	Total	
Percent	Frequency	Education	
6%	6	Upper-diploma	Value
90%	90	B.A	
4%	4	M.A	
100	100	Total	
Percent	Frequency	Major	
45%	45	Accounting	Value
36%	36	Management	
19%	19	Computer	
100	100	Total	
Percent	Frequency	Income	
46%	46	Low	Value
43%	43	Moderate	
1%	1	High	
100	100	Total	
Percent	Frequency	Residence	
88%	88	City	Value
12%	12	Village	
100	100	Total	

In this paper we have 20 question and table 1 shows the results.

1. Can divorce resolve family problems?
2. Do you think that martial life is based on emotional relations?
3. Is it right that wife continues her life with his husband at any price?
4. Did fear of wife from divorce is because of scorns in society, family and friends?
5. Is tolerating difficult life misery?
6. Do you think divorce for releasing from misery is reasonable?
7. Is divorce mental peace?
8. Does celebrating divorce and beginning of new life is reasonable?
9. Can research change attitudes towards divorce?
10. If wife pays husbands' maintenance superiority of man eliminates?
11. If man's advantages destroys because of bad behavior or using drugs, his superiority will eliminate?
12. Do rights of husband observe by wife in family?
13. Was it better to give equal rights for divorce to both parties (husband and wife)?
14. Do you think extent of obeying from husband is imposed in families?
15. What are problems of obeying husband from wife in families?
16. Do rights of wife observe by husband?
17. Do negative attitude toward divorce has fixed families with torturing women?
18. Are freedom and irresponsibility factors of positive attitude toward divorce?
19. Do scattering intellectual and cultural reserves of successful women create a dynamic life?
20. Do you think survival of family is based on love?

Tables 2: Questions Results

Questions	Very high	High	Moderate	Low	Very low	Total
1	14	2	24	33	27	100%
2	26	24	28	15	7	100%
3	7	8	30	30	25	100%
4	26	30	28	7	9	100%
5	12	25	39	14	10	100%
6	5	13	33	26	23	100%
7	5	7	34	20	34	100%
8	6	9	19	27	34	100%
9	5	12	44	8	31	100%
10	5	10	33	28	24	100%
11	15	24	35	18	8	100%
12	9	9	31	31	20	100%
13	21	25	34	11	9	100%
14	5	15	54	18	8	100%
15	6	21	40	28	5	100%
16	8	6	17	36	33	100%
17	15	31	28	20	6	100%
18	15	26	24	20	15	100%
19	31	29	25	10	5	100%
20	56	16	11	12	5	100%

Based on questionnaires some statistics were unexpected. Therefore, we analyze these issues and suitable solution for releasing from this social and family problem:

Based on calculations and graphs and according to 60 percent of students divorce cannot solve family problems, while 40 percent rejected this idea. Obtained result is not optimal.

About second question 78percent were agree while 22 percent had negative view. This percent shows that those who do not love their wives turn to illegitimate relations. Therefore, we must present some real and religious solutions for this problem.

About third question, 45% of respondents have moderate idea while 55% were disagreed. It seems that wife should not continue this life because it had many damages. Children of these families are more susceptible.

84% of respondents had moderate to high idea about fifth question while 16% disagreed this. This result was imaginable especially in a religious city like Germi with certain ideas and principals. It is true that divorce is the final solution but continuing life at any price is not reasonable. So consulting is necessary.

51% of respondents argued that divorce can release husband and wife from misery while 49% didn't think so. Therefore, there must be wise measures for resolving it and all people must know that this decision is necessary in some conditions because God has given knowledge to human to patiently resolve problems and divorce is not a way toward mental peace.

52% of respondents believed that if women pay men maintenance men are superior. Only 48% believed that this will eliminate right of man. An important point is that these thought should not disturb family.

In the case that natural advantages of husband has been destroyed because of misbehavior and using drugs, 74% of respondents give positive answer to this question and 24% rejected it. These statistics indicated that all students were aware about dangers of drugs. Therefore, we must aware other people about misbehavior and using drugs.

80% believed moderately believed that husband's rights are observed by wife while 20% had not such idea. Husband and wife have rights in families which both of them must observe it and man should not violate right of wife because of his superiority and vice versa.

In the case of this question that was it better to give equal rights to parties (husband and wife), 80% of respondents gave positive answer to this question and 20% has rejected it. We must consider this point that that if there is required understanding and awareness for marital life there will be no such problems. Among respondents, 74% stated that extent of obeying husband is imposed in families while 24% rejected it. But the fact is that more than this percent of wives obey their husbands but this problem is solved by passing time. Husband and wife have reached to awareness that reasoning must be governed in family.

Among students 74% argued that negative attitude toward divorce has solidifies family by torturing wives while 24% rejected this. In this case we must say that negative attitude toward divorce helps survival of family but we must not misuse this thought for torturing women.

Among respondents 65% has stated that freedom and irresponsibility are factors of positive attitude toward divorce while 35% rejected this. This result is right because some parents ignore their duties about their life and children and only think to their comfort.

By this description and regarding graphs and calculations we can conclude that there are different views based on different age groups, gender and marital status about causes of divorce and positive and negative attitudes towards divorce. Therefore, there must be proper management with coordination of authorities to create a society without social and family problems.

3- Conclusion

Women empowerment must be considered as a tangible and real phenomenon in sustainable development. Therefore, planning and presenting ways must consider cultural issues and challenges in life style in order to prevent reactions of individuals with different attitudes.

TV has wide influence on attitudes, beliefs, values, shopping and even perception of time. Continuous watching TV has direct effect on conceptions, violence, reducing reading ability and imagination. Families who use foreign channels were influenced by western culture and because their subjectivity and objectivity is in contrast with their culture they face certain problems and take negative attitude.

Those who want proper social growth see family as an important body for reaching this purpose. It is clear that by emerging each factor which disturbs family they will be annoyed and reform all regulations. By brief study of history we can see that negative attitude toward divorce solidifies families at the expense of wife but these women have not enjoyed their life. In almost all problems, cultural issues is considered as one of factors violating women rights because of gender discrimination and related problems.

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