



CHILDREN OF DIVORCEE WOMEN IN KASHMIR

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Abstract

The present study was an attempt to explore children of divorcee Women in Kashmir. The sample was selected through multi stage sampling technique. For the sample 600 divorcee women were selected from urban and rural areas of Kashmir. The sample was collected with the help of self-constructed questionnaire. The study shows that the majority of divorcee women are overburdened as a single parent in Kashmir. In this study it is also found that most of the divorcee women's children are rejected by father.

Keywords: divorcee, children, impact, Kashmir

Introduction

India is a multi-ethnic- multi- cultural and multi-linguistic country. People belonging to many religions and faiths live side by side. Muslims are one of them who constitute the largest of the minority groups in the country (Hussain et.al, 2012). Muslim women in India are a heterogeneous group having their own vertical and horizontal divisions by virtue of the economic and socio-cultural class, region that they belong to and traditional school of Islamic jurisprudence and customary laws that they are governed by (Ansari, 1991). Divorce has achieved remarkable attention in many developed, least developed and under developed countries because of its visible effects on individuals and society (Rahman et.al, 2013). Its impact is not equal for both men and women but varies according to gender, ethnicity, life style, social support, social network, continued attachment to ex-spouses and institutional arrangements of a country (Uunk, 2004). In regions where there is more disapproval of divorce, both men and women experience greater decline in friends, relatives and neighborhood contact after divorce (Kalmijn and Uunk 2007). Divorce can cause damages not only on children but also on the as a whole. It has become easy and common. There are various



reasons pertaining to this change in society. The dignity and sanctity of marriage has gone down with the passage of time. People do not believe on the importance of marriage as they did before. Divorce rate is increasing day by day and it is the case with emotional instability, lack of respect for relations and family. The increase of crime rate in the society has very evident linkages with increased divorce rate. Divorce is a direct threat to the society and it is spreading like a disease. It affects badly, it can cause damage to their emotional, psychological, cognitive and physical development, Separation of parents deprive them from the love of parents, and they have to love separately from one parent and sometimes from both of them. Hollowness prevails in a divorced family situation, which can weaken the mental stability of children. Lack of attention from parents in case of would lead children to moral degradation disrespect. Children from broken and divorced families start using drugs and sometimes get involved in drug trafficking too due to lack of finances (Khurshid et.al. 2012).

Review of Literature:

Savaya and Cohen (2005) undertook a study on help seeking among Muslim Arab divorcees in Israel. Divorcee women experienced stressful events very often like illness, disappointment, quarrels with their family, loss of employment during and in the wake of their divorcé. It was also found that divorcee women had sort some type of help in coping with the different types of stresses that arose during their divorce. The findings revealed that most cited problem faced by divorcee women after divorce were to have the custody of their children. Divorcee women also suffered economically and socially and found themselves as a burden on their families.

Cohen and Savaya (2003) undertook a preliminary study on adjustment to divorce among Muslim Arab citizens of Israel. The findings revealed that both universal and cultural specific variables contributed to the post-divorce adjustment in Muslim divorced women. Of the universal variables, education, being employed, satisfaction with the court hearing, fewer stressful events around the divorce, and improved living conditioned afterwards were associated with the positive post-divorce adjustment. The results found that the higher the level of education, the better the individuals general mental health and specific adjustment to the divorce



itself. In this study divorced women who believed that Arab society sees the divorced person in a less negative light may actually have experienced greater social acceptance.

Krenawi and Graham (1998) reported that divorce among Muslim Arab women in Israel suffer from Psycho-social problems brought on by social censure, restricted liberty and reduction in social status. The results highlighted that divorced women struggled against their society's frequent views of them. It was found that divorced women facing emotional distress and decreased socioeconomic status. Majority of the divorced women moved back to their parental home. Levels of unemployment were high, perceived family support was high, and perceived community support was variable.

Objectives

The present study is based on the following objectives:

1. To explore children of divorcee Women in Kashmir.
2. To assess impact of divorce on divorcee's children irrespective of their dwelling and work status..

Material and Methods

The present study was an attempt to explore children of Divorcee Women in Kashmir irrespective of their dwelling and work status. The information was gathered from divorcee women from urban and rural areas of Kashmir region. The study was investigated through multi stage sampling technique. This type of sampling was taken because the size of population (i.e. Kashmir) was very large and was scattered as per socio-economic characteristics of divorcee women. The sample selected by this method was more representative of population. It permitted the fieldwork to be concentrated and yet large area covered. Sample was selected from Kashmir region-600 divorcee women were selected for the purpose, 300 divorcee women from urban areas and 300 divorcee women from rural areas. The tool used for the study include a detailed questionnaire. The data obtained was carefully scrutinized, categorized and coded in order to fulfill the objectives. The data was analysed applying appropriate statistical measures.



Results and Discussion

Divorce has its impacts pre disruption as well as post disruption- Divorce have a specific and long term impact on mental health (Kumar, 2011). Divorce has also destructive impacts on individuals and society in economic situation, it reduces house hold income and deeply cuts individual earning capacity (Shibeshi, 2015). It is found that women who divorce not only start with fewer resources than their counterparts that remain married. They also experience substantial declines in income after divorce for greater than their spouses (Lavelle and Smock, 2012).

Responsibility as a single parent

Fig 1 analysis that majority of divorcee women i.e., 49 per cent ($f = 147$) are overburdened as a single parent. Whereas, 30 per cent ($f = 90$) divorcee women are moderately burdened as a single parent. Furthermore, 21 per cent ($f = 63$) divorcee women are slightly burdened as a single parent. Oyserman et al. (2004) studied parenting self Construals of mothers with a serious mental illness: efficacy, burden and personal growth. It is found that on average all women saw parenting as at least somewhat restrictive and children as somewhat of a burden. Furthermore it is found that maternal parenting self-efficacy increased positive parenting style.

Custody of children by father

Fig 2 shows that majority of divorcee women report i.e., 53.3 per cent ($f = 160$) custody of children by father was rejected by their father. While as, 46.7 per cent ($f = 140$) divorcee women's custody of children are accepted by their father. Johnston (2003) undertook a study on parental alignments and rejection: an empirical study of alienation in children of divorce. It is found that father custody is very low as compared to mother custody. And found overall, mean scores for rejection of a parent were low for fathers. Children in litigating families showed more evidence of being aligned with their mothers and demonstrated correspondingly more rejection of their fathers. Furthermore, it is found that children's attitudes towards their parents range from positive to negative, with relatively few being extremely aligned or rejecting

Difficulties in upbringing children

Fig 3 depicts that majority of divorcee women i.e., 48 per cent (f = 144) face financial difficulties in upbringing children. While as, 28 per cent (f = 84) divorcee women face parentage as a difficulty in upbringing children. Furthermore, 24 per cent (f = 72) divorcee women face no difficulties in upbringing children. Sigamoria (1993) conducted a study on Indian Muslim Women: post-divorce problems and social status. The findings found that majority of the divorcee women with children admitted that they had problems of discipline, education and planning for future of children. Furthermore, it is found that most of the respondents affirmed that they continued to have financial problems, emotional problems and worried about their future and the future of their children especially about housing problem.

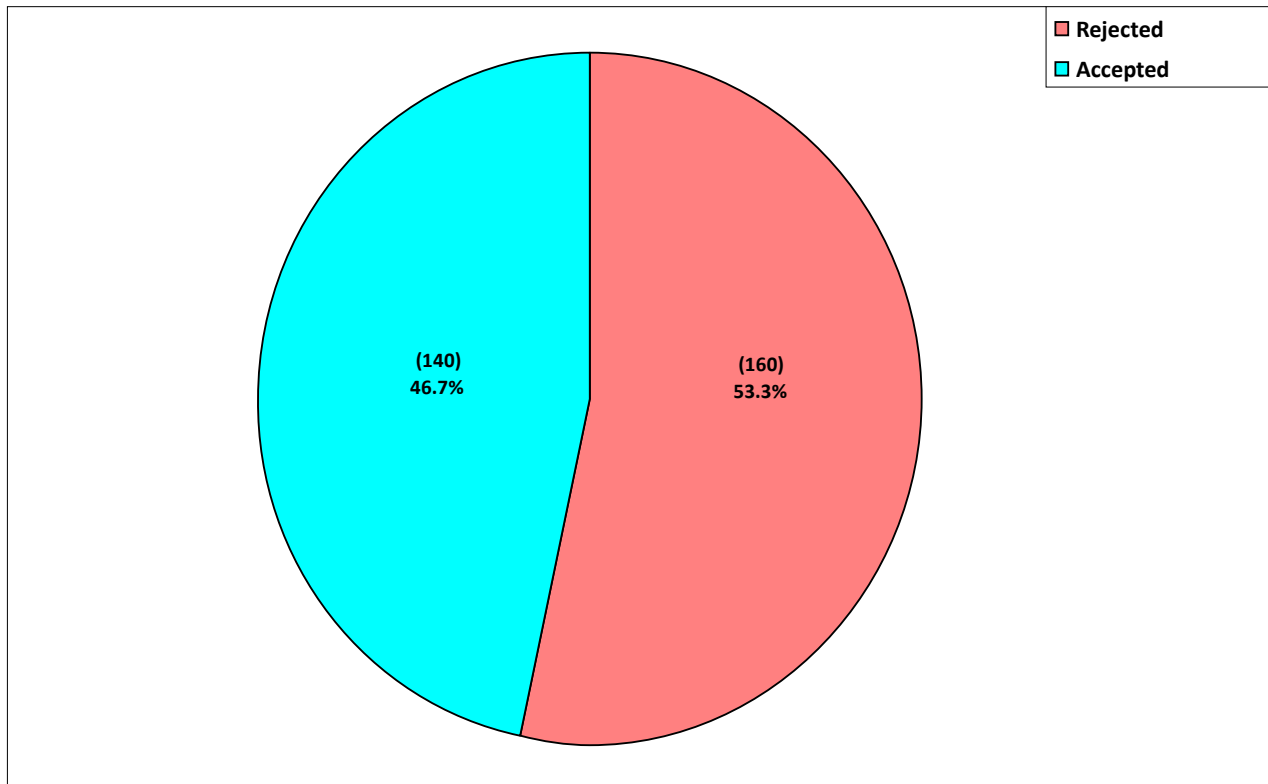
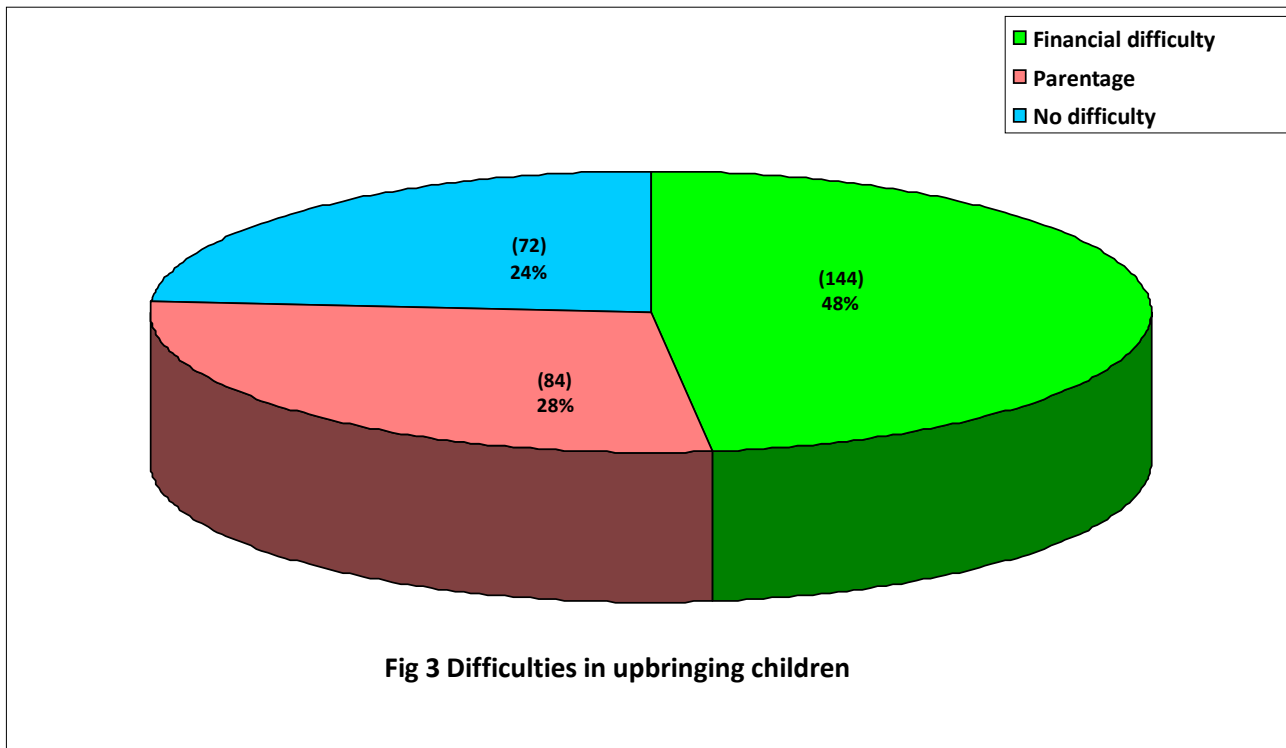
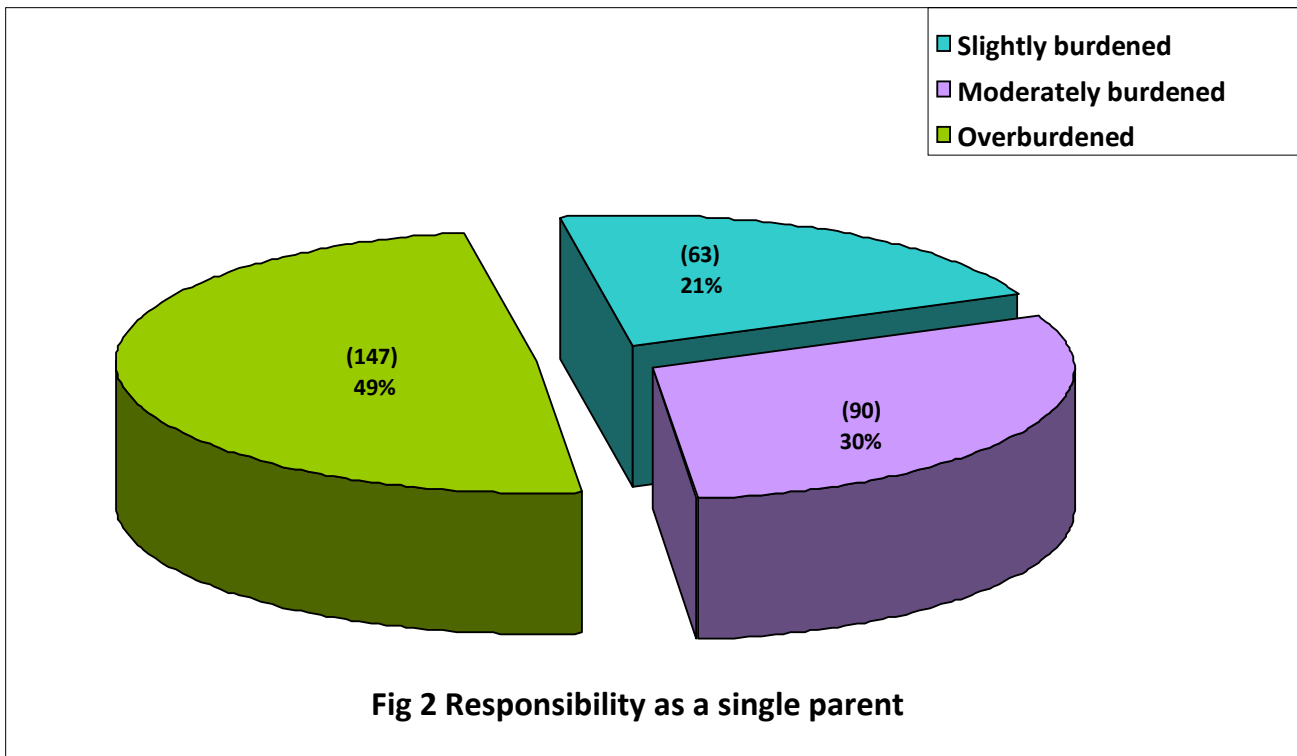


Fig 1 Custody of children by father





Impact of divorce on children as per dwelling

Table 1 signifies impact of divorce on children in rural and urban area. It is found that 48.6 per cent (f = 73) rural divorcee women and 49.4 per cent (f = 74) urban divorcee women are overburdened as a single parent. Such opinion shows insignificant differences among rural and urban divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,300) = 0.067, p > 0.05$. Positively insignificant correlation is found between dwelling and this attitude $\tau (300) = 0.002, p > 0.05$. Furthermore, it is observed that 56 percent (f = 84) rural divorcee women and 50.7 per cent (f = 76) urban divorcee women's custody of children by father are rejected. However, such attitude depicts insignificant differences among rural and urban divorcee women $\chi^2 (1,300) = 0.857, p > 0.05$. Attitude related to custody of children by father shows positively insignificant correlation with dwelling of divorcee women $\tau (300) = 0.053, p > 0.05$. Moreover, 48 per cent (f = 72) rural divorcee women and 48 per cent (f = 72) urban divorcee women face financial difficulty in upbringing children. However, such attitude depicts insignificant differences among rural and urban divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,300) = 1.651, p > 0.05$. Dwelling observes positively insignificant correlation with this notion $\tau (300) = 0.026, p > 0.05$. Mookharjee et al. (2007) undertook a study of single mothers in four metro cities of India. It is found that divorced women living in metro cities in India reported that difficulties faced by them in bringing up children are financial difficulties. Furthermore, it is revealed that most of the respondent's children have schooling going age. Half of the respondents reported that they have non affordability problem faced by them and it is also found that half of the respondents are living in slums and rest are living in below poverty line colonies.

Impact of divorce on children as per work status

Table 2 shows impact of divorce on children of working and non-working divorcee women It is found that 40 per cent (f = 60) divorcee women who earn cash for their work are moderately burdened as a single parent. While as 54 per cent (f = 81) divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work are overburdened as a single parent. Such opinion shows significant differences among working and non-working divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,300) = 11.153, p < 0.05$. Positively significant correlation is found between occupation and this perception $\tau (300) = 0.151, p < 0.05$. Furthermore, it is proved that 54.7 percent (f = 82) divorcee women who earn cash for their work



custody of children by father are accepted. While as, 60.7 per cent (f = 91) divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work custody of children by father are rejected. However, such concept shows significant differences among working and non-working divorcee women $\chi^2 (1,300) = 7.079, p < 0.05$. Attitude related to custody of children by father depicts negatively significant correlation with occupation of divorcee women $r (300) = -0.127, p < 0.05$. Moreover, 40 per cent (f = 60) divorcee women who earn cash for their work and 61.4 per cent (f = 92) divorcee women who don't earn cash for their work face financial difficulty in upbringing children. However, such notion shows highly significant differences among working and non-working divorcee women $\chi^2 (2,300) = 20.285, p < 0.01$. Occupation shows negatively highly significant correlation with this notion $r (300) = -0.284, p < 0.01$. Hetherington and camara (1984) studied families in transition and argued that divorced

Table 1 Impact of divorce on children (as per dwelling)

Variable	Rural (n=150)		Urban (n=150)	
	F	%	F	%
Responsibility as a single parent ($\chi^2 = 0.067$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.967$) ($r = 0.002$, $p = 0.976$)				
Slightly burdened	31	20.7	32	21.3
Moderately burdened	46	30.7	44	29.3
Overburdened	73	48.6	74	49.4
Custody of children by father ($\chi^2 = 0.857$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.355$) ($r = 0.053$, $p = 0.356$)				
Rejected	84	56	76	50.7
Accepted	66	44	74	49.3
Difficulties in upbringing children ($\chi^2 = 1.651$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.438$) ($r = 0.026$, $p = 0.654$)				
Financial difficulty	72	48	72	48
Parentage	46	30.7	38	25.3
No difficulty	32	21.3	40	26.7

parents are overburdened by responsibilities. Furthermore, it is found that divorced parents are repeatedly short-tempered, intolerant and insensitive to their children's needs



Table 2 Impact of divorce on children (as per work status)

Variable	Earn for cash (n=150)		Don't earn for cash (n=150)	
	F	%	F	%
Responsibility as a single parent ($\chi^2 = 11.153$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.003$) ($r = 0.151$, $p = 0.009$)				
Slightly burdened	35	23.3	18	12
Moderately burdened	60	40	51	34
Overburdened	55	36.7	81	54
Custody of children by father ($\chi^2 = 7.079$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.007$) ($r = -0.127$, $p = 0.028$)				
Rejected	68	45.3	91	60.7
Accepted	82	54.7	59	39.3
Difficulties in upbringing children ($\chi^2 = 20.285$, $df = 2$, $p = 0.000$) ($r = -0.284$, $p = 0.000$)				
Financial difficulty	60	40	92	61.4
Parentage	39	26	38	25.3
No difficulty	51	34	20	13.3



Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that divorce is a provocative and terrible social issue in Kashmir valley. Majority of divorcee women are overburdened as a single parent irrespective of their dwelling, work status and motherhood. Most of the divorcee women's children are rejected by father in Kashmir. Divorcee women face financial difficulties in upbringing their children.

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