Chapter VI

MAJOR FINDINGS

6.1 Socio – Economic, Cultural and Demographic Profile

- Vast majority (70%) of the respondents were between the age group of 30-39 years. The highest frequency (36.8%) of the female respondents fall under the age group of 30-34 years and highest frequency (53.6%) of the male respondents fall under the age group of 35-39 years. The data also indicates that majority of the divorce cases in male was seen after 35 years; however, in female majority of the divorce cases were seen before 35 years.

- Vast majority of the respondents are literate. Among the respondents 3.2% of male and 7.2% of female are post graduates. The percentage of undergraduate women is almost double than that of men. Out of the total respondents major group were educated either SSLC or below. The highest frequency (53.6%) of male falls in SSLC or below group and in female highest frequency (37.6%) falls in PUC educated group. The data also indicates that female respondents were better educated than male. The present study shows that, even though the percentage of those with college education is sizeable (23.6%) the analysis of data implies that higher level of education is not always accompanied by divorce.

- Major group of the respondents (41.6%) were private employees. It was followed by 29.2% self employed. The highest frequencies of male i.e. 39.2% were self employed and 46.4% female were private employees. The data also indicates that 16.8% of the female respondents were homemakers/housewives at the time of marriage.
Major Findings

- Major group (47.2%) of the respondents belong to 5,000-10,000 income group. 26.4% of the respondents belong to below 5,000 income group. 10.4% of the respondents belong to 10,000 to 15,000 income group, only 10% of the respondents were above 20,000 income group. When we look at the male and female respondents separately too more number of respondents were belonging to 5,000 to 10,000 income group.

- Majority of the respondents (67.6%) were from Hindu religion. 27.2% of the respondents were from Christian religion and 0.8% were Muslims and 4.4% of the respondents were from other religions. When we take the male and female respondents separately too majority of both the group belonged to Hindu religion. Among the Hindus, there are innumerable castes and sub-castes with marital restrictions and varied cultural traditions. It is seen that the highest number (18.4%) of divorces were from Gowda community. The highest numbers of respondents (19.2% & 17.6%) were from Gowda community. It was followed by 14% of the respondents from Brahmin community. The other respondents were belonging to castes viz. Poojari (13.2%), Shetty (8.4%), Jain (4.4%), SC (2.4%), Nayak (1.6%), Shenoy (1.6%), Naik (0.8%), others (6.8%). Among the Chrsitians 24.4% of the respondents were Konkani speaking and 4% were malayali Christians.

- Highest number (60.8%) of the respondents were of rural family origin. 24% of the respondents were of semi-Urban in origin and the rest 15.2% were of Urban in origin. When we see the male and female respondents separately highest frequency, (56%) of male and highest frequency, 65.6% of female were of rural in origin.

- Vast majority (54%) of the respondents of the present study lived in nuclear families. 43.2% of the respondents belonged to joint families and the rest 2.8% were belonging to extended family. Majority (66.4%)
of female respondents were from nuclear families and major group (58.4%) of the male respondents were from joint families. It shows that for female who were brought up in nuclear families it is difficult to adjust in joint families and male who were adjusted to joint families most of the time have difficulty in getting along with his wife.

- Majority (92%) of the respondents’ marriage was as per religious rites. In which 8% of the respondents’ had registered marriage. In that all the 8% was love marriages. The divorce rate in India increases when young people are able to select their own spouses rather than having their own parents select the spouse.

- Vast majority (95.6%) of our respondents were married by the age of 30 years. Comparing male and female respondents, 84.8% of the former were married when they were between 25-30 years age and 53.6% of the later were married when they were below 25 years. This finding supports previous research that individuals who marry early experience higher risks of divorce.

- In 46.4% of the cases the couple spent less than one year together. In 45.6% of the cases they had 1-5 years of married life. Only in 8% of the cases they had happily married time beyond 5 years. This clearly shows that on the whole the happily married time in most cases has been too short and those who had some year of married life is very small in number. It is also interesting to note that some petitions for divorce were filed even after many years of married life. Looking more closely at the data, 92% of the sample found a problem in the marriage within the first five years.

- Major group (53.2%) of the respondents were not satisfied with their sexual life during marital life. 46.8% of the respondents opined that they
had satisfactory sexual life. When we see the male and female respondents separately too it is to be noticed that major group of both male and female expressed that they had no satisfaction in sexual life during marriage.

- Majority of the couples (65.6%) did not have children goes to prove among other things, that childlessness and divorce have interrelationship. In other words, childlessness facilitated easy divorce. Further in majority of the cases, the strain on the marital relationship started within the first year of marriage, and the natural love and affection found in a normal newlywed couple was absent in them. Of course, there are a few cases of impotency and a few cases where the couple could not have children, even after staying together for quite some time. However it is alarming to note that 34.4% of the respondents had children. More number of female respondents (52.5%) than male (35.2%) had children.

- In 8.4% of the respondents there was dispute over custody of children out of the 34.4% of the respondents who had children. When custody must be spelled out because of a couple's divorce, the custody arrangement usually becomes part of the divorce decree.

- Majority (70.8%) of the respondents had taken 1 to five years separation before filing for divorce. In 24.8% of the cases there was less than one year of separation before they filed the petition for divorce. Only in 4.4% of the cases there was more than 5 years of separation before filing the divorce petition. It is alarming to note that both in the cases of male (34.4%) and female (15.2%) divorcees had less than one year of separation before they filed petition for divorce.
Vast majority (73.2%) of the cases, it took time up to 1-3 years. In 8.8% of the cases, the court took 3-6 years. In 2% of the cases, it took 6 to 9 years and in 0.4% of the cases it has taken above ten years. However, it is alarming to note that in 16.4% of the cases there was less than 1 year of court process before the divorce.

In major group (58.8%) of the cases were initiated by women. When we see the case of male & female respondents separately in highest frequency of male respondents (53.6%) said that they initiated the filing of divorce petition. However among the female respondents highest frequency (71.2%) of female initiated filing of divorce petition. The present study indicates that the number of female going to the court first time for divorce is more (58.8%) than that of the male (41.2%).

The study shows that in 94.4% of the respondent’s cases there was consultation with the family members during the divorce process. When we see both the male and female respondents separately too 92% and 96.8% respectively had consultation with the family members during divorce process. However, 5.6% of the respondents opinioned that they had no consultation with family members during divorce process.

In our study it was revealed that in 74 per cent cases, the judges could make efforts for reconciliation. Even in them, reconciliation was futile, because, one or both the parties did not cooperate.

6.2 Causes for the Increasing Rate of Divorce

In this study the highest frequency of cases the sanction of decree was through court trials (68.8%). In the rest 31.2% of cases the sanction of divorce decree was through mutual consent. However, when we see both the male and female divorcees separately for 36% of the male and 26% of the female divorcees, the sanction of divorce was through mutual
In both cases too majority of the divorce decree was sanctioned through court trials.

- Majority 88.4% of the cases there wasn’t any previous divorce cases in the family of the respondents. However in 11.6% of the cases there were previous cases of divorce in the family of the respondents.

- In this study 29.6% of the cases of divorce was granted through mutual consent. In the other 70.4% cases the grounds for divorce were either of the one which was specified in the Marriage Acts. 15.6% was of adultery, 13.2% was of cruelty, 10.4% was of desertion, 5.2% was of impotency, 5.2% was of non restitution of conjugal rights, 0.4% each of impotency and religious conversion and 13.2% of other causes. When we take the male and female cases separately in 36.8% of the male respondents the decree was granted on mutual consent followed by desertion (17%) and adultery (15%). However, in female highest frequency 24.8% of the cases the decree was granted on cruelty from the side of their spouse. It was followed by mutual consent (22%) and adultery (16%) of the cases.

- The data shows that 94.4% of the respondents were disappointed about their marriage. In that 79.2% of the respondents very strongly affirmed that they were very much disappointed about their marriage. Only 5.6% of the respondents opined that they were not disappointed about their marriage.

- 70% of the respondents still say that marriage is an important institution. However, the rest 30% of the respondents those who had only negative experiences in their marital life were having negative opinion towards it. It is very much human to think this way. The highest frequency of male (41.6%) and female (56.8%) strongly opined that marriage is important.
However it is important to note that more number of male (41.6%) than female (18.4%) respondents said that marriage is not important.

**6.3 Psychological Situation of the Divorcees**

- Vast majority (93.6%) of the respondents agreed that they had felt so much of hopelessness or felt down in the dumps due to divorce. Only 6.4% of the respondents said that they were not felt so.

- 41.2% of the respondents had the feeling to suicide. 58% of the respondents opined that they had no feelings to suicide. Comparing male (32.8%) it was the female (49.6%) respondents had more feelings of suicide.

- Vast majority (99.6%) of the respondents opined that they were emotionally so much affected by divorce. There was not much difference between the opinion of the male and female respondents.

- Vast majority (94.8%) of the respondents had emotional satisfaction from divorce. 5.2% of the respondents opined that they had no emotional satisfaction from divorce. There was not much difference in opinion between the responses of male and female respondents.

- Vast majority (80%) of the respondents opined that they feel divorce is the right solution for marital conflicts. Only 49.2% strongly affirms it and 30.8% just says that divorce is the right solution. However, it is surprising to see that 20% of the respondents feel that divorce is not the right solution for marital conflicts. The data indicates that in few of the divorce cases the decision to divorce was a hasty decision or it was propelled by some third party intervention.
- Vast majority (92.4%) of the respondents were not ready to accept the blame for divorce. When we see separately both male and female respondents too it is very clear that they were not at all ready to accept the blame. 93.6% of the male respondents blamed their spouses for their divorce and 91.2% female respondents blamed their spouses for their divorce. However, during the interview 6.4% of the male respondents and 8.8% of the female respondents expressed that their hasty decisions and intervention of third members too were the reasons for their divorce.

- Major group i.e. 59.6% of the respondents agree that they had very calm relationship before their decision to divorce. However it is to be noted that only 6.4% of the respondents strongly affirmed the good relationship. On the other side 36.4% of the respondents said that they had very poor relationship before their decision to divorce. 3.6% of the respondents opined that they had no relationship at all with their spouse after separating from them. 0.4% of the respondents were not ready to give any comments.

- Vast majority (89.6%) of the respondents were able to accept the reality of divorce. However, only 34.4% of the respondents were able to strongly affirm that they were able to accept the reality. The other 55.2% of the respondents were able to accept the reality to some extent or only through a slow process. 10.6% of the respondents opined that they were not able to accept the reality of divorce. Comparing to female, male had more ability to accept the reality of divorce.

- 27.6% of the respondents largely male respondents (48.8%) opined that there is an increase of substance abuse-drugs or alcohol by divorcees. 71.6% of the respondents largely female (93.6%) expressed that there is not much increase in substance use after getting divorce.
Major Findings

- Majority of the respondents (81.2%) agreed that after divorce they were having a lot of psychological issues like anxiety, restlessness, lack of concentration, sleeping problem. When we see both the male and female respondents separately too highest frequency (70% of the male and 80% of the female) agreed that they were experiencing many psychological problems after divorce. About 5% of the respondents were having more psychological problems than the others.

- Majority (88%) of the respondents agreed that they lost interest in hobbies and activities they had enjoyed earlier. Out of which vast majority (80%) opined that they totally lost interest in all that they had enjoyed. However, other 11% of the respondents opined that even after divorce they continue their hobbies and activities. The data indicates that divorce also to a great extent affect individuals in all the aspects.

Attitude towards Divorce

- Only 10.8% of the respondents said that the married people need to stay together no matter what happens just because they are married. However, 88.8% of the respondents were against the above statement. They were saying that if the couple face problems in life it is better to end marriage and live peacefully than struggle to live within the conflict situation. Both male and female respondents strongly disagreed with the concept of couples staying together just because they are married.

- Vast majority (95.2%) of the respondents opined that the marriage vow should not be taken lightly. However, 4.4% of the respondents opined that when there are unsolvable problems between the couple it is better to go for divorce than holding on and increasing the problems and its consequences. There is not much difference between the responses of male and female respondents.
Vast majority (96.4%) of the respondents opined that for most of the respondents divorce was a last resort, after trying all the other solutions. 3.6% of the respondents said that some divorcees do not try any other solutions. They just persist for divorce. There is not much difference between the opinions of male and female respondents in the aspects.

Vast majority (98.4%) of the respondents are on the opinion that success or failure of marriage depends on how well the couples are able to communicate with each other the issues in their lives. Only a mere 1.6% of the respondents disagree with the above statement. The data indicates that communication between husband and wife is a key factor that can hold them together.

Vast majority (94.8%) of the respondents said that divorce is usually best solution when couple can’t work out their marriage problems. In that 70% of the respondents strongly affirm it. However, the rest 5.2% of the respondents opined that divorce is not the best solution. There is not any significant difference between the opinion of male and female respondents.

Vast majority (92.8%) of the respondents agree that though the couple have children it is better to go for divorce when there are marital conflicts. And in that 44% strongly affirm that though the couple has children it is better to go for divorce when there are marital conflicts. The rest 7.2% of the respondents are saying that divorce is not a solution for marital problems when the couple is having children. There is not much difference in the opinion of male and female respondents.

Vast majority (97.6%) of the respondents are on the opinion that couple with no children when they have unsolvable difference in marital life
can go for divorce. Out of which 76% strongly affirms the above statement. However, 2% of the respondents do not agree with the statement. They expressed that just not having children should not lead a couple to divorce. There is not any significant difference between the responses of male and female respondents.

- Only 37.6% of the respondents agree that they turn to religion for solace or feel it as important. 53.6% of the respondents disagree that they turn to religion for solace or feel it as important. However, when we see the responses of male and female responses separately more number of female (47.2%) than male (28%) opined that they turn to religion for solace and feel it as important. 68.8% of the male respondents opined that they don’t turn to religion for any solace nor feel it as important.

**Consequences of divorce on Children**

- 35.6% of the respondents agree that the child’s emotional wellbeing is affected by divorce. 18.4% of the respondents opined that the child’s emotional well being is not affected by divorce. However, 46.4% of the respondents did not give any comment as they had no children. Comparing to female (25.6%) it was more of male (45.6%) respondents who opined that child’s emotional well-being is affected by divorce.

- 20% of the respondents opined that child’s academic performance is impacted by parent’s divorce. 24.4% of the respondents said that the child’s academic performance is not affected by divorce. 55.6% of the respondents mostly those who had no children did not give any comment on this statement. Even here too it was more of more of male respondents (29%) who said that there will be impact of the divorce on child’s academic performance. The female respondents (32%) were mostly disagreeing this statement.
Major Findings

- 29.2% of the respondents said that the children of divorcees experience negative effects of divorce for the rest of their life. 23.2% of the respondents opined that the effects of divorce on children are temporary. It will affect only for few years. 47.6% of the respondents mostly those who had no children were unwilling to comment on this statement. Even here it was the male respondents (46.4%) opined that the children will have negative effects life long and the female respondents (38.4%) opined that there is only temporary effects but not life long issues.

- 36.8% of the respondents opined that there are negative effects of divorce on children. However, it is being exaggerated. But 19.2% of the respondents said that there is no exaggeration of negative effects on children. Really there are a lot many negative effects of divorce on children. But 44% of the respondents said they do not want to comment on this because they had no children. It was more number of female respondents (50.4%) who said that there is exaggeration with regarding effects of divorce on children. The blame game was because most of the children are with female respondents.

Attitude towards Counseling

- Vast majority (94%) of the respondents attended for counseling at one or the other moment during divorce process. When we see the male and female respondents separately 92% of the male and 96% of the female had gone for counseling.

- 21.6% of the respondents opined that counseling was helpful during the divorce process. 77.7% of the respondents said that counseling was not helpful in their divorce process. When we see both the male and female respondents separately too there is not any difference of opinion.
Vast majority (87.2%) of the respondents expressed happiness about the way the counselors dealt with them during divorce process. Almost equal number of male and female respondents opined that they are happy about the way counselors dealt with them. However, 6.8% of the respondents opined that they are not happy about the way counselors dealt with them during divorce process.

Only 30% of the respondents opined that counseling is helpful in coping with the post divorce life. 5.6% those respondents who had not undergone any counseling. So they did not give any opinion regarding this question. However, 64.4% of the respondents expressed that counseling is not helpful in coping with the post divorce life. Comparing female it was the male respondents who opined that counseling is not helpful in coping with the post divorce life.

Majority (78.4%) of the respondents opined that counseling is waste for people who already decided to divorce. 21.2% of the respondents said that counseling is helpful even for the couples who filed for divorce. However when we see separately it was more number of male respondents (88.8%) who said that counseling is waste for couples who had already decided to divorce and 32% of the female respondents opined that counseling not useful for couples during divorce process.

Vast majority (88%) of the respondents agree that premarital counseling will help in stopping many of the divorces. 7.2% of the respondents opined that premarital counseling will not help in stopping the divorces. There is not much difference in the opinion of both male and female respondents.
6.4 Post divorce life

- Majority (63.2%) of the divorcees did not marry yet and the rest 36.8% of the divorcees are already remarried. However when we see both the male and female respondents separately, 47.2% of the male divorcees remarried while only 26.4% of the female respondents were remarried. Thus it is very clear that the percentage of women divorcees remarrying is just half of the male divorcees.

- In this study altogether 17.6% of the respondents have changed their occupation after divorce. However, when we compare the male and female respondents, 29.6% of the male has changed their occupation as against 5.6% of the female. During the post divorce period, the incidence of working women increased much. The reasons are obvious after divorce the women had to support themselves.

- 33.6% of the respondents opined that their economic status has been changed after divorce and 66.4% of the respondents opined that there is no change in their economic status after divorce. However, when we see both male and female respondents separately, economic status was changed in more number of female respondents (49.6%) than male respondents (17.6%).

- Vast majority of the respondents had positive reaction from their family members (88.8%), friends (94.4%) and society (89.6%). However, it is to be noted that 12% of the respondents from their family members, 5.6% of the respondents from their friends and 10.4% of the respondents from their society had negative reactions. There is not much difference in the responses of the male and female respondents. This shows that in most cases, the spouses received the sympathy of their parents and relatives.
Major Findings

- Major group of respondents 37.6% are staying with their parents after divorce. 34% of the respondents who had remarried are staying with their new family. 18% each of the respondents were staying alone near workplace and with children. However, when we see the male & female respondents separately 42.4% of the male divorcees were remarried and staying with their new family. Among female divorcees majority were not married again and 40% were staying with their parents. A good number of both male and female respondents were staying alone near workplace.

- Majority (90.4%) of the respondents wanted to continue with employment. 1.2% of the respondents wanted to continue their studies. The rest 8.4% of the respondents wanted to stay home and look after their children. It is to be noted that all the 8.4% who wanted to be stay at home and look after the children had the custody of small children during divorce. Whichever position one takes on divorce and no matter how rational and amicable the process is, it is no doubt a stressful event.

- Majority (79.2%) of the respondents had support from their family members during divorce process. 18.8% of the respondents had support from their friends. The rest 2% of the respondents had support from the legal authorities. When we see both the male and female respondents separately too they had support mostly from family members. Comparing female, male respondents had more support from their friends. It indicates that a very good number of divorced – were dependent on their parents.

- 53.2% of the respondents are receiving help after divorce. Comparing male, female respondents were getting more help after divorce. However, it is alarming to note that 46.8% of the respondents were not able to get help after divorce. In that too 52% of the male respondents were not getting help. 41.6% of the female respondents were not able to
get help. This finding explains many of the problems during post divorce life. Support Immediately after divorce in the case of divorcees is an important affair, because in the midst of trouble, anxiety and separation, such support was needed for their post divorce adjustment in life.

- Only 1.6% of the respondents cherished some good feeling about their ex spouse. However 98.4% of the respondents expressed that they don’t have any positive regard to their spouses, more over they had bitter and unforgivable type of sentiments.

- Vast majority (98.8%) of the respondents opined that they were not having any repentance about divorce. More over many of them carry so much bitter experiences about their marriage. Only 1.2% (i.e. 2 male & 1 female) respondents said that they repent about divorce. There is not much difference between the opinion of male and female respondents in this regard.

- Only 2% of the respondents opined that co-parenting is possible after divorce. 36.8% did not give any answer for this because they had no children. 72% of the respondents opined that co-parenting is not possible. Comparing to male it was female (48.8%) respondents said that co-parenting is not possible after divorce.

- Vast majority (90%) of the respondents were not willing to be cordial and respectable towards ex spouse. In that 56.8% of the respondents were very strongly saying that they were not willing to be cordial and respectable towards ex spouse. The data indicates that the spouses who go for divorce carry a lot of resentment towards each other.
Major Findings

- 24.8% of the respondents agree that they had carefully thought about the children’s issues that need attention. 64.8% of the respondents were neutral on this issue because they had no children. 10.4% of the respondents were disagreed that they carefully taken attention towards children’s issues. This is because some of them were recently undergone divorce and still were in that trauma. And few who moved away with new partners leaving the children with grand parents or relatives.

6.5 Opinion regarding legal procedures

- Vast majority (82.8%) of the respondents are satisfied about the legal divorce process and the outcome. Only 8.8% of the respondents only strongly affirm their satisfaction regarding legal divorce process. However, 17.2% of the respondents are not satisfied about the legal divorce process. There is not much difference between the opinion of male and female respondents.

- Only 18.4% of the respondents expressed that the divorce process should be handled differently. 81.2% of the respondents opined that there is no need of handling the divorce process differently.

- 68.4% of the respondents expressed that there is enough clarity in divorce laws. 16.8% of the respondents did not give any answer for it. 14.8% of the respondents opined that the divorce law is not clear. Comparing female, male respondents expressed that there is not clarity in divorce laws.

- 42.8% of the respondents had the knowledge of divorce law when they filed for divorce. However, in that only 3.2% strongly affirm their knowledge. 55.2% of the respondents opined that they had no knowledge of divorce law when divorce was filed. There is not much difference between the opinion of male & female respondents.
Major Findings

➤ 48.8% of the respondents had made use of the law to get divorce. Only 1.6% of the respondents strongly affirmed it. 50.8% of the respondents opined that they had not made use of the law to get divorce. Comparing male and female respondents it was the female who responded more (71.2%) that they had made use of the law to get divorce and it was the male (73.6%) responded that they have not made use of the law to get divorce.

➤ Vast majority (89.2%) of the respondents were satisfied about the interaction of legal aid professionals. Only 6.8% of the respondents strongly affirmed it. 10.4% of the respondents were not satisfied about the interaction of legal aid professionals. Comparing to female more number of male responds were not satisfied about the interactions of legal aid professionals.

➤ Only 0.4% of the respondents opined that the lengthy process of divorce is justifiable. The rest 99.6% of the respondents said that the lengthy process of divorce is not justifiable. 92.4% of the respondents strongly affirmed that the lengthy process of divorce is not justifiable.

➤ 44% of the respondents opined that they had say in the division of marital property. 51.2% of the respondents opined that they had no say in the division of marital property. Majority of the female (60%) who responded that they had no say in the division of marital property and it indicates that cultural factors in India still play a crucial role. Most of the time chance of decision making goes to male.

➤ The cases studies points out that psychological factors are the major perceived cause of divorce; they include communications problems, lack of understanding and adjustment.
6.6 Findings of Hypotheses Testing

In the present research five hypotheses had been formulated. They were tested by appropriate statistical tools. The findings of the hypotheses have been given below.

- It is found that there is statistical significant association between increased divorce rate and increased employment of both couple. Hence, the research hypothesis ‘Increased Employment of both couple is Associated with the Increased Divorce Cases’ is accepted (Table No. 4.6.1)

- The result of the study indicates that there is no statistical significant association between divorce and childlessness. Hence, the research hypothesis ‘Increased Rate of Divorce is associated with Childlessness of Couples’ is rejected. (Table No.4.6.2)

- It is found that there is no statistical significant association between increased economic independence of women and increased divorce rate. Hence the hypothesis ‘Increased Economic Independence of Women is Associated with the Increased Rate of Divorce’ is rejected (Table No. 4.6.3)

- The study result shows that there is statistical significant association between two variables i.e. the level of education of the couple and divorce. Hence the hypothesis ‘Divorce Cases are more where Spouses have Greater Difference in the Level of their Education’ is accepted (Table No. 4.6.4)

- The study result shows that there is no statistical significant association between the nature of residence of the couple and divorce. Hence the hypothesis ‘Divorce Cases are seen more in Urban Areas than in Rural Areas’ is rejected (Table No. 4.6.5)