A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVORCED AND MARRIED WOMEN

SUMMARY
OF THE REVISED THESIS
SUBMITTED TO
CHHATRAPATI SHAHU JI MAHARAJ UNIVERSITY, KANPUR
FOR AWARD OF DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PSYCHOLOGY

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SUMMARY

This Summary accompanies the Revised Thesis. The Revision was carried out in compliance with the Orders of the University, under the guidelines provided by the learned examiners who examined the original thesis. The main points on which the revision has been carried out are:

(i) A summary of what we have learned and what remains to be learned has been added in the end of Chapter II ‘Review of Related Literature’

(ii) A proforma for the particulars of the subjects and another for their consent about their willingness for data collection has now been appended with the revised thesis. While collecting the data for the research, these two proformas were invariably used in case of each and every subject who constituted the sample for the present investigation. But those were not appended with the original thesis by omission. This omission has now been rectified. The Proforma for Particulars of the subject contained the details of their family members, in-laws and children etc. The Proforma for Consent contained that they have no objection if some psychological tests are administered on them and they will provide all the information required for this study, honestly and with integrity.

(iii) The Statistical Analysis of Research Data was thoroughly revised and reinterpreted. All the table have now been presented as per guidelines provided by the APA Publication Manual 5th Edition (2001). In analysing the ‘2X2 Factorial Experiments’, ‘Size Effect’ ($\eta_p^2$) has also been computed and interpreted in each case.

(iv) All the studies and their references has been checked out and corrected for any errors that might have creapt into the Bibliography or in Review of Related Literature parts of the Revised Thesis.
The thesis has been thoroughly reviewed and revised for all lingual mistakes and anamolies. The errors have now been removed.

INTRODUCTION

The opening Chapter I of the Thesis entitled Introduction discussed at length Marriage, Marital Adjustment, Marital Harmony/disharmony, Divorce, Divorce as a process, Factors influencing Divorce, Effects of Divorce, Family, Personality. Under the sub heading Theoretical Frame Work, the variables of the research i.e. Personality Characteristics and Behavioural Characteristics, Aims and Objectives of the Study, Hypotheses etc. find place and have been discussed at length. These are being presented in nutshell.

Divorce does not strike out of a clear sky but is simply the final step in the series of incidents which mark the disintegration of a marriage. Divorce is the outcome of an unhappy and disharmonious marriage. Divorce is, no more, rare as it was considered earlier. Divorce is escalating with rampant rate, even, in our oriental Indian and Hindu society too, like an epidemic. The most affected person on account of divorce is the Women. The divorce shatters the well being, psychological, social, economical etc. of the women inflicted by it. Generally, the women in Indian society do not opt for divorce, as solution for unhappy marriage, in first place; but are forced to accept it as their lot and fate.

MARRIAGE:

L.M. Singh says, "Marriage is an ancient institute validated by individual needs and social utility sanctioned by scriptural approval and fortified by manifold norms and injunctions."

Marriage raises the status of both sexes in their intimate relationship with each other. Further, it is also a relationship to be nurtured and cherished so that it grows into a beautiful way of life form generation to generation. In marriage, the individuals are intensely concerned with the satisfaction of their sexual, economic, confirmatory, and
status goals. Marital harmony is defined as, in a happy marriage; it is the wife who provides the climate and husband the landscape.

Marriage is smooth sailing when a women is accommodating and abides by her husband’s wishes

**MARRITAL ADJUSTMENT**

Adjustment in marriage is not static but a dynamic process. It gives the partners an opportunity for the satisfaction of their needs for companionship, affections and sexual expression; behavioral adjustment, mutual understanding and emotional maturity are the main requirement in keeping a marital life in harmonious state. It needs great effort on the part of the partners to justifiably fulfill the above conditions.

Rosenquist (1940) while discussing the stress and conflicts writes, "If the individual meets his difficulties in way satisfactory both to himself and to society, we say he is well adjusted, if at the other extreme, he can satisfy neither society, nor himself, he is poorly adjusted. "Similarly, if husband and wife meet the difficulties and demands of their role, resolve the conflicts in a manner which is satisfying for themselves and also for the family. They may be able to accomplish adjustment in their married life.

**DIVORCE**

Divorce does note strike out of a clear sky but is simply the final step in the series of incidents which mark the disintegration of a marriage. Divorce is rare, it is considered.

The modern instability of the family is revealed by the frequency of divorce, separation, desertion, and other evidence of disharmony or lack of cohesion which come to light particularly in the courts, in social work, and in "marriage clinics". The degree of instability varies considerably from place to place, being relatively low in some countries, as compared with many other western countries. But on the whole the evidences of instability are increasing.
Divorce can have serious effects on the psychological adjustment of children whose parents are separating. According to Wollett and Fullar (1996), mothers who have been through a divorce often report experiencing a sense of achievement in their day to day activities and feeling of 'a job well done'. This is because they use their experience of divorce in a positive way to 'galvanize' them into taking charge of their lives.

**DIVORCE AS PROCESS**

Most people find out by experience that divorce is a "process" often taking months (even years) – not a single event. Depending on the degree of commitment to the marriage and the length of marriage, the process of total divorce may take as long as the marriage took to complete. Divorce only dissolves the legal marital relationship, not the emotional, economic, parental, community or psychic relationships that have evolved.

**PROCESS OF DETERIORATION**


4. Seeking legal counsel, 5. Most parents will agree with divorce, most friends will be supportive, 6. Reconciliations, 7. Amicable divorces are rare

**IDENTITY RE-ORIENTATION:**

Development of the 'single" self is difficult depending on the duration of the marriage. The longer the marriage, the longer reorientation takes. Some factors are associated with the process of redefining oneself.

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PROBABILITY OF DIVORCE**

The Demographic, Social, Environmental, Relationship and Personal Factors are responsible for Divorce.

**EFFECT OF DIVORCE**
There are numerous type of negative effects on the divorced women:


There is some degree of emotional trauma suffered by children of divorced parents, depending on the age of children at the time of divorce. In most cases, this is short term. There is also the loss of confidant counselor and his/her guidance, that is the non-custodial parents. Generally the non-custodial parents (dads in 90% of the cases), begins with prompt child support payment and on time visitations, but gradually slacks of -- so that by the end of the first year he is delinquent in both payments and visits.

PERSONALITY

Allport considered personality as "a person’s pattern of habits, attitudes and traits that determine his adjustment to his environment.” It is a marvelously intricate structure delicately woven of motives, emotions, habits and thoughts into a pattern that balances the pulls and pushes of the world outside. An individual’s dealing with his environment has a quality, an individuality of its own. Sigmond Freud conceptualized personality having three distinct aspects or "parts" namely (1) the ‘Id’, (2) the ‘Ego’, and (3) the ‘Superego’. These three components of personality are not entities in themselves or as separately functioning mechanism. They are dependent upon each other and are completely interrelated, yet each at the same time has certain definite and every specific characteristics. These three basic elements function together at all times within a single person and are not separate things in themselves.

FAMILY

Family is the only institution, which is formally developed in all societies as stated by Good (1964). Society's values and norms are passed through generation to generation by ways of socialization. Family, is a most close knit and intimate unit of social interactions, however, it is difficult to evaluate intensity of interrelationships because of each community's sub-cultural setting, city culture, and the way it operates. It is central
institutions of all human societies; it is both the arena and the medium for developing children into social beings.

**CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK**

The present investigation encompasses the probing into and exploring of some of the pertinent Personality Characteristics (Neuroticism and Extraversion) and Behavioural Characteristics (07) (viz. 1. Frustration, 2. Thought Pathology, 3. Depressive Emotions, 4. Insecurity, 5. Rationalization, 6. Decision Making, and 7. Sexual Pathology) of Divorced and Married Women. These Personality Characteristics and Behavioural Characteristics of these Divorced and Married women were considered apt and appropriate for the present investigation.

The effect of divorce is most disintegrating and debilitating on the psyche and well being of the women; apart from its negative effect on socio-economic and familial domains. The above variables selected for investigation are said, to have more pointing and deep rooted effect on the psyche divorced women. These Personality Characteristics and Behavioural Characteristics will enable the researcher to probe deep into the inner layers of the Personality and Behaviour of these Divorced women and paint a vivid picture of their inner self and assess the damage and impairment caused to their psyche by divorce. This is important so as to enable the researcher to design and devise some measures to restore their well being.

**REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE**

The contents of Chapter II are the Review of the Related Literature. The body of research literature available on the the variables related and relevant to the present study was reviewed from various Books, Journals, e-journals, internet resources, magazines, newspapers etc. The review has been presented in the current chapter variable-wise.
METHODOLOGY

The Chapter III of this study outlines the Methology adopted for carrying out this research, and has been summarized in the paragraphs that follow:-

SAMPLE & SAMPLING

The sample of Divorced Women constituting the sample of research were all legally divorced, whose names were provided by the Family Courts of Kanpur District. They were all Hindus. The Divorced Women of two categories Stage (Age) (Early Stage - 20-35 years and Late Stage - 36-50 years and above) (N=50 each) were selected as sample. .

The professionally qualified Divorced Women belonging to high professions like Doctors, Engineers, Defense Officers, and Management & IT Professionals in big business houses were excluded of the sample. The Married women comprising of half of the sample were all matched on the basis of age, education, and locality etc.

The sampling technique employed for the purpose was Systematic Purposive Sampling.

TOOLS

Thus the tests found apt and appropriate for the purpose of carrying out the measurements on the variables of the investigation i.e. (1) Personality Characteristics (02) and (2) Behavioural Characteristics (07), were


The Personal Data of the respondents i.e. Name, Educational qualification, Profession, Family Income; and Marital Status information, like age at which married, age at which divorced, information regarding family, parents, husband, in-laws and post-divorce life own family and support available was gathered from each and every divorced
women. A Personal Data Sheet and an Interview Schedule were specially designed for the purpose.

**T.A.T. USED FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE:**

In the present investigation the Indian Adaptation of Murray’s Thematic Apperception Test has been employed to serve a special purpose and need. Here the T.A.T. has been employed to measure quantitatively the Independent Variables of the research i.e. Behavioural Characteristics (07). These Behavioural Characteristics have been resulted from the Analysis of Needs of T.A.T. stories the subjects.

**DESIGN**

The present study being an Ex-post Facto research investigating upon the effects [Main and Interaction] of Independent Variables [Marital Status and Stage (Age)] on the Dependent Variables [Personality Characteristics (02) and Behavioural Characteristics (07)] a Quasi experimental 2 x 2 Factorial Design [MARITAL STATUS * STAGE (AGE GROUP)] was employed. The above 2 x 2 Factorial Experiments were analyzed by employing Two Way (2 X 2 ) Analysis of Variance (Between the Subjects) technique. However, in order to investigate upon the relationship between the variables Correlational Analysis has also been carried out.

**VARIABLES**

The variables under study are as follows

**INDEPENDENT VARIABLES (I.Vs.)**

- **Marital Status:** 1. Divorced Women, and 2. Married Women
- **Stage (Age):** 1. Early Stage (Age 20 - 35 Yrs.), and 2. Late Stage (Age 36 - 50 Yrs.)

**DEPENDENT VARIABLES (D.Vs.)**

The following are the Nine (09) Dependent Variables, investigated in the present study:-

**PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS:** 1. Extraversion, and 2. Neuroticism

CONTROL OF VARIABLES

The following variables were controlled by matching the two groups, i.e. Age, Education, and Socio-Economic Status. The Married Women were selected in such a way that these match to the Divorced women on variables Age, Education, and Socio-Economic Status.

PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF DATA

In order to initiate Collection of Data, a List of legally Divorced Women was procured from the Family Courts of Kanpur District. Out of the list Women of the Two Age groups were selected. The Control Group of Married Women was selected by matching those to Divorced Women. Then each member of the Sample was contacted on Phone or personally to take her consent and acceptance to help in data collection by diseminating information about their ownself and undergoing a Test Session of about 1¾ hours, and fixing date, time and venue for the interview. The elements of the sample were assured that the information provided by them or accrued consequent to tests will strictly remain confidentail and will only be used for the purpose of research.

The investigator then contacted the element of sample on the appointed date and time at the assigned place. She then formed rapport with the subject/testee, secured Consent for being tested, got Personal Data Sheet filled up, and conducted the Test Session. Both the tests were conducted one after another, first the MPI test and then the TAT and the testee was thanked profusely. The same procedure was followed for each of the 200 elements of the sample. The following ten (10) T.A.T. Picture Cards (T1, T2, T3, FG, T4, FG, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10) were used as stimulus.

When the data collection phase was over, each of the MPI test Booklet and TAT Blank was scored as per directions and guidelines contained in the Manuals of the
respective tests. Special procedure was adopted for measuring Behavioural Characteristics quantitatively, from the TAT stories.

The data so resulted was entered in a Master Chart and then finally subjected Statistical Analysis as per design of the investigation.

**ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH DATA AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS**

The Analysis of Research Data and Interpretation of Results have been presented in Chapter IV. The Statistical Analysis of was conducted in three phases. In the first phase data was described through Descriptive Analysis, by computing Means ($\overline{X}$), Standard Deviations ($\sigma$), and Coefficients of Correlation (Pearson’s Product Moment) ($r$) and the probability ($p$) associated with each value of ($r$) representing its significance. The resulting Correlation Matrices of the data in different categories have been presented. The description of data is made vivid and clear by exhibiting the same graphically. The Correlational Analysis of data has also been done and presented. The second phase of Analysis consisted of Inferential Analysis, showing the difference between the Means of dependent variables (D.Vs.), (i.e. Behavioural Characteristics and Personality Characteristics) on the basis of different categories of Independent Variables (I.Vs.) (viz. Marital Status (Divorced and Married) and Stage (Age Group) (Early and Late) of Women). This was accomplished by computing ‘$t$-ratios’, Standard Errors of Difference [SE$_D$ ($\sigma_D$)] and the probability ‘$p$’ associated with each value of ‘$t$’, representing its significance. The third and final phase of Analysis comprised of the analysis of ‘2 X 2 Factorial Experiments (Quasi Experiments)’ designed to evaluate the Main and Interaction Effects of the Independent Variables (I.Vs.) (viz. Marital Status (Divorced and Married) and Stage (Age Group) (Early and Late) of Women) on the Dependent Variables (D.Vs.), (i.e. Behavioural Characteristics and Personality Characteristics of these Women). These factorial experiments [MARITAL STATUS * STAGE (AGE}
GROUP) have been analyzed by employing ‘Two Way (2 X 2) Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) (Between the Subjects Design)’ technique.

The Outline of the ‘2 X 2 Factorial Experiments (Quasi Experiments)’ has been presented below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE (AGE GROUP)</th>
<th>MARITAL STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divorced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Stage</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Age 20 - 35 Yrs.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Stage</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Age 36 - 50 Yrs.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The interpretation of results have been presented along with the analysis. The results have been summarized at the appropriate places.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS

FINDINGS

The descriptive, as well as, inferential analysis of the research data, revealed the following facts and findings, in regard to the Personality Characteristics (D.Vs.) viz.

15. There was no differential effect of any I.V. on both of the Personality Characteristics i.e. Extraversion and Neuroticism.

16. There was no differential effect of Stage (Age Group) (Early and Late Stage) of these women on any of the Behavioural Characteristics as well as Personality Characteristics.
17. The Divorced women were found superior to Married women on the Behavioural Characteristics, viz. Frustration, Depressive Emotions, Insecurity, Decision Making, and Sexual Pathology; while in case of Behavioural Characteristics, Thought Pathology it is contra indicated.

18. The Divorced women of early stage were found superior over their Married counterparts on Behavioural Characteristics, Frustration, Depressive Emotions, Insecurity, and Decision Making; while reverse was the case for Behavioural Characteristics, Thought Pathology and Rationalization.

19. Divorced women of late stage were found superior over their Married counterparts on Behavioural Characteristics Frustration, Depressive Emotions, Insecurity, Rationalization, Decision Making, and Sexual Pathology. While Married women of late stage were superior to Divorced Women of late stage on Thought Pathology.

20. The Divorced women of late stage were found superior over their early stage counterparts on the Behavioural Characteristics viz. Thought Pathology, Rationalization, and Sexual Pathology.

21. The Married women of early stage were found superior over their late stage counterparts on the two (02) Behavioural Characteristics viz. Decision Making, and Sexual Pathology.

The Results of the Analysis of 2 X 2 Factorial Experiments [Marital Status * Stage (Age Group)] for all the nine dependent variables i.e. Behavioural Characteristics: 1.Frustration, 2.Thought Pathology, 3.Dependent Emotions, 4.Insecurity, 5.Rationalization Behaviour, 6.Decision Making, 7.Sexual Pathology and Personality Characteristics: 8. Extraversion, and 9. Neuroticism; investigated under the present study reveal the following findings:-

25. The Marital Status (Divorced and Married) Women of Early Stage and Late Stage emerged out as the only affecting independent variable. It produced differential
effect on six (06) out seven (07) Behavioural Characteristics and one (01) out of two (02) Personality Characteristics.

26. The Stage (Age Group) (Early Stage and Late Stage) of Divorced and Married Women did not emerge as an affecting independent variable. It did not produce any differential effect on any of the Behavioural Characteristics and Personality Characteristics.

27. Divorced Women were higher on the Behavioural Characteristic Frustration in comparison to Married Women.

28. Married Women were higher on the Behavioural Characteristic Thought Pathology in comparison to Divorced Women.

29. Divorced Women were higher on the Behavioural Characteristic Depressive Emotions on in comparison to Married Women.

30. Divorced Women were higher on the Behavioural Characteristic Insecurity in comparison to Married Women.

31. Neither of the two Independent Variables i.e. Marital Status and Stage of Women produced any differential effect, individually, on the Behavioural Characteristic Rationalization. However they produced interaction effect on Rationalization with the differential hierarchy Divorced Women of Late Stage> Married Women of Early Stage> Married Women of Late Stage> Divorced Women of Early Stage.

32. Divorced Women were higher on the Behavioural Characteristic Decision Making in comparison to Married Women. In addition the significant interaction effect of Marital Status * Stage (Age Group) on Decision Making showed the following differential hierarchy Divorced Women of Late Stage> Divorced Women of Early Stage> Married Women of Early Stage> Married Women of Late Stage.

33. Divorced Women were higher on the Behavioural Characteristic Sexual Pathology in comparison to Married Women. In addition the significant
interaction effect of Marital Status * Stage (Age Group) on Sexual Pathology showed the following differential hierarchy Divorced Women of Late Stage> Married Women of Early Stage> Divorced Women of Early Stage> Married Women of Late Stage.

34. Neither of the two Independent Variables i.e. Marital Status and Stage of Women produced any differential effect, individually or jointly on the Personality Characteristics Extraversion and Neuroticism

35. However the insignificant interaction effect of Marital Status * Stage (Age Group) on the Personality Characteristics Extraversion needs to be paid attention and given consideration. Here the difference in probability causing insignificance is very meager only 0.001 (i.e. \( p = 0.051 \) against \( p = 0.050 \) required for significance). The differential hierarchy Married Women of Early Stage> Divorced Women of Late Stage> Divorced Women of Early Stage> Married Women of Late Stage.

36. Similarly, the insignificant interaction effect of Marital Status * Stage (Age Group) on the Behavioural Characteristic Thought Pathology needs to be paid attention and given consideration. Here the difference in probability causing insignificance is very meager only 0.008 (i.e. \( p = 0.058 \) against \( p = 0.050 \) required for significance). The differential hierarchy Married Women of Early Stage> Married Women of Late Stage> Divorced Women of Late Stage> Divorced Women of Early Stage.

CONCLUSION

The Marital Status (Divorced and Married) of Women emerged as one and the only differentiating factor/variable, in the exploration and probing into the Personality and Behaviour of Divorced and Married Women. The other variable, the Stage (Age Group) (Early and Late) of these women was found totally non-differentiating. The Divorced Women were found higher on the following Behavioural Characteristics viz.
Frustration, Depressive Emotions, Insecurity, Decision Making, and Sexual Pathology, over their Married counterparts; while for the Thought Pathology it was contra-indicated, and no discrimination was found between the two for Rationalization.

None of the two independent variables (Marital Status and Stage of women) exhibited any differential effect on any of the two Personality Characteristics viz. Extraversion, and Neuroticism. This is evidence for the negative effect of divorce on the inner-self or psyche of Divorced women at least on the above dimensions.

The results of this piece of investigation brings to the fore and lime light the bitter and dreadful reality as to how much the psychological well being of these divorced women is shattered and to which extent they are suffering. This negative effect on this segment of women is not short lived rather long term and escalating their sufferings.

In addition, their psychological conditions and socio-cultural milieu does not allow them any redressal from their sufferings. These lead most of them to suffer form Depression and other psychosomatic diseases and ultimately most of them become clinical cases. The limit is that many are pushed into the blind alleys of life, where the only solution left to their sufferings is the final and fatal suicide.

**LIMITATIONS & SUGGESTIONS**

The limitations of the present study as indicated are Low Sample of Divorced Women; only two Stages (Age Group) (Early and Late) of Divorced and Married Women; SES, Education, Working/Non-working status of these Women not considered; only two personality dimensions were taken into account. The following were not given due consideration Marital Adjustment and Marital Satisfaction; Familial variables like Family Climate etc., Coping Behaviour, and Behavioural & Personality Characteristics of Spouses of these women.

Accordingly the suggestions offered for the future research on these and other variables related to these divorced women, the above noted limitations be taken into account seriously. Further, territory for sample selection be expanded; four categories of
divorced women i.e. married within 1 year, within 5, 10 and 15 years be considered; Educational, Social, Economic and Working & Non-working Level be given due consideration; other intellectual, emotional, psychosomatic, familial, socio-cultural and above all religious and spiritual variables need to be given due consideration. In addition assessment should also be made as to how much harm the divorce has done to the psychological and social well being of these divorced women.

**IMPLICATIONS OF RESULTS**

The long term negative effect of divorce on these women’s Behavioural Characteristics and their negative psychological effect, on the psyche of these divorced women shatters their all round well being and forces them to lead a diseased and depleted low quality life, which can force them to the blind allay of life of depression culminating into the suicide.

Aimed to alleviate their problems and foster fast wellbeing to them. We should, as early as possible, devise, design and implement programmes to educate youth planning to enter into marriage as to how to keep their marriages happy and everlasting. In addition special programmes should be devised, designed and implemented to train them and counsel them, from time to time, how to alleviate their own psychological problems and sufferings and provide themself all-round well being, so as to enable them to lead their lives peacefully and happily.