CHAPTER - II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE
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The Review of Literature not only helps in the discovery of important variables locating the comparative data and discussion of results, but provides insight regarding strong points and limitations of the previous studies. Thus, it helps in improvement of the present investigation. In the present chapter the findings of the previous researches are analyzed to bring about a more rational plan for drawing out generalizations.

This chapter embodies the critical appraisal of relevant and meaningful finding of various studies conducted in the area related to the problem under study. The critical survey of related research literature helps the researcher in planning, formulating, and conducting his/her own study. The techniques used in data collection and procedure employed in analyzing the data and fashion of highlighting the conclusions, in earlier works help the researcher to a considerable extent. This critical survey of research literature shows how to pay attention to the limitations of studies, implication of results and suggestions offered by different researchers for future investigations, for further advances in research, in a specified domain.

Most probably the Personality has been the most researched variables in the Psychological research, both on normal and clinical groups. But very little research has been done by the Psychologists, in the area of Personality Characteristics (dimensions) 1. Neuroticism and 2. Extraversion of Divorced and Married Women. The Researches, in the area of Behavioural Characteristics, (viz. 1. Frustration, 2. Thought Pathology, 3. Depressive Emotions, 4. Insecurity, 5. Rationalization, 6. Decision Making, and 7. Sexual Pathology) comparing the Divorced and Married Women are still very few. As it is essentially a psychological problem related to Personality Characteristics and Behavioural
Characteristics; a lot of scope exists for the psychological study of above factors of Divorced and Married Women. Therefore, the present researcher has made an intensive and extensive survey and examination of studies related to the problem. The researcher is pained to submit that researches in most of the area on the above and related variables (Characteristics) are conspicuous by rarity or total absence.

**STUDIES RELATED TO HAPPY MARRIAGE, MARITAL SATISFACTION, MARITAL ADJUSTMENT, UNHAPPY MARRIAGE, MARITAL DISHARMONY ETC.**

Glenn and Weaver (1981) indicated that Americans depend heavily on their marriage for their psychological wellbeing.

Harvey and Bahr (1974) reported that death of spouse, divorce, and marital separation are experienced as **stressful events** as reported by adults in American society. The **death rate for widowers were double** that of married men and that 75% of American women would be widowed one day.

Gupta and Singh (1992) found that couples in India who **married out of love reported diminished (reduced) feeling of love if** they had been married for more than five years. By contrast those who had undertaken arranged marriage reported enhanced feeling of love, if they were not newly weds.

The U.S. Bureau of Census in 1992 reported that 52% of marriages end in divorce (Fowers Montel and Olson, 1992). This fact along with other stimulants has caused researchers to investigate the influences on Marital satisfaction.

**Marital satisfaction** is sought or expected by most married individuals. **Marital satisfaction** is a part of satisfaction. Burr (1970) defined **marital satisfaction** as a subjective condition in which an individual experiences a certain degree of attainment to goal or desire. Different aspects of family life and marital relations affecting the personality development of young children are also well documented (Ackerman, 1956; Singh, Nigam and Srivastava, 1977).
Yelsma (1981) supported the hypothesis that happy couples had predisposition for productively managing conflict, whereas clinical couples had higher aggressiveness pre-disposition that lessened their ability to manage conflicts productively.

Tucker and O’Grady (1990) revealed that spouses enter marriage relationship with different beliefs about happiness and they differ in their expectations of happiness too. Therefore, mutual communication and sharing are the backbone for adjustment in marriage.

Sison (1976) in his study on married couples in metro Manila showed that a high level of marital adjustment among those who communicated well. He pointed out that there is a positive correlation between communication and adjustment. Couples who communicated more regularly, were better adjusted.

Byrne and Blayblocks (1963) suggested that assumed similarity of attitudes may provide an index of marital satisfaction.

Katz et al. (1963) investigated the used compliments between marriage partners and found that perceived satisfaction in the relationship tended to predict to both liking and trust of other, as well as, receptivity to influence from others.

Lievinger, Breedhlove and Bheed (1968) reported that assured agreement tends to exceed spouse’s actual agreement and assumed agreement is positively associated with marital satisfaction.

Psychologist, Wendy Amstutz Haws and Brent Mallinckrodt (1996) studied by Surveying 25 heterosexual couples who were 18-30 years old and had been married between 6-13 months on how much they felt were psychologically detached from their parents and have established themselves as distinct individuals. Each spouse was asked, whether they felt they got along as a couples? Whether, they were satisfied with the marriage? Whether, they received enough affection? Whether, they agreed enough on various issues? They found that Husband’s lack of independence from their parents was the biggest predictor for both spouses which were newly married and having no
adjustment. They reported higher level of adjustment and satisfaction in their married life when husbands were free from excessive guilt, anxiety, mistrust, responsibility and anger in relation to their mothers. The couples were also better adjusted when husband possessed a greater ability to manage and direct practical affairs without the help of their fathers and showed independence from their parents.


Warr (1984) found significantly better marital adjustment and subjective wellbeing for the working women than for the housewives.

Kumar and Rastogi (1976) used 10 measures of subjective wellbeing and found that Working women were reported to have higher scores on health, life satisfaction, and self-esteem measures and lower scores on hopelessness, insecurity, and anxiety compared with housewives, although the housewives had been lower on negative affects than the working women. The findings were insignificant on positive affects and depression.

Kumar and Rohatagi (1985) found that high adjustment married couple to be more relaxed, and emotionally more stable, tension free than the low adjusted married couples. It has been observed that highly adjusted married couples made lesser use of frustration (like aggression, regression, fixation and resignation) while making management of frustration than other low adjusted married couples.

Nye (1963) compared the working and non working wives separately with their husband’s occupational group to find a relationship with marital adjustment. He found no significant differences.

Tevaraj (1988) speaks of adjustment in the following areas companionship, recreation, parenting, rearing a child and sexual satisfaction in relation to marital satisfaction.
MARITAL ADJUSTMENT AND PERSONALITY

In the studies conducted to assess the relationship of personality factors with marital adjustment, Kringel (1976), Kundua and Ghosh (1978), Bentler and Newcombe (1978) and Kundu (1982) found significant relationship of personality with marital adjustment.

Brauchard G., Lussier Y. Van & Subowriss, Stephane (1990) conducted studies on personality. This study investigated the relationship of personality with marital adjustment; and found that the personality traits of neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness, as well as, the Dyadic adjustment result in marital adjustment. For both men and women personality traits were found to contribute to the prediction of marital adjustment over and above the affects of neuroticism.

Lavee, Yoau and Bon, Ari Adital (2004) investigated neuroticism and emotional expressiveness as related to perception of marital quality, gathering data on a sample of 197 Israeli couples. They found that wives scored higher than husbands on neuroticism and emotional expressiveness but no significant gender difference were found in perceived marital quality. Structural Equation Models were estimated to examine the effect on both spouses’ neuroticism and expressiveness on their own and on their spouse’s evaluation of marital quality. Neuroticism was strong predictor of both spouses’ perceived marital quality. Wives’ perceived marital quality was positively associated with their own and their husbands’ emotional expressiveness. Husbands’ perceived marital quality was associated neither with their own nor with their wives’ expressiveness.

Lindzey and Urban (1954), Corsine (1956) found low but positive correlation between married partner’s personality variables, such as dominance.

Jenkins (1968) pointed out that anxiety neurotics often come from families in which parents have high expectation for their child while at the same time rejecting his actual accomplishments as substandard. The individual reared in such a setting often
appears to have adopted perfectionistic parental standards for himself and becomes self-critical and anxious, if he fails or thinks he is in danger of failing, to meet them.

Collins et al. (1971) reported that there were more husband dominated marriages in the neurotic group than in the control group (14/60 versus 6/60); further more amongst neurotic families and fewer amongst control families. They remarked that the result of this area reflected the marked reluctance of the husband to engage in conjoint social activity and the effect of his veto on the couple’s behaviour.

UNHAPPY MARRIAGE/ MARITAL DISHARMONY

Coppone (1978) found that subjects with harmonious marriage gave more positive response and responded to problem situation by spontaneously offering information and explanation more than the subjects with disharmonious marriage.

Kapur (1970) presented some cases to illustrate that some similar personality traits of the couples like, dominance, self-centeredness, individuality (rigidity) can be a source of marital disharmony, if they were uncomplimentary.

Doherty (1981) hypothesized that a marital pattern used in which the wife was relatively more external and the husband more internal would be associated with high level of marital disharmony.

Zaleski and Galkowska (1978) discussed in their study that unhappy married couples were very significantly higher on neuroticism and were emotionally unstable.

Nadelson, Polonsley and Mathews (1978) found in their study that in middle age couples cause of marital stress is early unresolved developmental issues such as poor choice of a mate, unequal growth, disappointment with career or family events, inability to deal with physical problems and the changing expectations.
Renne (1970) has shown that lower status marriages tend to be low in adjustment or satisfaction, as well as, in stability.

Markman and Floyd (1980) pointed out that communication deficits are associated with developing and maintaining marital distress.

Edward (1985) saw a rise in marital instability among couples who marry early. This is due to lack of preparation for the marital role. They also argued that the late age marriage has similar consequences due to well developed role. The performances during single living give less room for adjustment. The problem connected with the choice of mate selection is also a factor in marital disharmony, both in early and late marriages. In late marriages the choice of mate selection is squeezed; as the best ones that are often desirable partners are already married and ones that are left are not the desired partners. Thus there is possibility for less homogeneity in late marriage.

Whisman, Mark A. and Yebelacker, Lisa A. (2006) studied the importance of relationship discord and examined through evaluating the association between relationship discord and multiple measures of enjoyment and psychological distress. They reported greater social role impairment and higher level of general distress, and poorer perceived health as factors in relationship discord.

**DIVORCE**

Landis (1966) made a study on 581 couples, and reported 25% of them disclosed divorcing and 18% seriously considered of divorcing.

Wallerstein (1997) found that stress of divorce raises hackles among those committed to the view that children were better off when a bad marriage ends.

Eysenck (1980) in his study mentioned the effect of personality, as one of the many factors, on marital satisfaction and divorce.
In a more recent study Blumstein and Schwartz (1983) identified several types of conflicts that seem to increase the likelihood of divorce. Among them are conflicts over the extent to which work intrudes into the relationship, especially in dual earner families; over the amount of house work performed by the wife, and over the frequent absences of other partner.

Bumpass and Sweet (1972) reported that persons who have married in their teens have been much more likely to divorce than persons who have married at later stages.

Christensen and Barber (1967) pointed out that since 1890 the proportion of couples seeking divorce has approximately doubled every 30 years to the point where currently one marriage in three ends in divorce.

Steinment and Strauss (1971) analyzed in their study that 40% of the women from lower Socio-economic class and 23% from middle class had complaints of physical abuse as a major reason for their decision to obtain a divorce.

Edward and Saunders (1981) found the preposition that lower the level of commitment to the marriage the more likely the dissolution decision.

Mudd (1952) found that divorce is due to the lack of maturity of one or both partners; emotionally speaking they are children.

EFFECT OF DIVORCE

Michel Gahler (2006) studied Swedish level of living surveys to analyze impact of divorce on individuals and found in 1991 that divorced male and female reported a higher risk for Psychological distress than did their married and cohabiting or remarried counterparts. Generally that was to a very limited extent because of divorcee’s having a lower wellbeing already before the divorce (1981) and the difference in wellbeing cannot be entirely explained by other factors. An interesting gender difference was found as
psychological distress preceded divorce among women instead it lasts longer among men following divorce.

Sandfield, Anna (2006) in her study on 25 hetero-sexual woman aged 20-87 from a variety of relationship status groups, found that Divorce was portrayed as a negative consequence of flawed individual skills and investments reinforcing the marriage ideal and obscuring any advantages of this transition for the increasing numbers facing single again life. Amongst the interviewed women, who have been divorced did not endorse these attributions and negotiated their social lives around feedback from others employing these interpretations. The ways in which discourses of divorce reinforce dominant marital models of hetero-sexual relationship are examined alongside. The implications of this study is for the growing population of single again women.

Lorenz, Frederick O., Wickname, K.A.S., Conger, Rand D. and Elder, Glen H. Jr. (2006) hypothesized that divorce immediately increases psychological distress has long term negative consequences for physical health of divorced people. In addition it was hypothesized that divorce indirectly causes long term increases in distress through stressful mid life events by using 416 rural Iowa women, interviewing repeatedly. In early 1990s, when they were, mothers of adolescent children. They were re-interviewed in 2001 after divorce (1991-94). Divorced women reported highly significant at level of Psychological distress than married women. A decade after (2001) the divorced women reported significant higher level of illness even after controlling for age, remarriage, education, income, and prior health, compared to their married counterparts. Divorced women reported higher level of stressful life events between 1994 and 2000 which led to higher level of depressive symptoms in 2001.

MARITAL SEPARATION & AGGRESSION

Toews, Michelle L., Catlett, Beth S. and Mc Kenry, Patricks C. (2005) studied to assess predictors of use of aggression during marital separation among a sample of 147 divorced mothers. The variables examined were Self-esteem, Mastery Attachment
Style, Gender Role Identity, and Husband’s aggression towards their wives during separation. Hierarchical Multiple Regression revealed that female’s Psychological characteristics and male’s use of aggression towards their wives during separation were predictive of women’s use of verbal aggression towards their husbands during marital separation.

**CHILDREN FROM DIVORCED FAMILIES**

Jacobson (1978) found that **children from divorced** or separated families showed an association with the internal parent hostility and child maladjustment.

Teleki et al. (1982) reported that **children in single parent homes (divorced mother)** may become more responsible, independent and alert to adult values than other subjects living with their married parents.

**PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS: NEUROTICISM & EXTRAVERSION**

Brauchard G., Lussier Y. Van & Subowriss, Stephane (1990) conducted studies on personality. This study investigated the relationship of personality with marital adjustment; and found that the personality traits of neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness, as well as, the Dyadic adjustment result marital adjustment. For both men and women personality traits were found to contribute to the prediction of marital adjustment over and above the affects of neuroticism.

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BEHAVIOURAL CHARACTERISTICS

The following seven (07) Behavioural Characteristics, viz. 1. Frustration, 2. Thought Pathology, 3. Depressive Emotions, 4. Insecurity, 5. Rationalization, 6. Decision Making, and 7. Sexual Pathology with respect to the Divorced and Married Women were investigated upon in this piece of research study. The researcher is pained to report that research studies pertaining to the above Behavioural Characteristics of Divorced and Married Women are conspicuous by rarity; on some of the Characteristics the studies are conspicuous by total absence. The research studies explored are presented below:-

RATIONALIZATION

Katz et al. (1970) found that defense mechanism of denial and rationalization to be highly effective in coping with anxiety, particularly when used in combination. They also found however, that many of the women who alloyed their anxieties with these defenses did not seek medical help, early enough.
Sydney Morning Herald (1996) studied rationalization marriage calling it as contract and bringing back public moral condemnation of irresponsibility and unacceptable conduct, as well as, compensation for damages for such conduct. Their study claimed that the possibilities that marital failures and misconduct were taken seriously by the laws would be a powerful incentive for reducing them.

Heilbrum and Renert (1988) explained that the individuals using unconscious rationalization report/experience less distress. It is possible that those who experience more menstrual distress than others are basically emotionally unstable and may differ on other personality variables, as well.

DECISION MAKING

Nelson et al. (1970) found manifest behaviour and decision making were related. Combining patient and control group husband in segregated and husband dominated marriages contributed significantly less.

THOUGHT PATHOLOGY

Singer and Wynee (1971) have linked the thought disorders in Schizophrenia to two styles of thinking and communication in the family, amorphous and fragmented. The amorphous pattern is characterized by failure in differentiation; here attention toward feeling objects or persons is loosely organized, vague and drifting. The fragmented thinking involves greater differentiation but lowered integration with erratic and disruptive shifts in communication.

Femsilver (1970) found support for such amorphous and fragmented thinking in the inspired ability of members of schizophrenic families to describe essential attributes of common household objects to each other.
Studies by Kumar & Rohtagi (1986) and Jegeebhug S. (1998) indicated that marriage at a young age makes woman particularly vulnerable to abuse in the husband’s home. The rate of depression is double in women as compared with men. **Why women are disproportionately affected by depression?** It would be as absurd to think the reason that more women get depressed is because they are mentally or emotionally weaker. In one study separated, divorced and married women were compared with regard to depression. **The unhappy married women come out to be the worst.**

Brommelhaff (2004) found that women were more likely to be reported as depressed; they also found that family members were more likely to attribute depressive symptoms of female to internal causes.

Kevin Conway & Kathleen Merkangas (2004) found that the way depressed people make attributions was different from how non-depressed people make attributions. An attributional style that explains negative events by internal causes was likely to characterize that some one was depressed. They also found that women were more likely to hold themselves responsible for their depressed mood and mentioned to blame negative factors within their environment such as unemployment or divorce responsible for their depressed mood.

Lara Maria Asuncion (1999) studied the women's mental health with reference to the relation of sexual stereotypes, work outside the home, and depression. Gender roles research that matches was positively correlated with psyhotism and depression while female submission was positively correlated. It was found that depressive symptoms were more in non-working women than working women. The result indicated reduction in depressive symptoms and increase in self help behaviour on prevention of depression among working and non-working women.

Lee, Kwang Jai, W.M., Chae Chung and Kim, Susie (2004) designed to examine relationship between roles of employed married women in South Korea, perception of
their work, role, coping pattern and level of depression on a sample of 382 women in age range of 25-55 yrs. living with their husbands, by using Depression Scale. Multiple Regression Analysis revealed several Statistically Significant relationships. Higher level of depression was found in working women who perceived motherhood, spending less time helping their children with home work, more important than their jobs. Non-working women had lower level of depression.

Crowther, J.H. (1985) measured depression and marital adjustment in psychiatric patients and spouses. By providing rating of depression and couples’ marital adjustment and found negative significant correlation between patients’ self report.

SEX PATHOLOGY (SEX BEHAVIOUR)

Ray et al. (1996) pointed out that a pressing problem for adolescents and young adults prior to marriage is how to gratify his or her sexual needs. Traditional stand for sexual behaviour in our society has emphasized a desistence from sexual relation prior to marriage particularly for women.

A 1973 Gallup Poll of 1500 respondents nationwide, for example, found that in the period of four years, between 1969-1973, the percentage believing that premarital sex was wrong dropped from 68% to 48% and a poll taken today would probably show a marked reduction is the 48% figure.

Vener and Stewart (1974) reported in a White House survey taken in 1973, however, reported that over 50% of nineteen year old single women were experienced sexually. During the same period the double standard was found to have tapered off by the age of seventeen, so that as many females as males were engaged in sexual relations by this age.

Worell (1978) remarked that the purpose of the article is to delineate some sources of problematic methodology in recent research designed to relate current measures of sex role orientation to indices of psychological wellbeing. Practices and procedure in
sex role orientation, that provide independent measure of masculinity, Femininity and a never assessment of androgyny. Directions for increased conceptual and methodology having psychometric definitions of androgyny and relation of sex role.

Lawellyn (1979) reported that research data support the idea that Sexual quality heightened social divorce rates by reducing women’s dependence on their husbands.

Masters and Johnson (1970) estimated that sexual inadequacies threaten or damage half the marriages in America.

Reddy, Birren and Warner (1981) identified that older couples had higher rating for emotional security and loyalty and lower rating for sexual pathology.

Bee (1994) asserted that Pre-marital relations may give a short lived sense of Joy. Through sexual release or a feeling of independence by rebelling against the traditional values, they do not confer permanency that the institution of marriage does.

The rarity of researches in the area of investigation i.e. Personality Characteristics and Behavioural Characteristics of Divorced and Married Women on these investigated variables, deterred the researcher to find any meaningful relationship between them, supported by the research studies, surveyed and explored. Therefore, the integration of the research studies on the above variables has not been presented.

A Summary, constituting of what has been learned through the Review of Related Research Literature and what remains to be learned; has been presented in the following paragraphs of this Chapter of Revised Thesis, at the behest of the learned examiner. The researcher is highly indebted to him/her and expresses her deep sense of gratitude for pointing out the pitfall.

**SUMMARY**
What, the above research studies cite in this Chapter made us to learn and what still remains to be learned has been summarized in the paragraphs that follow:-

The societies, Indian as well as, American and other oriental and occidental, place the ancient institution of marriage in high esteem. Different religions of the world Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism etc. also patronize marriage.

Contrary to this the divorce, incidents of which are ever multiplying at rampant rates, is considered as derogatory, not only in Indian society but also in advanced western societies.

The arduous exercise of Review of Related Literature, performed through various research findings, made us to learn about marriage, marital satisfaction, marital adjustment and that a happy marriage as a source of wellbeing/subjective wellbeing of persons who enter into the enterprise of marriage with love and enthusiasm and varied expectations towards their partners. The research studies cited above are documental of various psycho-social and familial factors affecting the marriage and contributing towards adjustment, satisfaction and happiness in marriage.

In the like manner the studies cited above have vividly documented different personal, psycho-social and familial factors negatively affecting the marriage and contributing towards maladjustment, dissatisfaction, disharmony and unhappiness in marriage; culminating into the most unpleasant divorce, through the process of separation etc.

The research studies have also highlighted different adverse effects on the partners of marriage who have finally decided to dissolve their marriage, and on their offspring. The children are the worst hit and great sufferers of divorce. The wives also suffer the consequences of divorce, a lot, physically, emotionally, and economically; and most of them suffer depression.

The research studies cited above did not enable us to learn anything substantial and decisive about the different Personality Characteristics (i.e. Extraversion and
Neuroticism) and Behavioural Characteristics (viz. Frustration, Thought Pathology, Depressive Emotions, Insecurity, Rationalization, Decision Making, and Sexual Pathology) of the Divorced Women and the distinction between Divorced and Married Women on the basis of these Personality Characteristics and Behavioural Characteristics.

Although, there are a few researches, cited above, pertain to the relationship of Personality Characteristics: Neuroticism & Extraversion; and Behavioural Characteristics: Rationalization, Decision Making, Thought Pathology, Depression etc. to unhappy marriage, divorce and divorced women but these are entirely in different orientation.

The Rationalization has been studied as Defense Mechanism used by the partners of unhappy marriage in context with anxiety and distress. Thought Pathology has been studied in context with Schizophrenics not the normal subjects. Depression has been studied as an outcome of divorce in divorced women. Decision Making has also not been studied as a Behavioural Characteristic of divorced women. Sexual Behaviour has also been studied in different orientation, not as Sexual Pathology in marriage partners or in divorced women.

As such these researches do not contribute anything valuable to the present investigation. And, thus, clearly establish the need of the present investigation as necessary, novel and useful. The findings of the present investigation will certainly have implications for Married Women who could save their marriages from dissolution and make their marriages happier. A happy and harmonious marriage is an asset to the partners, the offspring and the society at large, particularly the Indian society of Hindus.

The Sample, Design, Variables, Tools, and Procedure for Data Collection have been presented in the next Chapter – III entitled “Methodology”.