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DIVORCE AND ITS INFLUENCE ON SOCIAL PROGRESSION; SOCIAL WORKER INTERVENTION**R.A.R. Rasika Karunaratne***Lecturer in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.*

Abstract: Marriage is an important factor in any society as it helps to generate population and the existence of society. Therefore, marriage is considered an important phenomenon in all societies in this world. Also, marriage is made human relationships among people and primarily these relationships make massive role to society. The marriage that is an organization in society is highly considered as a major component of society and its impact can be considered positive and negative way. Therefore, Marriage is not mere legal bondage between a woman and a man. There is worth of having a marriage life not only biological but also sociological. Therefore, when people get matured, they tend to find a suitable partner for their marriage. Once married a couple continue their journey until the end of the breath. But some couples do not interest in a long journey

with one partner and they decide to stop their marriage life. Causing the different reasons, the marriage life can be damaged likely dissatisfaction of sexual life, conflict of ideology or any other reasons. Even though marriage life makes many advantages for their life and society, when they decide to divorce, it would adversely impact society and family. Therefore, the government involvement also the social worker intervention to establish welfare facilities for divorcees is most important. This paper discusses divorce and its impact on society and the importance of social worker intervention in families' crises.

Key words: Marriage, Divorce, Divorce Law, Social work Intervention, Sri Lanka

INTRODUCTION

Marriage and Divorce

Marriage is considered valuable active involvement in society. Albeit, divorce creates whacking social issues to the family also society. Hence, there should be understood why married people tend to divorce despite the importance of family bondage. It is a well-known fact that marriage is a bond of two parties and also there is a legal tie. According to Oxford Dictionary Thesaurus (The Oxford Dictionary, Thesaurus and word power Guide, 796) defines marriage is "The formal union of a man and a woman, by which they become husband and wife, a combination of two or more elements". Marriage, according to Radcliffe-Brown, is a social arrangement in which a child is granted a valid social place specified by parenthood in the social sense (<https://www.sociologyguide.com/marriage-family-kinship/index.php>). The above definitions have clearly depicted that marriage and its functions. There should be clearly understood what does mean divorce. Edit Ukpong has defined divorce as "a legal dissolution of the marriage relation; any formal separation of a man and his wife according to established custom; a complete separation of any kind" (Ukpong, 2014). Divorce is a result of marital instability as well as a type of family disintegration (Goode, 1970) According to the Oxford Dictionary of Sociology "Divorce the formal legal dissolution of a legally constituted marriage"(Scott and Marshall,2009). Accordingly, the above definitions depict what is divorce, in general, it can be concluded that divorce is a legal dissolution from the marriage life. Thereby, all bondage of married life would be finished after divorce.

Methodology

The prime intention of the study was to examine the status of divorce and its influence on social progression. In line with that, empirical research studies and secondary data were used to examine this article and also qualitative systematic review has been applied to achieve the objective of this article.

Divorce Trend in World

Feminists consider the loss of marriage as a tradition as a good thing because conventional marriage is a patriarchal institution. Women initiate the majority of divorce procedures, implying that marriage is less successful for women than for males (<https://revisesociology.com/2015/03/28/the-consequences-of-declining-marriage->).In the almost four decades between 1970 and 2008, the global divorce rate more than doubled, rising from 2.6 to 5.5 divorces per 1,000 married persons. These figures are averaged across all of the world's areas surveyed (<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/living-single/201902/divorce-rates->). In the United States, the marriage rate is now 6.8 per 1,000 people. The divorce rate in the United States is 3.2 per 1,000 people. The "crude divorce rate" is the term for this the divorce rate per 1000 married women is at 16.9%. Many analysts believe that this is a better indicator of genuine divorce rates than the crude rate. The divorce rate per 1000 married women is about twice as high as it was in 1960, though it is down from an all-time high of 22.6 in the early 1980s. In the United States, about half of all marriages end in divorce or separation. According to studies, 41% of all first marriages end in divorce. The majority of second marriages end in divorce, with 60% of them ending in divorce. 73% per cent of third marriages result in divorce. The United States has the world's sixth-highest divorce rate ([2](https://www.wf-lawyers.com/divorce-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

statistics-and-facts/). No one expects a marriage to end in divorce. According to data from the government's National Survey of Family Growth, more than 20% of first marriages terminate in divorce within five years, and 48% of marriages dissolve by the 20-year mark (Sbarra and Smith, and Matthias, 2012). Although European divorce rates are lower than those in the United States, they have been increasing in the majority of European countries in recent decades. Between 1971 and 2007, the crude divorce rate in Belgium went from 0.73 to 2.8, in the Netherlands from 0.88 to 2.0, in the United Kingdom from 1.2 to 2.4, in Greece from 0.42 to 1.2, and in Italy from 0.32 to 0.80. The divorce rate has stayed relatively steady in certain countries (such as Norway and Romania), fallen somewhat in others (such as the United Kingdom and Iceland), and increased in others (such as the United States) (such as Portugal and Bulgaria) (Amato and, James,2010).

Reasons and associated factors regarding Divorce in general

Many reasons which have been caused to end marriage life should be followed to understand the reality behind the divorce. When it considered the factors affecting to end marriage life, there can be seen numerous reasons therefore, it is important to understand the common factors that have been caused to dissolution in the world context then it easily can be identified overwhelming factors in common.

It's important to note that divorce doesn't happen for one reason alone and that most divorces and separations are caused by a combination of circumstances. Here's a rundown of what they're all about: Women's self-sufficiency, arranged weddings and marriages that are too young, economic considerations, inadequate intellectual, educational, and social abilities, divorce laws that are more liberal, incompatibility is caused by sexual variables, conflicts of roles, alcoholism and substance addiction, as well as high-risk behaviour, disagreements between couples can lead to acrimony, Factors of religion and Divorce attitudes (Lowenstein, 2005). Working paper on towards understanding the reasons for divorce has discussed that the most common factors for divorce are communication problems. In addition to incompatibility / drifting apart is the major cause (Wolcott and Hughes, 1999). The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) contacted 52 divorced people who had completed a "Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program" before getting married in 2013 research (<https://www.itsovereasy.com/insights/causes-of-divorce>). The couples were reviewed 14 years later, and the study discovered that the following were among the causes for divorce among this cohort: Absence of romantic love/intimacy (24 per cent), Abuse of alcohol and other drugs (21 per cent), Concerns about control (16 per cent), Financial difficulties (14 per cent) One of the partners in the marriage isn't pulling their weight (14 per cent), Extramarital affairs/infidelity (10 per cent), A partner's abandonment (10 per cent) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4012696/>) The following are the top 13 reasons based on research of surveys in which 20% or more of respondents cited the following reasons: Relationship disintegration due to conflict, bickering, and irreversible breakup, Lack of dedication, Extramarital affairs/infidelity, Lack of physical intimacy/distance in the relationship, Problems with partner communication, Domestic violence is defined as a partner's verbal, physical, or emotional abuse, Realizing that one's partner has different morals and beliefs than one does, Alcoholism and substance abuse, Absence of romantic love/intimacy, One of the partners in the marriage isn't pulling their weight, Debt financial difficulties Too young of a marriage, Incompatibility between spouses due to a lack of common interests (<https://www.itsovereasy.com/insights/causes-of->

divorce). The above details explained that the reasons for marriage breakdown in common, in addition, there could be another uncommon matter about divorce.

Divorce in Sri Lanka

The divorce rate in the world has been dramatically increased due to many reasons therefore, attention has also been given to exploring the world context of divorce to identify the reality in the world. The prevailing condition of marriage could not be a happy matter when it is considered. Since lack of mutual understanding and other social, economic factors are always threatening to the stability of family life. The trending of divorce in the world is untypical moving into social existence and it gives the wrong precedent to people. This prevailing circumstance of dissolution marriage life brings many adverse effects to society. This part especially focuses to understand the current situation of divorce in Sri Lanka.

Divorce is now seen as a severe problem in many nations throughout the world. However, in terms of divorce patterns in Sri Lanka, it is clear that there has been a significant improvement in recent years. Adultery, abject desertion, and incurable impotence are the three basic criteria for divorce in Sri Lankan law. Furthermore, compared to 42 per cent in the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka's divorce rate is estimated to be at 1.5 per cent of the population (Amaratunga and Waruni, 2018). The research "A Sociological Study on Divorce and its Social Impact in Sri Lanka" was conducted in the Gampaha District of the Western Province. The majority of divorced people in this survey were between the ages of 30 and 35. The number of people who divorced after only a few years of marriage was significant. One of the most striking features is that 62 per cent of the overall data sample divorced within two years of becoming married. Furthermore, this research study reveals that the following factors contributed to the divorce: concerns about the economy, relationships between a man and a woman that are not legal, violence in the home, not getting the dowry that was expected, adolescence, excessive alcoholism is a condition in which a person consumes an excessive amount of alcohol addiction to drugs, a wife getting a job in another country, sexual illnesses and difficulties, Issues with communication desertion with malice, not respect for one another, irresponsibility towards one another (Amaratunga and Wickramaarachchi, 2018). It is counted that 400 divorces occur per day; it is clear that Sri Lanka is dealing with a serious societal problem. The growing divorce rate, particularly in Asian nations such as Sri Lanka, where marriage is viewed as a lifetime commitment, is the issue of how this extraordinary turn of events occurred. According to a recent survey conducted by the health authorities, 54 per cent of marriages in Sri Lanka end in divorce. According to Ms Anusha Gokula Fernando, Director, Western Provincial Council's Social Services, the majority of divorces occur within a year of marriage, with roughly 3,890 mothers under the age of 18 being among them. The situation appears to be dire (Aryaratne, 2016).

Many decades ago, the structure of family and relationships among family members were very strong, and it was highly concerned about the stable marriage life due to the broken family is a black mark of the prestigious of family. Concerning divorce in the archaic society that was a less numerical value and it was not a compelling matter in society. Therefore, the married couple frequently endeavoured to protect their marriage life without much exposing unnecessary involvement and harmful matters. Unfortunately, in the present society divorce has become a general phenomenon due to many reasons. Introducing free education was the turning point in Sri Lankan society, thereafter, more access to education was opened for men also women, this revolution was directly

impacted society in both negative and positive ways. Under these circumstances, people have become more independent and concerned about freedom and human rights ever before. This challenging phenomenon spontaneously leads to bringing up new ideological people into society. Especially, women also opened the many accesses to join with education and it was helped to generate a powerful personality for society. This transformation has been made many changes in the life of women and now they have enough strength to stand alone against any issues in society. Therefore, at the moment in society, most women do not much concern about marriage and also there is no important place in their life. Accordingly, it has been caused to increase divorce cases day by day in Sri Lankan society. The picture of divorce in Sri Lanka is not at a satisfactory level at all when compared to where the traditional society was.

Divorce Law in Sri Lanka

A married couple who suffers many difficulties in their family life wishes to dissolution from the married life then they have to plead the court. The process of divorce in Sri Lanka is not an easy one and it draws many years to get a final decision after filing the case. If there is a country that bears an easy path to divorce spontaneously it promotes divorce without concern of the importance of family commitment. It is vitally important to understand of legal provision for divorce in Sri Lanka. Therefore, this section focuses to examine the divorce law and its background in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has a multi-jurisdictional legal system that includes both general and specific laws. In Sri Lanka, there are three major ethnic groups: Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims. Different customs were followed by various groups prior to western dominance. While the Sinhalese and Tamils had their traditions, the Muslims were ruled by Islamic rules. Dissolution of marriage was founded on the breakdown of marital ideas according to customary laws during that period (Wijeysekera, 2004).

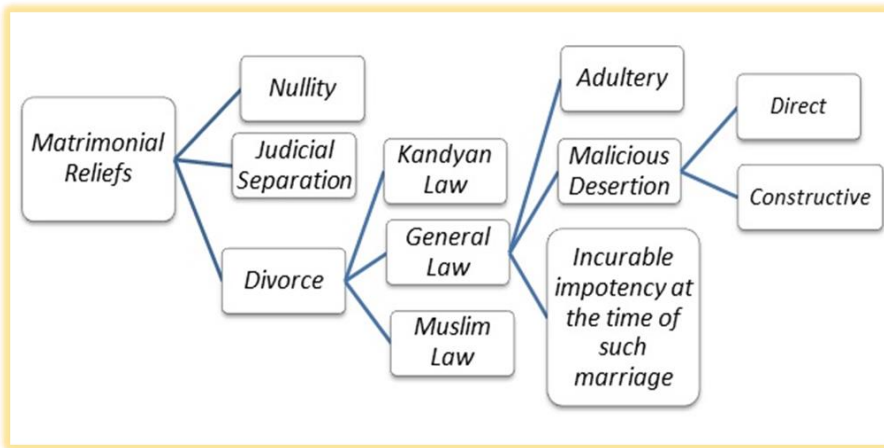
When it concerns divorce law in Sri Lanka which can be discussed under the three categories.

1. Marriage Registration Ordinance No. 19 of 1907
2. Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act No. 44 of 1952
3. Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act No. 13 of 1951

Upcountry Sinhalese who marries under the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act is governed by Kandyan law. The Act recognizes a variety of grounds, including matrimonial blame and irreversible marriage breakdown. In accordance with section 32 of Act 19 (Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act No. 44 of 1952). In Sri Lanka, Muslim law is a personal law that recognizes multiple grounds for divorce for husband and wife. There are both faulting and non-fault reasons for divorce in this law. **Talaq, Fasah, Mubarak, and Khula** are the four main types of divorce in Islam. In order to secure a divorce, the husband must follow the second schedule and the wife must follow the third schedule, according to sections 27 and 28 of the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act No. 13 of 1951 (Ekanayaka, 2016). Sri Lankan divorce rules are mostly incorporated in the country's civil law. Other rules, such as Sharia law or Kandyan law, may apply to specific ethnic communities. Adultery, malicious desertion, and incurable impotence at the time of marriage are the three grounds for divorce in Sri Lanka under civil law (<https://www.wiselaw.co.uk/international-divorce-lawyers/lk/>). The general law governing divorce in Sri Lanka is the Marriage Registration Ordinance No. 19 of 1907. This Ordinance mostly affects Tamils and Sinhalese in the lowlands. Furthermore, Kandyan Sinhalese have the option of divorcing under Kandyan or universal law. Adultery, intentional desertion, and

incurable impotence at the time of marriage are three grounds for divorce under section 19(2) of the Marriage Registration Ordinance (Ekanayaka, 2016).

Divorce Law in Sri Lanka



Sources: <http://www.cmathew.com/family-matters/divorce/323-divorce-law-of-sri-lanka-in-a-nutshell>

When it considers divorce law in Sri Lanka it has been taken a significant place than other existing laws in the country. It is shown that three types of divorce law can be applied. Which law should apply is dependent on their matrimonial law. Either whatever ethnic group represent or marry under the special regional law enforced, there should be one law for all people in the country. It is high time to change divorce law in Sri Lanka and the process of divorce should be escalated for prompt actions.

Impact of divorce on Society?

The result of divorce is not just the end of a marriage; it raises many issues which bring not only for the family but also society. Literally, marriage is not just a relationship between men and women which are a social organization that directly contribute to the continuous proceed of a conducive society. The collapse of married life would break social relationships among husband and wife also if there are children. Therefore, it is important to perceive how divorce impacts society.

The immediate effect of divorce is that the children of divorcees will have an avoidable future life. The children are frequently disturbed psychologically; they suffer from depression and anxiety, exhibit behavioural issues such as aggression and fighting, and perform poorly in school, maintaining lower educational levels. When compared to men, women frequently suffer more following a divorce and have a bigger decline in their level of life. Women are more likely than men to keep custody of their children. For divorced women, the move to divorce brings with it extra negative consequences, financial problems, time constraints, and family duties the second marriage, often known as remarriage, has become a difficult task for women. Divorce has a psychological and societal impact on divorced males. Divorced men encounter issues such as lower happiness, a desire to stay at home, depression, health issues, and drug addiction. Finding a new spouse is particularly difficult because the divorced man is regarded as a person who has lost social standing. They experience rejection, desertion, and low self-esteem, and as a result, they become angry, constantly speaking seriously, and their sense of humour is also lost, and they miss their children (Waseema

and Jayathunga, 2017). Children who would be impacted by the divorce of their parents would most probably lead to many personality disorders. When the children are in primary or nursery school, they will face queries from their friends about why they only have one parent at home. They'll have to adjust to a shift in their primary relationships, as well as maybe limited connection with one of their parents (mostly the father). Aside from that, they must deal with parental conflict, which may persist after the divorce, as well as attempts by each parent to acquire the child's devotion and affection at the expense of the other parent (Lauer, 1995).

It is clearly can be seen that divorce brings many social issues in society due to the separation of women and men from their marriage life. In Sri Lankan society most probably the bed winner is the father and it leads functioning patriarchal society. Therefore, the father is the head of the family and he has more responsibility to earn and nurture all family members. Under these circumstances, more power centers on the father having vested power from conventional society to apply without demanding his partner. It is serious fact that whenever a father wants to separate from his family he can leave without any trouble of partner but his family members obviously precipitate and destitute in terms of the financial crisis and unprotecting in society. Children and mothers have to undergo much trouble with other people created. Most of the time, some men try to pervade divorced women looking at their helplessness. There is no positive point of view on divorce women in our society because our people still have conventional rooted ideas and also, they have tended to look the wrong point of view at them. In considering this kind of situation divorce women never keep a good place in society. But nowadays it has been changed a bit. Getting educated people are aware of reality and they try to get rid of convention and think out of the box. It is really appreciated the quality of people and should be prevailed in every nook and corner in the society. Divorce is a high-risk factor if there are children because children would be influenced by many cases of abuse from relation or vicinal due to lack of attention of parents. Eventually, the process of divorce originates diverse social issues in society. Thereupon, the government also has to pay attention to prevent existing issues by taking awareness programs or any other preventing methods to establish a wholesome society.

Importance of Social Worker Intervention for Family Issues

Family is the most important social organization in society as it makes a solid foundation for the stability of any society. Therefore, frequently people care about the existence of family dispute issues are arise around the family. In modern society, people have become more complex with the busy work environments and most families are struggling to manage their lifestyle in accordance with the current economic process. Accordingly, all the people cannot reach the level of achievement that they expect manner. Under this circumstance, there are collisions between expectations and achievements thereby people have to work hard to earn money irrespectively family relationships this could lead to a break of family bondage. Therefore, in modern society, the social worker intervention towards family protection has become an important matter ever before. It is important to understand how social workers can involve in the welfare of a family. When it is especially considered divorce the social worker can involve in two ways as before divorce and after the divorce.

Social worker intervention before making divorce

Divorce is not a mere word that depicts a bond on signature but there are a lot of responsibilities, accountability and dedication in this frame. There may be many ups and downs in any life is general phenomena in line with this the married couple should have an acknowledgement to overwhelm the

chaos coming back marriage life but unfortunately, the most of them have become failing to make fine answer to their issues. Therefore, society also has a responsibility to reduce the divorce cases because increasing the rate of divorce showcase a huge picture of cracking of the society and it could be a stimulating factor for others to make the easiest answer for the family issue. The need for involvement at the beginning of the issue is more important than making a solution after the worst of the problem.

It is one of the best approaches to address for people who are having issues in family life is social worker intervention by giving counselling to them to solve their problems. Then the rate of divorce would be gradually decreased. The approach of social worker intervention is basically an important role in reducing divorce cases. Thereby the social worker has a tremendous task to do when working with people who have family problems. Anyhow social work first stage has to find access to the issues using the organization which is involved in family wellbeing or such a government institute provides facilities on behalf of family welfare. After identifying the real issue for the family break the social worker can help them to lose the problem in complexity. Providing family counselling for the struggling family is not easy because at the beginning no one gets ready to come congruence, in this critical environment the social worker has to be more patient with them otherwise there would not be any other alternative for it. In the middle of a crisis, the social worker is in a position to join hands with the family and he should honestly be able to guide them to overcome the issues. In compliance with this process, the social worker intervention can be successful in family problems. Intervention, guidance and counselling are the most powerful tools to use to decrease divorce cases. Therefore, the social worker intervention before making a decision on divorce is an important role and he also can quite change the prior taken decisions by convincing of the importance of having a married life and the impact of divorce on their child and society. Accordingly, it seems to be that the social worker possesses an effective role in restoring society.

Social worker intervention on divorce family

The social worker who is one of the conciliators against anyone who expects to get divorced from her/ his partner can also be an arbitrator against the family issues by providing counselling. If the social worker intervention does not succeed at this point and both of them do not come to congruence to continue their married life without any issue, thereby, the social worker can involve establishing welfare of the divorce family. Therefore, the social worker can help a person either before the divorce or after divorce for the sustainable existence of a family. The divorcee who does not have a job to sustain has to depend on the other family members this obviously could bring many issues for that person. There are a lot of issues specially created around women after the divorce that has to look after and nurture children if they have, indeed this is no easy task for mother because it has a lot of responsibilities to do until matures their children. How the social workers can help divorcees to escape the issues in their life? Providing counselling is one of the most important factors at the initiate stage. After the divorce they may become hopeless or destitute therefore, there should be special protection or recovery mechanism for them. Especially divorcees (Women) come from rural societies have to face a lot of barriers therefore it is better to have many welfare schemes to reinforce them. If the women don't have a job and stay home, the social worker can direction to find a job or refer to training programs. Through this training, the divorce would be able to find their competencies to engage in self-employment or find a suitable job. In addition, some non-

governmental organizations provide subsidies for divorcees and most of them are not aware of these things, therefore, social workers can share the available opportunities in society. Not only the divorcee but also the children of them become frustrated due to the separation of mother or father. Therefore, there should be some kind of support to emancipate from the problem that they face in their life causing the divorce of their parents and also it is needed to be the aide for their education. In the broad spectrum of the role of the social worker who should work to fulfil the needs of prejudiced party in divorce should not restrict his duty on one party likely mother or child and he has to work with all of them.

Accordingly, it has clearly appeared that the importance of the social worker intervention on families which have become helpless and destitute causing the divorce of the mother or father should be given the effective and interactive intervention of social worker.

Conclusion

The above facts are evidence that the problem of divorce and its impact on society. Here, this work basically focuses to identify the issues of divorce in Sri Lanka and its social impact on society apart from that, to examine the importance of social worker intervention and how can social worker intervene to solve family issues and how can they help to reduce of development thoughts of divorce and also the important to explore the social worker task on separated family, such kind of topics have been concerned in this work. It is obvious that divorce has brought several issues into society, therefore, it is important to focus on this current issue in order to re-build social rituals and cultural values among people. The government authority also has a responsibility to take action against divorce. Therefore, there should be a strong family counselling mechanism to avoid divorce and promote social worker intervention to solve family associated problems. Currently, the intervention of social workers in society is not satisfied matter, therefore the government should endeavour to promote social worker intervention for the social crises. With a view to establishing the well-functioning societal system, there should be restored existing social policy in order to sustainable development in society that can be done through well identifying the mechanism. The social worker intervention process can be expedited through only the well-established strong social policy.

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