

A Study of Some Modernity's Factors Effective on Women's Tendency toward Divorce (Research Subjects: Married Women in Zanjan)

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Introduction

Social developments globally have brought numerous changes for the family system, so families are increasingly exposed to the risk of disintegration. Like other societies, in Iran besides the official statistics of divorce, there are separated lives in which the couple live together only physically; although they get emotionally separated as the time passes, they do not get a divorce due to cultural, traditional and even legal reasons. These cases describe the condition which is called tendency towards divorce in this research. Ferdinand Tonnies, a German sociologist, considers modernity as a movement through interpersonal bonds of «community» toward Individualism or invisible and unknown individuality of «society». By bringing up the contrast between «altruism» and «egoism», Durkheim believes that in «egoism», the activity and the beliefs of individual prefers to social bonds and there is little bond between the individual and the society, disrupting the balance between the individual and the society; on the other hand, «altruism» refers to a condition in which a severe connection exists to the beneficiary of society. Also, Anthony Giddens believes modernity has three characteristics (local cross human relationships, dominance of abstract systems and symbolic signs) and finally, the reflecting quality of modernity, of whose consequences are self-criticism or the formation of personal identity, realization of self and self-reflection, these characteristics separate modernity from pre-modern and traditional system and relations. In fact, Giddens and other intellectuals like Toffler and Turner believe globalization, the situation where events and incidents influence remote locations in a short time, is one of the most influential elements in the family system at the modern era. According to Turner, "the family" as a social institution faces increasing contradictions within the process of globalization; there is an essence for women's economic participation in family on the one hand and the tendency toward motherhood on the other. Intimacy and close-knit relationships with children, and spouse, wouldn't be easily created when both parents are in full employment. These issues cause tensions at the family level, one of whose consequences is an increase in the number of divorces.

Materials & Methods

The method of this study is survey which uses a researcher-made questionnaire as its data-collecting instrument. Research population includes all women of Zanjan in three regions of the city from whom 400 cases were chosen using cluster multistage sampling method. Finally, the gathered data was analyzed through SPSS software.

Discussion of Results and Conclusion

The results of the study show that there is a significant and direct relationship between tendency towards divorce with individualism and its dimensions, including the growth of rationality (free choice), changes of society's norms (the negative view toward women's housekeeping) and changing people's attitudes toward emotional and sentimental

relationships with the opposite sex). There is a significant and direct relationship between changing society's norms and women's tendency in emotional dimension with tendency toward getting a divorce. According to Pearson regression test, there is an internal relationship among independent factors of the model. Also, multivariate analysis showed that only individualism has a direct influence on probability of getting a divorce.

Two other factors, have a direct influence just on behavioral dimension of the variable tendency toward getting divorce. The point is that modernism is not a single global prescription. But each country has its own version of modernism according to their appropriate cultural and social values. The problems reveals when modernism is not compatible with behavior. It means that traditional regnant thoughts are featured as

opponents of modernism and we show strong defiance against basic and legitimate changes. These conflicts can make so many basic tensions in peoples' social life and especially in their matrimonial relationships and inside their family, leaving the only solution for that to be a divorce. So, it can be said that modernism can affect all cultures and in some cases it makes ruptures in the family.

Keywords: Modernism, Individualism, Globalization, Divorce

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