

Emotional Divorce in Tehran City¹

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Abstract: *This article studies emotional divorce and the sociological factors effective on it in the city of Tehran. The statistical population of the research includes all the families residing in the city of Tehran and the sampling methodology is two-stage random and cluster sampling method. The theoretical framework of the research is a combination of the theory of structural functionalism and the theory of globalization of Anthony Giddens in the family domain. The methodology of the research is survey methodology and the data are gathered by researcher-made questionnaire. The results illustrate that the variables of 'the discipline within family' with -0.698, 'the hierarchy of power in family' with 0.631, and 'the social capital in family' with 0.563, have the most meaningful relationship with the amount of emotional divorce. Also the regression results of the research show that the independent variables of the research explain almost 0.665 of the variance and changes of emotional divorce.*

Keywords: *divorce, emotional divorce, functionalism, globalization, discipline within family, hierarchy of power.*

Introduction

Family as the first social institution and the oldest natural core has existed since the outset of emergence of human. Any harm to this social institution means the harm to other social institutions. Marriage is the base for formation of the family and the reverse polarity of it is divorce which obliterates it. Divorce is followed by individual, family and social disintegration and has more negative effects for women than for men (Musai et al, 2011). Also in addition to individuals, it imposes many expenses towards the body of society (Schramm2006). The studies illustrate that in nineteenth century only about 5 percent of marriages ended up in divorce, but in the twentieth century and nowadays almost half of the marriages end up in divorce. Researchers recognize factors such as the increase in financial independence of women, decrease in the income of men without academic degrees, the increase in individual's expectations from marriage and the rather more social acceptance of divorce, as influential factors on this issue (Amato2000).

The phenomenon of divorce in the last two decades is increasing in Iranian society and this issue indicates significant changes in the structure of family foundation in the society. Based on the official statistics, in the year 1385 the most number of divorces had been in Tehran province with 24,667 cases and the least number of divorces had been in Ilam province with 229 cases. In the year 1386 the number of registered divorces was 99,852 cases which in comparison with the year 1375 had increased more than 1.5 times. The highest ratio of divorce and marriage in the year 1386 has been for Tehran province with 17.9 percent (The Statistics and Population Office of Iran's National Organization for Civil Registration).

The changes and transformation of the structure of civil family and its influence on everyday life of humans have put the modern family on the route of new needs which fulfillment of them is not always possible. One of these needs is the emotional need in the family. Once the traditional view of individuals towards divorce disappears and the emotional needs of the couple are not being fulfilled in the family, the ground for emotional divorce

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intensifies, and this issue is more intense in larger cities, especially metropolitans like Tehran. In this article it is endeavored to study the emotional dimension of divorce in Iranian society (city of Tehran) and the sociological elements influential on that.

The conceptual and theoretical aspects of emotional divorce

Paul Bohannan considers emotional divorce, psychological divorce, legal divorce, economic divorce and community divorce as the main variety of separations which come forward in the process of divorce. He also considers the emotional divorce as the first stage in the process of divorce which indicates the deteriorating marital relationship that the sense of strangeness replaces it (Bohannan, 1970; cited Olson & Defrain, 2006: 449). The emotional divorce involves the loss of confidence, respect and love towards each other. Instead of supporting each other, the couple act in a way to harm, defeat or decline of each other's self-respect, and each seek to find a reason to prove the other side's fault and shortcoming (Laur & Laur: 2007). The divorces can be categorized into two separate groups:

1. Apparent divorces: it is applied to divorces in which the couples refer to the court of law and officially separate from each other and abrogate their marriage certificate.
2. Concealed marriage: these are marriages which from all aspects have the specifications of the first type divorces, but on account of special cultural, spiritual, situational, legal and value boundaries do not become apparent. This kind of divorce is also called "silent divorce" or "emotional divorce". The emotional divorce is a situation that on the surface the structure of the family is preserved but in fact the family is void inside.

The theoretical framework of this research article is based on the theory of functionalism and the theory of globalization of Anthony Giddens; nowadays the Iranian family is in challenge with the globalization phenomenon, in such a manner that it has even threatened its structure, and the formation of some concealed forms of families is one of these issues. Globalization in its most original meaning from one side involves the condensation of the entire world, and from the other side involves a fast increase in the self-awareness of the whole world.

Anthony Giddens believes that many of social problems in all economic, political, cultural and social stages should be explained by globalization. He studies the changes in family foundation in a global level by weakening of traditions and reduction in their impressiveness. In his opinion, traditional family, wherever located, has the tendency towards considering certain roles for man and woman in the context of marriage.

One who got married certainly would know what the life had figured for them. Marriage was considered as an organized passage in life. (Giddens, 2000)

From his point of view, existence of certain roles in the foundation of marriage is due to work distribution and sharing of duties in the family. Giddens believes that now the traditional structure of family has changed and this is in the essence of modernity. The previous roles of man and woman are not fixed in the contemporary societies anymore, and marriage is not anymore as a clear foundation as it was. Giddens maintains that there is no return to traditional family because the traditional family was standing on the basis of unbalance and this is not compatible with democracy. Giddens in this regards propounds the issue of reflexivity and self-identity:

In contemporary societies all over the world self and self-identity have become ever-increasingly reflexive. Self-identity takes part in reflection of late-modernity and this situation is generalized to the whole world. In most of the traditional cultures the idea of self and its endurance are responsibility of traditional structures which while limiting you, provide your life with endurance and stability..... in the contemporary world you cannot have one self unless you yourself to some extent build it actively. (ibid)

From Giddens point of view, detraditionalization which is of characteristics of modern contemporary world does not mean the complete elimination of tradition, but it means that individuals rethink about these traditions and then use them in their everyday social life.

If in the past the structure of Iranian family was based on social traditions, today these traditions have been reconsidered and the result of that is the unbalance of the system of the family. Distancing of family structure from tradition and following to that being influenced by the globalization phenomenon has caused change of the couple's role, also their expectation and duties are not like the past. Thus it can be stated that the change of role in the family is one of the grounds for intrafamily dispute and as a result of that the emotional divorce.

Based on the Parsons' social order and functionalism theory, the influential and ground making factors in emotional divorce, which have been intensified by globalization's impression, can be anticipated by the absence of any of four main functions of the family:

- When the function of environmental compatibility of the family foundation decreases.
- When the function of goal achieving encounters disorders.
- When the function of unity and unanimity of the family faces disorders.
- When the system of cultural paradigms of the family is damaged and the family is unable to prepare necessary paradigms and incentives for preservation and survival of the family.

Research Methodology

Study method for emotional divorce amongst families in the city of Tehran is the survey methodology. The merit of survey is in efficiency and the appropriate explanation power of the characteristics of analysis units and precise comparison of their characteristics with assistance of scientific inference (De Vaus 2002). The data gathering tool is by researcher-made questionnaire. The gathered data have been analyzed and studied using SPSS software.

The Statistical Population and Sampling Method

The statistical population of this research includes the entire married families in the city of Tehran. Based on the statistics of Iran's Statistics Center the total number of married families in Tehran in the year 1387 was equal to 2,268,766. The sampling method is two-stage simple random and cluster sampling method.

The Research Presumptions

1. There is a meaningful relationship between hierarchy of power in the family and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.
2. There is a meaningful relationship between work situation outside home (work weariness) of couple and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.
3. There is a meaningful relationship between harmony and homogeneity of couple before marriage and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.
4. There is a meaningful relationship between the family's economic-social base and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.
5. There is a meaningful relationship between religiosity of couple and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.
6. There is a statistically meaningful relationship between mental and physical health of couple and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.
7. There is a statistically meaningful relationship between intrafamily discipline and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.
8. There is a statistically meaningful relationship between social capital within the family and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.

Research Findings

A. Descriptive Findings

Based on the results, 55.9 percent of respondents are men and almost 44.1 percent are women. Around 32.9 percent of respondents are in the age group of 27-34 which is the highest abundance. Also 35.3 percent of respondents have studied in high-school, or have high-school diploma which has the most abundance among educational levels. Also the highest abundance of the education of spouse is in this group. Based on the type of occupation 38.4 percent of the breadwinner of families are self-employed. 92.4 percent of respondents have stated that they enjoy from average and high physical and mental health and the rest were not satisfied with their health status.

The descriptive results of indicators illustrate that the indicator of social assets within family has a proper situation. Inasmuch as in 54.4 percent of families, this indicator is on a high level. Also the indicator of religiosity in families illustrates that this indicator in 62.3 percent of families is in a high and proper situation. The discipline within families is one of the other under study indicators which in 68.4 percent of families is in a

high state. The descriptive results show that the structure of decision making capability in Tehrani families is based on sharing of ideas and the structure of decision making is not autocratic and arbitrary.

From the other results of the research, is the harmony and homogeneity of the couple in different issues. The results show that the status for homogamy is in a desirable status as according to the opinions of respondents only 3.7 percent of respondents stated that the amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple between them is low. The work weariness is of other studied issues; based on the results the amount of it is not high among Tehrani families as in 45.1 percent of families the amount of it is very low and little. The economic-social base of the families illustrates that 54.7 percent of families are in average level. One of the noteworthy results is the amount of incidence of emotional divorce among Tehrani families. The results of current research illustrate that almost 6.5 percent of Tehrani families believe that they suffer from emotional divorce.

B. Examining the Presumptions

Table (2): examining research's presumptions and the amount of Pearson coefficient

Row	Presumptions	Pearson Coefficient	Level of Meaningfulness
1	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between hierarchy of power in the family and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	-0.631 **	0.000
2	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between work situation (outside home - work weariness) of couple and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	0.263 **	0.000
3	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between harmony and homogeneity of couple before marriage and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	-0.494 **	0.000
4	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between the family's economic-social base, and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	-0.049	0.434
5	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between the religiosity of couple and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	- 0.377 **	0.000
6	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between mental and physical health of couple and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	-0.602 **	0.000
7	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between intrafamily discipline and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	-0.698 **	0.000
8	It appears that there is a meaningful relationship between social capital within family and emotional divorce among Tehrani families.	-0.563 **	0.000

Table (2) has examined the results of research presumptions and the relationship between independent variables with emotional divorce. Based on the results, except for work weariness, the other relationships are positive. Also the table indicates that the economic-social base of the family has no meaningful relationship with emotional divorce. Therefore in this presumption, the research presumption is refuted and the zero presumption which indicates the nonexistence of relationship between economic-social base of the family and emotional divorce is approved. Also the table demonstrates that the intrafamily discipline with amount of -0.698 and meaningfulness level of 0.000 has a positive and strong relationship with the amount of emotional divorce and after that is the hierarchy of power within family.

C. Regression Analysis

The regression analysis is one of the highly utilized methods in social studies and is one of the study methods of relationship between variables. The regression analysis provides this opportunity for the researcher to predict the changes of dependent variable by independent variables, and it defines the share of each of the independent variables in explaining dependent variable.

Table (3) the results of regression

Model	Correlation Coefficient R	Coefficient of Determination R ²	Adjusted Coefficient of Determination
1	0.816	0.665	0.648

In order to defining the effect of all independent variables on dependent variable, all the independent variables simultaneously were entered into the analysis and the impacts of all the independent variables on dependent variable were studied. In this model all the independent variables (physical-mental health level of couple, the hierarchy of power within family, the amount of social capital within family, the level of religiosity of couple, the amount of discipline within family, the amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple, the amount of work weariness, economic-social base, the amount of sexual satisfaction of couple and the duration of marriage) that in the past the interior correlation level of them had been assessed, and were meaningful, entered the analysis. The correlation coefficient of all independent variables has been obtained with the dependent variable of 0.816 and the coefficient of determination of 0.665. The amount of coefficient of determination illustrates that the existing variables in the model have been capable of defining 66.5 percent of the changes of the dependent variable. The other changes in the model are being defined by other factors which are from outside of theoretical model.

Table (4): the β coefficients, and the amount of T and the level of meaningfulness of variables in regression equation

Variables	standardized coefficients	Non-standardized coefficients		T	Sig
	β	Standard Error	B		
Constant		0.229	4,351	19,020	0.000
Level of physical-mental health of couple	- 0.171	0.073	- 0.160	- 2,197	0.029
Amount of social capital	- 0.117	0.062	- 0.131	- 2,122	0.035
Level of religiosity of couple	- 0.117	0.050	- 0.121	- 2,408	0.017
Intrafamily discipline	- 0.285	0.060	- 0.294	- 4,868	0.000
Amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple	- 0.165	0.054	- 0.181	- 3,354	0.001
Amount of work weariness	- 0.047	0.044	- 0.045	- 1,009	0.314
Economic-social base of the family	0.057	0.039	- 0.052	1,331	0.185
Hierarchy of power in family	- 0.174	0.059	- 0.171	- 2912	0.004
Duration of marriage	0.007	0.024	- 0.004	0.169	0.866
The couple's sexual behavior	- 0.109	0.067	- 0.105	- 1,572	0.118

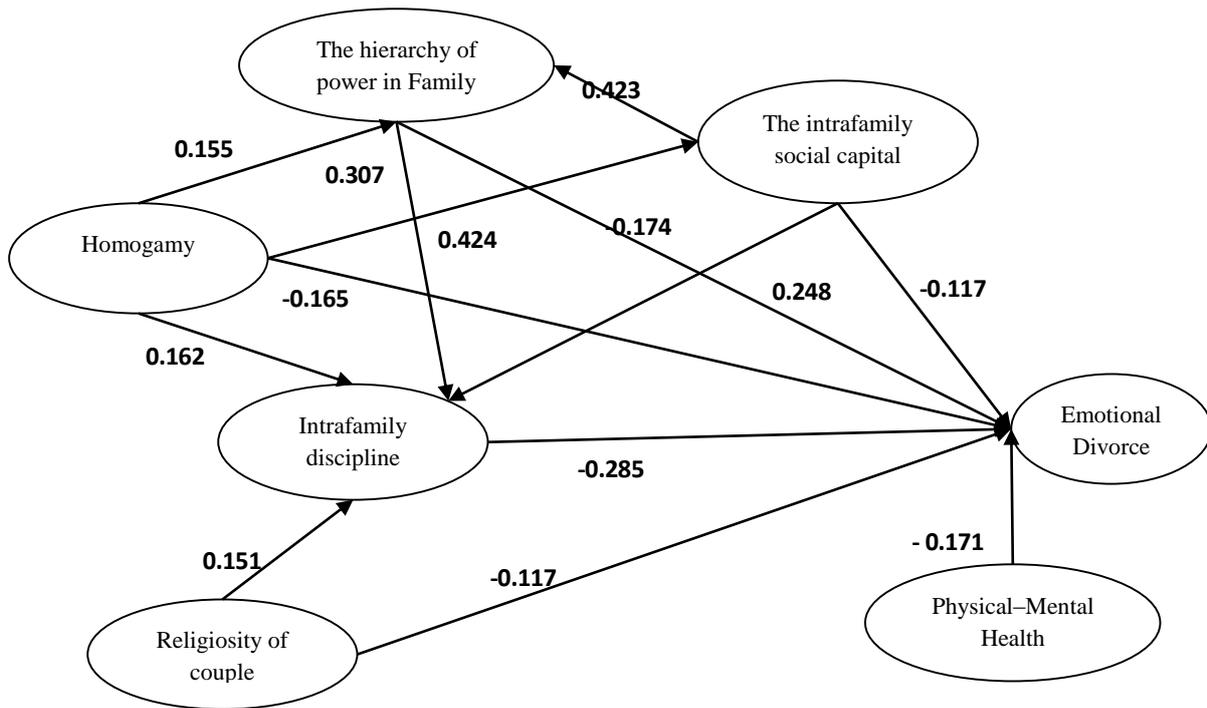
As it can be observed in table (4) the regression coefficients and the level of meaningfulness of each variable can be found, and in this model the variables of the amount of social capital within family, hierarchy of power in family, the level of physical and mental health of couple, the level of religiosity of couple, the amount of intrafamily discipline and amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple became meaningful, also the variables of amount of work weariness, economic-social base, amount of sexual satisfaction of couple from each other and the duration of marriage considering the amount of T and the level of meaningfulness of 0.05 have not been meaningful. Therefore considering the Beta coefficients the impact of variables can be compared with each other. The intrafamily discipline has had the highest amount of reverse impact on the amount of emotional divorce amongst couple; in a way that the higher the amount of discipline within a family rises, the lower is the amount of emotional divorce of couple becomes.

Considering the resulted coefficients, the hierarchy of power within family is also the next variable which has had the highest impact on the amount of emotional divorce amongst couples, which means the higher the decision making power of couple grows in the family the more the amount of emotional divorce decreases between couples. Also considering the meaningfulness level of 0.05 and achieved β coefficients, the variables of the level of physical and mental health of couple, the amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple, the level of religiosity of couple, and the amount of social capital within family are accordingly the next variables which have the highest impact on the amount of emotional divorce. This means that the higher the amount of the abovementioned variable rises, to the same extent the amount of the emotional divorce decreases. According to the data in table (4) the final regression equation based on the amounts of β will be as follows:

The amount of emotional divorce = **4.351** + **(-0.285) intrafamily discipline**
 + **(-0.174) the hierarchy of power in Family** + **(-0.171) physical-mental health of couple**
 + **(-0.165) amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple** + **(-0.117) religiosity of couple**
 + **(-0.117) Social capital in Family**

The above equation denotes that for one unit increase in the amount of discipline within family -0.285, for one unit increase in the amount of decision making power in family -0.174, for one unit increase in level of physical-mental health of couple -0.171, for one unit increase in amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple -0.165, and for one unit increase in amount of social capital within family -0.117 would be the amount of change of emotional divorce among couple.

The diagram of analysis of the route of influential factors on emotional divorce



Conclusion

The results of the current research illustrate that almost 6.5 percent of Tehrani families believe that they suffer from emotional divorce, therefore it can be said that the number of Tehrani families who are troubled with emotional divorce is low. Although Tehran has the highest amount of legal divorce amongst the country's provinces and to some extent the awkwardness of it is vanished, maybe when the marriage comes to conflict or arguments stage the couples easily separate and therefore the emotional divorce leads to real divorce and there are no suppressed emotions between couples. Thus though it can be claimed that the amount of 6.5 percent is the real amount, but the abovementioned point should also be noted, since when the exact and legal divorce is abundant, the emotional divorce will be less.

From the research results it can be deduced that the variables of social intrafamily capital, power hierarchy within family, the level of physical-mental health of couple, the religiosity level, the amount of discipline within family and the amount of harmony and homogeneity of couple have meaningful relationship with emotional divorce, also the variables of the amount of work weariness, economic-social base, the amount of sexual satisfaction of couple from each other and the duration of marriage considering the meaningfulness amount of 0.05 are not meaningful.

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