



CORRELATION OF THE PERSONALITY TRAITS WITH THE REASONS FOR DIVORCE IN I.T. PROFESSIONALS

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to examine the relationship between the personality traits and certain domains of reasons for divorce. A total of 412 litigants (those who have applied for divorce) in family courts of Chennai have been interviewed personally by the investigator. Among them all 412 had revealed the reasons for divorce and only 399 had consented for personality traits assessment. A non probability convenient sampling technique was adopted to select the samples. Spearman rank order correlation was used to analyze the data. Results revealed that there is positive correlation between illness reason with conscientiousness traits at $p=0.0195$ and $r=0.118$. Findings showed that there is relationship between the personality traits and certain domains of reasons for divorce.

Keywords: Divorce, Litigants, Personality Traits, Reasons.

1. INTRODUCTION

Family and marriage are considered to be the two pillars of any society and as such they are two most important societal institutions. In India, traditionally and from time immemorial, marriage has been hallowed as sacred, and marriage for most Indians is not merely a sacrament but is sacrosanct [1]. The formation and dissolution of marital relationships have important implications for individual wellbeing and for society. Stable partnerships are associated with higher incomes, improved health and happiness, and positive child outcomes. Divorce (or the dissolution of marriage) is the termination of a marital union, the canceling and/or reorganizing of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country and/or state. Divorce laws vary considerably around the world, but in most countries it requires the sanction of a court or other authority in a legal process [2]. The working conditions in the Information technology profession is becoming very stressful with average working hours extended to 50 hours per week, working on Saturdays and Sundays and not being able to take leave when sick, long working hours and monotonous work. The most significant stressors reported are work overload, career opportunities, role ambiguity and role conflict and working with diversified personalities [3].

Increase in divorce and the decrease of the average duration of marriage or forced and imposed livings.

A host of social, psychological, economic and cultural reasons are cited by couples while applying for a divorce. Lack of compatibility, interfering in-laws, cruelty, domestic

violence and irregular communication were the causes of the split. (Advocate Abhay Apte)

Psychologists and sociologists have examined the relationship between personality traits and family outcomes such as marital satisfaction and fertility traits predict important life outcomes, such as health and longevity, marital success, and educational and occupational attainment. Assessing personality of people is very useful as it helps understand them, their traits, biases and their preferences, and hence how they may be convinced. (Play to their preferences and traits) [4].

In an evolutionary context, the five-factor model may identify individual variations on behavioral dimensions that are significant to human social acceptance and status in groups.

Even though India (divorce rate—1.1%) still boasts of that nearly hundred percent of the marriages are a success, rapid urbanization and awareness of various rights are now instigating the divorce rate to shoot up. Empowerment of women has initiated the dissolution of marriage in urban areas as financially educated women are now open to the option of ending the relationship rather than to bear lifelong abuses silently. Tamil Nadu was home to the highest percentage of widowed/divorced or separated (WDS) individuals in India in 2010 (8.8%). The four family courts in Chennai city recorded 3,742 cases of divorce and divorce by mutual consent in 2011. In 2010, as many as 3,803 cases had been filed in this court newly [5].

Hence the investigator attempted to examine the relationship between the reasons and personality traits.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Research Design

A descriptive explorative survey was used.

2.2. Samples

Information technology professionals those who have applied for divorce for the first time from their life partner in Family Court at Madras High Court.

2.3. Sample Size

For the present study a total of 412 Information technology professionals those who applied for divorce were selected to explore the reasons and to assess the personality traits. Among 412 study participants only 399 of them have agreed for personality assessment.

2.4. Sampling Technique

Non-probability convenient sampling technique was adopted.

2.5. Inclusion Criteria:

- Either of the couple working in the field of information Technology profession irrespective of their position including both the gender.
- IT Professionals who have approached the family court for legal divorce from their life partner for the first time.
- IT Professionals applied for legal divorce in family court and available during the data collection period.
- Both the applicants and the respondents were included for the study.

2.6. Exclusion Criteria:

- Other professionals who have applied for divorce.
- IT professionals those who were already divorced.
- Those who were not willing to participate.

2.7. Development and Description of The Tool

Part –I is the Reasons for divorce domain wise.

Part–II is the assessment of personality trait by a standardized scale named Neo Five Factor Inventory by Costa & Mc Crae – 1992 which has 60 items.

PART – I

Part -I is a 3 point scale which consisted of Reasons for Divorce domain wise. It has totally 80 items in 10domains. Each item has 3 options as Agree, Uncertain, Not at All agree. The litigants will choose the appropriate option which is applicable for them. The number of items in each domain is described below:

- I. Physical life style - 4 Items. The reason arises from their routine life like spending more time in over usage of cell phones, and internet etc. Minimum score -0: Maximum - 8I

Cut Off Score

Disagree - 0 to 2

Uncertain - 3 to 5

Agree - 6 to 8

- II. Illnesses - 5 Items. It includes the reasons which are the effects of lifelong diseases like medical, mental illnesses etc. Minimum score 0: Maximum 10.

Cut Off Score

Disagree - 0 to 3

Uncertain – 4 to 6

Agree – 7 to 10

- III. Financial – 5 Items. It is the issues arise out of the financial status of the litigants including financial freedom, double income and No Kids etc. Minimum score 0 Maximum 10.

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 3

Uncertain – 4 to 6

Agree – 7 to 10

- IV. Professional – 4 Items. It includes the professional causes like committing more towards the profession, unrelated profession etc. Minimum score 0: Maximum 8.

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 2

Uncertain – 3 to 5

Agree – 6 to 8

- V. Marital – 9 Items. It includes the causes on marital life like new family environment, sexual satisfaction, loyalty etc. Minimum score 0: Maximum 18.

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 6

Uncertain – 7 to 12

Agree – 13 to 18

- VI. Familial – 9 Items. The reason arises from Adjustment problems and family pattern includes stressed family, Misunderstanding, Interference from in-laws etc. Minimum score 0: Maximum 36.

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 10

Uncertain – 12 to 20

Agree – 20 to 36

- VII. Social, Cultural, Moral and Religious – 9 Items. It includes the issues on socio, cultural norms like letting down in front of others / group, sanctity of the marriage, compelling to convert the religion from one to another etc. Minimum score 0: Maximum 18.

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 6

Uncertain – 7 to 12

Agree – 13 to 18

- VIII. Personal – 18 Items .It means the causes from within the individual itself like egoistic nature, low expansiveness,

and pessimistic person etc. Minimum score 0: Maximum -36.

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 12

Uncertain – 12 to 24

Agree – 13 to 24

- IX. Emotional – 10 Items. It includes the issues on the expressive nature of the individual like express emotions openly & honestly, emotionally stable in handling matters etc. Minimum score 0: Maximum -14.

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 6

Uncertain – 7 to 10

Agree – 11 to 14

- X. Recreational and coping – 10 Items. The reason arises from leisure time activities and adjusting nature of the couple like opportunity for going to movies, parties & tours, accept the reality as it is etc. Minimum score 0 :Maximum -20

Cut Off Score

Disagree – 0 to 5

Uncertain – 6 to 12

Agree – 13 to 20

2.8. Scoring Procedure

Scoring procedure for part I Reasons for Divorce domain wise is categorized as below:

Agree	-	2 scores
Uncertain	-	1score
Not at All agree	-	0 score

For analysis purpose uncertain and disagree were considered to be disagree.

PART – II Personality Assessments by Neo Five Factor Inventory

Personality Assessment Inventory was developed by Costa & Mc Crae in1992 [6] which is named as NEO-Five-Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI). The NEO-FFI (Costa & McCrae, 1992) contains 60 including both positive and negative statements (12 questions per domain) representing the five personality domains namely Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experience, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness. Each of these five domains has six facets.

The facets for each of the domains are described in detail: Neuroticism which measures the qualities like (N; anxiety, angry hostility, depression, self-consciousness, impulsiveness, and vulnerability). Both, Positive items and Negative items are given below:

Positive items: 6, 11, 21,31,41,51.

Negative items; 1, 16, 31, 46, 56

Extraversion attributes are (E; warmth, gregariousness, assertiveness, activity, excitement-seeking, and positive emotions).The items are Positive items: 2,7,17,22,32,37,47,52,57.

Negative items: 12, 27, 42

Openness to experience which includes the characteristics like (O; fantasy, aesthetics, feelings, actions, ideas, and values).It includes

Positive items: 13, 28, 43, 53, 58

Negative items: 3, 8, 18, 23, 33, 38, 48,

Agreeableness measures the attributes like (A; trust, straightforwardness, altruism, compliance, modesty, and tender-mindedness), and the items are Positive items: 4, 19, 34, 49.

Negative items :9,14, ,24,29, ,39,44, ,54,59

Conscientiousness includes the qualities like (C, competence, order, dutifulness, achievement striving, self-discipline, and deliberation) which has

Positive items: 5, 10, 20, 35, 40, 50, 60

Negative items: 15, 25, 30, 45, 55,

The participants respond to each item on a 5-point scale anchored with strongly disagree (0) and strongly agree (4). The 12 items for each domain are added together to provide a total score for that personality domain. Higher scores represent more characteristics of that domain. The NEO has adequate reliability and validity (Costa & McCrae, 1992).

The NEO-FFI domain scores show good concurrent validity with the NEO-PI-R, correlating 0.92, 0.90, 0.91, 0.77, and 0.87 (N, E, O, A, C respectively; Costa & McCrae, 1992). The NEO-FFI scales show correlations of .75 to .89 with the NEO-PI validimax factors. Internal consistency values range from 0.74 to 0.89 [6].

Scoring procedure for Positive items is given below:

- 0 - Strongly disagree
- 1- Disagree
- 2- Neutral
- 3- Agree
- 4- Strongly agree

Scoring procedure for Negative items is given below:

- 4-Strongly disagree
- 3- Disagree
- 2-Neutral
- 1-Agree
- 0. Strongly Agree

The actual personality traits are graded as five levels namely, very Low, Low, Average, High, and Very High. For analysis purpose the investigator has modified five grades into two grades as High and Low.

2.9. Data Analysis

Spearman rank order Correlation was used to determine the relationship of Personality traits and reasons of divorce domain wise.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The pair(s) of variables with positive correlation coefficients and P values below 0.050 tends to increase together. For the pairs with negative correlation coefficients and P values below 0.050, one variable tends to decrease while the other increases. For pairs with P values greater than 0.050, there is no significant relationship between the two variables.

There is positive correlation between illness reason with conscientiousness traits at $p=0.0195$ and $r=0.118$ (Table No: 1)

Similarly there is negative correlation between personal reasons with extraversion traits at $p=0.047$ and $r=-0.111$ (Table No: 1)

However emotional reasons were also negatively correlated with extraversion ($r=-0.197$, $p<0.001$), agreeableness ($r=-0.135$ and $p=0.001$) and conscientiousness ($r=-0.145$ and $p<0.001$). (Table No: 1)

No	Various Domains of Reason	Values	Personality Traits				
			Neuroticism	Extraversion	Openness	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness
1	Life Style	r	0.0409	0.0238	0.0342	0.0471	0.0349
		P	0.417	0.636	0.498	0.350	0.489
		n	396	396	396	396	396
2	Illness	r	-0.0527	0.0380	0.0697	0.0400	0.118
		P	0.297	0.452	0.167	0.428	0.0195
		n	394	394	394	394	394
3	Financial	r	-0.0278	0.0202	0.0365	-0.0121	-0.00742
		P	0.582	0.689	0.469	0.810	0.883
		n	394	394	394	394	394
4	Professional	r	-0.0413	-0.00275	0.0177	0.00842	0.0572
		P	0.412	0.956	0.725	0.867	0.255
		n	398	398	398	398	398
5	Marital	r	0.00487	-0.0385	0.0610	0.00652	-0.0605
		P	0.923	0.446	0.227	0.897	0.231
		n	393	393	393	393	393
6	Familial	r	0.0155	-0.0684	0.0309	-0.0124	-0.0270
		P	0.759	0.176	0.541	0.806	0.594
		n	394	394	394	394	394
7	Socio cultural moral and religious	r	-0.0276	-0.0475	0.0103	-0.0268	-0.0313
		P	0.585	0.348	0.839	0.597	0.537
		n	393	393	393	393	393
8	Personal	r	-0.0133	-0.111	0.0233	0.00381	-0.0540
		P	0.792	0.0271	0.643	0.940	0.282
		n	398	398	398	398	398
9	Emotional	r	0.0845	-0.197	0.0382	-0.135	-0.145
		P	0.0923	0.000	0.447	0.00686	0.00376
		n	398	398	398	398	398
10	Recreational & Coping	r	0.0264	-0.0251	0.0315	0.0180	0.0219
		P	0.599	0.618	0.530	0.720	0.662
		n	398	398	398	398	398

4. DISCUSSION

However study revealed that illness reasons were found to be related with the conscientiousness traits of the litigants. As the conscientiousness traits go higher illness reasons for split lowers. So they maintain harmony and marital spilt lowers. Similarly if extraversion increases personal and emotional reasons for divorce gets decreased. Hence there is a chance for marital harmony.

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