

# Divorce Among Men And Women In Lawngtlai District, Mizoram: A Sociological Investigation Into The Causes

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**Abstract -** The main purpose of this research is to empirically examine various factors that are responsible for the causes of divorce in Lawngtlai District, Mizoram. Samples of 150 respondents were selected using purposive sampling which includes 70 males and 80 females. Data was collected based on questionnaires and interview schedule. In this study, the most commonly reported cause for divorce is infidelity followed by intoxicants. According to the findings, men were more likely to report than women to initiate divorce, to give sexual problems, incompatible, early marriage and no reason what caused the divorce. In contrast, women were more likely than a man to report religion, health problems, growing apart, childlessness, financial problems, and problems with in-laws, intoxicants, and infidelity as a reason for divorce.

**Key words:** divorce; Mizoram, lifespan course, Socio-economic station

## I. INTRODUCTION.

According to Bohannan (1973) Divorce is a multifaceted occurrence or traumatic events in human relationship and it takes place in six "stations" of divorce i.e. emotional (know that they do not have a fruitful relationship.) legal (the social and legal process to end the marriage), economic (division of property and assets), co-parental (legal custody), community (common social network) and psychic (Both learn to be independent.).

Kessler (1975) suggested seven stages of the model to explain the emotional changes in the gradual process of divorce. They are Disillusionment, erosion, detachment, physical separation, mourning, second adolescence and hard work. Thus, Kaslow (1980) also indicated the dialectical model of stages in which every divorcing couple has gone through during the process of divorce. Firstly, Pre-divorce is considered as a chaos, dread, anguish, ambivalence stage, etc. Secondly, during divorce-it is the stage of helplessness, self-pity, confusion, depression, etc. Thirdly, post-divorce it is the stage of acceptance where a person gains self-confidence and independent from others.

In the recent years, a stable increase in the prevalence of divorce has been observed in Mizoram. According to the latest census (2011), out of all the states, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Nagaland accomplished the highest number of divorced or separated from North East as a percentage of every-married population in the country. Mizoram have the highest divorce rate of 6.34 per cent. This is likely to be because Mizo men have the right to remarry as they follow the patriarchal family. The following list will help you to understand divorce rates in India.

S.NO	STATES	PERCENTAGE
1	Mizoram	6.34%
2	Meghalaya	4.11%
3	Sikkim	2.16%
4	Nagaland	2.04%
5	Kerala	1.59%
6	Manipur	1.32%
7	Tripura	1.31%
8	Tamil Nadu	1.22%
9	Arunachal Pradesh	1.02%
10	Andhra Pradesh	1.12%
11	Maharashtra	1.08%
12	Gujarat	1.08%
13	West Bengal	1.02%
14	Karnataka	0.95%
15	Orissa	0.88%
16	Assam	0.86%
17	Madhya	0.85%

	Pradesh	
18	Punjab	0.82%
19	Jammu and Kashmir	0.69%
20	Chandigarh	0.68%

However, the records of separated and divorced in India remain very low as compared with global trends. <https://scroll.in/.../charts-and-maps-why-are-divorces-and-separations-more-common> (September.03.2015)

The Mizo society during the primitive times was extremely based on Patriarchal society. The traditional norms against Mizo women are so strict in the Mizo society that the moment women are divorced by her husband or utter ka ma che (I divorce you.) that means wife loses property and custody of children and she is permitted to take back only the customary 'Hmeichhe thuum' (A mattress, two pillows, etc.). If she is divorced for allegedly committing adultery then she is not permitted to even these few things and will have to leave with just the clothes she is wearing. For instance, the earning wife bought any furniture by her own money during the marriage but she will not be allowed to take it back until and unless the law gets formally approved and after published in the state gazette, the divorcees will have a legal option to claim the allowance. If not it would remain with her ex-husband [www.firstpost.com/.../mizorams-new-divorce-law-finally-gives-its-women-some-hope](http://www.firstpost.com/.../mizorams-new-divorce-law-finally-gives-its-women-some-hope) (December.08.2015)

The act which disbands the customary law of the strictly Patriarchal Mizo society are now entitled to inherit property to the divorce women and also protects them from being divorced by their husband at their will excluding the three autonomous District (Lai, Mara and Chakma) in Mizoram. (The Mizoram Gazette. -<https://landj.mizoram.gov.in/downloads/file/27>)

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Jalovaara (2003); Hansen (2005) few people have investigated and analyse the impact of a wife's unemployment on divorce, although there is some evidence of a positive relationship between the two factors. Unemployment usually produces greater stress for a couple, which facilitates marital breakdown. Moreover, unemployment position might be an indicator of an expected union dissolution. When women faced with an unsatisfactory marital relationship, they might decide to start looking for a job in hope of a breakdown of the union. In this case, the underlying relationship would go from the decision to divorce from unemployment.

White, 1991 (In Paul R. Amato 2003) Individual who marry at an early age has negative consequences and the consequences are due to the lack of psychological maturity, stable employment and a shortened spousal search process. With regards to duration of the marriage, divorces happen more frequently in early age rather than the later years of marriage. Becker (1991) argued that during courtship people generally has defect information about their partners but they manage to learn considerably more about their spouses only after marriage. Therefore, early divorces are suspiciously due to various reasons like incompatibility, conflict in values, and personality clashes. Nevertheless, couples in marriages of long duration face challenges such as raising children, boredom with the relationship, and slowly separating interests and outlooks that vary from those of individuals in marriages of short duration. Indeed, studies have shown that marital duration is associated with long-term declines in marital happiness (Johnson, Amoloza, & Booth, 1992).

Kathleen Kiernan and Ganka Mueller (1998) in this longitudinal study the British Household Panel Survey and the National Child Development Study are used to answering the question "who divorces?" "The study of these findings reveals that those who faced financial problems were likely followed by partnership breakdown. The analysis of the British Household Panel Survey indicated that men and women with lower psychological well-being were more likely to divorce in the following few years. The National Child Development Study data recommended that previous emotional problems in childhood were important signs for following partnership breakdown. People who tend to get married at a very early age had higher risks of divorce. The risk of partnership disbanding among the less educated is in large measure due to the fact that they form partnerships in an early age.

Fabrizio Bernardi and Juan-Ignacio Martinez (2011) Various studies have regularly shown that couples who have children (especially young children) are less likely to divorce than couples who do not have children (Walke 2002; Wagner and Weib 2006). On the one hand, having children can be regarded as the specific investment of a couple. According to New Home Economics, the benefits from that kind of specific investment are better if the parents live together (Becker, Landes, and Michael 1977). According to social psychology, having children increases the marital commitment and thus, it is less likely that the parents will divorce (Brines and Joyner 1999). It may also be the case that spouses who are not confident of the stability of their marriage are less likely to have children (Lyngstad and Jalovaara 2010).

Anne-Marie Ambert's (2009) study shown that people who happened to marry at a very young age are more likely to end in divorce within a year. Most studies display that young people lack the maturity and experience to handle the demands of a marital relationship. Furthermore, their personalities have not yet calmed so that their needs may change and upset the equilibrium of their new marriage. A young person with low incomes, low educational levels, and educational low levels are other risk factors that are responsible for the divorce.

Robert Zoliana (2010) According to his articles in 'The Zozam Times', He mentioned the six majority causes of divorce among the Mizo couple. In his article he includes Finance and Economic Reasons, Due to children, Boundless relationship, family interferences, lack of quality and unmet sexual satisfaction between the couples. According to his statement when parents and relatives are likely to involve in a couple's households and marriage life, it often creates double problems and misunderstanding between the couple and can even lead to divorce. Therefore suggested the couple should understand each other in sexual intercourse and also to share their ideas regarding the relationship between them without any hesitation.

Goode (1951, 1962) (In Fabrizio Bernardi and Juan-Ignacio Martinez 2011) during the pre-industrial societies the high incidence of divorce was mostly found among the upper classes. After legal and governmental barriers to divorce are raised, divorce becomes reachable to all social classes. It is then contended that the economic stress that might lead to marital disharmony and eventually lead to divorce, is more common among the lower classes (Goode 1951) Moreover, the most educated people have

access to more cultural, social, and cognitive resources, which allow them to choose the right person and they use their educated skills to resolve clashes in the relationship (Amato 1996; Hoem 1997; Ono 1998). In industrial societies, the relationship between the clash and divorce is now in opposites and the higher incidents of divorce are now commonly found among the lower classes (Goode 1962, 1993; Härkönen and Dronkers 2006).

**III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The present study is based on primary data and purposive sampling method was employed to collect the data during the month of May and June (2017) in Lawngtlai District, Mizoram. A total of One hundred fifty (150) respondents were selected from both divorce males (70) and females (80). In this study, a structured questionnaire and oral interview was employed to analyse various causes of divorce. The Questionnaires and interview covered the socio-economic station and life span course of the divorcing couple. Interview method was used among 20 respondents (both men and women) who were unable to neither read nor write. The respondents were requested to give their views regarding their pre-divorce time and the causes of their divorce.

**Sample Design**

The overall sample constitutes 150 respondents in which the respondents represent 70 male and 80 females. 32 females belong to age group of 'less than 30 years', 28 females belong to the age group of '30-40 years' and 20 females belong to the age group of 'more than 40 years' whereas 24 males belong to age group of 'less than 30 years', 23 males belong to the age group of 30-34 years and 14 males belong to the age group of more than 40 years.

**Area of the study**

The study area is Lawngtlai district (district capital) and was selected purposively. The study includes divorced women and men. Lawngtlai is located in south eastern Mizoram bordering in Myanmar and Bangladesh and covers a geographical area of 1870.75sq.km. Its population amounted to 117, 894 in the 2011 population census (<https://ladc.mizoram.gov.in/>).

**IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.**

The 150 respondents were approached and queried as to what were the causes of their divorce. The facts concerning the causes of divorce are shown in the table and figures.

**Table 1 Sex of the respondents**

Sex of the respondents	No of respondents	Percentage
Male	70	46.66%
Female	80	53.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figures 1 Sex of the respondents**

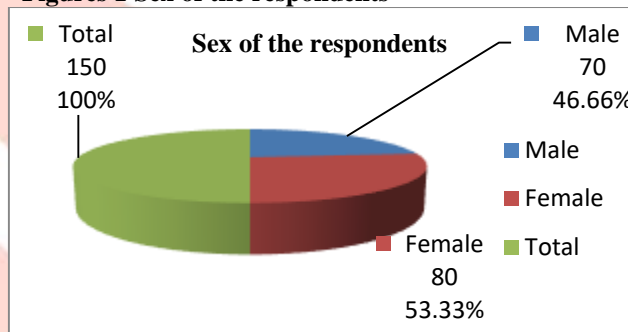
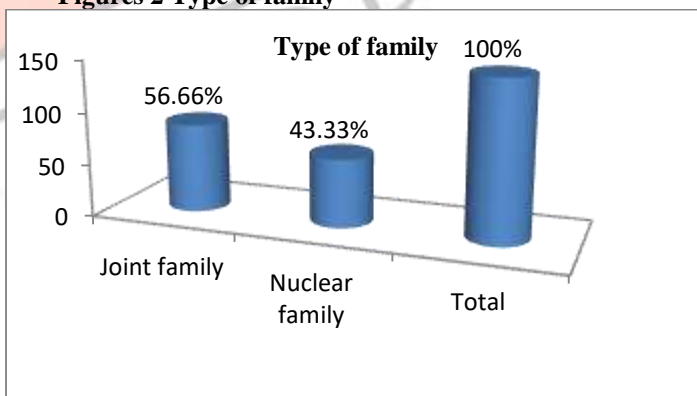


Table no 1 show that 53.33% of the respondents belong to females whereas 46.66% of the respondents belong to males.

**Table 2 Type of family**

Type of family	No Of respondents	Percentage
Joint family	85	56.66%
Nuclear family	65	43.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figures 2 Type of family**



According to the results, 56.66% of the couples who live/stay in joint family are more likely to be associated with or high chance of divorce than live in a nuclear family.

**Table 3 Qualification of the respondents**

Educational Qualifications	Male	Female	Frequency
Illiterates	8(11.42%)	12(15%)	20(13.21%)
Primary school	12(17.14%)	20(25%)	32(21.07%)
Middle school	13(18.57%)	9(11.25%)	22(14.91%)
High school	14(20%)	18(22.5%)	32(21%)
Higher school	9(12.85%)	15(18.75%)	24(15.8%)

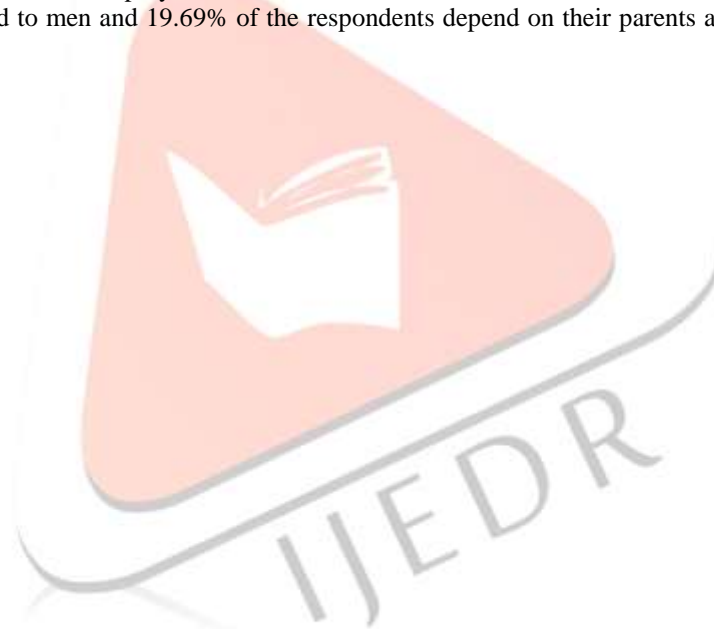
Under graduate	11(15.71%)	5(6.25%)	16(10.98%)
Post graduate	3(4.28%)	1(1.25%)	4(2.76)
<b>Total</b>	<b>70(100)</b>	<b>80(100)</b>	<b>150(100)</b>

Table 3 clearly indicated that the individual with lower education is significantly linked with divorce and it is found mostly in men. According to the results, 26.42 % of the respondents are illiterate out of that women are shown to be higher in illiteracy than men do; 25% Of female attain education only till primary school while 17.14% of the male attain education only till primary school. Post-graduation (5.53%) is the highest educational qualification attained by the respondents.

**Table 4 Occupation of the respondents**

Occupation of the respondents	Male	Female	Frequency
Government employee	13(18.5%)	21(26.25%)	34(22.41%)
Farmer	45(64.2%)	42(52.5%)	87(58.39%)
Dependent on parents	12(17.1%)	17(21.25%)	29(19.69%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>70(100)</b>	<b>80(100)</b>	<b>150(100)</b>

Table 4 clearly revealed how important the occupation is to prolong the length of marriage. 58.39% of the respondents are farmers whereas 22.41% are found to be employed and are seen lessens to be associated with divorce .The women employment percentage is greater as compared to men and 19.69% of the respondents depend on their parents and this has a huge impact on higher risk of divorce.



**Table 5 Forms of marriage**

Forms of marriage	No of respondents	Percentage
Arranged by family	47	31.33%
Personal choice	103	68.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figures 3 Forms of marriage**

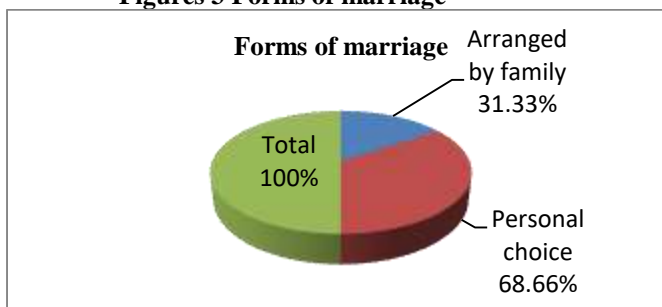


Table 5 shows that majority of the respondents get married on their own personal choice while 31.33 get marriage through arranged marriage by family.

**Table 6 Age at marriage**

Age marriage at	No of respondents	Percentage
Below 20	70	46.66%
21-30	55	36.66%
30 Above	25	16.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figures 4 Age at marriage**

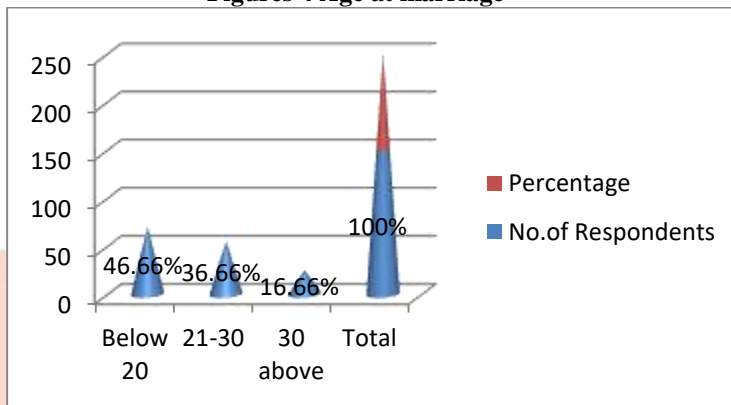


Table 6 clearly proved that people who tend to marry at a very young age are in high chance of divorce in a later year. The studies show that 46.66% of the respondents got married under the age of 20 and likely to divorce after few months or year later.

**Table 7 Type of Marriage**

Type of Marriage	No of respondents	Percentage
Mizo traditional marriage	22	14.66%
Mizo Christian marriage	25	16.66%
By elopement	103	68.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figures 5 Type of marriage**

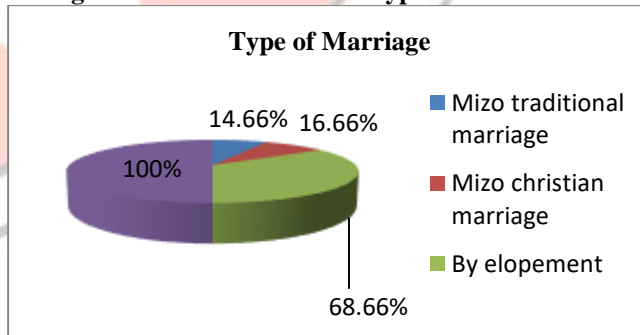


Table 7 shows that 68.66% of the respondents were eloping; 14.66% of the respondents followed Mizo traditional marriage; 16.66% of the respondents followed Mizo Christian marriage. People who easily got married by eloping were more likely to end up easily in divorce.

**Table 8 Presence of Children**

Presence of children	No of respondents	Percentage
Yes	87	58%
No	63	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figures 6 Presence of children**

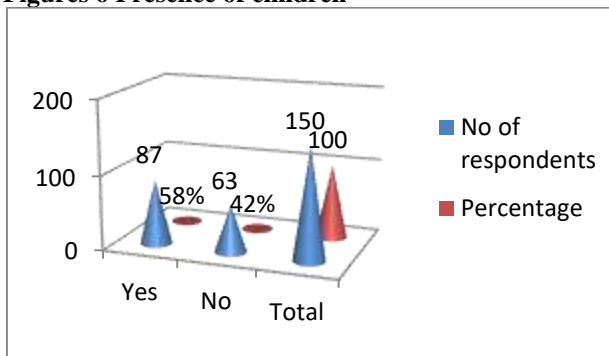


Table 8 According to the results found, higher divorce is mostly occurred after having children. It shows that 58% of the respondents got a divorce after having children whereas 42% of the respondents divorced before the birth of children.

**Table 9 Duration of marriage**

Duration of marriage	No of respondents	Percentage
1-12 months	40	26.66%
1-10 years	60	40%
10-20 years	27	18%
20-30 years	13	8.66%
30 Above	10	6.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figures 7 Duration of marriage**

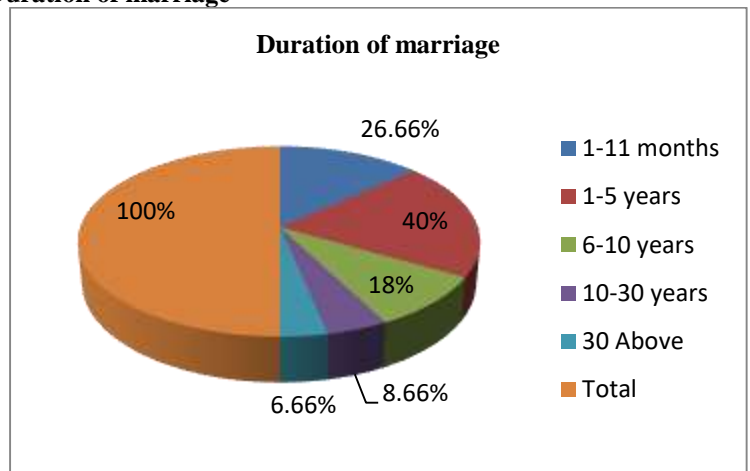


Table 9. According to the result findings people who happened to divorce have a very less duration of marriage, 26.66% of the respondents their marriage last only for 1-12 months; 40% of the respondents last their marriage only for 1-10 years; 18%, 8.66%, 6.66% of the respondents last their marriage for only 10-20 years, 20-30 years, and 30 years above.

**Table 10 initiative of divorce**

Initiative of divorce	No of respondents	Percentage
Male	81	54%
Female	32	21.33%
Parents	37	24.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figures 8 Initiative of divorce**

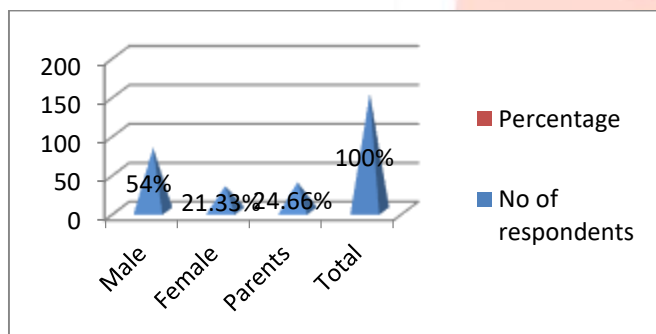


Table 10 visibly demonstrated that men were more likely than women to have initiated the divorce. According to the data shown above 54% of men were shown to have initiated the divorce; 21.33% of women initiated the divorce whereas 24.66% of the parents are involved in the spouse relationship and shown to initiate the divorce between the spouses.

**Table 11 Causes of divorce**

Causes of Divorce	Male	Female	Frequency
Intoxicants(drinking or drug use)	9(12.85%)	15(18.75%)	24(15.8%)
Infidelity & adultery	15(21.42%)	16(20%)	31(20.71%)
Problems with in-laws or parents interference	11(15.71%)	13(16.25%)	24(15.98%)
Sexual Problems(unmet)	4(5.71%)	2(2.25%)	6(3.98%)
No reasons	5(7.14%)	2(2.25%)	7(4.69%)
Financial Problems	9(12.85%)	12(15%)	21(13.92%)
Incompatible	2(2.85%)	5(6.25%)	7(4.55%)
childlessness	3(4.28%)	2(2.75%)	5(3.51%)
Early Marriage	6(8.57%)	1(1.25%)	7(4.91%)

Growing apart	1(1.42%)	3(3.75%)	4(2.58%)
Religion	4(5.71%)	7(8.75%)	11(7.23%)
Health problems	1(1.42%)	2(2.25%)	3(1.83%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>70(100)</b>	<b>80(100)</b>	<b>150(100)</b>

Table 11 According to the results, the most commonly reported factor for the cause of divorce is infidelity(20.71%), followed by intoxicants(15.8%), Problems with in-laws(15.98%), financial problems(13.92%), Religion(7.23%) and the other seven causes are under 5 percentages..

## V. CONCLUSION

The nature of causes is differing from men to women. Divorce is not only the end of marital relations between the spouses rather it has caused serious problems on their children and adjustment problems themselves in the community. Divorce is multi-dimensional, and it involves multi-factor social events. It can be found in each and every society, which may be either in customary or in legal form.

The study identified various contributing factors for the causes and increasing number of divorce. Primarily the study indicated that infidelity directly relates and increase divorce. Out of all certain factors studied factors like intoxicants, infidelity, parent's interferences between the spouses, financial problems in the family are the major causes of divorce among the couples. According to the varied distribution of men and women, men were more likely than women to give sexual problems, incompatible, early marriage and no reason as a cause of divorce. In contrast, women were more likely than a man to report religion, health problems, and growing apart, childlessness, financial problems, and problems with in-laws, intoxicants, and infidelity as a reason for divorce. Men were more likely than women to initiate divorce and people who settle in the joint family are likely to end up in divorce than settle in the nuclear family. It is found that People who forms partnership by eloping and marry at an early age higher the chances of divorce.

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