

## **Marriage and Broken Vows: A Study of the Techno-Social Aspects and the Victimization of Divorcees in Kerala**

**Praveen Abraham**

Research Scholar, School of Arts & Humanities, REVA University, Bangalore & Asst. Professor,  
Dept. of Journalism, SH College, Kochi

**Dr. Beena G**

Associate Dean, School of Arts & Humanities, REVA University, Bangalore

### **Abstract**

**The nullity and void of a marriage is defined as ‘Divorce’ in general perspective. It is not confined to just a legal separation but involves various other parameters that result in a dissolution of marriage. Statistical data proves that divorce rate in India has tremendously increased in the last decade with 13 out of every 1000 marriages in India ending up in divorces. Kerala stands second highest in India in terms of divorce rates as per the reports of The New Indian Express daily on February 08, 2018. According to the information from the Ministry of Law, more than thirty thousand cases are pending in the family courts of Kerala for the decree. In addition, many un reported cases of unsatisfied or separated marriages are still hidden under the veils of the so called ‘Sanskar’. Most of these cases are reported in the early stages of marriage normally within a year. Due to a conditioning regarding the stigma attached, many cases go unreported too. Rigid patriarchal controls render women voiceless against seeking divorces or reporting harassment. Seeking liberation from the shackles of a painfully destructive relationship is still an unthinkable luxury in India. Another reason is the high regard for the family’s reputation and feelings. Divorce comes with unbreakable social stigma in India. The slow and long drawn legal process in India and the huge amount of money that has to be spent on it are also reasons for this. The trauma of the divorce especially in women’s life is definitely petrifying and largely marginalized or taken for granted. Infidelity, physical and sexual abuses, lack of communication, financial difficulties etc. are some of the important reasons for marital separation. For this study, 79 samples have been identified by the researcher through the matrimonial advertisements published by divorced people for their second marriage in Malayala Manorama daily from January 01 to March 31, 2020. Interview method is used for the data collection. Based on the responses, the researcher has categorized the group into various sub groups and analysed the reasons for divorce. In most of the cases, the marriage ended up within a year and there were no children.**

**Key Words: Divorce in Kerala, Marriage, infidelity, sexual abuse, divorce capital, victimization.**

### **Introduction**

Marriage is the union of two individuals with different ideologies, aspirations, ethos and expectations who can fulfill each other’s biological, social, psychological and emotional needs. Communication in marriage is of extreme importance, today, as both the individuals live in a progressive era and they are educated and independent. Verbal and non-verbal communication matters a lot in any healthy relationship. Partners should be able to comprehend each other’s changes in mood, body language, attitude and emotions. Having a conversation to know their deeper selves is the core of a constructive marriage. It is quite contradicting to listen to numerous cases of marital rape in this so called ‘enlightened era’ when people outcry for communication in and out the bedroom (Gottman, 1999).

Unlike other relationships marriage is legally bound and it has its legal validation. Article 21 of Indian Constitution (Choudhry, 2016) speaks about marriage. The right to marriage is also stated under Human Rights Charter within the meaning of the right to start a family. The right to marry is

a universal right and it is available to everyone irrespective of their gender. At the same time forced marriage is illegal India with legal perspective. Some other Acts of Indian Constitution like The Majority Act, 1875, The Family Courts Act, 1984, The Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also lay down a person's right to marry in India.

Marriage, universally, is and should be the priority among all relationships, it is said. But, these days, communication with the spouse decays faster and ends up in chaos. Many women say, unhappy marriages should end up and they are willing to break the stigma around the separation like never before (Gottman, 1999). Many divorced women, rather than hiding their relationship status, are daring enough to announce it through various social media platforms. The global divorce rate has reached more than 45% in the last year. Over 110,000 Facebook users from India openly update their relationship status as 'divorced' (Bhatt, 2019, January 27).

The Oxford Dictionary of Sociology (Scott, 2014) defines Divorce as "the formal legal dissolution of a legally constituted marriage". The word 'divorce' traces its origin back to the Latin derivative meaning 'splitting of a unit'. In other words, it is the 'permanent physical separation of spouses'.

Now a days, Kerala is considered as the divorce capital of India. More than 30,000 cases are going on in 28 family courts in Kerala. According to the data provided by the State Government, Thiruvananthapuram, the State capital, is the capital of divorce cases too. An average of 3500 cases is filed in a year in Thiruvananthapuram alone. Ernakulam is in the second position. 3122 cases are filed in 2019 in Ernakulam district. The trend seems to be continuing in 2020 too. In the first 24 days of 2020, a total of 226 divorce petitions were filed before the family court (Correspondent, 2017).

A 32 year old divorcee from Thodupuzha, Kerala reported that his marriage has broken without any reason. He was working in Italy as a Chef in a restaurant. After marriage, his wife accompanied him to Italy. They returned to Kerala after four months and filed a joint petition for a divorce. Both, husband and wife say that they did not have any issues, but are going for a separation.

A 26 year old girl from Thrissur, Kerala lived with her husband for 4 years. The couple worked for IT Industry and theirs was a love marriage. But he was addicted to pornography and was adamant about repeating the acts in his bedroom too. Her body was full of bite marks when she approached the lawyer for divorce. The painful fact was that marital rape is not a serious issue that can be addressed in the court and therefore her case was filed under domestic violence act.

A 33 year old girl from Kochi, lived with her husband for three months and got divorced because of his blind beliefs in horoscope and astrology. He was obsessed with his belief in an astrologer's prophecy that only a second marriage will be more beneficial for his future. She took almost 4 years to overcome the trauma she had faced.

All these real life incidents are quoted giving the wide variety of reasons for marriage divorce in India.

### **Review of Literature**

According to the article, published in BBC News on 26, September 2016 titled 'What divorce and separation tell us about modern India by Soutik Biswas, an Indian Correspondent, in India 1.36 million people are divorced. This is 0.11% of the total population and 0.24% of the married population. Moreover, separated cases are thrice the divorced cases. It is notable that more women than men are divorced or separated. Considering geographically, North East states have higher divorce rate than any other parts in India. The main reason is that tribal laws are allowing people to have more than one spouse (Biswas, 2016).

The article published in The New Indian Express on January 2020 titled 'Divorce pleas hit a record 3122 in 2019 stated that the cosmopolitan city Kochi has crossed more than 3000 cases in 2019. On an average, 10 divorce-related cases are being filed before the Kochi family court daily. The nature of the divorce cases is; mostly youngsters are approaching the court for separation. Interestingly, most of the couples are highly educated and hail from well-heeled families. Divorce

cases are on the rise among doctors and those working in the IT sector. Lack of an emotional bond between couples is the major cause for these divorces. Compared with the previous years, celebrity divorce rate was less in 2019 (Antony, 2020).

The nature of the divorce has also changed in Kerala. A report has appeared in MalayalaManorama daily September 09, 2019 that pictured a different kind of a divorce., In Kasargod district, a police case has been filed against a 34-year-old man after his wife had made an allegation that she was sent the 'triple talaq' message over the messaging application WhatsApp. The police registered the case against B A Ashraf, 34, of Kudlu village in Kasaragod on a complaint from his 29-year-old wife (Correspondant, 2019).

The research titled 'Grounds of divorce under Hindu marriage act 1955 with special reference to irretrievable breakdown of marriage a critical study' by Dhiman, Ashu in Kurukshetra University, highlighted the necessity of the basic instruction regarding sex and importance of family to be imparted to youth in schools. Safeguarding of rural women through the protection of civil law can reduce the number of domestic violence cases leading towards divorce. Through the amendment of law, speedy justice must be made the priority. There is a possibility that gender neutral provisions may be used against women in Indian situation and this may also lead to the slow down or set back of the process of man and woman becoming financially equal (Dhiman, 2018).

## **Methodology**

### **Research Problem**

In Kerala divorce rate is tremendously increasing. The causes for the divorce also changes with time. The reasons for divorces range from being very simple to very serious issues leading to divorces. A major cause for infidelity in marriages is an excessive use or misuse of virtual media platforms in an era of a surge of use of technology. This study focuses on the various new dimensions and causes of divorces and the victimization of divorcees in Kerala.

### **Research Design**

Both quantitative and qualitative research designs are used for this study. Qualitative research methods are used to explore the reasons, status and situations of the victims of divorce. This method makes the research more reliable. Quantitative study is used for the statistical observation of data and basically for categorization.

### **Samples for the Study**

The participants are from all the 14 districts of Kerala. The reason for the selection of the state Kerala is that the state is considered to have the second highest divorce rate in India. A total of 79 divorced people (30 Males and 49 Females) who advertised their matrimonial advertisements in Malayala Manorama daily for their second marriage from January 01 to March 31, 2020 were selected for the study.

### **Data Collection**

Separate interview was organized with all the participants over phone and direct method. Researcher has contacted all the people who had published their matrimonial advertisements in Malayala Manorama daily, for their second marriage from January 01 to March 31, 2020, over the phone. Some of them were not willing to provide the details. 90 people responded for the phone calls in the initial stage and 20 of them quit in between. The line of enquiry was basically focused on the causes of the divorce and the trauma of the victims.

### **Objectives**

- a) To understand the various causes and new dimensions of divorce in Kerala.
- b) To study the victimization of divorcees in Kerala.

### **Confidentiality and Privacy**

The identity of the participants and the names of their families are kept confidential to respect their privacy. All names of participants are changed in the research document.

### **Theoretical Background**

Three most important theories are applicable in this research- fault theory, mutual consent theory & irretrievable breakdown of marriage theory (Simran, 2015).

Fault theory says, marriage can be dissolved only when either party to the marriage has committed a matrimonial offence. It is necessary to have a guilty and an innocent party, and the only innocent

party can seek the remedy of divorce.

Mutual Consent theory says, the underlying rationale is that since two persons can marry by their free will, they should also be allowed to move out of the relationship of their own free will.

The third theory relates to the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage. The breakdown of marriage is defined as “such failure in the matrimonial relationships or such circumstances adverse to that relationship that no reasonable probability remains for the spouses again living together as husband and wife.”

The researcher has done the categorization of the participants into three categories based on these theories. Among the 79 participants chosen for this study, except for one participant, fault theory is applicable for all the other 78. These 78 participants seek divorce due to the opponent parties' matrimonial offence with 10 different reasons.

Mutual consent theory is applicable for only one participant in this study. One participant has believed he got married of his own free will and moved out of the relationship of their own free will.

26 participants are justified with the ‘Theory of Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage’. In an extreme and unavoidable situation only these participants took a decision of divorce. Their reasons are also much graver than others. Some of it being, Physical and Sexual Violence, Psychological Disorders, Homosexuality, Pornography Addiction & Sexual Aggression. They didn't find any solution for these problems and took the decision for divorce.

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Based on the findings from this study, the major causes for the divorce are infidelity, patriarchal approaches, physical and sexual violence, lack of communication, influence of mobile phones and virtual world, alcohol addiction, family involvement, psychological disorders, financial problems, denial of getting pregnant, homosexuality, hiding of diseases, pornography addiction and sexual aggression, career goal differences and adjustment problems. The participants were divorced in last five years (2015-2019) and seeking an alliance now.

#### **Infidelity**

Marriage is a contract and bond between husband and wife. Fidelity and trust are the core foundation of any marriage. Infidelity is one of the main causes for divorces in Kerala now. Infidelity can rise through many incidents. Technology also plays a vital role in this regard. Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram and other social networking sites are opening a platform for people to maintain unhealthy relationships. Out of the 79 participants, 12 (15.2%) are divorced due to the infidelity in marital relationships.

A 33 year old man from Vaikkom, Kottayam district said, after 15 days from marriage he had gone to Italy for his job. His wife was in the UAE. Her mobile phone was always busy with other calls and she very rarely responded to her husband's calls and messages. Gradually that too ended. Finally her parents initiated for the divorce and they got separated after a year.

#### **Patriarchal Hold**

Patriarchal society advocates the power of men in family. They are the rulers and decision makers. This social structure most often denies the power and rights of women in the family and society and women have to play a second fiddle. Society, religion, media and different phases of the world have defined the gender roles and everywhere men dominate and controls. Marriage is an equal partnership and if one partner is dominating, definitely it will affect the equilibrium and flow of the family resonance. This approach will affect the denial of education, employment, independence, financial freedom, sexual rights and many more for women. In this study researcher has found out, 08 out of 79 participants (10%) were divorced due to the patriarchal approach in the family. Here we need to understand and scrutinize how a social system affects married life and how it is harmful.

A 27 year old girl from Ernakulam, ended up her marital life within a year because of her husband's and father in law's patriarchal approach. She said, I was willing to accept and obey what my husband and father in law said, but in certain areas it crossed the limit. Husband decided on what dress she has to wear, what time to sleep, what to post in Facebook, what contact she can keep in whatsapp and even denied her basic right to talk to her family too.

### **Physical and Sexual Violence**

Reports say that physical and sexual violence in marital life is very high in Kerala. Intimate partner violence is believed to be their right by many. Different punishment for the same crime is a legal bias. Only because of the label of a 'wife', one has to sacrifice and accept this. 10% respondents are divorced (8 out of 79) because of physical and sexual violence. In all these 4 cases, these people were addicted to pornography. After watching pornography videos, they expected the same actions from their partner too.

The statistical data from the Kerala Social Welfare Board states that out of the 18,378 domestic violence cases filed in their different service centres between 2015 and 2018, 2482 women have endured marital rape. The dreadful fact is that the culprits in these cases were not punished even in a single case as they have raped their own 'wives' which is very much their 'right'. Though the data from 2018 to 2019 is not complete, the available reports say that out of the 5025 domestic violence cases, 783 are marital rape cases. This proves that 3265 women have undergone marital rape in the last 4 years (Atholi, 2020).

**The wife of a 35 year old** in Irinjalakuda in Kerala is 10 years younger to him. She was a victim of the harassment from her mother-in-law. She used to share her problems with her husband who, instead of resolving the issue, took refuge in consumption of alcohol, cigar and panparag. She felt alienated further and in one of the days of alienation, he raped her brutally, nipped her nipples off. Moreover, he scorched her breasts with cigarettes. Only when her doctor, whom she went to for medical help, revealed it to the public, the torture got reduced. Still, the husband was not punished for rape instead was warned against domestic violence. So insubstantial are the laws against marital rape in India.

**The 46 year old Kasargode** guy was addicted to pornography, but was not interested in sexual intercourse. So, he forced his wife to have oral sex with him. The poor lady couldn't tolerate the unhygienic and unsanitary situation. But the financially fragile women could never dream of escaping from such situations. The law in India doesn't even warn men against marital rape and many men take it as their right to rape their wives. Even if the wife goes for a divorce, the remarried husband continues the same with the next woman too. There should be strict laws, as in countries abroad, against marital rape.

### **Lack of Communication**

Marriage, universally, is and should be the priority among all relationships, it is said. But, these days, communication with the spouse decays faster and ends up in chaos. The technological advancement has increased the speed and flow of public communication. But it has affected family life in an adverse manner. In marital life, lack of communication is a fast track to separation. Normally marriages happen between two unknown people acquainted for a short span of time from two different families, culture and background. So many things are to be understood and communicated. Lack of communication weakens the emotional bond between partners and leads to many other problems too. The main upshot of this are; marriages become stagnant, partners show neglect, will seek others to fill the void, no possibility for compromise, sex life suffers, results in wrong assumptions, leads to financial imbalances and problems.

This study states that 12.65 (10 out of 79) percentage of divorce cases considered here are filed because of lack of communication.

A 29 year old teacher from Kottayam divorced in 2019, remarked that her husband hardly speaks for a minute or two in a day. Some days that too won't be there. She took him to a clinical psychologist and communicated their difficulties and waited for a year. But there were no changes in his behaviour. Finally she took a painful decision. She doesn't hold any grudge for him. "He did not physically abuse me, no torturing, no in law problems, no financial restrictions or any other issues. But I couldn't manage that situation", says the woman.

### **Influence of Mobile Phones & Virtual world**

Smart phones are considered to be the 'electronic enemies' of relationships. Plenty of researches have been done on how smart phones affect relationships. Dr. John Zacharia, psychologist in Sahrudhaya Counselling Centre, Ernakulam quoted, smart phones are the main villains in present

day married life. Some studies say, there is a positive influence for smart phones too as they help in having an easy, intimate touch with a partner through calling and texting as it makes people happier and more secure in relationships. For this, the spouses must be in different places. There is a programme in Amrita, popular television channel in Malayalam, called 'Kathayallith Jeevitham', it's a show for separated and divorced or complicated relationship couples to settle their issue through legal support. In this programme more than 80% of the participants have extra marital relationship and that often developed through mobile phones. 'N' number of applications like Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp, dating apps etc. are used by these people for creating extramarital relationships. 13 people (ie, 16.4%) are divorced in this study due to mobile addiction and its consequences.

A 27 year old lady, Beena from Wayanadu having three children left her husband and went with a 25 year old man and lived for 4 months. Their relationship started through Facebook.

An engineer from Calicut ended her marriage within 4 months because her husband was addicted to phone and social media.

According to a study, couples working in the IT industry account for 30% of divorces that happen in Kerala. Most couples who work in the IT industry break up within two to three years of marriage. According to cyber experts, IT couples in uneasy relations use hacking techniques to collect electronic evidence against each other. They hack their spouse's email account for proof of extramarital affair. There are cases of couples in troubled marriages fabricating electronic evidence to facilitate early separation.

### **Alcohol addiction**

Alcohol addiction can destroy a marriage or drive a wedge between members. Apart from the relationship problems, it may lead to chronic health issues like liver damage, anxiety, confusion, depression, frustration, stress etc. Simultaneously, these problems affect the family life. These problems reflect in the marital life. This sometimes leads to physical violence too.

A 30 year old respondent from Alappuzha, divorced in 2018 said that her husband was a perfect role model in day time, but by the end of the day, he used to get drunk and attack her physically. She took him to de-addiction centres and gave medicines too. Unfortunately, during the medication period also he got drunk. She realized in a year that this won't change and decided to quit from the contract of marriage.

5% (4 out of 79) of the respondents agreed that they are divorced due to their husbands' alcohol addiction.

### **Family involvement**

Involvement of family is another important factor for divorce in Kerala. Different family members with different ideologies, education, attitudes and values are sometimes exploiting the relationships. Mother in law and daughter in law fights are common in this educated society. Most often, in laws are not willing to handover the power to the daughters-in-law. It's majorly a struggle and fight for power. Expressing unwanted opinions and criticism for minor things by mothers in law and sisters in law are unacceptable. It will escalate into different dimensions. Once that relationship has broken it is difficult to rebuild it.

6 out of 79 marriages were unconnected due to families' over involvement.

### **Psychological disorders**

Mental instability; mild and severe are another major reason for divorce. Some people hide this problem and believe after the marriage it will be fine. But in most cases, things become worse and they start behaving in a weird way.

A 33 year old man, married a girl from Nedumkandam, Idukki and divorced after three days. This girl was under the treatment for psychic disorders for three years and hiding this information, she got married. The very next morning after the wedding, she took a broom and went to the terrace and started dancing. Husband's family was embarrassed and started to enquire about it. Later, they found that she was under the treatment for three years and her family had to accept it.

In this study the researcher has found out 5% of the marriages were divorced due to the psychological disorders.

### **Homosexuality**

When a 26-year-old woman from Thodupuzha, Idukki district, entered wedlock with a 38-year-old man from Kothamangalam, Ernakulam district, little did she know what was in store for her. All she dreamt was a happy family life. But her dreams were shattered when her husband kept away from her from the very first day of the marriage. He always preferred to stay in his farm house in native place and was not interested to come home. The husband sometimes visited his wife with a male staff of his farm house. They both behaved like a couple in front of her and the family. She approached the family court of Thodupuzha for seeking divorce in 2016.

Muvattupuzha family court heard a same kind of case in 2018 wherein 26 year old woman from Idukki sought divorce from a 35 year old husband. They lived together for two years though she had realized that he is a gay.

05 out of 79 participants in this study are divorced due to the husband's homosexuality.

### **Pornography addiction and sexual aggression**

Dr. Jill Manning, a researcher from USA stated, 56 percent of divorce cases involved one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites. If half of the people divorcing claim pornography as the culprit, that means there are 500,000 marriages in America annually that are failing due to pornography. This is an alarming number to other nations also (Manning, 2015).

When compared to other states, Kerala is the largest producer of porn videos in India, say industry insiders. In Kerala, Kochi was identified as the hub of cybercrime. The usage of pornography and sex dating apps has created an alarming impact in changing the sexual expectations of men and this leads to violent sexual behaviour. When it comes to long term marital relationships, husbands who are addicted to such media generated images of sexual relationships, expect their wives to be prostitutes in bed seducing and satisfying them with sexual adventures. When not satisfied, they end up in extra marital relationships and unhappy marriages and finally in separation.

Pornography is legally banned in India. Information Technology Act, 2000, Under Section 67 makes it punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years and fine up to 5 lakhs; and Section 67A of the Information Technology Act makes publication, transmission and causing to be transmitted and published in electronic form any material containing sexually explicit act or conduct, punishable with imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to 10 lakhs (Chaudhary, 2020). But now, pornography can be available in another way. One is by changing of VPN address in computers and mobile phones and getting the existing videos through various sites. Another one is through the live streaming and selling through various social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp.

The third most important reason for the divorce in this study is pornography addiction and sexual aggression. 09 out of 79 samples were divorced

### **Victimization of Divorcees**

The trauma undergone by a divorced woman is indescribable. Society bombards them with 'n' number of accusations without even recognizing the ins and outs for their separation. If the woman had been an active participant in the society before divorce, her doom is geared up. The society labels her as haughty and guilty. This is because, despite the so called empowerment of women, this patriarchal society obstinately believes in the meekness and submissiveness of Indian women. A smart, sociable woman is often looked down upon as a misfit for a peaceful family life. Apart from the tribulation of a broken relationship, such women have to undergo the persecution of the society too. Many may end up being depressed for a life time or there are even women who take medication for psychosis as they fail to face the ill-treatment by the society. The truth is that they may overcome the trauma of a broken relationship in a while but not the social stigma.

Another struggle that most divorced women go through is the attack of the hypocritical scavengers in the society who waits to feed on their flesh. Objectification or commodification of women is a serious concern that steps into the dangerous space of certifying a woman's 'character'. A divorced woman is available and easy to be seduced, believes the majority. Once not a maiden, she is easy to be attracted into anyone's bedroom or flirting, think many. Many divorced women have reported getting late night calls and flirtatious messages even from acquaintances who behave decent when in public. It is high time the public has to realize that a woman's body isn't an object for pleasure. Her emotions, feelings, anguishes, anxieties and experiences shape her character.

Though the trauma suffered by a woman is incomparable in a divorce, men too face not so less an ordeal. Many a time, they undergo more of an emotional breakdown as they are the weaker lot when it comes to coping with mental agony and relationship problems. The social taboo, sometimes, reaches the peak when a divorcee is denied jobs in private sector. A person's morality is thus assessed by the society in terms of their marital accomplishment. Often, both partners won't be blameable for the divorce and still the innocent ones will be victimized. To end up in locked rooms fearing the persecution of the society, is dreadful.

Remarriage, at least for some, becomes a murky dream as a divorcee always loses worth in the marriage market. Even highly educated and employed women without children, if divorced, are forced to get remarried to much elder or unqualified men. This happens to women in particular as the conventional society believes in the concept of fleshly virginity rather than the psychological fidelity. This, in longer run, will create further problems in the marital union. Having an intellectual partner is essential in any marriage. That is the reason why professionals go for likeminded, equally qualified suitors. When this condition of any marriage is hampered, it causes further tension in life and life becomes a mess all over again.

## Findings & Suggestions

**Table 1: Causes of Divorce**

<b>Total Number of Participants- 79 (Male 30, Female 49)</b>			
<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Reason for the divorce</b>	<b>No of participants</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Infidelity	12	15.18
2	Patriarchal approach	08	10.1
3	Physical and Sexual Violence	08	10.1
4	Lack of Communication	09	11.39
5	Free will	01	1.2
6	Influence of Mobile phones & Virtual World	13	16.45
7	Alcohol addiction	04	4.9
8	Family involvement	06	7.5
9	Psychological Disorders	04	4.9
10	Homosexuality	05	6.3
11	Pornography Addiction & Sexual Aggression	09	11.39

## Suggestions

- Make time to connect with family – this eradicates half of the problems in family. This will help to avoid misunderstanding, emotional bond, clarity in ambiguous things etc. Problems like infidelity and all are rising due to the suspicion and lack of communication.
- Honour and respect instead of criticizing and ruling- The society, culture and religion teach us that women should always be obedient and in the second position. This patriarchal approach misleads the people to behave in a strange way.
- Violence against women is not only physical abuse; it's a social, economic, developmental, legal, educational, human rights, and health (physical and mental) issue. Attention needs to be taken from family, community, religious institutions and government. Gender sensitization by parents and teachers is needed regarding the sensitivities and boundaries of man-woman relationships.
- Smart phones are considered to be the 'electronic enemies' of relationships. The best way to reduce the mobile phone penetration is to reduce the usage and transparency in the usage. Most of the dating apps are working with less security. This aspect also needs to be addressed.
- Strict banning of pornography sites is necessary. But now, pornography is available in another way. One is, changing of VPN address in computers and mobile phones and thereby getting the existing videos through various sites. Another one is through the live streaming and selling through various social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp.

## Conclusion

Marriage, the most celebrated event in anyone's life; a dream nourished from teenage is expected to outlive ages. Two individuals born and brought up in two different cultures and environments are expected to beat their differences and live in harmony. It is indeed a challenging task, but, people of older generations did it perfectly well, we must not forget. Therefore, we have to admit that there are many things that are contributed by the modern society in the increase of the divorce rate. Some of it being infidelity, patriarchal approach, physical and sexual violence, lack of communication, influence of mobile phones and virtual world, alcohol addiction, family involvement, psychological disorders, pornography addiction and sexual aggression. Influence of mobile phones and virtual world, alarmingly, contributes 16.45% of the divorces in the research done by the researcher. Pornography addiction and sexual aggression, which are often overlooked even by the court of law, takes 11.39% of the reasons of divorce in the above conducted research. These factors, which were beyond imagination in older days, have become the major reasons in breaching marriages today. This is an example of how technological explosion can ruin real life relationships.

## Bibliography

1. Gottman, John (1999), *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*, New York, Three Rivers Press
2. Keller Thimothi (2011) *The Meaning of Marriage; Facing the Complexities of Marriage with the Wisdom of God*, USA, Dutton
3. Scott John (1994), *Oxford Dictionary of Sociology, United Kingdom*, Oxford University Press
4. Gerbner, G. & Gross, L. (1976). Living with television: The violence profile. *Journal of Communication*, 26(2), 172-199.
5. Gerbner, G., Gross, L., Morgan, M., Signorielli, N., & Jackson-Beeck, M. (1979). The Demonstration of Power: Violence Profile. *Journal of Communication*, 29(10), 177-196
6. Miller, K. (2005). *Communications theories: perspectives, processes, and contexts*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
7. Atholi Nileena, (2020, July 13
8. Bloom BL, Niles RL, Tatcher MA. Sources of marital dissatisfaction among newly separated persons. *Journal of Family Issues*. 1985;6:359–373
9. Halford WK, Markman HJ, Kline GH, Stanley SM. Best practice in couple relationship education. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. 2003;29(3):385–406.
10. *Violence Against Women – Women Against Violence*, ed. by Shirin Kudchedkar and Sabiha Al-Issa, (1998). D.K. Fine Arts Press (P) Ltd., Delhi.
11. Watson, Eric R., *The Principles of Indian Criminal Law*, (1907), Sweet and Maxwell Ltd., London.
12. *Women March Towards Dignity – Socio Legal Perspectives*, ed. By Kusum, (1993), Regency Publications.
13. *Women, Violence and Male Power*, ed. by Marianne Hesters, Liz Kelly and Jill Radford, (1996). Open University Press, Buckingham, Philadelphia.