

THE IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON WOMEN

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Abstract: The families in contemporary societies have undergone profound changes in recent decades. The changes that have occurred within them are so important, that the term family has become increasingly ambiguous, it tends to cover today different realities from those characteristic of previous generations. Family is the most accurate owner of the traditions and national values. It is one of the most conservative (in a good way) segments of society. Contrary to this idea, the family has become increasingly sensitive to all changes occurring in society.

We started our research in the following hypothesis: divorce deeply affects a person's ability of relationship, emotional maturity and self-esteem in females who have gone through such a process.

As a result of our research appears that divorced women need to be included in psychotherapy programs (cognitive behavioral psychotherapy, supportive psychotherapy) and advisory services to improve networking capacity, to increase self-esteem and learn marital conflict management.

Keywords: divorce, self-esteem, interpersonal relationships, psychological and emotional maturation.

Divorce is one of the serious problems of society, which retain the attention of world public opinion. Many experts were concerned about the causes and reasons that generate this phenomenon. In this respect it was concluded that marital life and work is strongly affected by a variety

of socio-economic and political factors which create uncertainty conditions for their functioning.

In general, in divorce situations partners indicate psychological and psychosocial reasons such as mismatch of character, incompatibility of reporting to different values, unable to establish a common view in relation to a particular benchmark.

Mitrofan (2002) showed that couples functionality depends not only on economic and social factors, but also on the compatibility of the *patterns* of the partners' personality.

Closely related to divorce is, unfortunately, a number of consequences (direct and indirect) which strongly affects both partners of the couple and their children that will result from the union. These consequences can occur both in the pre-divorce and after divorce and can be, as mentioned above immediate (direct) and indirect (not immediately perceived and appear in time).

Of all the immediate and direct aftermath need to mention a few (after Mitrofan, 1998):

- The psychotrauma of the partners after protracted wrangling prior to divorce;
- The psychotrauma of the children who are assisting and are strongly marked by disagreements between parents; they can be asked function of their age to express opinion for a parent;
- Separation of some common goods, which had a certain emotional and affective resonance.

Besides this track, not very serious, there are a number of indirect consequences that are not seen immediately but leave deep scars on the psychology of partners and especially on their children. Among these the most important are the effects on children.

Effects on children

- *The deviant behavior of children* - the researchers who studied juvenile delinquency showed that largely dysfunctional family atmosphere, lack of paternal authority, control and authority following the divorce of parents determined the children to commit antisocial acts. Divorce therefore can outline serious emotional and behavioral disorders. The results of investigations on child offenders shows that, in many cases, offenders behavior is determined by the disruption of family life as a result of divorce (Ciofu , 1989) ;

- *Aversion toward the opposite sex and the family life* - it was found that the tense and conflictual atmosphere in dysfunctional families deeply affects the psychology and behavior of children that they get to consider in a wrong way the place and role of marriage in their lives. In this sense, for them the marriage and the family become prolonged torment places, the bickering, the violation of dignity, and their conception of life and family are deeply changed with negative aspect (Ciuperca, 2000) ;

- *The case of multiple parents* - following successive divorces some children may be raised and educated by more mothers or more fathers as a result of the marriage game endlessly, in the hands of people who replace both natural parents (Mitrofan, 2002);

- *The installation at the adulthood period of a continuous trend to divorce* - is sufficiently known the idea that man is profoundly influenced by the environment in which he lives and which almost definitely leaves its mark on him and that what he sees will imitate. In this context it is understandable that children from families that have gone through a divorce when you get in a position to marry tend to divorce, more precisely follow the pattern seen in the family who originated.

Because of these children grow and develop in a family devoid of harmony, divided and it will be difficult for them to maintain a favorable and harmonious climate, in their own family, deeply marked by the prototype of the family of origin. Therefore a great danger of marital instability is the ability to repeat this things in the next generation (Rudica, 1990).

The popular idea claiming that divorce is just a passing phase in a child's life was ruled by psychologists. They now believe that parental anger during a divorce is the most critical factor, but rather the post-divorce years, combined with feelings of stress and anxiety. These negative feelings are at their best in cases where divorce is prolonged, difficult, and with an intense battle for the custody of children.

In most cases children come to blame themselves for the divorce or loss of a parent. We present some of the most frequent and serious **effects that divorce can have on children:**

Stress and behavioral problems at home

Children are usually sensitive and, therefore, more susceptible to emotional damage than adults. Since parents are stressed by divorce and, most likely, no longer show the child the same tolerance and affection that they showed him once, children express these frustrations in different ways: anger, directed both on others and on themselves; inability to take responsibility; a sense of guilt; frequent violation of the rules; drug or alcohol abuse; destructive and defiant behavior; isolation or withdrawal to friends and family; suicidal or violent thoughts; increased or early sexual activity.

A younger child may start to present enuresis and suffer from sleep disorders. He may negatively feel the absence of the other parent, and can not understand the permanence of this situation.

Teenagers may show violent behavior, accompanied by depressive episodes. Sometimes it happens that an older child may need to take care of a younger brother and take responsibility for him, which can result in resentment among brothers (Schiopu, Green, 1995).

Problems at school

Divorce can have the effect of distancing the child not only from the parents, but also from the friends and schoolmates. In most cases their academic results suffer from the inability to concentrate on his studies at home. Parents are usually too busy to help with homework.

Studies have shown that students who come from broken homes are more likely to leave school before graduating from high school and are less likely to attend university. In addition, they have relationship problems with other colleagues and can reach up to breaking the rules at school.

It was noted that young adults whose parents divorced during childhood, are suffering from low self-esteem and have themselves, difficulties in relations (Rime, 2008).

Effects on partners

The main issues involved in the divorce are emotional stress, the custody and care of children, the division of property. Legal custody of children after dissolution of marriage was made traditionally in the favour of the mother. But, in recent decades, there have been pressures from men to change this discriminatory law. The number of fathers who were entrusted with children increased in most societies. It also increased the number of cases in which children were entrusted both parents.

Psychosociology researches show that although this variant is preferred by a growing number of couples who divorce, the effects on children can often be negative. Most divorce regulations establish the

obligation of both parents to contribute to childcare. Typically, this is done by paying alimony. The refuse to help cover childcare costs is punishable by law.

Most marriages are based on community of goods. During divorce law decide on the division of assets; the house, usually is given to the parent to whom are assigned the children.

Divorce involves major changes in all family functions. The economic, solidarity and social functions know a destructuring, or in couples with children, a resizing of mostly negative. Divorce has as a first effect the family loss of psychoaffective function, weakening or breaking formal and informal relationships between partners (Iluț, 2005).

Another effect caused by divorce is the fact that parental responsibilities are redistributed and taken entirely by the partner to whom was entrusted the minor. Although the divorce has negative effects on children, there are situations where the negative effects on the minors are offset by beneficial effects (eg in situations where a parent is aggressive, alcoholic etc.).

Some authors make an association between divorce and the pain that it implies it. Losing a partner through divorce was often compared to loss through death. The pain that accompanies divorce can lead to depression and prolonged anomie in which life seems pointless and everyday tasks become meaningless. It captures the similarity between the feelings of divorcees and widows, although the fact that the partner went willingly will leave some people more humble and divorced more bitterness than support generally the widows. The divorced are often younger than those widowed, but rehabilitation is complicated in both cases, when strong feelings of anger rejection or guilt persist. (Mitrofan, I., 2003).

At the same time, divorce can have a positive side, which means the release of unhappy or restrictive relationships and thus enabling the individual to build a new life, either alone or with a partner. Whatever the pain felt by one partner, it is appropriate to express freely and escape from oppression, using one of the manifestations of pain: anger, crying etc. An incomplete expression of personal pain can delay rehabilitation and may cause difficulties in relations underlying it.

In the two partners, the consequences of divorce depend on several factors: whether there are children, investment in marriage, by whom and why the divorce was filed, the value of the partners on erotic and marital market, network density of relatives and friends of both spouses. Usually by divorce the children stay with the mother, the material costs are higher for the woman, while psychological costs are higher for male (those who have a high moral sense) (Peretti, Legrand, Boniface, 2001).

According to Offer and VanderStoep (1986) women left alone with children after divorce economic decay, for the following reasons:

- Less ability to gain (during marriage she worked less), and now must deal with children and what will not allow her to engage in two jobs;
- Lack of support from her former husband (many former partner fails to pay the obligations on the growth and childcare);
- Inadequate help from the state, the society as a whole.

Mother feels, almost always, full of responsibilities, because its social role prescribed by the society, is to be the first person to give an account of education and good behavior of the children. Interestingly, in the same register of collective mentality, the father seems to have not too many responsibilities, so long as it is recognized that alimony (how much

there is in relation to the minimum wage) is sufficient to compensate for damages (Vrasmas, 2002).

Researches have found a standard behavior of parents: the mother sacrificing her and the father go to the next family life; mother has no choice, father almost always choose freedom.

Divorce has generally negative consequences also on the divorced parents because it disrupts grandparents - grandchildren relationships, relationships in which has been invested much affection. In addition, the parents of the partners are subjects of the psychological pressure of relatives and acquaintances.

Partners need to understand that although separated, they have debts both to society and to the young offspring, as they normally grow so they can build themselves a normal society.

As support A.Giddens (2001) is extremely difficult to draw a line between social benefits and costs of the high level of divorce. More tolerant attitude means that some couples may end a relationship without face unsatisfactory social ostracism. On the other hand, dissolution of marriage is almost always accompanied by emotional stress and creates financial hardship for one or both sides.

Loss of the marriage would cause difficulties to anyone, even the most powerful man, because it is associated with feelings of failure of desires and expectations taken at the beginning marriage. Bypassing the trauma of divorce can take several months or, in most cases, healing is achieved over several years.

The period of separation (when one partner leaves the family home) and the effective divorce, is marked by the reorganization of the house, one parent must share tasks so to fill the lack of partner and children go through confused, and do not know which is their role in the

family, feel guilty for their parents' divorce, become aggressive with others and with oneself. All these elements are a real challenge for the single parent, especially when he has to solve personal problems caused by divorce (Mitrofan, Ciuperca, 1997).

Another challenge that characterize changes in a family after divorce, are changes in financial status; although specialized studies show that mothers are more likely to go through post-divorce financial crisis, fathers also, sometimes, faced with these financial problems, but are less common, primarily because men scarcely remain child custody and later because all studies show that, in general, men are paid more than women.

There are neglected workplace issues and even living conditions - aspects which amplifies the discomfort of parents and children. Partners who have just come out of a divorce experience negative emotions: anger, anxiety, depression, impulsive behavior, alienation from friends and family group, lower self-esteem (Ghebrea, 2003).

Often, the effects of divorce on parents themselves may take the form of somatic manifestations by problems in the immune system and the resurgence of old diseases.

The general objective that we have proposed has been to detect the mental disorders that appear in order to elucidate the general objective we started from the following *hypothesis*: divorce relationship deeply affects a person's ability of relationship, emotional maturity and self esteem in females who have gone through such a process.

The studied samples

Verification of the hypothesis stated above, imposed choice of two groups of subjects: married women (group FC) and divorced women (group FD) between which to make the necessary comparisons.

Lot FC was composed of 30 married women, aged between 20 and 30 years of Arad. FD Lot included 30 divorced women, aged 20-30 years and having the same area of origin.

Research methodology

To achieve the objectives set and verify the hypothesis we used several scales on self-esteem, marital conflict, emotional maturity and type of relationship.

Kansas Marital Conflict Scale (KMCS)

Was built by K. Eggerman, V. Moxley and WR Schumn and includes three subscales designed to measure the steps of the marital conflict. The first subscale refers to the construction program and has 11 items; the second relates to the dispute or controversy and has 5 items and the third scale refers to the negotiation and has 11 items. In total KMCS has a number of 27 items.

Rosenberg self-esteem scale

This scale was developed initially to measure the overall feeling of personal worth and selfacceptation. The scale includes 10 items with four response options from strongly disagree (1 point) and totally agree (4 points). Items 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 are listed vice versa. The scores may be between 10 and 40; high scores indicate low self-esteem.

Emotional maturity questionnaire Friedman

It was built by Friedman, to measure a person's emotional maturation. The questionnaire contains a number of 25 items, to which the subject must answer yes or no depending on how the statement fits or not stated how he sees things.

Multidimensional questionnaire for relationship

It was developed by Suell (MSQ, 1993) and includes 60 items. This test was developed and validated as a measure of psychological tendencies associated with intimate relationships. The results of this test indicate that the subscale are highly relevant, and are easily reproducible. In addition, it was found that a standardized measurement can be performed on relationship satisfaction, using test subscales. The test has 60 fear, grouped into five 12 subscales, each targeting a particular sector in determining and living an intimate relationship. This addressed issues such as respect for the relationship, concern for the internal control of the relationship, its awareness, motivation to have a relationship, fear of relationships, anxiety associated with involvement in a relationship, assertiveness, depression, monitoring, relationship satisfaction etc.

In the context of psychological measurement Cronbach alpha coefficient is an index that indicates whether the measurement is reliable and whether the scores reflect more true or are related to some errors. A defining feature of the coefficient of consistency is that representing a proportion of the variance, should, in theory, to be between 0 and 1. But in practice may appear true or false scores unobservable and therefore our attempt estimate internal consistenc, to produce unexpected results. "In practice, consistency estimate possible values can be located between minus infinity to 1, rather than 0 to 1" (Nichols, 1999 cited by Popa, 2008).

Table 1
Statistic indices and alpha coefficients for the whole group (N = 60)

	Val. min	Val. max	Average	stand. dev.	Alpha
MSQ	93	174	142.45	15.55	.771
Relation respect	5	16	11.39	2.15	.318
Concern over relationship	4	16	11.97	2.61	.580

Int. Control of the relation	4	16	10.59	2.52	.459
Consciousness of relation	4	16	10.31	2.78	.619
Motivation relationship	4	16	11.78	2.53	.520
Anxiety about the relation	4	16	11.15	2.92	.662
Assertiveness of the relation	4	16	11.76	2.79	.644
Depression	5	16	11.02	2.73	.372
Ext control of the relation	4	16	9.31	2.71	.561
Monitoring the relation	4	16	9.88	2.60	.503
Fear of relation	4	16	10.31	2.55	.410
Satisfaction in the intimate relation	4	16	8.93	2.74	.568
SCALA KANSAS	48	91	67.64	8.08	.652
construction program	8	51	24.10	5.89	.399
dispute	4	16	12.27	3.31	.786
negotiation	14	39	26.18	4.53	.241
ROSENBERG SELF ESTEEM SCALE	14	38	28,87	5,16	.430
EMOTIONAL MATURITY QUESTIONNAIRE FRIEDMAN	4	25	19.40	5.26	.396

In our table we have a good consistency at the relational multidimensional questionnaire ($\alpha = .771$), Scale Kansas measuring marital conflict ($\alpha = .652$), Rosenberg self-esteem Scale ($\alpha = .786$). For questionnaire of emotional maturity Cronbach alpha coefficient is lower ($\alpha = .396$) as the measure of this issue occur some errors. This we interpret as relating to the definition of the term itself and retrieving his emotional maturity in everyday life. Defining emotional maturity differs from one society to another and within the same society from a historical period to another. It could also have occurred errors in translating and adapting the test for a population with Romanian language.

For Kansas Scale measuring marital conflict, internal consistency coefficient obtained from sheep ($\alpha = .652$) falls within the limits specified in the literature (ranging between .64 and .96).

The hypothesis made by us was that divorce deeply affects a person's relationship ability, emotional maturity and self-esteem in females who have gone through such a process.

The averages at the applied scales and the differences between them, with the significance of these differences are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Statistic indices, differences between averages and their significance in the tests applied to the two groups (CF , N = 30 and FD , N = 30)

	FC				FD				t	p
	min	max	a.s.	Aver.	min	max	a.s.	Aver.		
MSQ	96	174	16.06	141.69	93	173	15.09	143.1	.80	ns
Rel. respect	6	16	2.14	10.95	5	16	2.08	11.81	3.48	.0
Rel preocc.	4	16	2.71	11.34	5	16	2.37	12.56	4.11	.0
Int.control	4	16	2.74	10.58	5	16	2.30	10.60	.67	ns
Conscious.	4	16	3.01	10.28	4	16	2.55	10.34	.193	ns
Motivation	4	16	2.39	11.70	4	16	2.66	11.86	.511	ns
Assertiveness	4	16	2.56	11.08	4	16	3.23	11.21	.381	ns
Anxiety	4	16	2.99	10.59	5	16	2.09	12.84	7.57	.00
Depression	5	16	2.63	10.44	5	16	2.73	11.54	3.51	.00
Ext.control	5	16	2.45	10.32	4	16	2.60	8.39	6.52	.00
Monitoring	4	15	2.34	10.27	4	16	2.78	9.52	2.47	.01
Fear	4	16	2.80	10.40	4	16	2.31	10.64	2.54	.01
satisfaction	4	16	2.75	10.17	4	15	2.19	7.79	8.21	.0
SCALA KANSAS	48	84	8.51	65.95	51	91	7.35	69.21	3.52	.0
Program	8	37	6.86	24.02	13	51	4.85	24.17	.22	ns
Dispute	4	16	3.00	11.34	4	16	3.36	13.13	4.80	.0
Negotiation	14	39	5.03	27.12	15	36	3.82	25.32	3.48	.0
SELF EST. SCALE	17	40	5.40	29.99	14	43	.71	7.84	3.62	.0
MATURITY SCALE	12	25	5.19	14.73	4	25	5.33	14.09	1.05	ns

The multidimensional relationship Scale

Although multidimensional relationship scale presents no significant differences between the two groups, however, has some subscales which present differences highly significant. Thus the relationship respect and concern for the relationship differences between the two groups are highly significant at $p = .00$ threshold. This shows that divorced women show greater respect to the relationship, accompanied by a greater concern for their relationships. We interpret this because of the psychotrauma they went through during the relationship. Given these psychotrauma, they are more careful and more concerned with the relationships that they will establish based on respect.

Internal Control subscales relationship, relationship awareness, motivation and assertiveness relationship does not differ significantly between the two groups. This suggests that subjects from the two lots have the same degree of internal control of the relationship and the motivations underlying the relationship are approximately similar. Both are about equally aware of the relationship and the degree of assertiveness in conducting relationship is also similar.

In exchange for anxiety and depression subscales relationship related quotas obtained by divorced women are significantly higher than those of married women (differences significant at $p = .00$ threshold). Divorced women are depressed after breaking a relationship that had a special significance for them at a time. Anxiety can be interpreted in two ways: on the one hand anxiety related to the relationship which was dissolved, and on the other anxiety related to any future relationship that could end up like the first one.

External control and monitoring of the relationship are significantly higher in married women. They fail (probably with external

help, friends, family) to keep the relationship under control and to monitor better than divorced women. These relying only on themselves, they do not look after support in the opinions of people outside who are not really emotionally involved; they analyze the situation more objectively. They have, therefore, a deficit in monitoring the relationship, which gets out of control. Fear subscale relationship, presents significant differences between the two groups (at a threshold of $p = .01$). This fear higher in divorced women we interpreted it on the one hand that as fear resulting from the relationship ended, and on the other hand that fear of any future relationship, at least for a certain period of time. Finally, the last subscale is related to satisfaction in intimate relationships and presents significant differences ($p = .00$) between married and divorced women. The average obtained by divorced women is obviously smaller than that from the other lot as a clear reflection of the lack of satisfaction with family relationships. For a better visualization of differences between the two groups at subscale of multidimensional relationship questionnaire, I played comparative weight averages of the two groups in Figure 1.

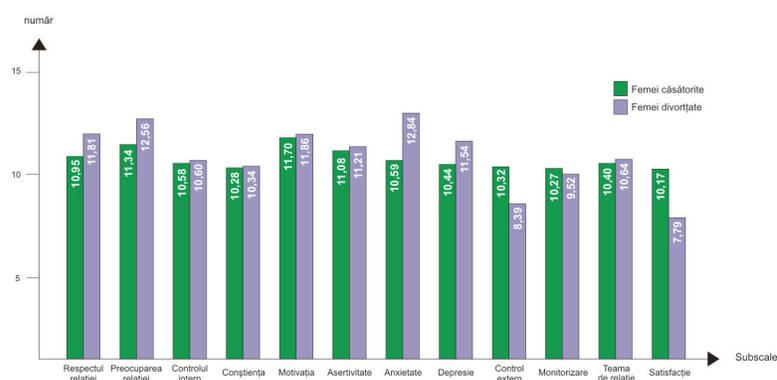


Figure 1 Comparative share of the two sample averages at multidimensional relational questionnaire

Kansas scale measuring marital conflict

This scale presents significant differences between the two groups of subjects, proving that women divorced marital conflict level is significantly higher than for married women.

Not only the overall scale is significant at a significance level of $p = 0.01$, but also two of its subscales namely dispute and negotiation.

Divorced women have a greater share in the dispute and a smaller one at negociere. This fact is a concrete proof that they are involved in several disputes, of higher intensity without the ability to negotiate disputes and conflicts.

Instead, building the program does not differ significantly between the two groups, as a consequence of the fact that in this domain the subjects use similar methods and techniques.

For a better visualization of the results obtained by the two groups in Kansas Scale measuring marital conflict, their configuration is presented graphically in Figure 2.

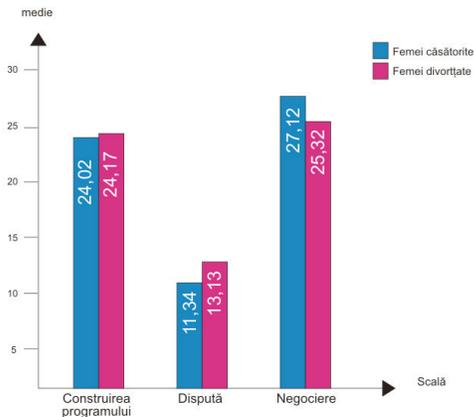


Figure 2 Comparative weight averages of the two groups in Kansas measuring scale marital conflict

Rosenberg self-esteem scale

The scale presents significant differences between the means of the two groups at a significance level $p = .00$, being a reflection of the lower self-esteem of divorced women.

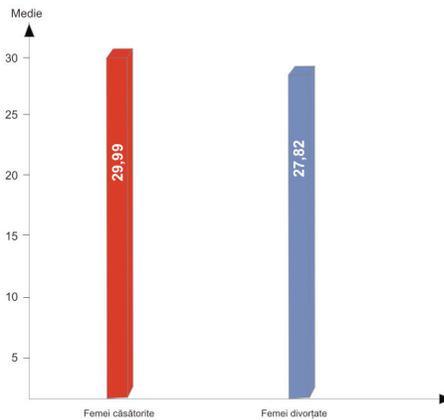


Figure 3 Share of comparative averages of the two samples at Rosenberg self-esteem scale

The reason that divorced women show lower self-esteem than those who are married may arise for several reasons. We must observe the general opinion of society, which still, disregard divorced women. It is normal in this social context, that divorced women feel less self esteem and their accomplishments. The fact that parted partners leads them to believe they are not good enough for them, hence the lower self-esteem. Finally, compared with the ideals and the projects they have proposed themselves from the marriage, now they find that some are not feasible or that have failed all along the line, so lowers self- esteem.

Yet even in the case of divorced women, as an exception, we can meet women who had high self-esteem.

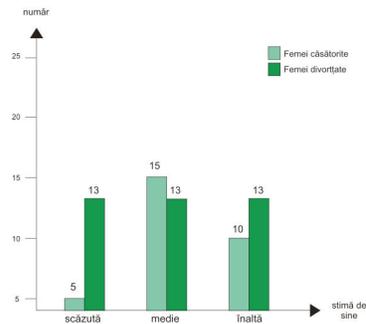


Figure 4. The degree of self-esteem in the two groups (Rosenberg self-esteem scale).

From the figure it is very clear that the majority of women in both groups is in the middle category in terms of self-esteem, that they mean to esteem their own person. However, divorced women presents a greater number of subjects with low self-esteem (11 cases compared to 4 in the case of married women) and a smaller number of subjects with high self esteem (3 cases compared to 8 in the group of married women).

This representation supports, once again, the results of our research, namely that, in general, divorced women have a low self esteem.

Emotional maturity questionnaire

It is the only test that showed no significant differences between the means of the two groups .

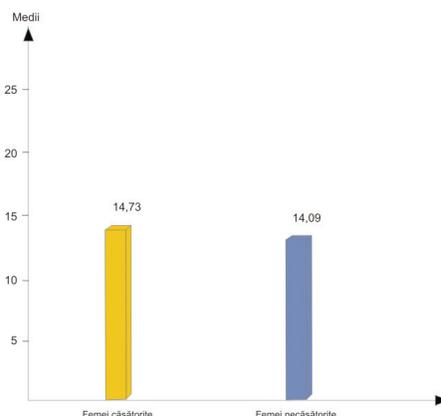


Figure 5 Comparative weight averages of the two groups in emotional maturity questionnaire

The lack of significance of difference between means can be attributed, to the emotional maturity approximately equal to this age group. Do not forget that our subjects were part of the age group 20-30 years, and the way in which the society determine and influence the maturation of young people in this period is approximately the same. Thus is refuted the idea, sometimes circulated in the literature, that divorce is a consequence of lack of emotional maturity. We believe as being more real to establish a causality of a lack of assertive communication.

Correlations

The internal consistency scores in our research indicate relatively small measurement errors. A high internal consistency automatically implies high validity of the instrument. We can say, based on these results that the tests used by us and proved their validity in their application on the groups of subjects studied (this aspect was one of the specific objectives of our research). Finally, high internal consistency indicates that the items are strongly correlated positively with each other,

so the scores refer to one and the same variable (which is affected by the respective scale or subscale).

Table 3

The correlation matrix between the test applied to the FD group (N = 30)

Corelations	Relationship	Kansas Scale	Self esteem	Maturity
Relationship	1.00	.187*	.429**	.135
Kansas Scale		1.00	.290**	.033
Self Esteem			1.00	.081
Maturity				1.00

** p < .01

* p < .05

The evaluation of internal consistency gives us a picture of the size of the sample correlation that it has with other evidence. Any tool is used it can not have a higher correlation with another test that indicated by its own internal consistency. This follows from the matrix of intercorrelations of evidence applied to both groups.

For divorced women group (FD) highly significant correlations were obtained between multidimensional relational scale and self-esteem Rosenberg scale ($r = .429$ at $p < .01$). We must not lose sight of the fact that self-esteem is largely a reflection of the esteem of others to that person, and this depends, in turn, in the ability of the person to relate to the others.

A similar significant correlation has relational multidimensional questionnaire and Kansas measuring scale marital conflict ($r = .187$ at $p < .05$). Interpersonal conflict of any kind, affects the interpersonal relationships. Increased conflictuality of the marital relations for divorced women is closely related to relationship difficulties that they present.

Finally one last significant correlation occurs in the relationship between self-esteem and marital conflict measurements ($r = .290$ at $p < .01$). It seems that the intensity and frequency of marital conflict is directly proportional to lower self-esteem subjects. No wonder, if we think that conflicts are often accompanied by many aftershocks verbal and annoying, derogatory or minimizing the opponent.

Women (in case of divorce) are often made reproaches, in general, on the model: " you are good for nothing ", " you know nothing ", " you do not do anything right , " " you're not able to take something out" etc. Heard daily and repeatedly, these assessments (although inconsistent with reality) get to put their mark on the self-image of the subject and to influence downward toward self esteem.

Conclusions

The maximum number of divorced women is between 22.5 and 27.5 years (22 of the 30 cases studied). Under this age the number of divorced women is lower, probably because the number of marriages at a younger age in the general population is low. Women trying to make a career and profession are postponing marriage date until university graduation.

The number of divorced women dose not present significant differences in the level of schooling. This suggests divorce occurs regardless of the level of education of the partner. In exchange among people with higher education the number of married women is significantly higher than among those with secondary education. This can be interpreted as meaning that, once she completed studies she seeks to achieve the second objective, namely her family foundation, which intends to make it last.

For the subscales respect and concern for the relationship within Multidimensional relation Questionnaire, the differences between the two groups are highly significant at $p = .00$ threshold. This shows that divorced women show greater respect to relationship, accompanied by a greater concern for their relationships.

At the anxiety and depression subscales related to relationship quotas obtained by divorced women are significantly higher than those of married women (differences significant at $p = .00$ threshold). Divorced women are depressed after breaking a relationship that had a special significance for them at a time. Anxiety can be interpreted in two ways: on the one hand anxiety related to the relationship dissolved, and on the other anxiety related to any future relationship that could end up like the first one.

External control and monitoring of the relationship are significantly higher in married women. They fail (probably with external help, friends, family) to keep the relationship under control and to monitor better than divorced women. These relying only on themselves, they do not look after support in the opinions of people outside who are not emotionally involved; they analyze the situation more objectively. They have, therefore, a deficit in monitoring the relationship, which gets out of control.

Kansas scale measuring marital conflict presents significantly differences between the two groups of subjects, proving that in the case of divorced women the marital conflict level is significantly higher than for married women.

Divorced women have a greater share in the dispute and a smaller one at negociere. This fact is a concrete proof that they are

involved in several disputes, of higher intensity, without the ability to negotiate disputes and conflicts.

Rosenberg self-esteem scale presents significant differences between the means of the two groups at a significance level $p = .00$, being a reflection of the lower self-esteem of divorcees women.

The reason that divorced women show lower self-esteem compared to those married can arise for several reasons. One must also consider the general view of society, which still more disregards divorced women. It is normal in this social context, that divorced women feel less esteem for themselves and their accomplishments. In addition, the fact that the partners parted leads them to believe they are not good enough for them, hence the lower self-esteem. Finally, compared with the ideals and the projects they have proposed marriage, now finds that none are achievable, that have failed all along the line, so decreases self esteem.

Emotional maturity questionnaire is the only sample that showed no significant differences between the two groups in average, showing that in our samples, emotional maturity is not related to the effects of divorce on women.

The results recorded in the two groups as the analysis and interpretation of research proved us the utility of the research made. There are significant differences between divorced and married women in terms of self-esteem, marital conflict and ways of relating.

As a result of our research appears that divorced women need to be included in programs of psychotherapy (cognitive behavioral psychotherapy, supportive psychotherapy) and counseling to improve relationship capacity, to increase self-esteem and learn marital conflict management.

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