BEING A DIVORCED WOMAN IN A PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY: EXAMPLE OF KONYA
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Abstract

Divorce, which means the virtual or juridical dissolution of a marriage, is a social phenomenon with has many psychological, social, economic impacts. While divorce leads to negative consequences to men, it is actually more weakening process for women when compared, as it brings problems and additional obligations. During and after the divorce process the point of view of the family and the society to the divorces women can have impacts on the decisions and lives of the women who are going through divorce.

The aim of this study is to present the difficulties encountered and the problems women face in their social relationships during and after the divorce process, only because of their genders in the light of their own personal experiences. With this aim, face-to-face interviews with limited amount of divorced women residing in the Konya city centrum was executed by using semi-structured questionnaire form. According to the findings of the study, it was observed that the negative approach of families and society towards the divorced women limits the relationships of women with their friends, relatives and entourage; and this condition makes the life of women even harder. In order to minimize the negativity that women encounter, social and psychological support should be given and consultancy service should be provided to these women and to their families.

Keywords: Divorce, Divorced Women, Social Exclusion, Ataerkil toplum.

1.Introduction

While divorce is not an event accepted at the same level in every culture and society, it is an important social fact which we come across in anywhere where there is marriage in the history, ending family union legally and actually, causing breaking up and dividing of the family. Divorce means not only breaking up of spouses that don't get along but also change of structure in the whole family system (Goldenberg & Goldenberg, 2002). For this reason, it affects the society as much as it affects the individual. Being able to evaluate the problem of divorce with holistic viewpoint requires comprehending of values accepted in the society, social gender roles, the mentality shaping woman-man relationships and good analysis of overall approach of the society on family, marriage and divorce. Just like marriage, divorce is also shaped by traditions and values, belief systems, social structures and norms of society.

With the adopting of liberal policies in Turkey, especially after 1980, a fast change and transition process is experienced in every part of the society. It is unavoidable for this change and transition to affect family, the smallest unit of the society. Urbanization, industrialization, scientific and technological developments, internal and external migrations increasing in this period have caused differentiation and partly fracturing in structure and function of family. When compared to many other countries, divorce rates are still in low levels in Turkey. However, the increase is seen each passing year.

According to data from TSI (Turkish Statistical Institute), when compared with five years ago, marriage and divorce statistics are like this: 582.715 people have married and 94.219 couples have divorced in 2010 and 599.704 people have married and 130.913 people have divorced in 2014. Rough divorce rate was 1,62 in 2010 and became 1,70 in 2014. According to data from TSI, rough divorce rate which was 1,62 in 2010 became 1,70 in 2014, in Turkey general. In Konya, forming the population of our study, despite following a fluctuating course, the rough divorce rate which was 1,66 in 2010 have become 1,69 in 2014 (tuik.gov.tr). Data show that marriage rates have not changed significantly compared to the previous year but divorce rates have increased for 4,5%. 39,6% of divorces happen in the first five years of marriage and 21,8% happen between sixth and tenth years. In about fifty percent of divorce cases, men are in 30-39, women are in 25-34 age range (tüik.gov.tr http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=18628).

Being a multi-dimensional, social fact as per its reasons and outcomes, divorce is a process which burns out women more than men due to problems and responsibilities it brings, along with causing different results with regards to woman and man (Kalmijn, Monden 2006; Tor, 1993 ;Arıkan 1996). It is known that in our society, due to women having low education level and not being equipped economically, when they are faced with a situation such as divorce, they experience economic woes as well as psychological and social problems (Arıkan, 1996; Aktaş, 2011). Besides economic woes, one of the most important problems experienced after divorce is about the viewpoint on divorced women.

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Studies on expectations, perception and attitude of society regarding divorce present important data on social structure. According to findings obtained from the studies made to date about divorce, the attitude which was stricter in the past have transformed mentally in time and became seen as legitimate (Demirkan, Ersöz, Sen, et al, 2009. 8). Problematic marriages, covered up and not uttered with the thought of "don't let it out of this room" in the past,are questioned more today and divorce is considered a more ordinary issue in comparison.

It is hard to claim the attitude and behaviors of public in Turkey about divorce are similar. There are great differences between the east and west of the country. In a study made by Williams (1982), it was determined that the public in Southeastern region does not approve divorce except when the woman cheats on her husband. Meanwhile, in the study made by Arıkan (1996) in Ankara, it was determined thatthose within scope of the research generally approve man and woman to divorce in necessary situations, accept that divorce is natural in case of adultery and severe conflict, they don't see divorce as a sin, not perceive in a derogatory definition such as "a disgraceful situation", nearly all of the participants have approved being friends with divorced individuals. However, participants to research have seen divorce as a problem and stated that the worst effect of it is on children, that children of divorced families are unhappier. In the same study, those living in city see divorce as more acceptable compared to rural areas. Negative outlook of society on divorced women is affecting their social relationships and psychological health negatively.

The purpose of this study is to present the problems women are faced with during and after the process of divorce and due to their gender. For this purpose, how the women perceive outlook of their families and social circles during and after the process of divorce and how this perception affects their lives were focused in the research.

The study is a qualitative study with descriptive property. For collection of data, a semi-structured interview form was prepared and thorough face to face interviews were conducted with fourteen divorced women in Konya city center. Sample was selected from divorced women by simple random sampling, via reference people. During interviews, information was given in advance, informed consents were taken and asked permission for sound recording. Sound recording was made with those who gave consent (except 4 people) and notes were also taken in all interviews.

In the study, the experiences of women and their thoughts on the subject were interpreted in the light of information provided by them. The women interviewed within scope of the research were women living in the city center of Konya. Having a great area geographically, there are cultural differences even between districts and towns of the city. Therefore, although the life experiences of divorced women provide a rich data to our study, it cannot reflect the cross-cultural regional differences on divorce. The findings of the research are evaluated under three categories titled "approach of family during and after divorce", "social relationships and outlook of society during and after divorce" and "adaptation to new life after divorce".

2. Methodology

2.1. Model of Research: The process starting with the effort of observing divorced women for long years and understanding their semantic world has laid the groundwork for shaping of this study. Because it was aimed to reveal how and why women are affected during and after divorce, qualitative research method was used. Qualitative research is an approach which uses understanding and researching social facts in the environment they consist as a base. Key feature of qualitative research is concentrating on how individuals build reality in their interactions with their social worlds (Merriam, 2013: 22). To provide a realistic picture about the research subject, it is important to present viewpoints and experiences of individuals subject to research as directly as possible (Yıldırım, Şimşek, 2006). Instead of expressing a fact like divorce in numeric data, this method was preferred to better understand and make sense of themselves, what they lived through and perceptions of society. Because the experiences of women during and after divorce is aimed to be revealed by woman viewpoint and their own expressions, feminist theory was utilized. Feminist theory considers women as experts and bearer of knowledge during women research. Therefore it matters greatly that a subjective experience such as divorce which is proved by researches that it affects women more is researched with reference to women's viewpoint.

2.2. Population and Sample: The study was conducted by face to face interviews made with 14 divorced women living in Konya city center. Samples were selected from divorced women by simple random method, through reference people.

Table 1.Socio-Demographical Properties of Samples

	Age	Education	Occupation	Who provides the livelihood at the moment?	Married for how many years?	How many years since divorce?	Reason for divorce	Number of children	Place of residence
W. 1.	47	High School	Civil Servant	Herself	17	9	Lovelessness	1	Own house
W. 2	48	University Student	Secretary	Family and herself	10	19	Cheating	2	Own house
W. 3	40	University	Teacher	Herself	3	6	Lovelessness	-	Own house
W. 4	35	High school Student	Security	Herself	13	6	Cheating (cowife)	3	Own house
W. 5	55	Primary School	-	Salary inherited from father	14	15	Violence, alcohol	3	Own house
W. 6	47	Primary School	Worker	Herself	18	9	Cheating	2	Own house
W. 7	33	Primary School	-	Family	8	5	Irresponsibility	2	With family
W. 8	35	University	Teacher	Herself	9	4	Psychological issues	-	Own house
W. 9	38	Primary School	-	Family	11	10	Violence, alcohol	3	With family
W. 10	26	University	Fashion Designer	Family	6 ay	1	Family	-	With family
W. 11	39	University	Academician	Herself	12	2	Emotional violence	1	Own house
W. 12	31	University Student	-	Family	3 ay	9	Psychological issues	-	With family
W. 13	43	Primary School	Yok	Family	15	8	Cheating	2	With family
W.14	62	Primary School	-	Previously family, now son	6	27	Cheating (cowife)	1	With son

2.3. Socio-Cultural Structure of City of Konya and Divorce:

City of Konya is a Central Anatolian city known as a capital for Seljuk Empire, with an importance in scientific and political history of Turkey, committed to traditional and conservative values. Conservatism, highlighting living religious and traditional values, actually represents a political idea. From the beginning of transition to multi-party system, left politics not finding an area for itself other than a few districts, weight of right political culture based on religiousness and more on Pan-Islamism are seen as important sources of conservative culture in Konya (Akın, Aydemir, Nacak, 2013). In the process of put modernization policies into practice after the Republic and women accepted as the personal bearers of modernism (Gole, 2004), Konya is known as a city resisting innovation, change and modernization. However, with developments in social and economic fields after 1980's, it looks like modernism and conservative values are trying to co-exist. The most important social institution by conservatism is the family. Therefore, researching perceptions of divorced women on family and social circles in Konya, the symbolic city of Conservatism is making data of the study meaningful.

2.4. Data Collection Tool: As data collection tool, semi-structured interview form developed by the researcher, in accordance with the purpose of study, enabling thorough interview, was used. Thorough interview is a tool useful for researcher to grasp the subject in detail and thoroughly in the field study (Kumbetoglu, 2005:71). Semi-structured questions allow the researcher to obtain new data by evaluating hints and penetrate the semantic world of verbal expressions. Interview form consists of 17 questions grouped as demographic questions such as age, education level, income, occupation, questions for understanding the viewpoint of the family during and after divorce, questions for understanding the attitude and perceptions on social circles during and after divorce and questions for evaluating their current situation. Questions were prepared by the researcher as a result of literature review and pre-interviews, given final forms by taking opinions of two associate professors. In addition to questions asked within framework of interview form, different experiences were also obtained within conversations.

2.5.Data Collection Process: Interviews were conducted between May 2014 and September 2014. Durations of the interviews were between 1 hour and 2 hours 45 minutes. All participants were

priorlyinformed about the purpose of the interview and informed consents were obtained about the data were not to be shared other than the academic study. Also, permission was asked for sound recording during the interviews, all interviews except the 4 who didn't give permission were recorded and noted. Women interviewed were coded as W1, W2, W3… and real names and identities were not revealed.

2.6.Data Analysis: In the study, the experiences of women and their thoughts on the subject were interpreted in the light of information they provided. After the end of last interview, content analysis of data recorded and noted were made. Statements voicing same problems were categorized and interpreted under the same title. In analysis of the data, the sequence below was followed in accordance with Creswell's (2013: 182-200) recommendations.

1. Firstly, the sound recordings were listened and checked for any data loss in the notes taken, missing notes were completed. Then, interview forms were read repeatedly as a whole and a framework was determined, data were coded. These codes has formed as to allow the researcher to look for an unexpected, unforeseen, remarkable information before the study.

2. Coded data were gathered and categorized as to form the outlines of research findings.

3. Categorized themes were subjected to content analysis. At this stage, similar data were gathered within framework of certain concepts and tried to be interpreted by organizing. The interpretation defined as "learned lessons" by Lincoln and Guba(Cresswell, 2013: 187) contains abstraction towards wider meanings of data beyond codes and themes.

4. In the last stage, to reflect the experiences of participants dramatically while data are interpreted, descriptive analysis technique was used by sometimes providing direct quotes. For selection of quotes, intensity and explanatoriness were taken into consideration.

3. Results

3.1. Approach of Family During and After Divorce

Marriage is the most important milestone of life for the individuals in Turkish society. Marriage is considered as both a directive of religion[1] and the most important improvement task to be performed against the family of an individual and the society. Society, while expecting individuals to maintain a balanced, happy and harmonious family life, concentrates and prioritizes on social expectations more than individual expectations, tries to preserve the existence of family by enforcing rules making fracturing and dissolution of family .

In Turkish society, social gender roles put the man as an individual existing in public space, woman's life is mostly limited to house and child. Marriages in Turkey does not depend on sharing and communication but on woman and man performing duties and responsibilities suitable to social gender roles. One of the parties not performing its duty regarding marriage, for example man not being able to provide for the house or woman being at fault in obedience and service, may cause divorce (White, 1999:72-99).

According to Turkish Civil Code, "breakdown of marriage" is a reason for divorce in general. Reasons like adultery, attempt on life, indignity, perpetration, etc. are considered reason for divorce in special quality (Turkish Civil Code, 161-166). Families tend to see the special quality reasons for divorce as a valid reason for divorce. Especially, "breaking up a family" for reasons such as romantic love coming to an end, lovelessness is not taken kindly and women are forced to continue the marriage. W1 tells the experience she had as follows.

"My marriage ended because love ended. There was nothing I was sharing with my husband. My family said "you have everything, he doesn't drink, gamble, commit adultery. People are suffering from many things." They expressed at every opportunity that I couldn't act however I want if I divorced. Just because of this, my husband and I spent three years as strangers in the same house." (W1)

Divorce being met with tolerance and divorce decision supported by the family of woman causes both the woman to spend post-divorce period healthier and the resistance and negative outlook on divorce by the society in general sense be relative lesser. However, the families provide support only if they find the reason valid and reasonable and they do not see reasons such as lovelessness, non-communication as reasons for divorce. Women are encouraged to continue the marriage by telling "better to have a husband than become ownerless" even though their marriage is going rough. An opinion is dominant in the society that a woman cannot continue living alone and will certainly need a man. Social prejudices, especially the effect of family and social circles, cause pressure and restrictions on the women and this is reflected on their psychology and life style. Working women are especially affected more from male viewpoint based on social gender.

"My family never wanted me to divorce. I was patient for years. There were alcohol, beating, maltreating, everything. When I told my family that I couldn't endure anymore, my brothers objected by saying "if you divorce, we will be in trouble, his shoes being at the door threshold is enough". (W6)

"My husband wanted to bring a cowife to house²,I left the home, leaving my three children. My intention was to find a house and a job, then get my children. My family reacted much. They said "accept it, let him look after her and you." Even my own sisters said "what kind of a mother are you, how can you leave your children, you shamed us to everyone" and got angry with me for months. No one gave me a home, a job. I went hungry for a long time. But now I have a regular job, a house. I see my children. But my family still accuses me." (W4)

The fact of divorce due to established traditional and cultural codes in the society negatively affects their families as much as women. Family structure in Turkish society requires love, protection and control. Cultural values proposes that parents should protect their children until death. Returning of woman to her father's house due to divorce is not wanted because of two reasons. First is re-assuming of the role of protectors of the virtue of widower as father or brother and second is the thought of family losing prestige and status and becoming head bent against criticism and implications of social circles (Altuntek, 1993: s.77-79). This attitude, supporting that women should continue the marriage due to being economically dependent on man and their participation to working life is extremely minimal, has settled in traditional period. If the divorce has happened, families undertake the role of mostly control and supervision as well as support. In a study conducted by interview method on 40 divorced women who were diagnosed as depression, it was revealed that 70% described their relationships with their families as "continued support and control" and 12,5% described as "didn't support in any way and just acted oppressive" (Bulut, 2008). In our study, all of the women have expressed that the families tended to keep under control and supervision rather than support.

"I have two brothers, they never asked for once if I needed anything or need something done but if I want to go somewhere alone, they always bother me by saying I should not go anywhere alone and they should know where I am going." (W6)

The reason for families not taking the decision of divorce well, continue their pressure and controls is the negative view of society on divorced women. The experiences shared by W6, W1 and W4 present this situation dramatically.

3.2. Social Relations During and After Divorce

The post-divorce period is revealed as a worse situation than a bad marriage for woman. It is known that the society has developed attitudes such as pity, disdain, contempttowards divorced women. In the study of Arıkan, "Poverty, Marital Conflict and Divorce", published in 1992, it was determined that 81,4% of poverty-stricken divorced women believe society generally look at divorced women with an evil eye. They answered to the question how they are affected by their social circles' outlook on them as 55% dispiritedness, 28,6% galling, 6,6% quarreling with relatives, 5,5% moving out from district, 4,4% quarreling with friends. In the study of Bulut, they expressed 45,5% as they don't want to see their old social circles (Bulut, 2008:116).

In societies such as Turkey where status is acquired by marriage, especially for women, divorce is more challenging to women in many terms. The outlook of society on divorced women is more negative compared to men. Re-marriage possibility of divorced women are lower than men. Usually, men prefer women never married before in their second marriages, however, a divorced woman marrying a man never married before is not approved by the society.

In the study conducted by Sucu (2007), when divorced women are asked about "what is the most inconvenience issue", 54% has replied with "need to be always restrained in behaviors". All of the women we have met in our study have stated that they live in fear of being misunderstood by society, feel like they have to be careful about their clothing, behaviors, talk. W7, W12, W11 and W1 have expressed that their social relationship are restricted.

"In general, the outlook of social circles are negative. There is a perception that a divorced woman gets her claws on anyone she meets and I feel this. I abstain from talking with even my closest relative outside. I have ended seeing my closest friends, social circles completely." (W7)

"I have been married for only three months. Society sees me as a widow. Because of this I don't want to see anyone. Nothing will be the same anymore. For example, they say that I am very young, I can marry again but I know they wouldn't look favorably on me marrying someone never married before. Besides, the incoming requests are from those whose wife is deceased or those divorced, with children." (W12)

"Some female friends which we could freely see as a family before divorcing have become more distant to me after divorcing. I was unable to understand at first but then I noticed they were jealous of me for their husbands. This was hurtful. I completely isolated myself. I don't interact with anyone unless I have to." (W11)

"In an argument caused by task sharing and which I was completely right about, male co-worker said "I know your problem. You are asking for it. That's why you pick on everyone" implying me being divorced. Since then, I don't say anything even if I get the raw deal, I don't object to anything, can't claim my rights." (W1)

Divorced women having issues regarding their children is another problem. Discrimination and negative approaches on single mothers by the society is an issue women are facing in all societies. Divorce is also a stressful and lossy period for children. In studies conducted on children whose family is divorced, there are findings towards these children being less successful in school compared to their peers, criminal tendency being more and use of addictive substances being more common (Wallerstein, Kelly 1992; Senturk, 2006). One of our participants, W7, expressed that she endured her husband's violence and cruelty for years so that her children are not called "widow foal". The women we have interviewed have expressed that their children were affected by society's negative outlook and labeling as much as themselves.

"My daughter had a problem at school. I wanted to visit vice principal of the school and explain him the situation. Because my daughter was not the faulty party, the teacher was given wrong information. Despite explaining the true story to vice principal, he insisted on believing my daughters friend instead of me. When I reacted, he told to Principal "Sir, the girl is a child of fractured family, she is problematic, but the mother doesn't want to accept this." Our children are considered problematic in the first place." (W2)

The common belief of society is towards children of divorced families are less successful at school, problematic in social relationships, inclined to fighting and violence. Single mothers raising a successful child is sometimes received as bewilderedly and with admiration.

"My daughter was a successful children. She got into a good university. My friends told me that they couldn't raise a successful child even though they are a complete family and voiced their bewilderment." (W1)

Approaches such as these in society are making ending a marriage going bad and taking decision of divorce difficult. In 2014, a study conducted on 5036 women in Turkey general, 39,2% of the samples replied "I wouldn't divorce for any reason and try to continue my marriage" to the question "If you thought you couldn't continue your marriage, which of the following you would do?". To the question "Why wouldn't you think of divorce?", 64,2% replied "Because of my children", 8,4% replied "I don't have financial security", 13,4% replied "my family and social circles wouldn't look favorably". It is seen that these responses create diversity in terms of education level rather than financial independence and income status. While educated women bring family and spouse love, emotional satisfaction compared to others, women with lower education level does not see divorce as an option due to not having financial security (Çaha, Aydın, çaha 2014: 104-110).

3.3. Adaptation to New Life after Divorce

All the research made in the field of social sciences reveal that women and children are the ones that are affected most by divorce. With divorce, women start experiencing psychological problems due to reasons such as hurting, anxiety about future and uncertainty, custody of children and alimony struggle, positioning in a different status in society caused by divorce reasons like feeling of unable to continue marriage, adultery, etc. and tend to isolate themselves from society due to these problems. In some studies, it was determined that divorced women experience three times more psychological problems compared to married women (Sucu, 2007). Women may experience different emotions such as failure, insignificance, anger, anxiety, fear, sadness, sorrow after divorcing. Difficulties faced by a woman after divorce are economic distress (86,6%), peer pressure (80,8%), if the custody is on father, yearning for children (79%), harassment by men (77%), family pressure (73,2%). As for the difficulties men would face after divorce, they are revealed as; if the custody is on mother, yearning for children (71,6%), distress about doing house and own chores (62,6%), psychological and emotional distress (58,6%) (Arıkan 1996: 216-218). Especially women who weren't working and didn't have any income when married are faced with financial difficulties after divorce.

"After being married for 11 years, I got divorced because my husband wanted to marry someone else and returned to my father's house. This is so difficult. If you have money, financial independence, you can overcome any problem. You need professional support. But if you had to take even the money for bus ticket from your father at this age, it is really difficult to stand on your feet, be strong." (W9)

It is known that welfare level of divorced individuals is lower than married ones (Kalmijn, 2009) but differentiated in terms of woman and man and welfare level of women are lower than men (Yurovich, 2013). In the study of Yalom (2002), it was determined that a living standards of women suffer a 27% decrease after divorce, whereas a 10% increase was seen in living standards of men. According to this result, a 40% difference is seen between living standards of men and women. Education level of women being low, cannot be participating in work life due to not having a profession or only able to find jobs in low wage fields, custody of the child usually given to women are important factors in causing this result. However, it should be accepted that it is hard to say all women undergoing divorce experience are affected at the same level. The level of being affected for each woman is happening in many different forms. Divorce is a crisis for those considering their marriage good and a chance to form a new life for those

considering their marriage bad (Kalmijn and Monden, 2006: 1197). Whether a divorce is a gain or a loss is determined by the perception of individuals.

With the process of divorce, women are placed in a new status and their previous roles, relationships in society may be defined anew according to this new role and status. According to Amato (2000), this transition period paradoxically brings personal improvement chance with it. The status of upset balances, may trigger various gains as well as losses. Some women start working after getting married and increase their personal equipment and earn their financial freedom. This provides positive contribution to their psychologies. In a study, the ratio of non-working women while married was 37,5% and this ratio has dropped to 15% after divorce. In parallel with this result, the ratio of women who didn't have any property holding was 72,5% and this ratio dropped to 57,5% after divorce (Bulut, 2008:113).

Traumatic events such as divorce that affects a person deeply may create an opportunity to review their lives and start anew. As a result of experiencing a great loss and struggle with severe psychologically stressful event, life goals and beliefs of a person undergoes a change and life story becomes different (Keskin, 2013: 39). Difficulties related to important life events turning into positive sources and individuals giving a meaning to the world they are living in is explained through post-trauma growth (Calhoun &Tedeschi, 1996).

From the women we interviewed, W2, W4 and W6, W12 have shown a positive development after the negative divorce experience they have undergone. Participants who were primary school graduates and without any income firstly turned to education (as of now, W2 is an associate degree, W4 is a High School Student, W12 is a last year university student) then started working in a field they deemed suitable and earned their financial freedom. W2 has explained her experience as follows:

"After the divorce, I returned to my father's house with my two children because I had no income. My brother, his wife and two children were also living with my father. I found this very difficult. I felt like a parasite. It was like anything my children did was offensive. I started to think of a way to get rid of this situation. I decided to babysit for working mothers and left my parents. While babysitting, I was studying and taking middle and high school exams externally. Mothers become pleased in time. I became a nanny in high demand. Then I started babysitting all the children of a few mothers who were close friends themselves in my house. There were sometimes five, sometimes seven children. Then when those children grew up and didn't need me anymore, I started working here to be entitled to retirement. I take care of the secretariat of a private student dormitory. Also I am in second year of a two-year university. My biggest dream is getting my bachelor's degree after associate degree and opening my own private crèche. Meanwhile, I tried to raise my own children as best as I could. One of them is an architect, the other is a teacher. Both are married. At the moment, both my family's and my social circle's attitude towards me is more positive, they show me as an example to everyone." (W2)

In some studied conducted for self-perception of divorced women, it was observed that women felt they are able to assert more control over their lives, more responsible, more skilled, feel more confident, able to overcome difficulties easier. Women have judged these changes as extremely important and satisfying (Baum, Rahav& Sharon, 2005).

The findings we have obtained in our study also mostly support the data above. However, women with lower possibility of earning financial freedom and need financial family support because they could not take advantage of education opportunity are experiencing the negative effect of divorce in economy and social relationship more intensely. From the women we interviewed, W9, W13, W14 expressed that divorce affected their life very badly, they couldn't marry again and still continue living financially dependent, getting psychological support.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

In a society where patriarchy exists intensely, in whatever socio-economic context, social relation ns of divorced women are restricted in many ways and negative outlook of society on divorced women significantly affect the lives of those women.

Control of family over women after divorce restricts both their private and social lives. Each of the women experiencing divorce feel the effects of this experience in different dimensions. It was observed that women with low education level, unemployed or working with low income are affected more by financial problems, not having economic and social support of their families. In this context, the reality of increasing education level of women, improving social and economic equipment comes into prominence. As for working women with a profession, they are affected more by negative outlook of social circles and feel like they have to keep their behaviors under constant control.

For changing of negative outlook of society and attitudes divorced women felt, such as pity, stigmatization, prejudiced approach requires a mentality transformation. Being engaged in public educational activities in this subject, performing awareness studies via mass media and including "social gender equality" in education programs of every state of education will help this mentality transformation.

Divorces, especially for women, are given the meaning of a mixed bag of emotional and psychological problems. In our study, it was determined that divorced women intensely felt the peer pressure and negative outlook and suffered from stigmatization of their children as "problematic", "troubled", "child of a fractured family" as well as themselves. These labels affect women decided to divorce and their children negatively. However, as the roles and status of divorced women change, their post-divorce experiences become different. It is seen that some participants managed to improve their personal equipment and transformed their loss into gain, earned a better status in terms of socio-economy compared to pre-divorce.

It is necessary to minimize the problems divorced women face during and after divorce and increase their life satisfactions. This will both help them establishing a new life and ensure they can overcome the problems they are experiencing. For this, psychological, economic, social and legal support must be provided with an integrated approach, both as institutionally and individually. Currently, psychological and social consultancy service is provided to individuals in the process of divorce by Ministry of Family and Social Policies in Turkey. It was revealed by this study that for the divorced women to be affected less from the negative outlook of society, families should also be included in consultancy and support education. Also, it is known that high level social support mitigates the negative psychological effect of divorce. For a healthy society, social studies to help expand social support network of divorced women should be conducted and non-governmental institutions working in this field should be supported in terms of finance and human resources.

Notes

1. Marry those among you who are single, (2988) or the virtuous ones among yourselves, male or female: if they are in poverty, Allah will give them means out of His grace: for Allah encompasseth all, (2989) and he knoweth all things. (Holy Quran Nur 32.)"When a person gets married, that person protects half of his/her religion. For the remaining half, let him/her beware of defying Allah." Heysemi, Mecme'u'zZevaid, No: 7310; Aclûnî, Keşfu'l-Hafa, 2/239)
   Availableat : http://www.mumsema.org/misafir-sorulari/170816
2. Monogamy is the basis in Turkish society. It is legally forbidden for a married man to take a second wife. This is also not approved by the society. However, although rare, some men fall in love and wants to marry another woman and also want the marriage with their first wife to continue due to feeling of responsibility or children.

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