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Assessment and Identification of Factors that Contribute to Divorce of Women in Ethiopia

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Abstract
An attempt has been done to assess and identify the major variables that contribute to divorce in Ethiopia. Age of women, place of residence, religion of a woman, education level of a woman, religion of a woman, number of living children are the major variables which influence divorce in Ethiopia using binary logistic regression model.
Keywords: binary logistic regression, divorce, ever married women, Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey data

Introduction

A number of variables that lead to divorce have been pointed out by different family and social science researchers (Zastrow,1996). Dunwiddie (1967) explained that early age at first marriage and lack of preparation are main causes for marital dissolutions. Lesthaege (1995) also suggested that the level of education, religious affiliation, individual age and duration of marriage are among determinants of marital stability that can be easily extracted from traditional demographic data sources. But divorce is a complex phenomenon that also incorporates the influence of previous respondent's life stages, the development of an individual in childhood, the conditions of growing up and first steps of independent living after reaching maturity. In Ethiopia, women and to some extent men, are traditionally brought up to believe that their major and most important goal in their life is to marry (Daniel, 1994). Unfortunately, the intense urge from family and friends to form marriage is not backed up by the orientation in parental goals and responsibilities of marriage life.

Thus, many young people who are engaged in marriage at early age discover in the late years that marriage is a serious business and is not always as romantic and exciting as they used to dream it. Due to this, they usually prefer to escape from the unfulfilled marriage commitment by separation or divorce. The effect of divorce goes beyond the individuals who dissolve the marital union. Children and other relatives of the couples are the immediate victims who share the potential consequences (Kumulachew, 2001). Particularly children will be exposed to various socio- economic developments (ibid).

The extent, magnitude and effects of divorce problems are also recognized not to be the same for men and women (Daniel, 1994). Many women especially women in developing countries, like Ethiopia, have fewer choices in life outside marriage and children (Daniel, 1994). According to Daniel (1994), the great majority of Ethiopian women are predominantly engaged in domestic chores such as food preparation, child bearing and child rearing. Very few women are educated, have marketable skills and have been prepared for career development and are mostly made to be dependent on their husbands.

In view of all the multifaceted factors associated in the women divorce and in spite of its profound effect on their lives, studies on divorce situation with particular emphasis on its causative factors are rare and scarce in Ethiopia. Very little is known about divorce related problems of women in general and the potential causes that lead them to marital discord in particular, the need to expand our knowledge of the determinants of divorce. This study is motivated by scarcity of research reports in the area described on the one hand, on the severity and the ever increasing prevalence of the problem on the other. Hence, this study intends to assess and identify variables of divorce of women in Ethiopia.

Methodology

Source of Data

The source of data for this study was the 2005 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) done by the Central Statistical Agency (CSA). EDHS which is the second comprehensive survey designed to provide estimates for the health and demographic variables of interest for the following domains: Ethiopia as a whole, urban and rural areas of Ethiopia (each as a separate domain), and all geographic areas (nine regions and two city administrations), namely: Tigray, Affar, Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP), Gambela and Harari regional states and two city administrations, that is, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

Sampling Design

In the 2005 EDHS a representative sample of approximately 14,500 households from 540 clusters were selected. The sample was selected in two stages. In the first stage, with 540 clusters (145 urban and 395 rural)

were selected from the list of Enumeration Areas (EA) from the 1994 Population and Housing Census sample frame. In the second stage, a complete listing of households was carried out in each selected cluster. Between 27 and 32 households from each cluster were then systematically selected for participation in the survey. All women aged 15-49 who were either permanent residents of the households in the 2005 EDHS sample or visitors present in the household on the night before the survey were eligible to be interviewed. In addition, in a sub-sample of half of all the households selected for the survey, all men aged 15-59 were eligible to be interviewed if they were either permanent residents or visitors present in the household on the night before the survey.

Sample Size Determination

From among the 14,500 households, 14,717 women were identified as eligible for the individual interview. Interviews were completed with 14,070 women, yielding a response rate of 96 percent. Of the 6,778 eligible men identified in the selected sub-sample of households, 89 percent were successfully interviewed. Response rates were higher in rural than in urban areas, with the rural-urban difference in response rates most marked among eligible men. Thus, the analysis presented in this study on divorce of women based on the 7,558 ever married women.

Variables Identification

The dependent variable of this study is "marital status of women". For our study purpose the response variable "marital status" which has two binary outcomes coded 0 if a woman is not divorce status and 1 if woman is divorced.

The predictor variables considered in this study include age at first marriage, number of living children, level of education of woman, religion of a woman, place of residence and employment status of a woman.

Data Entry and Analysis

Data entry and cleaning were carried out using statistical soft ware package SPSS version 22.0 for the analysis. Descriptive statistics analysis was used to show the frequency distribution by using tables. Binary logistic regression model was used to assess and identify the influence of variables on divorce in Ethiopia.

Results and Discussion

As presented in table 1 below indicates that divorce case differs by women's age at first marriage. The highest number of divorce practicing women was observed among women age group of less than 18 years (74%) and the remaining 26% was observed among women age group of greater or equal to 18 years. The educational level of a woman is also an important variable. Those who had no, primary level and secondary and above level of education were (71%), (17%) and (12%), respectively. The percentages of number of living children in the household were 29%, 46% and 25% for divorced women who had no child, one or two children and three or more children, respectively. About 67% of women who divorced reside in rural areas and 33% of those women who divorced reside in urban areas. With regard to religion, the majority of divorced women are followers of Coptic Orthodox (70%) followed by Muslims (22%), Protestant (6%) and followers of religions other than the above (2%). Regarding the employment status of women indicates that about 33% are unemployed and 67% are employed, respectively.

Table 1. Results of Descriptive statistics

Variables		Status	
		Divorce	
		case	percent
Age at first marriage	<18 years	74	391
	>18 years	26	138
Place of residence	Urban	33	174
	Rural	67	355
Number of living children	No child	29	151
	1 or 2 children	46	244
	More than 2 children	25	134
Education level of women	no education	71	377
	primary	17	92
	secondary	12	60
Religion of woman	Coptic Orthodox	70	372
	Protestant	6	33
	Muslim	117	22
	Others	7	2
Employment status			
	Not employed	174	33
	Employed	355	67

In this section it is discussed as the model summary, in order to identify factors associated with marital dissolution Binary Logistic Regression Model was used. Moreover, the joint impact of all explanatory variables on the response variables will also determined by using the concept of Nagelkerke R^2 which is explained in the model summary. Regarding this table 2 below shows the model summary of the result.

Table 2. Model summary

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	399.788[a]	.56	.44

The most common assessment of overall model fit in logistic regression is the likelihood ratio test, which is simply the chi-square difference between the null model (i.e., with the constant only) and the model containing the predictors. Under Model Summary we see that the -2 Log Likelihood statistics is 399.788. This statistic measures how poorly the model predicts the marital status of woman, the smaller the statistic the better the model. The value of Cox & Snell

R^2 and Nagelkerke R^2 are good enough. Cox and Snell or Nagelkerke R^2 is an analogous statistic in logistic regression to the coefficient of determination R^2 in linear regression, but not close analogy. The model summary provides some approximation of R^2 statistic in logistic regression. Cox and Snell's R^2 attempts to imitate multiple R^2 based on likelihood. The result of Cox and Snell R^2 indicates that 56.0% of the variation in the dependent variable is explained by the explanatory variables. Nagelkerke R^2 in model summary table above is 0.440, which indicates that 44.0% of the variability in the dependent variable marital status of woman was explained the explanatory variables (Table 2).

Table 3. Goodness of fit (Model Diagnostic)

Step	Chi-square	df	Sig.
1	8.852	8	.355

As it is presented in the table 3 since P-value is 0.355 is greater than the level of significance at 5%. We can conclude that the data fits the model well. Since the p-value is 0.355 which is insignificant therefore our fitted logistic regression model is good fit (Table 3).

Since this p-value is supported by Hosmer-Lemshow goodness fit test especially observing chi-square test as well as p-value. If p-value <0.05, the fitted model is not well and if p-value >0.05, the fitted model is well. Therefore, based on the above description our p-value is 0.355 which is grater than 0.05 i.e (p-value = 0.355 > 0.05) the fitted model is well.

As it is presented in table 4 the estimated odds ratio 2.183 indicates that women in rural area are 2.183 times more likely to get divorced compared to those women reside in urban area controlling for other variables in the model. Similarly, the estimated odds ratio 1.340 indicates that illiterate women are 34% more likely to get divorced compared to those who have secondary and above level of education (the reference category) controlling for other variables in the model. On the same fashion the result show that the estimated odds ratio 1.211 indicates women with primary education are 21.1% more likely to divorce compared to those with secondary and above education(the reference category) controlling for other variables in the model. Also, the estimated odds ratio 3.264 indicates that women who are followers of the Coptic orthodox religion are 3.264 times more likely to divorce compared to those women who are their counterparts controlling for other variables in the model. The estimated odds ratio 5.693 indicates that no child women are 5.693 times more likely to get divorced compared to those who have three or more children women in the marriage controlling for other variables in the model. The estimated odds ratio for variable living children 2.93 indicates that one or two children women are 2.93 times more likely to get divorced compared to those who have three or more children women controlling for other variables in the model. The estimated odds ratio 1.241 indicates that age of women below eighteen years of age are 24.1% more likely to divorce compared to those women eighteen and above years age group controlling for other variables in the model.

Conclusions

From the logistic regression analysis it was concluded that the odds of place of residence, number of living children, age at first marriage and education level of woman are significant predictor variables seems to determine marital status of woman for divorce case as compared to their counterparts in Ethiopian situation.

Recommendations

- This study recommends that raising the level of education of women to at least primary and secondary education could contribute to decrease in the rate of divorce among Ethiopian women.
- To the extent possible, awareness creation of the effect of early marriage should be promoted by family counselors, social workers and other helping professionals.
- Further study with additional predictor variables have to be made so as to address the issues raised in this study.

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Table 4. Results of binary logistic regression model

Covariate		$\hat{B}$	S.E($\hat{B}$)	Wald	Df	Sig.	$\widehat{OR}$=Exp($\hat{B}$)	95.0% C.I.for $\widehat{OR}$ Lower	Upper
Step 1[a]	Place of residence			38.534	1	.000			
	Rural	.781	.126	38.444	1	0.000	2.183	1.706	2.793
	Urban(Ref)						1.000		
	Age at first marriage			3.5891	1	0.05			
	<18 years	.216	.111	3.813	1	.051	1.241	.999	1.542
	≥18 years(Ref)						1.000		
	Living children			190.351	2	.000			
	No child	1.739	.128	184.336	1	.000	5.693	4.429	7.318
	1 or 2 children	1.075	.113	90.456	1	.000	2.930	2.348	3.657
	Three or more children(Ref)							1.000	
	Employment status								
	Not employed	-.141	.104	1.830	1	.176	.868	.708	1.065
	Employed(Ref)							1.000	
	Education			9.067	3	.028			
	No education	.293	.372	.619	1	.431	1.340	.647	2.776
	Primary educ.	.192	.375	.260	1	.610	1.211	.580	2.527
	Sec . and above(Ref)						1.000		
	Religion			100.920	3	.000			
	Coptic orthodox	1.183	.393	9.078	1	.003	3.264	1.512	7.047
	Protestant	-.050	.427	.014	1	.907	.951	.412	2.197
	Muslim	.239	.399	.357	1	.550	1.270	.580	2.778
	Others(Ref)								
	Constant	-4.545	.540	70.774	1	.000	.011		