

A Proposed Program for Preparing Students Who Are About to Get Married in Light of Understanding Divorce Reasons in Hail City, Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT This study conducted a rigorous descriptive-analytical investigation of divorce factors in Hail City, Saudi Arabia in the latter half of the year 2023. An extensive survey of 88 divorced adults aged 18 and over was administered to gather data on social, behavioural, psychological and economic aspects. The questionnaire's reliability and validity were rigorously scrutinised to ensure the trustworthiness of the data. Findings presented in descending order of significance revealed that behavioural factors had the greatest influence on divorce followed closely by psychological and economic factors. Societal factors such as educational disparities and family interference also emerged as significant contributors to divorce. Additionally, a quantitative analysis of demographic determinants revealed nuanced variations based on gender educational attainment, the wife's employment status and partner selection method. These insights are vital for policymakers and individuals seeking to address and mitigate divorce-related challenges in the region.

INTRODUCTION

Marriage, as a cornerstone of social cohesion (Chang et al. 2023; Delhey and Dragolov 2016), hinges on compatibility for physical, emotional and social fulfilment (John et al. 2019; Moon et al. 2023). In changing societies rising divorce rates strain familial bonds (Doherty et al. 2021; Muhammad et al. 2023) impacting the economic, emotional and physical well-being of families (Qudah et al. 2023; Cunningham and Waldock 2016). Notably Saudi Arabia and Gulf nations such as Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar face high divorce rates (Salleh et al. 2023; AlAmmary 2022; Babar 2020) signifying far-reaching consequences for holistic family welfare including financial psychological and physical aspects (AlJumah et al. 2020; Salleh et al. 2023; Demir-Dagdaz et al. 2018).

According to AlAmmary (2022) and Almuneef et al. (2017), parental divorce has a substantial impact on the well-being of children and adolescents in Saudi Arabia where the divorce rate is roughly 35 percent. Regional disparities exist with the Eastern Province, and Tabuk showing the highest rates around 36 percent, while Riyadh has a rate of 31 percent. This phenomenon is persistent and influ-

enced by various factors including economic, societal, psychological, health-related, educational and familial aspects (Salleh et al. 2023; Doherty et al. 2021; Cunningham and Waldock 2016). Saudi Arabia experiences an average of 127 divorces daily or about five divorces per hour highlighting the complex nature of this societal trend across different civilisations and historical periods (Muhammad et al. 2023; Alsaqr and Masmali 2019).

Divorce has aroused the interest of sociologists and psychologists due to the far-reaching consequences it has on health education, the economy and societal security (Doherty et al. 2021). According to Demir-Dagdaz et al. (2018), specialist centres providing comprehensive services and social therapy should be built. Aside from financial assistance these centres would provide proactive conflict resolution solutions and recommendations with a focus on educating couples with critical skills and information for good marriages (John et al. 2019). Premarital preparation programs, which comprise instructional sessions oriented at individuals on the eve of marriage aid in achieving this goal (Cunningham and Waldock 2016).

Parental divorce remains a persistent source of enduring emotional turmoil, psychological malaise and behavioural issues in the lives of children

(Harold and Sellers 2018). This phenomenon has emerged as a pressing social concern afflicting numerous societies with recent escalations in divorce rates (Delhey and Dragolov 2016). It ranks among the most significant societal challenges bearing wide-ranging repercussions including the fragmentation of family units and the associated consequences such as juvenile delinquency, moral transgressions and detrimental psychological impacts on individuals (Demir-Dagdaz et al. 2018; Cunningham and Waldock 2016).

The institution of marriage, a cornerstone of society, remains plagued by alarmingly high divorce rates resulting in significant emotional financial and societal consequences (Delhey and Dragolov 2016). A critical concern arises from the lack of marital preparedness and understanding of divorce factors among students before marriage (Doherty et al. 2021). As young adults rush into marriage without comprehensive knowledge of potential pitfalls they often find themselves ill-equipped to navigate the complexities of a lifelong commitment (Cunningham and Waldock 2016). This deficiency in preparedness is exacerbated by the absence of educational programs addressing divorce factors in the premarital education curriculum (John et al. 2019). Hence there is an urgent need to develop an educational program to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of divorce-contributing factors empowering them to make informed decisions and build enduring marriages (Demir-Dagdaz et al. 2018).

The following questions were provided because of this:

1. What are the predominant factors contributing to divorce in Hail City, Saudi Arabia?
2. Do statistically significant differences exist at a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$ in the reasons for divorce in Hail City, Saudi Arabia based on various demographic variables such as gender, age, level of education, educational level of the partner wife's employment status, engagement period and the method of choosing a partner?

The researchers' goal is to create targeted initiatives and programs to strengthen marital stability. The researchers propose introducing a structured program for soon-to-be-wed students in Saudi Arabia to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for nurturing thriving enduring marital bonds, ultimately reducing divorce rates. The cen-

tral objective is to prepare students for marriage fostering their awareness and accountability for the rights and responsibilities within marital life. This initiative includes developing essential skills like effective communication, constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance. Practical guidance will address potential problems and disputes. This premarital counselling approach strives to build holistic harmony between spouses by serving their emotional, bodily and spiritual needs with the goal of establishing a durable fulfilling marital relationship that ensures a marriage's survival.

The study consists of five sections with the second reviews prior research among soon-to-be-wed students, the next section describes the research methodology, the fourth section presents the research findings, and the fifth and final section analyses conclusions, limitations and offers research recommendations. This structured format facilitates reader comprehension of procedures, outcomes and areas for further investigation.

Theoretical Framework

Marriage is a sexual relationship and association between two people of different sexes legally recognised and socially accepted giving them a platform to have children and build a stable family (Balderrama et al. 2017; Rijavec and Simoni 2017). It is cemented by a formal covenant, includes a formal ceremony and entails a set of mutual rights, duties and responsibilities (Boertien et al. 2017; Masoumi et al. 2017). Marriage is the foundation for forming and sustaining stable and happy families and communities (Akpan and Ezeume 2022). Therefore, it is essential to take preventative action before making this permanent commitment (Qamar and Faizan 2021). Premarital programs are crucial for maintaining purity, societal stability and family cohesion (Hawkins 2018). These initiatives including classes, workshops and seminars held by professional organisations that focus on family religious or social issues are designed to give aspiring couples the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to create a happy and fulfilling marriage (Abdel-Sater 2022). Some programs must be completed before signing a marriage contract while others are optional (Smock and Schwartz 2020).

Divorce on the contrary breaks the marital contract and allows both partners to start anew (Rasheed

et al. 2021). It is a legal procedure that dissolves the marital bond and seeks to improve unhappy marriages (Cook et al. 2017). A thorough study of a divorce's repercussions is necessary because it also poses significant risks to society (Harold and Sellers 2018). The factors that cause divorce vary between couples but some common reasons include infidelity and trust issues (Demir-Dagdas et al. 2018), incompatibility (Delhey and Dragolov 2016), drug use and addiction (Moon et al. 2023) and domestic violence (AlJumah et al. 2020).

Divorce Rates and Factors

Saudi Arabia's divorce rates, which have increased notably in recent decades (Cohen 2019), reflect complex influences. Social dynamics, evolving gender roles, economic pressures (Alsuliman et al. 2021) and legal frameworks (Saleh and Luppini 2017) contribute to this trend. The Kingdom's shifting cultural norms around marriage and family structures create marital challenges (Saleh and Luppini 2017). Economic strains amplify stress (Alsuliman et al. 2021; Chang et al. 2023) and the ease of divorce proceedings compounds the complexities (Saleh and Luppini 2017). Understanding these multifaceted factors is vital for crafting programs that enhance marital preparedness in Saudi Arabia (Smock and Schwartz 2020; Brown and Wright 2017).

To address rising divorce rates in Saudi Arabia, thorough analysis of relevant variables is critical (Barnawi 2017). These factors include cultural impacts (Barnawi 2017), economic insecurity, societal pressures (Chang et al. 2023), legal aspects (Saleh and Luppini 2017) and other variables (Cohen 2019). Cultural variables influence views particularly regarding gender norms (Brown and Wright 2017) while economic constraints can lead to financial insecurity and marital conflict (Alsuliman et al. 2021). Marriage stability is also influenced by societal expectations and legal frameworks (Barnawi 2017; Saleh and Luppini 2017; Van Schoors et al. 2017). Understanding these complex characteristics is critical for developing effective interventions to enhance marital readiness and reduce divorce rates in Saudi Arabia (Smock and Schwartz 2020).

Marriage Trends in Saudi Arabia

Marriage patterns in Saudi Arabia have evolved dramatically, shifting from arranged marriages with

familial involvement in spouse selection, to autonomous and love-based marriages particularly among the younger generation (Saleh and Luppini 2017). Factors such as increasing educational opportunities for women, exposure to global media and urbanisation have influenced these trends (Alsuliman et al. 2021; AlHarbi et al. 2021; Alfadhel et al. 2017). Changing perceptions on education and career goals have also led to individuals marrying later (Alsuliman et al. 2021). Saudi couples today seek compatibility, love and shared beliefs. These developments are changing family patterns and presenting new challenges and opportunities for Saudi society.

Evolving marriage patterns in Saudi Arabia characterised by later unions and smaller family sizes due to women's pursuit of education and careers pose demographic and societal challenges (Alsuliman et al. 2021; Rouzi et al. 2020). These trends impact family dynamics and social structures necessitating a governmental response. Initiatives to support marital stability and family well-being have been introduced (AlHarbi et al. 2021; Barnawi 2017). Understanding these shifting marriage dynamics is vital for policymakers and researchers guiding strategies to meet the evolving needs and aspirations of Saudi couples and families in the 21st century.

Proposition Development

Understanding the causes of divorce is critical in the context of marriage preparation programs for those on the verge of marriage (AlAmmary 2022). These programs have an important role in reducing divorce rates by providing couples with the necessary skills and knowledge to deal with the issues of marriage (Babar 2020). Premarital preparation programs help to reduce divorce through several main factors. For starters they improve couples' communication skills allowing for more effective engagement (Doherty et al. 2021). Second, these programs offer conflict resolution techniques, which assist couples in navigating conflicts and disputes (Cunningham and Waldock 2016). Third, they create clear expectations and roles for each spouse ensuring that both partners understand their separate duties in the marriage (Pflieger et al. 2022). Fourth, premarital programs teach financial management skills allowing couples to deal with the challenges of financial management (Schaffnit

et al. 2019). Fifth, they promote commitment, which is a key component in sustaining a long-term relationship (Arocho 2019). Finally, these programs establish reasonable expectations about marital life reducing the possibility of letdown (Randles 2016). Premarital preparation programs considerably contribute to lower divorce rates by addressing these essential areas.

According to Melnikas et al. (2020), these techniques can considerably contribute to lower divorce rates. According to Alsaqr and Masmali (2019), the attendance rate for these courses was impressively high resulting in a significant reduction in divorce rates. As Monaghan noticed in 2017 premarital preparation programs were quite popular with Saudi teenagers. In addition, as stressed by Demir-Dagdas et al. (2018) the content of these programs is meticulously crafted combining necessary elements while considering the viewpoints of marital experts. According to a study done in Egypt by Qamar and Faizan (2021), marital stability cannot be accurately predicted by a marriage's duration. The effects of the Internet and social media, the deterioration of social values and domestic violence were all identified as contributing factors to divorce.

Hawkins (2018) noted that a couple's perception of marital satisfaction is significantly influenced by the nature of premarital counselling. Furthermore, research has demonstrated a correlation between premarital education programs and lower divorce rates as stated by Abdel-Sater (2022). According to Smock and Schwartz (2020), the subjects presented in these programs encompass a wide range of crucial subjects such as beliefs, values, expectations, communication and conflict resolution. These results highlight the critical role premarital education plays in fostering happy and stable unions.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a precisely defined descriptive-analytical approach that is well-aligned with the research goals (Sushma et al. 2018; Salleh et al. 2023). Conducted in Hail City, Saudi Arabia in the second half of 2023, this research will benefit from both temporal and spatial specificity enhancing its relevance to the research question. This methodological rigour ensures a comprehensive review of the research issues generating a profound un-

derstanding of the subject. The study's historical and geographical distinctiveness emphasise its legitimacy and significance in scholarly discourses (Sushma et al. 2018; Salleh et al. 2023).

Study Design

The study created the research instruments electronically including a General Data Form to categorise participants by gender, age and educational background. The age variable was subdivided into three groups (18 to 30 years, 30 to 40 years, and 40 years and older). This meticulous planning ensured accurate and comprehensive data collection (Nikjo et al. 2021).

The study developed a detailed 46-item questionnaire divided into four aspects, namely, social factors (18 items), behavioural causes (9 items), psychological factors (12 items) and economic factors (7 items). This organised questionnaire design aided in high-quality data collection resulting in a comprehensive understanding of the multiple dynamics at work in the research environment. It was a valuable research instrument ensuring that participants' responses were carefully matched to the specific aspects under consideration increasing the depth and quality of the study's conclusions.

The questionnaire was refined using a three-point Likert Scale assigning a numerical score to each item based on participant responses of agree (3), neutral (2) and disagree (1) (Muhammad et al. 2023). This quantitative representation of participant attitudes allowed for rigorous analysis of results classifying scores as low (1.00 to 1.66), medium (1.67 to 2.33) or high (2.34 to 3.00), gauging agreement or disagreement with each item.

The scale was calculated by using the following equation:

Upper Scale Limit (3) - Minimum Scale (1)

Number of required categories (3)

To calculate this scale a formula was used to divide the difference between the upper and lower scale limits (3 and 1, respectively) by the number of required categories (3) resulting in 0.66. This value was then added to the end of each category to delineate the thresholds for the respective response levels. This careful approach ensured a detailed understanding of participant perspectives enabling researchers to discern agreement or disagreement with each item.

The descriptive approach was selected to align with the study's aims. The primary data collection method was a questionnaire, which the study constructed with an emphasis on ensuring its reliability and validity (Alqudah et al. 2023).

A rigorous approach was used to assess the questionnaire's validity (Qudah et al. 2023). Experts including College of Education professors initially examined the questionnaire. Their knowledge was used to assess the adequacy of the questionnaire's items in measuring the intended dimensions. Linguistic clarity and precision were also thoroughly assessed. This comprehensive evaluation resulted in the identification of any confusing or poorly constructed items, which were corrected by deleting or redrafting.

This thorough validation approach was essential in improving the questionnaire's effectiveness as a data collection tool. The involvement of experts not only ensured that the questionnaire was aligned with the study's aims but also that the questions were well-written, clearly measured the variables of interest and were easy to understand. The questionnaire proved to be a dependable tool for gathering high-quality data to support the study's objectives (Alqudah et al. 2023).

The participation of experts in the validation process demonstrates the commitment to methodological rigour and the production of valid research results. Such an approach is essential in research especially when studying complex topics because it improves the overall quality and reliability of the study's findings.

The internal consistency of the questionnaire was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha coefficients, which are reported in Table 1. Cronbach's alpha is a reliable measure of the internal consistency of a questionnaire and it is widely used in academic research. The Cronbach's alpha coefficients in Table 1 indicate that the questionnaire items have a high degree of internal consistency demonstrating the instrument's reliability. This is important because it ensures that the questionnaire consistently measures what it is supposed to measure, which strengthens the quality and reliability of the study findings.

Table 1 presents Cronbach's alpha coefficients for each dimension within the Divorce Reasons Questionnaire indicating the questionnaire's internal consistency and reliability in gathering consistent participant responses. All Cronbach's al-

pha coefficients are above 0.80, which is considered excellent internal consistency and reliability. This means that the questionnaire items are highly correlated with each other and that the questionnaire consistently measures what it is supposed to measure. This enhances the quality and credibility of the research data.

Table 1: Cronbach's Alpha

<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Cronbach's Alpha</i>	<i>Number of items</i>
Social reasons	.805	18
Behavioral causes	.908	9
Psychological causes	.849	12
Economic reasons	.938	7
Divorce Reasons (General)	.948	48

Notably the "Economic Reasons" dimension demonstrates the highest internal consistency with a Cronbach's alpha of .938. This suggests that this dimension of the questionnaire is particularly reliable in measuring economic factors related to divorce.

Overall, the high Cronbach's alpha coefficients for all dimensions of the Divorce Reasons Questionnaire suggest that it is a reliable and valid instrument for measuring divorce reasons.

This is important because reliable and valid data are essential for conducting rigorous and informative research on divorce. The findings of this study provide evidence that the Divorce Reasons Questionnaire is a valuable tool for researchers interested in understanding the complex factors that contribute to divorce.

Sample and Data Collection

The study included the entire demographic of divorced people aged 18 and above who lived in Hail City, Saudi Arabia. A random sample of 88 divorced men and women was drawn from this demographic. An electronic questionnaire was then distributed to this group and their responses were collected. The questionnaire was strategically divided into two sections with the first focused on capturing important demographic information as shown in Table 2. The second portion delved into four key categories meticulously investigating the numerous variables that contribute to divorce among divorced residents of Hail City.

A premarital counselling program was developed with the primary goal of providing individuals on the verge of marriage with essential knowledge and skills related to marital and family life. This comprehensive curriculum addressed critical topics such as the legal economic psychological behavioural social and health aspects of marriage. The main objective of the program was to equip couples with the tools they needed to start their marriage on a solid foundation thereby reducing the divorce rate and establishing stable content and long-lasting families.

The program was designed around a series of 12 counselling sessions lasting 60 minutes each. These sessions addressed a variety of approaches aimed at increasing marital satisfaction and serving as a proactive problem-solving strategy. Topics covered included joint premarital preparation, financial management, and strategies for building and maintaining a strong and enduring marriage.

The program was meticulously crafted and presented to specialised arbitrators for review and development based on their expert feedback. This rigorous creation and revision process ensured that the program was well-informed and tailored to meet the specific needs of individuals embarking on the journey of marriage thereby contributing to the overall well-being and stability of marital unions.

Table 2 presents vital demographic information on divorced people in Hail City, Saudi Arabia. The findings reveal a significant gender gap with women accounting for 72.7 percent of the sample. The prevalence of divorce in the 31-40 age range at 54.5 percent suggests unique challenges faced during this life stage. Education levels are notably high with 68.2 percent holding a bachelor's degree or higher, which may influence marital interactions. Divorce is unrelated to a spouse's employment status whether she is a working woman or a housewife. The length of the engagement period reveals a possible link to divorce with 65.9 percent of engagements lasting shorter than six months. The overwhelming preference for traditional partner selection methods 86.4 percent demonstrates the cultural significance of these norms in Saudi marriage decisions. These demographic data provide a framework for more in-depth studies of divorce reasons in this cohort.

Table 2: Demographic characteristics

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Rate percent</i>
Gender		
Male	24	27.3
Female	64	72.7
Age		
19-30	30	34.1
31 – 40	48	54.5
Greater than 40	10	11.4
Education level		
Diploma	8	9.1
Bachelor	60	68.2
Postgraduate	20	22.7
Partner's educational level		
Diploma	32	36.4
Bachelor	48	54.5
Graduate	8	9.1
Is the wife a worker		
Working woman	44	50.0
Housewife	44	50.0
Engagement period		
Less than six months	58	65.9
Between 6 months and one year	18	20.5
More than a year	12	13.6
How to choose a partner		
Traditional method	76	86.4
Dating before marriage	12	13.6
Total	88	100.0

Statistical Data Processing

SPSS version 22 was used for statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics are reported as mean values with their corresponding standard deviations (SD). Cronbach's alpha was used to assess the questionnaire's internal consistency and reliability. Descriptive statistics were generated to provide an overview of the data's central tendency and dispersion. Additionally, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to investigate potential differences between groups or conditions.

The significance level was set at $p < 0.05$ indicating that results with p-values less than this threshold were statistically significant. This rigorous analytical approach allowed for a comprehensive examination of the data ensuring a thorough understanding of the variables and their relationships while the established significance level provided a clear benchmark for determining the statistical significance of the findings.

FINDINGS/RESULTS

Descriptive Data

The investigation involved a thorough examination of arithmetic means and standard devia-

tions of divorce factors in the Hail region. The subsequent table visually represents the findings. The researchers employed a rigorous analytical approach to gain deeper insights into the root causes of divorce in Hail City, Saudi Arabia. This study outlined in forthcoming sections uncovers vital information that can guide policymakers and individuals in addressing and mitigating divorce-related challenges in this region.

Table 3 presents the divorce grounds in the Hail region ordered in descending order based on their arithmetic means and standard deviations. Behavioural reasons emerge as the most significant factor with an arithmetic mean of 2.75 and a standard deviation of 0.282 indicating a high level of significance. Psychological reasons and economic reasons follow closely behind both demonstrating high levels of importance. Social reasons also play a significant role in divorce and when considering "Divorce Reasons (General)" the overall high level of significance of 2.56 and a standard deviation of 0.295 sheds light on the key variables influencing marital dissolution in the Hail region.

Table 3 highlights the prominent factors contributing to divorce in the Hail region. Behavioural factors rank first, indicating their substantial role with a high level of significance. Psychological and economic factors follow closely, emphasising their importance. Social factors also play a significant role, underscoring their influence on marital dissolution. The overall significance of "Divorce Reasons (General)" further underscores the key variables contributing to divorce in the Hail region.

First Dimension: Social Reasons

Table 4 provides a detailed assessment of societal factors impacting divorce in Hail City, Saudi Arabia based on arithmetic means and standard deviations. Lack of education and proper marital upbringing is the most important factor with a significant mean of 2.95. Family involvement and reli-

gious inadequacies are also important factors with high significance levels. Other societal issues that influence divorce include the involvement of social media lax legislation and cultural variations. Factors such as age gaps and customs favouring consanguineous marriages are of lesser importance. These findings provide a comprehensive overview of the multiple socioeconomic forces that drive divorce in the Hail region highlighting their societal significance.

The study's findings suggest that lack of education and proper marital upbringing, family involvement, and religious inadequacy are prominent societal factors contributing to divorce in Hail City, Saudi Arabia. Other factors such as social media influence, lax legislation, and cultural variations also play a role. The study's findings emphasise the importance of addressing these societal factors to promote marital stability and reduce divorce rates.

Second Dimension: Behavioural Reasons

Table 5 presents a ranked list of behavioural factors contributing to divorce in the Hail region. Notably, regular disagreements between partners, domestic abuse by one partner, and unwillingness of both partners to tolerate and overcome difficulties are the most influential factors. Additionally, alcoholism and addiction lacking discussion, and communication skills and inability to cope with life's stresses also significantly contribute to divorce. Even factors lower on the list such as continuation of prior relationships by one spouse after marriage, viewing of immoral films and brutal assault of a child by a father have a notable impact. The findings underscore the need for effective communication conflict resolution and stress management in resolving divorce difficulties in the region.

In Hail City, Saudi Arabia, the data in Table 5 highlights that recurring disagreements, domestic

Table 3: Descending order of arithmetic means and standard deviations for divorce reasons in Hail Region

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Figure</i>	<i>Domain</i>	<i>Arithmetic mean</i>	<i>Standard deviation</i>	<i>Level</i>
1	2	Behavioral reasons	2.75	.282	High
2	3	Psychological reasons	2.55	.396	High
3	4	Economic reasons	2.54	.440	High
4	1	Social reasons	2.47	.305	High
		Divorce Reasons (General)	2.56	.295	High

Table 4: Descending order of arithmetic means and standard deviations for social reasons dimension

#	Rank	Items	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Level
2	15	Interference of a couple's family in family affairs	2.84	0.523	High
3	4	Religious weakness of a partner	2.75	0.572	High
4	6	Hasty selection of a husband or wife	2.66	0.604	High
4	14	Withholding financial support from the other spouse	2.66	0.604	High
6	17	Family disputes between the wife and husband's family	2.64	0.714	High
7	8	Social media contributing to an increase in the number of divorces	2.61	0.685	High
8	3	Leniency of laws against both spouses	2.57	0.691	High
8	7	Lack of common factors between spouses	2.57	0.724	High
10	11	Differences in customs and traditions between spouses	2.52	0.727	High
11	2	Low cultural level of one spouse leading to divorce	2.48	0.816	High
12	13	Parental involvement in choosing a wife or husband	2.43	0.755	High
13	16	Significant age difference between the couple	2.2	0.79	Medium
14	5	Customs and traditions that emphasize consanguineous marriage	2.16	0.883	Medium
14	12	Prohibition of legitimate views	2.16	0.856	Medium
14	18	Insufficient time for acquaintance and understanding during the engagement period	2.16	0.908	Medium
17	1	Young people marrying at an inappropriate age	2.03	0.897	Medium
18	9	Educational disparity between women and men in favor of women	2.02	0.844	Medium
		Social reasons	2.47	0.305	High

Table 5: Descending order of arithmetic means and standard deviations for behavioral reasons dimension

#	Rank	Items	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Level
1	1	Regular disagreements between partners	2.95	0.3	High
2	2	Domestic abuse by one partner	2.91	0.289	High
3	3	Unwillingness of both partners to tolerate and overcome difficulties	2.89	0.385	High
4	4	Alcoholism and addiction	2.86	0.459	High
5	5	Lacking discussion and communication skills	2.86	0.459	High
5	5	Inability to cope with life's stresses	2.86	0.459	High
7	7	Continuation of prior relationships by one spouse after marriage	2.68	0.558	High
8	8	Viewing of immoral films	2.36	0.805	High
9	9	Brutal assault of his son by a father	2.34	0.741	High
		Behavioral reasons	2.75	0.282	High

abuse, and a lack of willingness to overcome difficulties are the most prevalent behavioural factors leading to divorce. Factors like alcoholism, communication issues, and coping with life's stresses also significantly contribute. Even seemingly lower-ranked factors, such as maintaining prior relationships after marriage, exposure to immoral content, and child abuse, play a notable role in divorce. These findings emphasise the importance of effective communication, conflict resolution, and stress management in addressing divorce challenges in the region.

Third Dimension: Psychological Reasons

Table 6 presents psychological factors influencing divorce in the Hail region revealing key insights. Finding the spouse unattractive and unchanging appearance over time tops the list with high mean values closely followed by abandonment. Factors like lack of psychological upbringing during early childhood, chronic physical illness and high expectations also prominently contribute to divorce. Mental illness and lack of concern for children's well-being share the seventh spot while low libido follows. The midlife crisis

and ignoring psychological needs fall within the medium category. These findings emphasise the importance of psychological well-being, appearance and communication in addressing divorce challenges.

Table 6 for Hail City, Saudi Arabia, emphasises the substantial psychological underpinnings of divorce. Finding a spouse unattractive and perceiving their appearance as unchanging ranked highest, followed closely by abandonment. Other contributors included early childhood upbringing, chronic illness, high expectations, and concerns for children’s well-being. These findings highlight the role of psychological well-being, physical appearance, and effective communication in addressing divorce-related issues.

Fourth Dimension: Economic Reasons

Table 7 presents a ranking of economic factors contributing to divorce in the Hail region. “Frugal

husband” tops the list with a high mean of 2.77 followed by “working long hours and ignoring family responsibilities” at 2.73. “Lack of accountability for the repercussions of marriage” and “parents overseeing finances” also significantly impact divorce. “Women outperforming men economically” and “low income as a cause of divorce” hold high means. “Husband’s lack of devotion to material needs” ranks seventh. “Husband not working” is eighth though it falls within the medium category. These findings underscore the economic reasons behind divorce emphasising the need for financial stability and shared responsibilities in marriages.

Table 7 highlights the substantial economic factors contributing to divorce in Hail City, Saudi Arabia. A frugal husband tops the list, followed by issues such as working long hours and lack of accountability. Other economic factors such as women outperforming men and low income also play significant roles. These findings emphasise

Table 6: Descending order of arithmetic means and standard deviations for psychological reasons dimension

#	Rank	Items	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Level
1	3	One spouse finds the other spouse unattractive.	2.82	0.492	High
2	9	The spouse’s appearance does not improve over time.	2.8	0.55	High
2	10	Abandonment by one spouse.	2.8	0.459	High
4	11	The couple’s lack of psychological upbringing during early childhood.	2.75	0.485	High
5	5	One spouse has a chronic physical illness.	2.66	0.641	High
5	12	Both spouses have high expectations for each other.	2.66	0.676	High
7	4	One spouse has a mental illness.	2.55	0.659	High
7	7	Parents’ lack of concern for their children’s psychological well-being and lack of intimacy between spouses.	2.55	0.659	High
9	8	One partner has a low libido.	2.43	0.724	High
10	6	The midlife crisis.	2.27	0.754	Medium
11	1	Ignoring psychological needs and ignoring the other partner.	2.2	0.819	Medium
12	2	One spouse finds the other spouse unattractive.	2.16	0.709	Medium
		Psychological reasons	2.55	0.396	High

Table 7: Descending order of arithmetic means and standard deviations for economic reasons dimension

#	Rank	Items	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation	Level
1	8	Frugal husband	2.77	.562	High
2	1	Working long hours and ignoring family responsibilities	2.73	.582	High
3	7	Lack of accountability for the repercussions of marriage	2.61	.651	High
4	6	The parents oversee the payout process.	2.57	.657	High
5	4	Women outperform men in terms of economic status.	2.55	.726	High
6	2	Low income is a cause of divorce.	2.52	.727	High
7	3	Husband’s lack of devotion to material needs	2.36	.776	High
8	5	The husband is not working.	2.23	.827	Medium
		Economic reasons	2.54	.440	High

the importance of financial stability and shared responsibilities within marriages to mitigate divorce rates in the region.

Quantitative Data

To thoroughly address this question, the researchers meticulously examined the arithmetic means and standard deviations of students' responses to the factors and causes of divorce in the Hail region. The researchers considered gender, age, level of education, educational background of the partner, employment status of the wife, period of courtship and partner selection technique in this analysis.

Table 8 presents the results offering a clear and structured representation of how these factors influence students' perceptions of divorce causes in the region. This in-depth exploration provides valuable insights into the nuanced dynamics of divorce and offers an empirical foundation for policymakers and individuals seeking to understand and address the complex interplay of factors leading to divorce in this area.

Table 8 depicts apparent differences in arithmetic means and standard deviations in students' responses to factors and reasons for divorce in the Hail region across different variables like gender, age, level of education, educational level of the partner, wife's employment status, courtship

Table 8: Students' perceptions analysis: Factors and causes of divorce in the Hail Region

Variables	Categories		Social reasons	Behavioral causes	Psychological causes	Economic reasons	Reasons for divorce as a whole
Gender	Male	x	2.39	2.69	2.35	2.32	2.43
		z	0.422	0.327	0.556	0.604	0.421
	Female	x	2.5	2.77	2.63	2.62	2.6
		z	0.246	0.263	0.288	0.33	0.215
Education Level	Diploma	x	2.57	2.78	2.71	2.81	2.69
		z	0.36	0.188	0.204	0.275	0.217
	Bachelor	x	2.46	2.77	2.54	2.53	2.55
		z	0.306	0.292	0.435	0.456	0.307
	Graduate	x	2.44	2.67	2.53	2.48	2.51
		z	0.29	0.279	0.32	0.421	0.281
Partner's Educational Level	Diploma	x	2.53	2.78	2.68	2.63	2.63
		z	0.286	0.241	0.283	0.365	0.246
	Bachelor	x	2.42	2.74	2.44	2.46	2.49
		z	0.298	0.297	0.435	0.478	0.305
	Graduate	x	2.5	2.67	2.71	2.69	2.62
		z	0.405	0.356	0.365	0.438	0.356
Is The Wife A Worker	Working woman	x	2.46	2.72	2.57	2.53	2.55
		z	0.319	0.337	0.417	0.484	0.329
	Housewife	x	2.47	2.77	2.54	2.56	2.56
		z	0.294	0.216	0.378	0.398	0.259
Engagement Period	Less than six months	x	2.48	2.77	2.56	2.53	2.56
		z	0.285	0.27	0.355	0.374	0.261
	Between 6 months and one year	x	2.47	2.67	2.52	2.61	2.54
		z	0.305	0.209	0.359	0.345	0.246
	More than a year	x	2.41	2.76	2.57	2.52	2.54
		z	0.408	0.415	0.622	0.785	0.488
How To Choose A Partner	Traditional method	x	2.46	2.74	2.55	2.52	2.55
		z	0.309	0.283	0.408	0.45	0.301
	Dating before marriage	x	2.5	2.81	2.58	2.69	2.61
		z	0.288	0.282	0.326	0.352	0.256
Lifetime	19-30	x	2.33	2.72	2.36	2.35	2.41
		z	0.302	0.314	0.496	0.573	0.337
	31 – 40	x	2.57	2.81	2.7	2.63	2.66
		z	0.261	0.225	0.255	0.333	0.225
	Greater than 40	x	2.41	2.56	2.43	2.7	2.49
		z	0.356	0.355	0.366	0.214	0.29

x = arithmetic mean z = standard deviation

period and method of choosing a partner. A one-way ANOVA was used to analyse the impact of these variables on students' perceptions of divorce causes in Hail City to estimate the statistical significance of the differences between the arithmetic means.

The findings show that there are no significant gender differences ($p < 0.05$) in students' responses to social and behavioural causes for divorce. However, statistically significant variations in psychological reasons, economic considerations and total reasons for divorce were detected with a preference for the female category. This implies that divorce affects both genders and the reasons for divorce influence individuals regardless of gender. Notably, females demonstrated differences in psychological and economic causes, which could be linked to females' heightened emotional nature and the impact of economic stability on emotional well-being.

Except for economic reasons where diploma holders indicated significant disparities favouring their group, no statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) were detected in students' responses to divorce considerations. This implies that students commonly believe that an educational degree has little influence on divorce causes. However, the exclusion of economic considerations implies that students believe that those with lower educational levels are more likely to divorce due to difficulty in problem-solving and managing life obstacles.

The influence of whether the wife works did not produce statistically significant changes ($p < 0.05$) in students' responses to divorce reasons indicating an awareness of the importance of women's work and the challenges of modern life. Similarly, no statistically significant changes ($p < 0.05$) were seen in the impact of the courtship period on students' reactions to divorce causes. Students appear to assume that the length of the engagement time has no influence on the occurrence of divorce among couples.

Only in the realm of behavioural considerations favouring a premarital acquaintance group were statistically significant variations observed in the partner choosing approach. Students believe that the way spouses meet has a discernible impact on the occurrence of divorce stressing the importance of premarital understanding in minimising the likelihood of divorce.

The study's findings provide valuable insights into students' perceptions of the various factors

influencing divorce and their gender-related beliefs. Notably, no significant gender differences were observed in the perception of social and behavioural causes of divorce, suggesting a shared understanding across genders. However, statistically significant variations emerged in the perception of psychological and economic reasons, with females prioritising these factors more. This suggests that while divorce affects both genders, women may be more sensitive to emotional and economic stability factors. Education level, employment status of the wife, and courtship period did not significantly affect responses, implying a nuanced understanding of these aspects. The emphasis on premarital acquaintance groups for behavioural considerations highlights the importance of premarital understanding in reducing the likelihood of divorce.

DISCUSSION

Table 3 presents findings from a study on divorce variables in the Hail region, revealing that behavioural, psychological, and economic reasons are significant contributors to marital dissolution, as noted in recent studies by Abdel-Sater (2022) and Akpan and Ezeume (2020, 2022). These results indicate the multifaceted nature of divorce in the region, with behavioural reasons being particularly prominent, as evidenced by a high arithmetic mean of 2.75. Recent studies are crucial for understanding this complex topic, as they provide updated insights into evolving divorce trends. Investigating recent research can help clarify whether these reasons remain consistent or if new factors have emerged as drivers of divorce in Hail (Alqudah et al. 2023). Evaluating the methodology and regional variations in recent studies is essential to determining the reliability of these findings and ensuring that the understanding of divorce variables in the Hail region is both current and robust (Abdel-Sater 2022; Akpan and Ezeume 2020, 2022).

This study, presented in Table 4 and Table 5, investigates the social and behavioural dimensions of divorce factors in the Hail region. The research by Abdel-Sater (2022) and Akpan and Ezeume (2020) provides critical insights into these dimensions. Socially, lack of education and proper marital upbringing emerge as significant factors influencing divorce, highlighting the importance of the societal context. Recent studies should be exam-

ined to ascertain whether these social factors persist or if evolving sociocultural factors have emerged. Additionally, an evaluation of regional variations and the changing influence of social norms is essential (Moon et al. 2023). Behaviorally, regular disagreements, domestic abuse, and an unwillingness to tolerate difficulties stand out as prominent divorce factors. Recent research can help explain whether these behavioural dynamics remain consistent or if new behavioural factors have emerged (Muhammad et al. 2023). Further elaboration should involve examining whether recent research identifies additional behavioural or social reasons not covered in Table 4 and Table 5. Finally, critically evaluating recent studies is essential to assess the reliability and applicability of the findings, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of divorce dynamics in the Hail region.

Table 6 and Table 7 offer critical insights into the psychological and economic dimensions of divorce in the Hail region, with Abdel-Sater's (2022) research serving as a key reference. These findings highlight the complex emotional dynamics underlying marital relationships and identify factors such as attractiveness, abandonment, and early childhood psychological upbringing as significant contributors to divorce. Economically, financial stability, a frugal husband, and neglect of family responsibilities are key economic reasons for marital dissolution (Chang et al. 2023). Engaging with recent studies is crucial to gaining a comprehensive understanding of divorce factors in these dimensions. Recent research should be explored to determine whether psychological and economic factors have evolved and whether their significance remains consistent (Salleh et al. 2023). Additionally, evaluating the applicability and reliability of recent findings in comparison to Table 6 and Table 7 is essential for comprehending the contemporary landscape of divorce in the Hail region.

Table 8's quantitative analysis, citing Arocho (2019), Boertien et al. (2017), and Cohen (2019), offers valuable insights into students' perceptions of divorce causes in the Hail region. Although males and females share a similar understanding of social and behavioural causes, gender disparities emerge in the assessment of psychological and economic reasons. This suggests that emotions and financial considerations play a significant role in shaping perceptions (Muhammad et al. 2023). Examining recent studies to ascertain the consis-

tency of these gender-related differences over time and explore how evolving social norms and economic dynamics might influence these perceptions would provide a comprehensive understanding of how demographic factors impact perceptions of divorce causes in the Hail region (Moon et al. 2023).

The analysis presented delves into the multifaceted dimensions of divorce in the Hail region, exploring behavioural, psychological, economic, and social factors. To critically evaluate these observations in light of recent studies, key aspects of each dimension warrant scrutiny. Behavioural reasons for divorce, including frequent disagreements and domestic abuse, are highlighted. Recent research, like Muhammad et al. (2023), should be used in a critical examination to see if these dynamics are still present and to find new behavioural factors that were not considered in this analysis. Social factors, notably lack of education and marital upbringing, are identified as influencing divorce. Moon et al. (2023) emphasise the importance of assessing recent studies to understand the evolving sociocultural landscape and ascertain whether these social factors remain prevalent. Psychological and economic dimensions, as illuminated by Abdel-Sater's (2022) research, require critical evaluation. Recent studies, including Chang et al. (2023) and Salleh et al. (2023), should be consulted to determine if these factors have evolved over time and if their significance remains consistent. The text explores gender disparities in perceptions of divorce causes, suggesting that emotions and financial considerations play a role. Recent studies, such as those referenced by Moon et al. (2023), may offer insights into how evolving social norms and economic dynamics impact these perceptions. Educational levels, apart from economic reasons, are considered to not significantly impact divorce perceptions. Recent studies, as referenced by Boertien et al. (2017), could be reviewed to validate these findings and explore if recent changes in education and workforce dynamics influence perceptions. The overall sophisticated understanding gained from the investigation, with implications for policymakers, should be strengthened by referencing recent studies, such as AlAmmary (2022), to align the findings with broader societal trends and considerations. This critical evaluation ensures the continued relevance and applicability of the insights to contemporary circumstances in the Hail region.

Educational levels apart from economic reasons show no significant impact on perceptions of divorce (Boertien et al. 2017). This suggests a general belief that educational attainment does not strongly correlate with divorce factors except for economic considerations where diploma holders perceive significant disparities (Boertien et al. 2017). The influence of the wife's employment status and the duration of the courtship period are not statistically significant implying that students are aware of the evolving roles of women in the workforce and the limited impact of engagement duration on marital stability (Moon et al. 2023; Boertien et al. 2017). A significant difference in perceptions based on the method of choosing a partner particularly in behavioural considerations underscores the importance of premarital acquaintance in reducing the likelihood of divorce (Boertien et al. 2017). This insight has implications for counselling and guidance emphasising the role of informed partner selection in fostering stable marriages (Abdel-Sater 2022).

The in-depth investigation provides a sophisticated understanding of divorce factors in the Hail region including sociological, behavioural, psychological and economic dimensions (Abdel-Sater 2022; Akpan and Ezeume 2020, 2022). The quantitative assessment of demographic determinants deepens the findings providing useful insights for policymakers and individuals attempting to address and alleviate the region's divorce-related challenges (Arocho 2019; Cohen 2019; Boertien et al. 2017).

CONCLUSION

This study presents a comprehensive analysis of divorce factors in the Hail region of Saudi Arabia using a well-defined descriptive-analytical approach. The research identifies behavioural reasons as the most significant contributor to divorce followed closely by psychological and economic factors. The study's findings highlight the multidimensional nature of divorce causes and the importance of understanding the societal, behavioural, psychological and economic dynamics that contribute to marital dissolution.

This study on divorce factors in the Hail region reveals a complex landscape, with behavioural, psychological, and economic factors emerging as key contributors to marital dissolution, particularly behavioural elements. Gender variations in perceptions of psychological and economic causes

highlight the intricate interplay of emotions and financial aspects in divorce. Educational levels, except in economic contexts, have limited impact on divorce perceptions, as do the employment status of the wife and the duration of courtship. However, the partner selection method, particularly regarding behavioural considerations, emphasises the significance of premarital acquaintance in reducing divorce risks. This research offers valuable insights for policymakers and individuals tackling divorce-related challenges in the region, emphasising the need for a comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics that shape marital dissolution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Several recommendations emerge for tackling the challenging issue of divorce in Hail City. Early intervention is crucial, requiring the development of culturally relevant educational programs that emphasise emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, effective communication, money management, and the importance of seeking professional help. These programs should be integrated into the premarital phase to assist couples in building a solid foundation for their marriages. Marriage preparation programs should also play a vital role in providing counselling, workshops, and mentorship to equip couples with the necessary tools to manage marital challenges constructively and nurture enduring, fulfilling relationships. Additionally, a comprehensive marriage preparation program, tailored to the specific needs of Hail City residents, should be developed through collaboration between educational institutions, religious organisations, and government bodies for successful implementation. Finally, encouraging researchers to evaluate the program's impact is essential, involving rigorous evaluations of its effectiveness in reducing divorce rates, enhancing marital satisfaction, and improving overall marital quality across diverse samples and contexts in Hail City.

LIMITATIONS

This study's findings should be interpreted considering its limitations. First the study was conducted in a single geographical location Hail City, Saudi Arabia, which may limit the generalisability of the results to other regions with different cultur-

al and social contexts. Additionally, the study relied on self-reported data collected through questionnaires, which may introduce response bias and social desirability bias potentially affecting the accuracy of the responses.

Furthermore, the study used a cross-sectional design capturing data at a single point in time, which restricts the ability to establish causal relationships or track changes over time. The use of a convenience sample while common in research may introduce selection bias, as it may not fully represent the diverse population of divorced individuals in Hail City.

Lastly, while Cronbach's alpha coefficients indicated high internal consistency for the questionnaire, dimensions of other forms of validity and reliability testing could further strengthen the study.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest.

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