



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ATTITUDES OF DIVORCEE WOMEN TOWARDS THEIR MARITAL STATUS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was an attempt to observe the attitudes of divorcee women towards their marital status and to compare the attitude of divorcee women in urban and rural areas. The sample was selected through random sampling technique. For the sample, 100 divorcee women were selected from urban and rural areas. The sample was collected with the help of readymade scale namely measuring attitude towards divorce constructed by Anupama Shah and Anjali Gupta (1993). The study shows that the majority of divorcee women belonging to urban area agree that in troubled married life one should go in for divorce even if one feel lonely, un happy and frustrated. It is found that majority of divorcee women from urban area agree that divorce should be avoided after having children. More over it is found that majority of divorcee women belonging to rural area agree that a modern partner should avoid divorce by adjusting with an orthodox partner.

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INTRODUCTION

Divorce (or the dissolution of marriage) is the termination of a marriage or marital union, the cancelling and/ or reorganizing of the legal duties/ a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country and/ or state. Divorce laws vary considerably around the world, but in most countries it requires the sanction of a court or other authority in a legal process. The legal process of divorce may also involve issues of alimony (spousal support), child custody, child visitation/ access, parenting time, child support, distribution of property, and division of debt. In most countries monogamy is required by law, so divorce allows each former partner to marry another person where polygamy is legal but polyandry is not, divorce allows the woman to marry a new husband (Power 2008). The concept of 'union for life' or the sacramental nature of the marriage which renders the marriage indissoluble has gradually been eroded and through legislation the right of divorce has been introduced in all legal systems in India, but the same variations and unequal treatment of sexes characterizes this branch of law also. A monogamous marriage without the right of divorce would cause great hardship to both parties to the marriage. According to the census of 1971, the total of divorced or separated women in the country is estimated to be 8,70,700; of which 7,43,200 are in rural areas and 1,27,500 in urban areas. The ratio of divorced or separated women is 1630 per thousand males. The causes for divorce

show that adultery and barrenness are the commonest grounds for divorce in most of the village. Extreme poverty is also found to be cause for divorce. In Rajasthan, sexual incompatibility and incapacity are recognized as grounds for divorce. According to traditionalists, divorce was unknown in Hindu law. Even today, divorce is not a socially accepted norm among many sections. The judicial notice of the fact is that even today considerable section of Hindu society look with disfavour on the idea of dissolving a marriage. Polygamy, without the right of divorce, caused tremendous hardship, in many cases (Arya 1963).

Review of Literature

Amato (1991) studied that in Meta analysis of divorce studied conclude that children of divorced families exhibit more behavioral difficulties, more symptoms of psychological maladjustment, lower academic achievement, more social difficulties and poorer self concepts than children in intact families. Amato (1994) conducted a study on life span adjustment of children to their parent's divorce. The children who experience parental divorce compared with children in continuously intact 2 parent families, exhibits more conduct problems more symptoms of psychological maladjustment, lower academic achievement, more social difficulties and poorer self concepts. Similarly, adults who experienced parental divorce as children, compared with adults raised in continuously intact 2 parent families score lower on a variety of indicators of psychological, interpersonal and socioeconomically well being. However the overall group differences between offspring from divorced and intact

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families are small and the, with considerable diversity existing in children's reaction to divorce. Children's adjustment to divorce depends on several factors including the amount and quality of contact with non custodial parents the custodial parents psychological adjustment and parenting skills, the level of inter parental conflict that precedes and follows divorce the degree of economical hardship to which children are exposed and the number of stressful life events that accompany and follow divorce.

Ahrons (2006) reported that the parental subsystem continues to impact the binuclear family 20 years after marital disruption by exerting a strong influence on the quality of relationships within the family system. Children who reported that their parents were cooperative also reported better relationships with their parents, grandparents, stepparents, and siblings. Over the course of 20 years, most of the children experienced the remarriage of one or both parents, and one third of this sample remembered the remarriage as more stressful than the divorce. Of those who experienced the remarriage of both of their parents, two thirds reported that their father's remarriage was more stressful than their mother's. Joan (2006) highlights empirical and clinical research that is relevant to the shape of children's living arrangements after separation, focusing first on what is known about living arrangements following divorce, what factors influence living arrangements for separated and divorced children, children's views about their living arrangements, and living arrangements associated with children's adjustment following divorce. Based on this research, it is argued that traditional visiting patterns and guidelines are, for the majority of children, outdated, unnecessarily rigid, and restrictive, and fail in both the short and long term to address their best interests. Research-based parenting plan models offering multiple options for living arrangements following separation and divorce more appropriately serve children's diverse developmental and psychological needs. Stevenson (2007) found marriage and divorce, comparing trends through the past 150 years and outcome across demographic groups and countries. In this paper the study presents evidence on some of the driving forces causing these changes in the marriage market: the rise of birth control pills and women's control over their own fertility; sharp changes in wage structure, including a rise in inequality and partial closing of the gender wage gap; dramatic changes in home production technologies; and the emergence of the internet as a new matching technology. The study shows that recent changes in family forms demand a reassessment of theories of the family and argued that consumption complementarities may be an increasingly important component of marriage.

Objectives

The present study is based on the following objectives:

1. To study the attitudes of divorcee women towards their marital status.
2. To compare the attitudes of divorcee women in urban and rural areas.

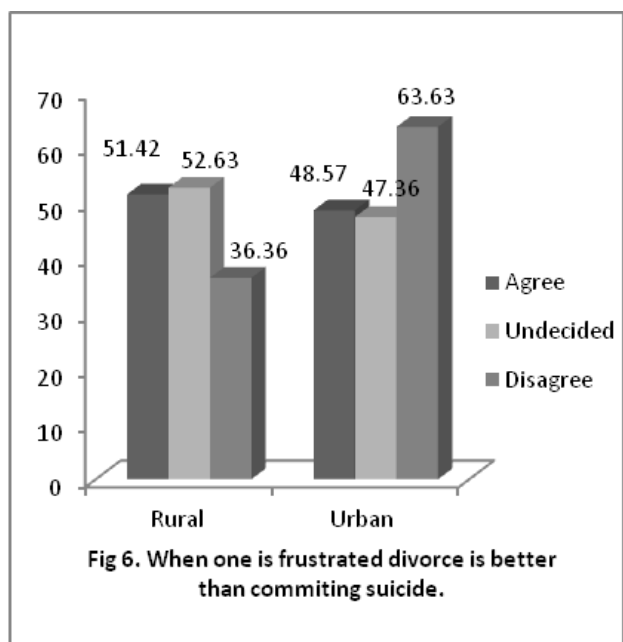
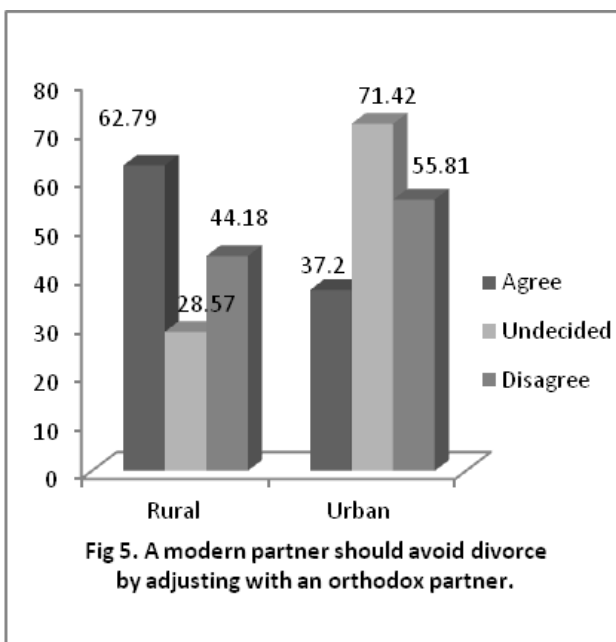
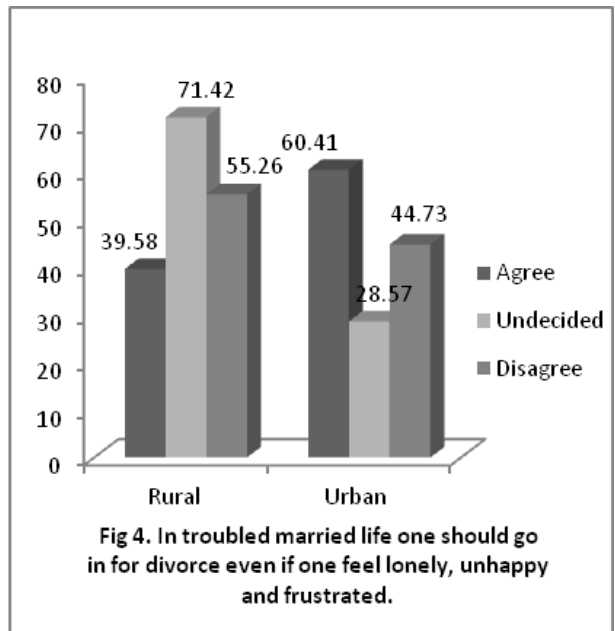
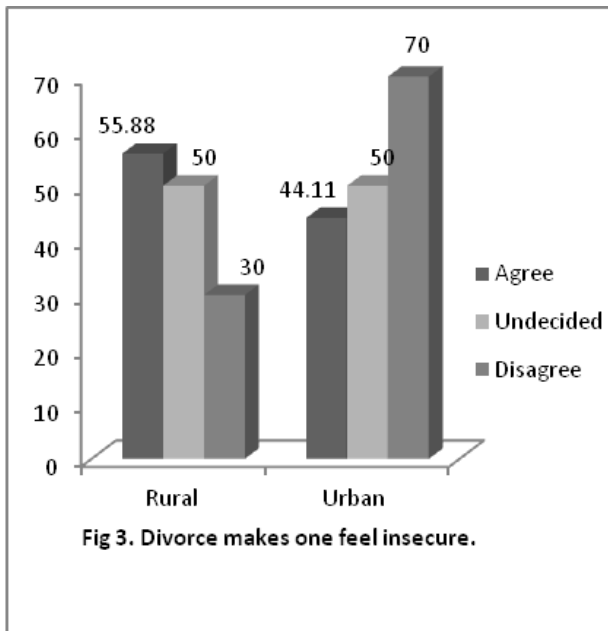
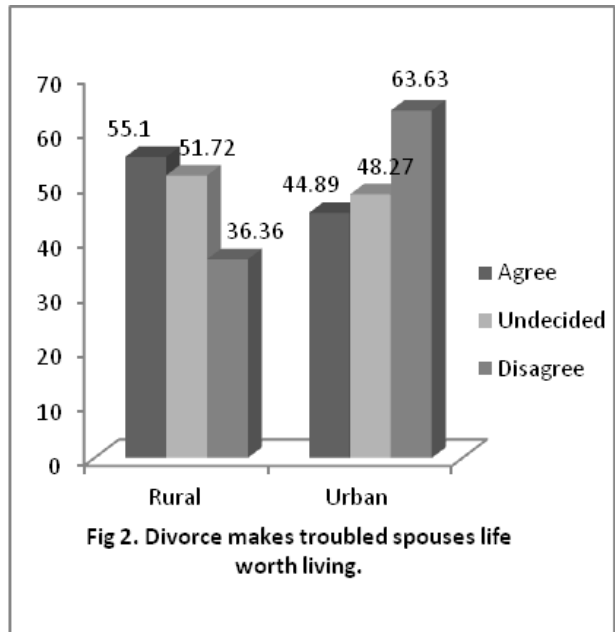
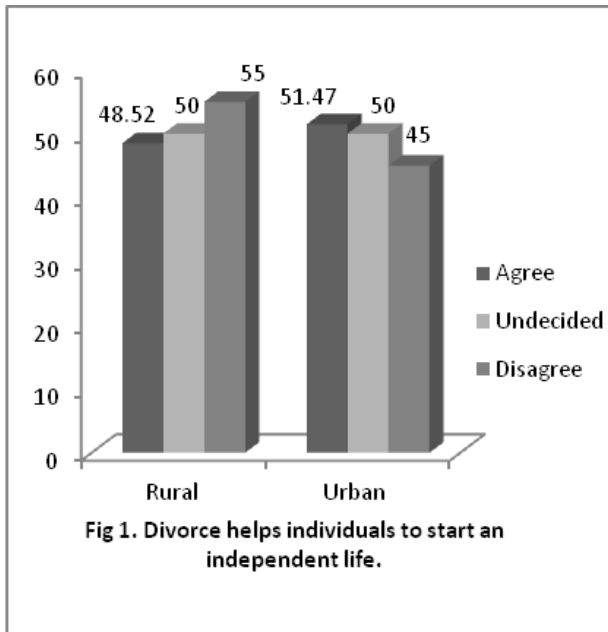
MATERIALS AND METHODS

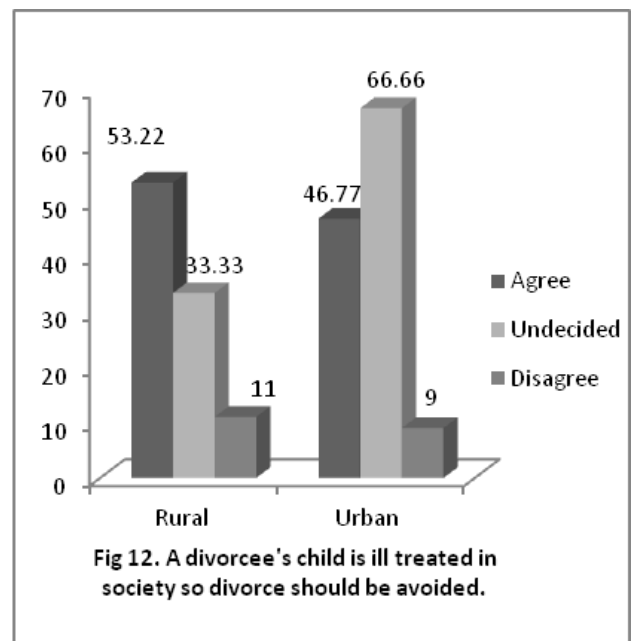
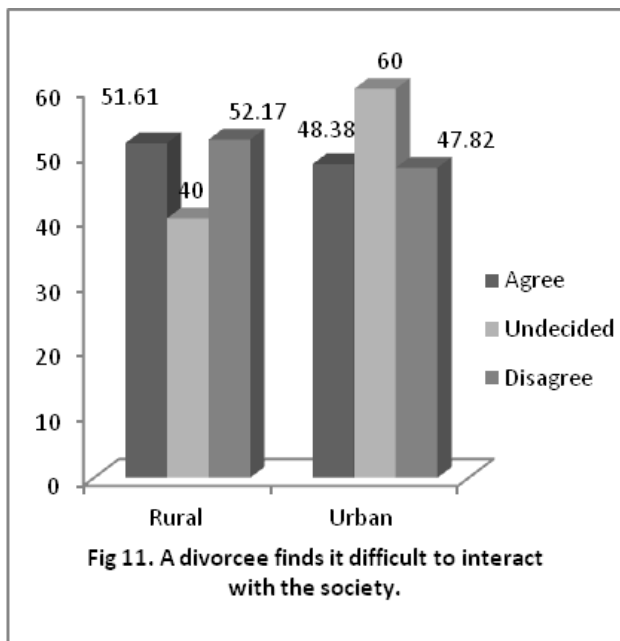
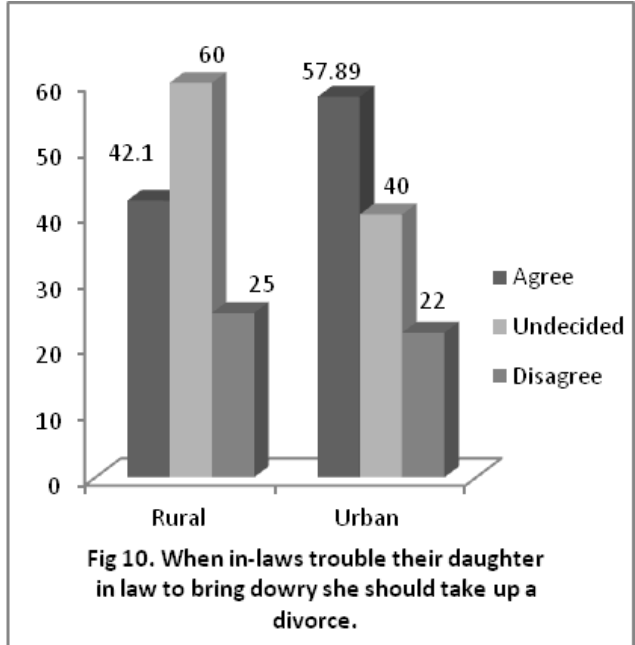
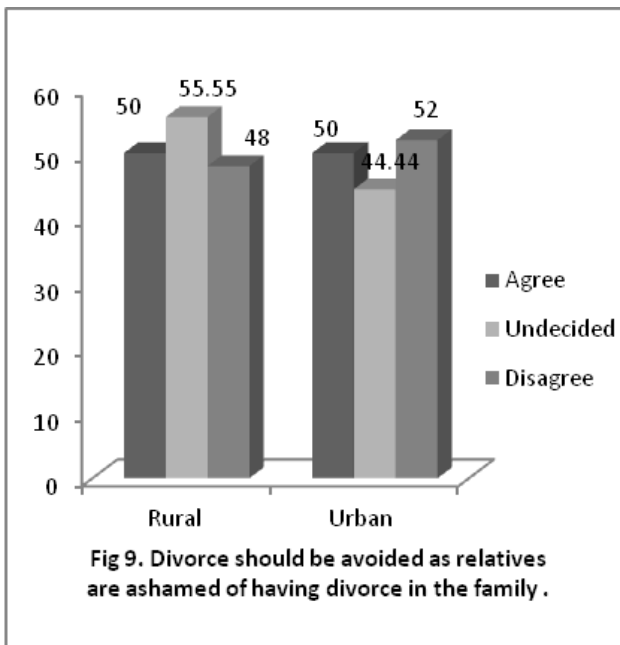
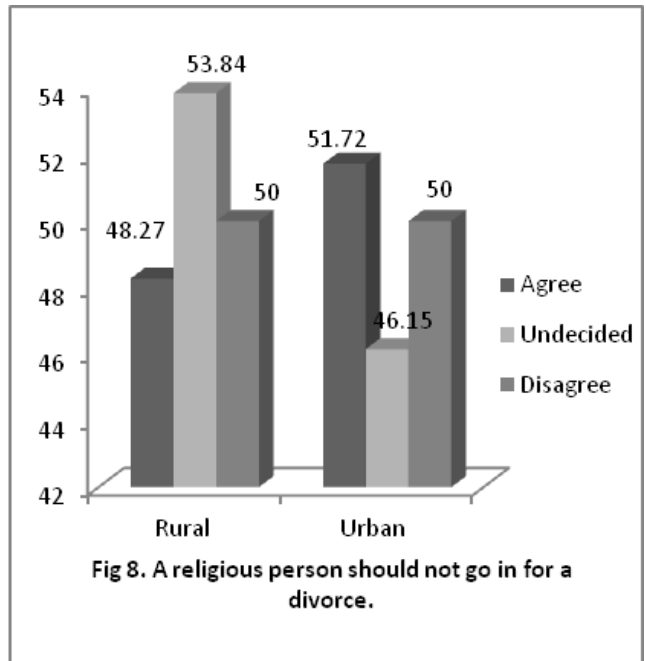
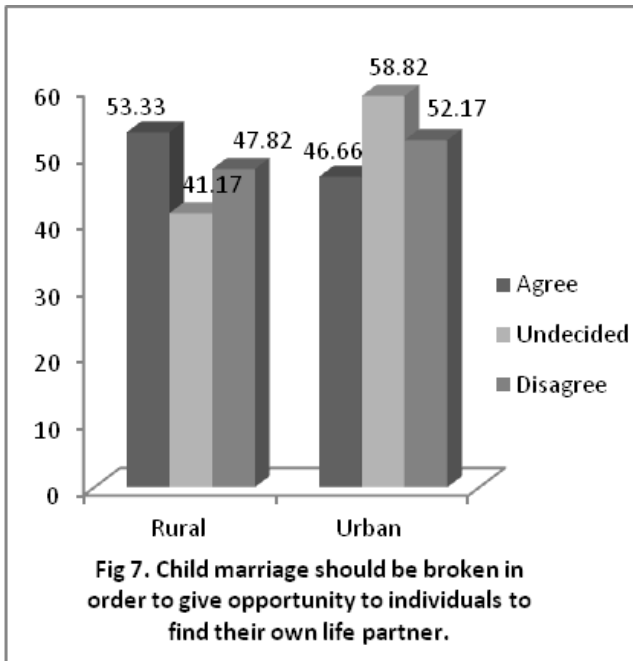
The present study was an attempt to study the attitudes of divorcee women towards their marital status. The information was gathered from divorcee women in urban and rural areas of

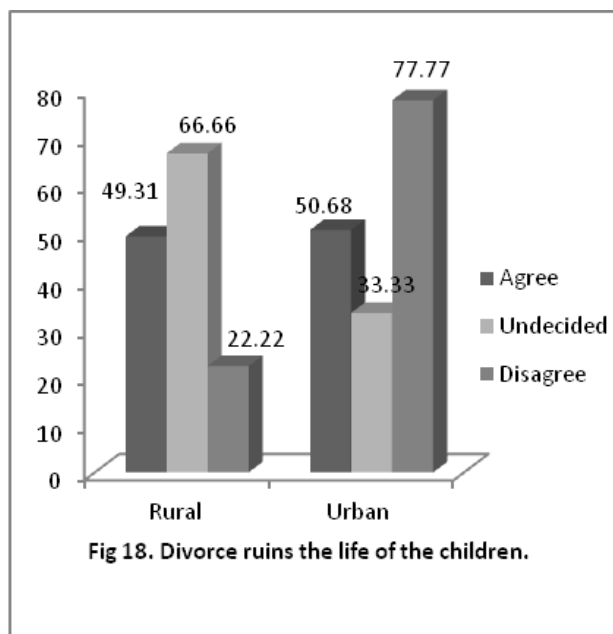
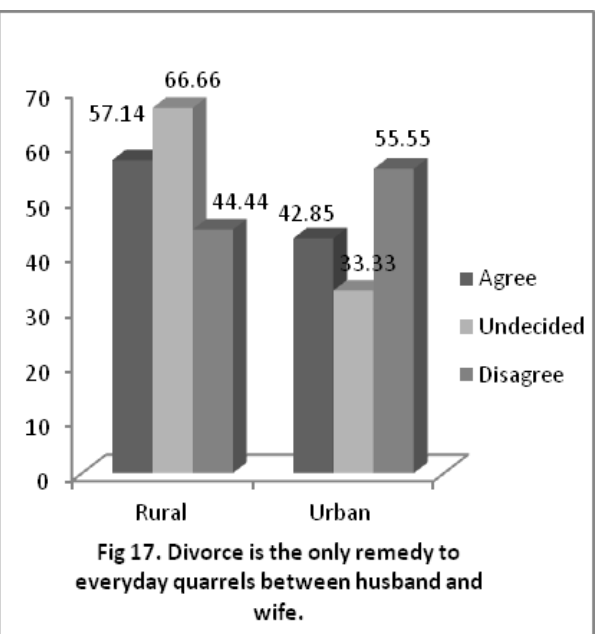
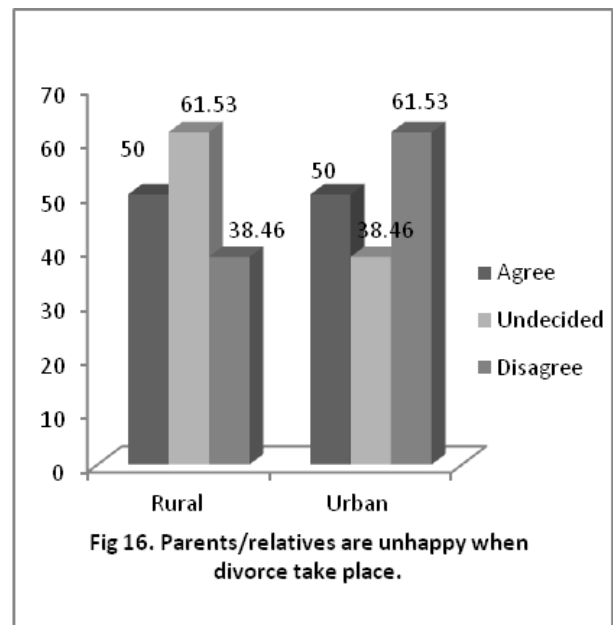
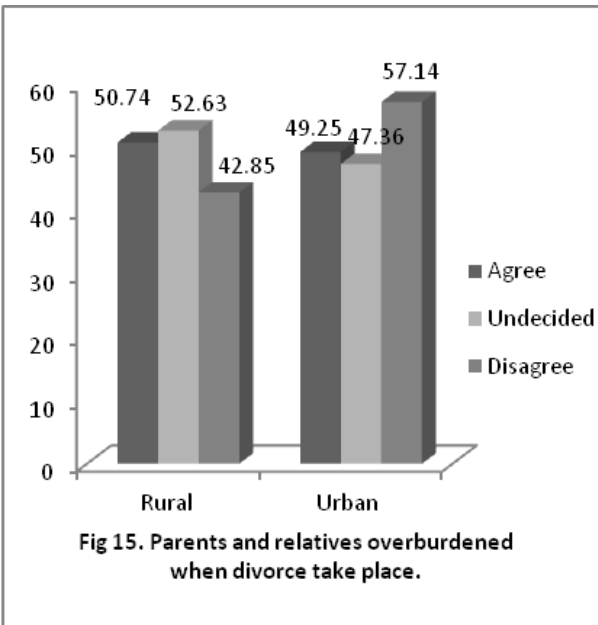
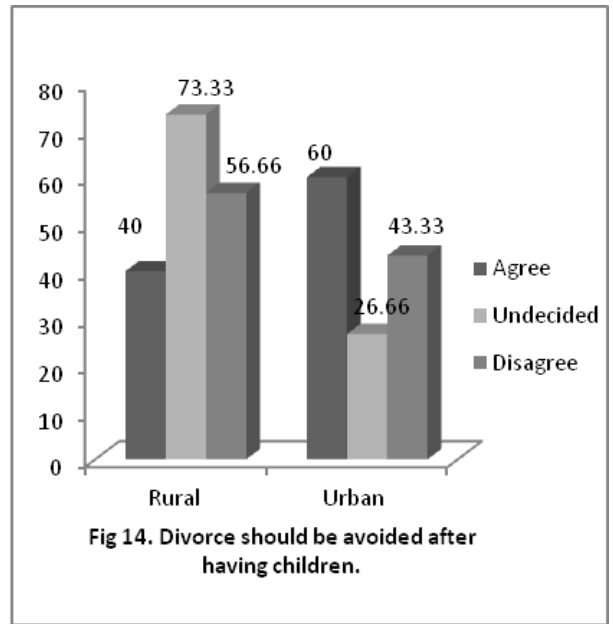
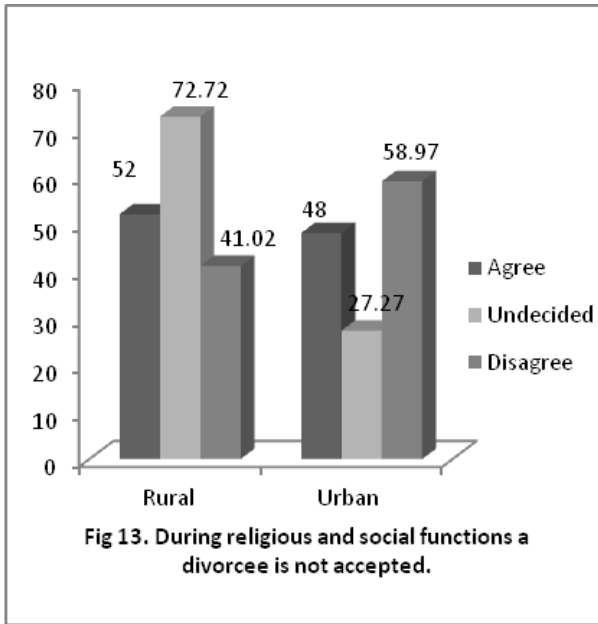
Kashmir region. The study was investigated through simple random sampling technique. Simple random sampling technique is also called unrestricted random sampling. It refers to that technique of sampling in which each and every item of the universe has the same probability of being included in the sample, the selection is not affected by the bias of investigator and it depends completely on the elements of chance. Sample was selected from Kashmir region. 100 divorcee women were selected for the purpose. 50 women from urban areas and 50 women from rural areas were selected. The tools used for the study include a readymade scale measuring attitude towards divorce constructed by Anupama Shah and Anjali Gupta (1993). The data obtained was carefully scrutinized, categorized and coded in order to fulfill the objectives. The data was analyzed computing column percentage.

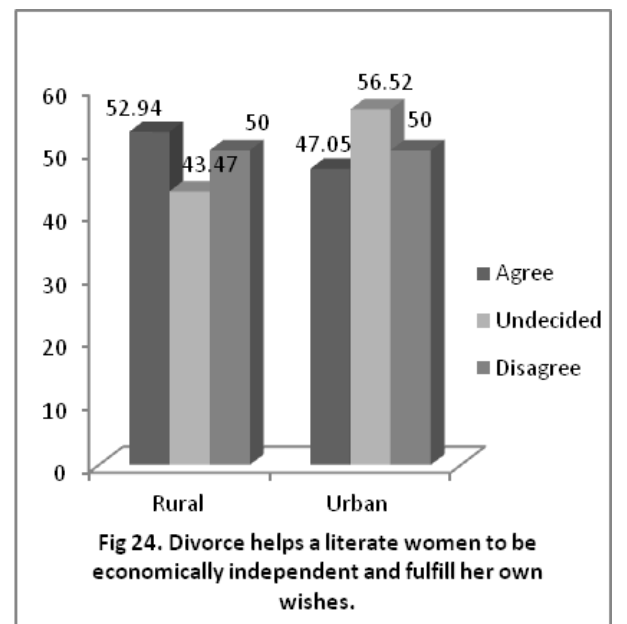
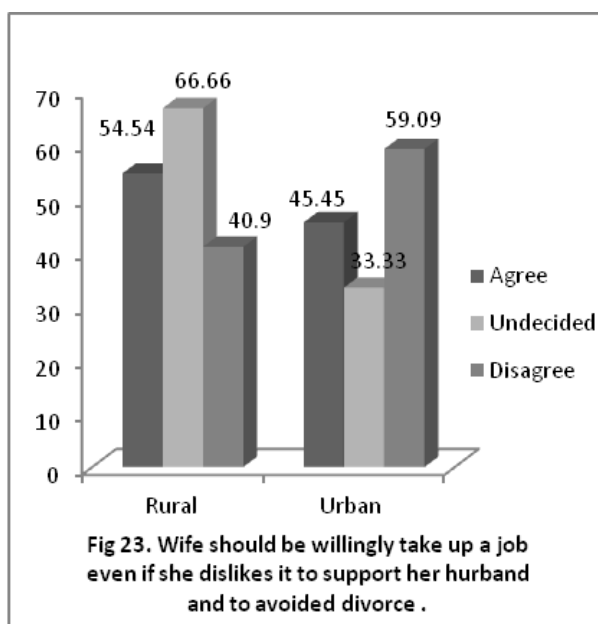
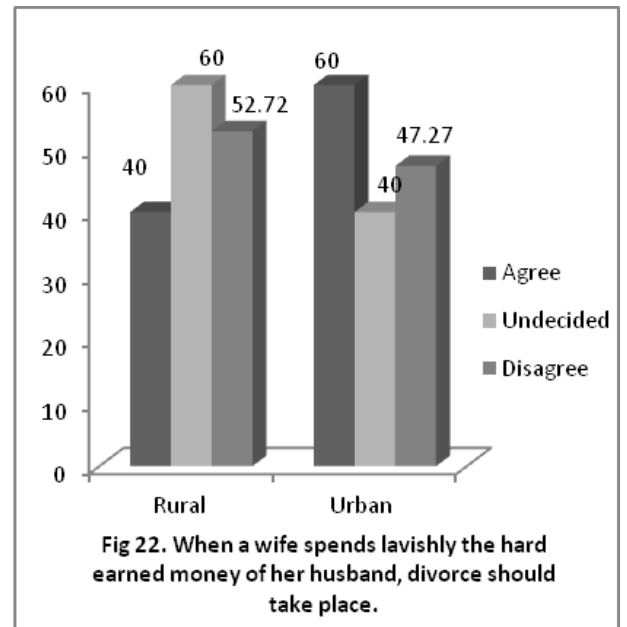
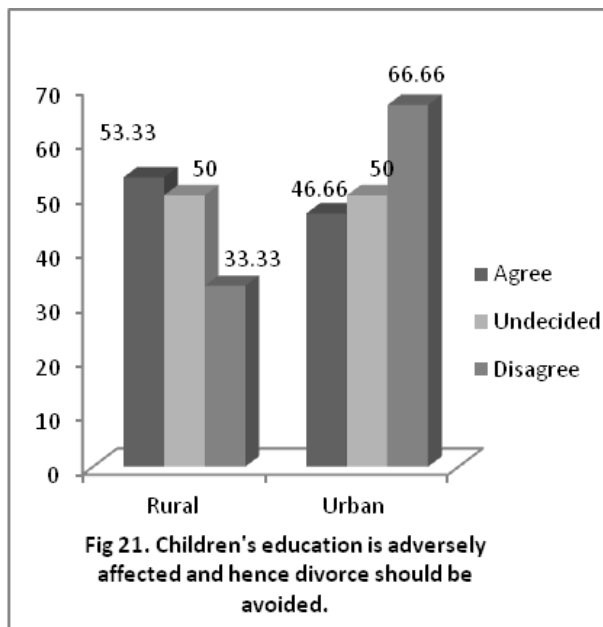
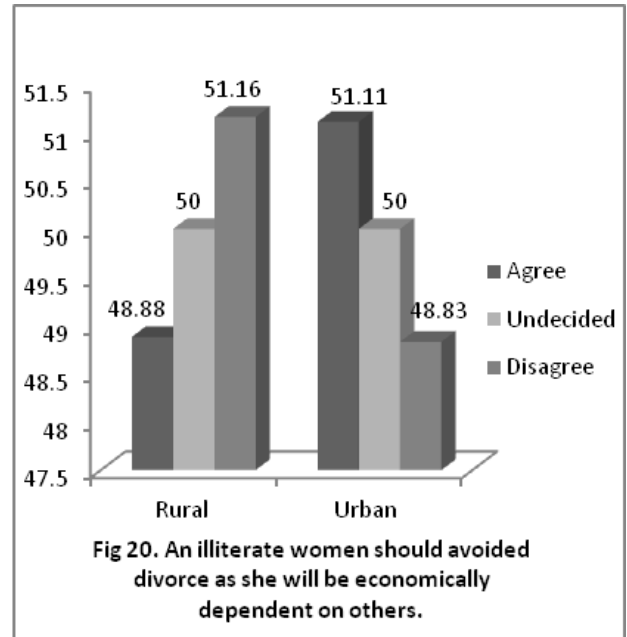
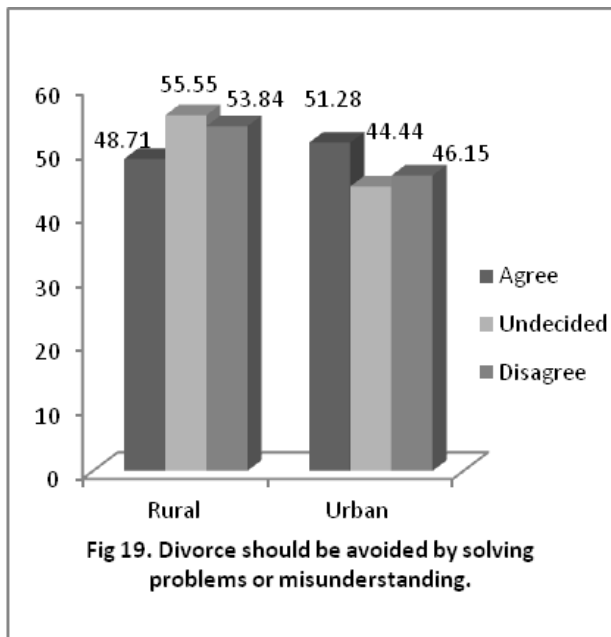
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

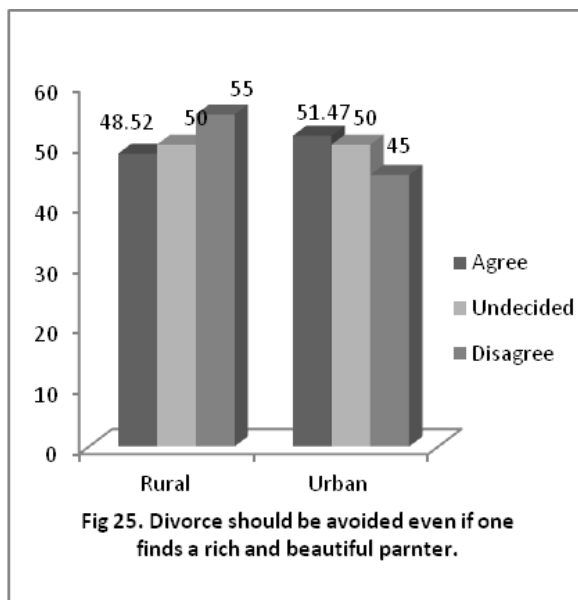
Fig 1 shows that 51.47 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that divorce helps them to start an independent life. While as, 55 per cent women belonging to rural area disagree that divorce helps them to start an independent life. In Fig 2 it is found that 55.10 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that divorce makes troubled spouses life worth living. At the same time as, 63.63 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that divorce makes troubled spouse's life worth living. Fig 3 depicts that 55.88 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that divorce makes them feel insecure. Even as 70 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that divorce makes them feel insecure. In Fig 4 it seems that 60.41 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that in troubled married life they should go in for a divorce, even if they feel lonely, unhappy and frustrated. Whilst 71.43 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that in troubled married life they should go in for a divorce, even if they feel lonely, unhappy and frustrated. Fig 5 represents that 62.79 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that a modern partner should avoid divorce by adjusting with an orthodox partner in a marriage. Whereas 71.42 per cent women belonging to urban area feel undecided that a modern partner should avoid divorce by adjusting with an orthodox partner in a marriage. Fig 6 reveals that 51.42 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that when they are frustrated, divorce is better than committing suicide. Although 63.63 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that when they are frustrated, divorce is better than committing suicide. Fig 7 shows that 53.33 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that child marriage should be broken in order to give opportunity to the individuals to find their own life partners. Despite the fact that 58.82 per cent women belonging to urban area feel undecided that child marriage should be broken in order to give opportunity to the individuals to find their own life partners. In Fig 8 it is found that 50 per cent women belonging to rural area disagree that a religious person should not go in for a divorce. While as 51.72 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that a religious person should not go in for a divorce. Fig 9 depicts that 50 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that divorce should be avoided as relatives are ashamed of having divorce in the family. At the same time as 52 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that divorce should be avoided as relatives are ashamed of having divorce in the family. In Fig 10 it seems that 60 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that when in laws trouble their daughter in law to bring dowry she should take up a divorce.











Even as 57.89 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that when in laws trouble their daughter in law to bring dowry she should take up a divorce. Fig 11 reveals that 52.17 per cent women belonging to rural area disagree that they find it difficult to interact with the society. Even as 60 per cent women belonging to urban area feel undecided that they find it difficult to interact with the society. Fig 12 represents that 53.22 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that their child is ill-treated in society so divorce should be avoided. Whereas 66.66 per cent women belonging to urban area feel undecided that their child is ill-treated in society so divorce should be avoided. Fig 13 shows that 72.72 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that during religious and social functions they are not accepted. Although 58.97 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that during religious and social functions they are not accepted.

In Fig 14 it is found that 73.33 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that divorce should be avoided after having children. Despite the fact that 60 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that divorce should be avoided after having children. Fig 15 depicts that 50.74 per cent women belonging to rural area disagree that parents and relatives are overburdened when divorce takes place. While as 57.14 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that parents and relatives are overburdened when divorce takes place. In Fig 16 it seems that 61.53 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that parents/relatives are unhappy when divorce takes place. Even as 61.53 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that parents/relatives are unhappy when divorce takes place. Fig 17 reveals that 66.66 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that divorce is the only remedy to everyday quarrels between husband and wife. Whereas 55.55 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that divorce is the only remedy to everyday quarrels between husband and wife. Fig 18 represents that 66.66 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that divorce ruins the life of their children. Although 77.77 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that divorce ruins their life of the children. Fig 19 shows that 55.55 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that divorce should be avoided by solving problems or misunderstanding. At the same time as 51.28 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that divorce should be avoided by solving problems or misunderstanding. In Fig 20 it is found that 51.16 per cent

women belonging to rural area disagree that an illiterate woman should avoid divorce as she will be economically dependent on others. Even as 51.11 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that an illiterate woman should avoid divorce as she will be economically dependent on others. Fig 21 depicts that 53.33 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that children's education is adversely affected and hence divorce should be avoided. Whilst 66.66 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that children's education is adversely affected and hence divorce should be avoided. In Fig 22 it seems that 60 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that when a wife spends lavishly the hard earned money of her husband, divorce should take place. Whereas 60 per cent women belonging to urban area agree that when a wife spends lavishly the hard earned money of her husband, divorce should take place. Fig 23 reveals that 66.66 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that wife should willing take up a job even if she dislikes it to support her husband and to avoid divorce. Although 59.09 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that wife should willing take up a job even if she dislikes it to support her husband and to avoid divorce. Fig 24 represents that 52.94 per cent women belonging to rural area agree that divorce helps a literate woman to be economically independent and fulfill her own wishes. Despite the fact that 56.52 per cent women belonging to urban area feel undecided that divorce helps a literate woman to be economically independent and fulfill her own wishes. Fig 25 shows that 71.42 per cent women belonging to rural area feel undecided that divorce should be avoided even if one finds a rich and beautiful partner. While as 61.53 per cent women belonging to urban area disagree that divorce should be avoided even if one finds a rich and beautiful partner.

Conclusion

Divorce (or the dissolution of marriage) is the final termination of a marital union, cancelling the legal duties and responsibilities of and dissolving the bonds of matrimony between the parties (unlike annulment, which declares the marriage null and void. Majority of divorcee women belonging to rural area disagree that divorce helps them to start an independent life. Majority of divorcee women belonging to rural area disagree that divorce helps them to start an independent life. It is found that majority of women from urban area disagree that when woman are frustrated divorce is better than committing suicide. Furthermore majority of rural women disagree that their parents and relatives are overburdened when they became divorcee. Majority of urban divorcee women disagree that divorce ruins the life of their children. It is found that urban divorcee women disagree that their children's education are adversely affected and hence divorce should be avoided.

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