

# Matrimonial Discords: Rising Incompatibility Issues

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## Abstract

**Background:** *Serious Matrimonial Discords have become the major problem not only of India but almost all over the world. The number of divorce cases is increasing at every moment. Compatibility issues consist of various issues that are contributing to the number of divorce files in the courts. These issues may be clash of views between spouses and between spouses & their in-laws, use of alcohol/drugs especially by husbands, non-fulfillment of essential needs of wives and their children. Besides this, differences in educational qualification, age, occupation, castes and dissimilarities of living status among the spouses as well as their parental families lead to marital discords among the couples. These concentrated marital conflict issues affect the social, psychological and economical wellbeing of women who are involved in divorce cases.*

**Methodology:** *The sample is drawn of 300 women from Patiala division who are involved in divorce cases. Structured Interview Schedule is designed to collect data.*

**Results:** *13 issues are found out of incompatibility in which consumption of alcohol & drugs is the most significant factor that is 62 per cent of total cases.*

**Keywords:** *Matrimonial Dispute; Incompatibility; Conflict; Social; Psychological; Economical*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Marriage is one of the social institution that is recognized as the most sacred and unbroken bond. It is always assumed as an unbounded relation that is united for the very next seven births of husband and wife. In early times, joint and extended families were existed in which if there was any issue generated between husband and wife then it was sorted out by whole of the family. The family members compensated each-other's weaknesses and fulfilled each-other's needs. But now with the growing independence and advancement, joint families are declining and nuclear families are arising day-by-day. People have become self-centered and give priority to themselves. If they don't get comfort or profit from their spouses, they immediately decide to get separate.

So, the words like matrimonial disputes and divorce are united with this sacred word 'Marriage'. Matrimonial disputes can be defined as those discords and ego clashes that compel the spouses to be separated for forever by getting divorce. Small and petty disputes are generated in every relation and of course in every marital relation. But when serious disputes are existed between spouses and they are not be able to sort it out by their own levels then it is reached away from outside the four walls of their room. After that their relation comes in the hands of both families and their wedding broker if they have. If they try to solve it wisely and faithfully then their relation may be reunited. But otherwise, spouses may get another chance in Matrimonial Dispute Settlement Agencies in which they prove to themselves more innocent than the other spouse.

There are various issues and various reasons behind marital discord. It may be because of interference of their parental families, pre-marital/extra-marital affairs, suspicious attitude, dowry demands, domestic violence, concealment of serious facts and by incompatibility issues etc. Issues of incompatibility have become the major serious problem in marital relation. Because of that a mismatch is generated among the couples by which they become helpless to be separated from each-other for forever.

Compatibility may be defined as those matters and those ideas or principles of which spouses may be able to co-exist. Compatibility in marriage means equality and matching between the spouses in terms of social and economical, cultural and personal matters etc. But there may be various issues/ideas between mates by which they are very different. Some spouses have the ability to adapt themselves with the differences and disabilities of the other spouse. But in few cases, when spouses are not consisted with each-other, then clash of views and discords are produced between the spouses because of the incompatibility issues.

Incompatibility can cause a lot of heartburn which takes away all the happiness from the marital relationship. When two spouses are united with each-other, they give a solemn promise or make a vow to live together till the end of life, no matter what may happen. This commitment to each other is which provides strength and stability to the marriage and incentive to

the couple to do their best to tide over the many challenges that will come up during their married life. But in certain cases, major differences in ideas, priorities, abilities, capacities etc. become more difficult for the couples to restore their relationships. (Ninan, n.d.) They just ignore about their past promises and find their lives more comfortable by breaking down that relationship that is believed a bond of next seven births.

Various kinds of incompatibility issues may be generated among the couples whether by consuming alcohol/drugs, non-fulfillment of necessary needs by husbands, any disability of a spouse, differences in personalities, age, caste, education, living status or by having clash of views between mates or between mates and their in-laws etc. It is found out by research that mostly the incompatibility issues are generated by having concealment of facts before marriage. Spouses with the support of their families hide about their marital status, financial or work conditions, living conditions, drug habits, health condition and even about their educational qualification.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To explore incompatibility issues that further raises matrimonial discords.

Examine the impacts of matrimonial disharmony.

To recommend various suggestions on which parents and spouses should focus to avoid future marital conflicts.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The methodology adopted for the present study is primarily descriptive in nature. In order to draw a representative sample of 300 respondents, 75 women are randomly chosen for interview from four districts (75X4=300) who are either petitioners or respondents of divorce cases filed in various courts in the districts of Patiala Division (Patiala, Sangrur, Barnala and Fatehgarh Sahib). The primary tool of data collection is Structured Interview Schedule. Apart from this, observation and group discussion is also be used when necessary.

## IV. SURVEY FINDINGS

The total number of research cases with regard to matrimonial disputes is 300. Out of this, 113 cases (37.6% of total) are related with various issues like Interference of parental families, extra-marital affairs, dowry demands, domestic violence, suspicious attitude, unrealistic expectations, NRI marriages and concealment of facts etc. But the huge number of 187 cases (62.3%) is related with the issues of incompatibility. This incompatibility is generated among the couples by various matters like drug addictive habits of husbands, their weak financial condition, clash of views between both of the parties etc. as described below.

Table 1: Incompatibility Issues

Sr. No.	Incompatibility Issues in Marital Relation	Responses		Percent of Cases N = 187
		N	Percent	
1	Age, Caste & Marital Status differences	17	4.7%	9.1%
2	Clash of views with husband	28	7.7%	15.0%
3	Clash of views with in-laws	40	11.0%	21.4%
4	Consumption of Alcohol	83	22.9%	44.4%
5	Consumption of Drugs	33	9.1%	17.6%
6	Involvement of Spouses in Criminal Activities	7	1.9%	3.7%
7	Cultural, Status & Rural-Urban Living differences with in-laws	12	3.3%	6.4%
8	Non-fulfillment of Necessary Needs by husbands	74	20.4%	39.6%
9	Educational differences	18	5.0%	9.6%
10	Physical, Mental or Sexual disease/disability of wife	16	4.4%	8.6%
11	Physical, Mental or Sexual disease/disability of husband	12	3.3%	6.4%
12	Occupational differences	9	2.5%	4.8%
13	Differences in Appearances	14	3.9%	7.5%

Source: Data collected by Survey Method(Multiple Responses)

The data in Table 1 reflects that the most common issue of incompatibility in marital relation is the consumption of alcohol and drugs which is 62% (44.4% + 17.6%) of total cases. Around 2/5 of the total incompatibility issues are related with the non-fulfillment of necessary needs by husbands that is the second highest number also. Besides this, there is also a mismatched between the spouses by other major issues like clash of views between both of the parties, any serious disease/disability and by other dissimilarities and differences between the spouses.

#### **A. Consumption of Alcohol/Drugs**

Worst effects of intake alcohol are found out that forces the couples to hand over their relations to the counselors and mediators in settlement agencies. A Norwegian study was done from a sample of almost 20,000 married couples. The study indicates that the more the people drink, the higher the risk of divorce and the risk of divorce are lowered among those couples if the spouses drink approximately the same amount of alcohol. It is also found out that heavy drinking among women to be more strongly associated with divorce than heavy drinking among men. For instance, the risk of divorce is estimated to be tripled when the husband's level of drinking is low and the wife's level of drinking is heavy, compared with those couples that drink lightly. (Nauert, 2013) Here it is true that the more the alcohol/drugs are consumed by spouses, the higher the risk of marital conflicts. But the other findings of the review study are against of our study. In our study, the alcohol or drugs is consumed by only husbands perhaps may be because of non-acceptance of drug consumption by women mainly in Punjab. So, the question is not raised about the quantity of drug consumption by both of the spouses. But the worst effects are observed of consuming drugs by male members in the family.

So, various worst effects are produced of consuming alcohol/drugs by husbands that does not only harm his family but damage his marital life as well as the whole society also.

#### **B. Non-fulfillment of Necessary Needs by husbands:**

The two terms are found out very complementary to each-other – Drug/alcohol intake habits and weak financial condition. When an individual get alcohol excessively, then most probably, he may get free or doesn't do any work. So, his financial condition becomes very poor. But sometimes things happen just opposite of this. When a person's financial condition is too poor then he takes the help of

those substances by which he can just forget or ignore about his real situation for some time.

A study took place over a period of two years with 161 participants completing the survey in America. It is found out that money is one of the major causes of frustration in marriage and family relationships. The more the increased number of bankruptcies, the high the number of divorce cases. So, there is a significant relationship between finance and happily married relationships. (Washburn & Christensen, 2015) The main issues behind poor financial condition may be unemployment, consumption of alcohol/drugs, their disinclination for work or seasonal employment etc. Most of the time, these issues are just concealed from women by their husbands and in-laws. In-laws just show the fake job, fake house, fake property or even fake educational qualification. And when wives face reality after few days of their marriage, they find no other option except separation and break up the few days' marital relation.

#### **C. Clash of views with husband/in-laws:**

Every person is unique in himself or herself. This is the basic assumption of Social Work. No two persons alike with each-other exactly. Their views & perceptions may be different from each-other in different-different matters in different-different relations, whether the relation is of teacher & student, parents & children, brother & sister and of course of husband & wife and daughter-in-law & in-laws.

In marital dispute cases, it is observed that views & perceptions are clashed between spouses and between in-laws & daughter-in-law on petty issues. But in some cases, these petty issues take place of divorce cases after sometime. Their thinking may be clashed on getting education to their children or to wives themselves also. Sometimes, women wish to continue their study after marriage so that they can fulfill their dreams that they saw under the peaceful nurturance of their parents. But they can't get that similar support from their in-laws. Their views are clashed with in-laws on their dress-up, living style and on the way of cooking also. Even they are not allowed to do job despite the poor financial condition of husbands.

#### **D. Physical, Mental or Sexual disease/disability of either spouse:**

In matrimonial dispute cases, it is seemed that a spouse can't accept serious disease/disability of other spouse very easily whether his/her disability is concealed before marriage or he/she becomes a victim of it after marriage. A spouse finds the way of

separation/divorce easier than to fulfill his/her responsibilities as a true life partner.

Physical disease or disability means any kind of disease or defect in any body part. When a spouse becomes the victim of any disease, it affects his/her work capacity, reputation or status or may be creating sexual problems also. With these things, marital life is affected. E.g. in one case, wife became a victim of Cancer after marriage and was on death stage. So, doctor just refused husband to have any physical relation but still he always did sexually harass her instead of taking care. So, wife filed divorce case so that she can live peacefully the countable leaving days of her life. In another case, wife became a victim of Cancer just after marriage. Husband started to irritate from her disease and thought that wife would never recover and would never become a mother. But wife got operation with her parents' support and was recovering her disease. But husband and in-laws didn't believe on her and were not ready to make settlement at all.

If we talk about the mental disability of the spouses involved in divorce cases, most of the time, these facts are concealed before marriage. In these types of cases, the spouses are the victim of depression, mental stress or mental disorder. They may get normal for sometime after taking medicine. So, they are succeeded in hiding of their disease and the spouses get betray by assuming the innocence of culprit. When a normal spouse has to see/bear the abnormality of another spouse unexpectedly, then he/she finds no other option except divorce. The depressed spouse speaks illogically, behaves aggressively and violently by breaking things or may be by laying down in the street etc. Nobody do respect of that person, not even the family members also. So, because of this, the other spouse also feels lack of respect or prestige for himself/herself. These types of marriages are done very hurriedly and quickly by having less period of time from engagement to marriage. In one case, a marriage was done very normally and happily as like other marriages. But husband just after sometime of his marriage came to know about the wife's mental condition. She didn't behave like normal people. Even she could not intertwine her hair. So, husband made her plait. Here, we can imagine very easily about the mental condition of wife.

Sexual disability generates those couples who cannot become parents may be for life time because of one or both spouses' infertility. In most of the cases, spouses come to know about this disability after marriage. This problem is rising because of alcohol/drug consuming habits. Besides this, other reasons may be

doing late marriages, unhealthy diet etc. In some divorce cases, everything is ok among the couples except this problem but they give more importance to an existence of child rather than to an existence of life time companion.

As earthquake damages all the affected area but the core point is most harmed. So any sudden disease or disability affects all the family members but that couple's relation is most injured.

#### ***E. Educational differences:***

Generally gap of education especially between the spouses does not seem a big issue that they have to involve in divorce cases. But genuinely, because of the gap of education between husband and wife, wife has clash of views with her husband and with her in-laws and their style of living is also very dissimilar. Here, we are not saying that for the successful marital life, high educational qualification is essential. Because divorce cases are filed by those couples also who are high qualified and are on the high posts also. But if there is a gap of education between mates then their style of living may be different; their views and perceptions may be clashed; their way of speaking is dissimilar. This incompatibility issue is also generated mostly by concealment of facts. So when one spouse is high qualified then it is most obvious that he/she will also expect almost similar qualified life partner. In one divorce case, wife was pursuing Ph.D. and her husband & in-laws showed his qualification as Graduation. But within one month of her marriage, she just shocked to know that he was just 8<sup>th</sup> passed. She immediately left his home and decided to give him divorce. Her parents had got her marriage in hurry just by seeing his size of land but nothing else.

When these types of cases are held in Dispute Settlement Agencies, the literate spouses just introduce their less literate/illiterate mates by saying that he/she was just uncultured and illiterate who didn't have any sense of talking and behaving gently. So, these issues raise ego clashes and arrogance among the more literate spouses that force them to be separated from their less literate spouses.

#### ***F. Other Incompatibility Issues:***

Besides these differences, other dissimilarities are also found out among couples like appearance differences, occupational differences and marital status differences etc. Appearance differences raise the number of extra-marital affairs. Better looking spouse tries to prove innocent to himself/herself, just by saying that they were not made for each-other or the other spouse's nature was not good etc. Occupational differences

issues raise ego clashes between the spouses. These types of cases are those in which husband's salary/work status is lower than his wife. Though, various changes are happened in our society with the changing time. But still it is a patriarchal society in which it is assumed that females are for doing household works and males earn money for the financial needs of family. So, when a female earns more than her husband or is on a higher post than him then it is not acceptable to her husband and in-laws. Mostly in these cases, husband as well as in-laws tries to harass her by depriving her salary may be because of his weak financial condition or because of his drug addictive habits or may be because of their inferiority complex. Wives also feel arrogant because of their high salary and start to dominate their husbands. They feel more empowered and don't want to share their salary with their in-laws despite if in-laws genuinely need of money. Marital status differences include those couples whose one spouse is first time married and another spouse is second or third time married. Mainly in these cases, the spouse who is first time married, is a victim of any disease/disability, weak financial condition, and drug habits or may be have big age differences etc. And the spouse who is second/third time married has to bear humiliation because of remarry or has to cope with the incompatibility of other spouse. If one spouse has a child from his earlier marriage then there is always a clash between the spouses regarding the well being of child. Either one spouse doesn't accept his/her step child or the other spouse feels insecure towards his/her own child.

Some other issues are also found out among the couples like Rural-Urban differences, status differences, age differences, caste differences etc. Unfortunately, the institution of marriage is also badly influencing by the involvement of spouses in the criminal activities. Whether the number is very less of these cases but in most of the cases, husbands are involved in drug trafficking acts.

## V. CONCLUSION

In nutshell, compatibility issues are the major problem in marital relation. Here we are not saying that spouses should alike to each-other in every respect. But there are certain issues to be addressed seriously and must take into consideration during the selection of other spouse just to ignore the future differences. Because those spouses who can't cope up with the differences of their life partners, they unfortunately may face divorce cases whether as the petitioners or respondents. They knock the door of the court with the hope of their bright future. But their future depends on the right decision of themselves, suitable or wise advice of their parental families and on the well functioning of the Matrimonial Dispute Settlement Agencies.

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