

## Comparison of personality and demographic characteristics in divorced women and married women in Isfahan

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**Abstract:** The present study was designed to investigate and compare the Big Five personality traits and demographic characteristics among married and divorced women in Isfahan city by causal-comparative study. The numbers of samples that are available for selected groups, consisting of 120 patients in two groups of 60 women who were divorced and married women in Isfahan city that one day to five years of marriage have passed. In divorced women group that one day to five years after their divorce decree passed, to measure the Big Five Personality Questionnaire short form of the NEO (NEO-FFI) to assess demographic characteristics (age, education, economic, consanguinity, number of children) is used. After controlling for demographic variables, to compare the five personality factors between the two groups of married women, divorced women t-test for two groups (with homogeneity of variance test and review - Levin) is used. Analysis of variance was used to examine demographic variables for personality traits Neuroticism, Extraversion and Agreeableness significant differences between the two groups was achieved in openness to experience and conscientiousness are significant differences between the two groups. The results are described in demographic characteristics, education, age, marital status and numbers of children have a relationship with the father's family, demographic characteristics as well as their children and several children have no significant relationship with marital status and economic status. Between personality characteristics and age, education, socioeconomic status, a relative of the divorced women and married women was not statistically different.

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**Key words:** personality characteristics, demographic feature, divorced women, married women

### 1. Introduction

Marital adjustment is a process through life of couples because it needs to adapt tastes, personality characteristics, and behavioral rules is pattern formation (Navabinejad, 2001). In general, each person has a set of features that makes it regularly and consistently shows a certain manner. These features constitute the total personality (Jonah, 1997). Characteristics and individual differences, although it may appear to be trivial but when the processes mediating cognition and differences of individuals who pass will start completely different behavior is considered (Naderian and Amirhosseini, 2010. p. 105).

The consequences of divorce and the disintegration of the family circle problem is a big problem in today's society is considered. Our society has a negative prejudice against divorced women. Divorce history of any person as a point of weakness is negative (Darvizeh and Kahaki, 2007). Divorce is so prevalent in today's society, marriage is considered a part of nearly 25 to 35 percent of marriages in the world leads to divorce (Ghahari and Boulhoda, 2008). Among couples who are living together are only half

happy and half due to a lack of life skills, including skills in conflict resolution, marital problems that eventually leads to separation (Ghahari and Boulhoda, 2008). On the other hand, should always be considered that the issue of divorce is considered a major disaster and not only have detrimental effects on families, especially children, but also very destructive effect on society is felt effects of divorce will bring to the community will be affected by it (Aghamohammadian Shrbaf, 2000). Divorce is considered the most important phenomena of human life. This phenomenon has many sides and sides of all aspects of human society. First, divorce is a psychological phenomenon, not only because of the psychological balance of the two men, but also their children, their relatives, their friends and relatives affected. Second, an economic phenomenon, how to break the family as an economic unit and eliminating causes mental balance, causing devastating effects of the economic life provides them. Third, divorce is a phenomenon affecting all aspects of a society, because on one hand the amount of work suggests, because the only legitimate unit of production basis as the family breaks apart, the other on the quality of

the work is because children are deprived of the blessings of family, community are delivered, likely to be ineligible for citizenship in a community office. Fourth, divorce is a cultural phenomenon in every society and every culture finds a way society accepts the kind of color that has come into being. Thus we can say that a society, in which divorce may exceed the normal limit, was not in good health. Divorce from the perspective of a communicative phenomenon is thus, in a society that lacks normal communication, the link or just normal marital relationship is no exception (Sarokhani, 1997). According to the divorce, not only from the perspective of individuals as human beings and children is important, but from the standpoint of society, culture, economics, and even one finds population acceptable.

An overview of the history of psychology, discussed views of many in this field indicates the beginning of the twentieth century, Sigmund Freud the first five years of life experience as the founder personality characteristics during subsequent stresses. While the pioneers of the theory-oriented and human-oriented personality otherwise think. This process will face a third revolution in the field of personality. Factor Theory of Personality, the theory that the impact of the growth process, different environmental conditions on the growth of individual characteristics focuses on everyday needs for development of personality characteristics was considered (Haghshenas, 2006). Indeed, during the formation of these theories, different definitions of the characters to come. Finally, the operational definition of personality psychologists agreed that it reflects the personality of the individual or the individual features that include fixed patterns of thought, emotions and behaviors with them by definition, the broad definition of the character and causes of the various aspects of a person are examined (Parvin, 2008).

Personality is also a set of features that helps to identify and evaluate their understanding of the problems and if true, the ability to form effective and acceptable social and cultural adaptation to the person providing or otherwise endangers the mental health and family (Mousavinasab, 1997). We also emphasize the influence of Allport (1937) character is exactly what the person really is, that the deepest type of character including individual characteristics (Lanion et al, 2006). Generally defines the general characteristics of personality in everyday life, stable traits over time returns the position of the other situations not changed much on the individual nature refers (Leal, 2006). The relatively constant overall patterns of human behavior can be described with the label. Personality traits, attitudes durable behaving a certain way in different situations is vital (Pasha

Sharifi et al, 1996).

Zarineh Hajialyan (2005) carried out a survey of research on the relationship between marital adjustment and personality characteristics, and ways of mate selection among women working in the Department of Education in Tehran between extraversion and marital adjustment of women in both groups received a positive relationship exists.

Rasti (2004) done a research as compared to the five-factor model of personality traits and marital satisfaction based on 50 pairs of Shiraz University dormitory was found that five characteristics of this test for significant predictors of marital satisfaction in both men and women.

Nasibolboka (2001) research on individual factors and personality as compared to the compatible and incompatible pairs in Tehran on 40 discordant couples attending the Tehran Judiciary was to get consistency, woman's education occupation woman children numerous jobs. Brent (2005) Research on the relationship between the Big Five personality traits and the marriage was performed on 400 couples found that neuroticism is negatively related to life satisfaction. Agreeableness and marital life is directly related to positive evaluations. Openness to experience is negatively correlated with marital satisfaction. Agreement with the responsibility of seeking and marital satisfaction was not significant. Divorce was created as a response to the pressures of married life. If spouse's methods on stress response as a major factor in marital satisfaction or conflict know. In this case, there is no way of responding to stress the largely attributed to personality factors spouses. Here, the role of personality traits spouses need to create a feeling of well-being and marital conflicts. It also reflects the personality of those features that are common to all human beings and indicates those features that distinguish the person from others (Parvin & John, 2001, translated by Kadivar, 2002).

#### Research hypothesis:

- 1- There is a difference between extraversion and married divorcees.
- 2- There is difference between neurosis in divorced and married women.
- 3- There is difference between openness and experience in divorced and married women.
- 4- Agreeableness between the divorced women and married women are different.
- 5- Between being conscientious divorced women and married women are different.
- 6- There are relationship between personality characteristics and age in married and divorced women.

- 7- There are relationship between personality characteristics and relationship education in married and divorced women.
- 8- There are relationship between personality traits and economic level in married and divorced women.

**Materials and Methods:**

The method used in this research is causal-comparative.

**Population and statistical sample**

The population of women in this study referred to the Court of Isfahan in 2012. A group of married women from one day to five years of marriage, they passed. The other group is comprised of a divorced woman who one day to five years of flowing over their divorce decree.

Delavar (2001) suggests that the sample size for the pilot study and compared to a minimum of 30 people per group is recommended. Quasi-experimental research in order to estimate the population mean is often due to the usually normal distribution variables may not be advisable as the sample size more than 30 people be selected (Sarmad et al, 2008).

Accordingly, in this study sample of 120 patients in two groups, each of 60 patients were considered sampling method for both married and divorced women and women were accessible. Thus, the Family Court of Justice referred to the number of samples required in the two groups, were sampled.

**Research Tools**

1- NEO Personality Inventory (NEO-FFI), 60-question form that includes the following five factors:

Extraversion: the tendency for a positive, decisiveness, mobility, and social kindly to being called (Parvin, 2008, p 12).

Neuroticism: the tendency to experience anxiety, stress, self-centeredness, hostility, impulsivity productivity, shyness, irrational thoughts,

depression and low self-esteem refers (Farahani and Kasirlou, 2006. P. 126).

Agreeableness: the tendency for forgiveness, kindness, generosity, confidence, bias, sympathy, obedience, sacrifice and loyalty is defined (Mohammadi, 2008, p 12).

Openness to experience: "Open" are people who experience internal fertilization and around the world, was curious, Ztdgy their rich experience. These people want to enjoy the new theory and have unconventional values and compared with those of "packets" of positive and negative emotions have a great (Haghshenas, 2009, p 36).

Conscientious: is the tendency to be organized, dependable, self-control, achievement-oriented, logic high (MAC cra, and Costa, 1987, quoted by Besharat, 2007, p 10).

The test included five sets of 12 of each of the factors are formed. The five response options from strongly agree, agree, no opinion, disagree, and completely disagree include the subject chooses one. Reliability coefficient for the factor N, E, O, A, C in, 0.83, 0.75, 0.80, 0.79, 0.79 is obtained, respectively (Garousi Farshi, 2011).

Kiamehr (2002) is reported the reliability of the test retest method (re-run on 336 subjects) for the five basic personality neuroticism, extraversion, tolerance, consensus and conscientiousness, respectively, 0.84, 0.82, 0.78, 0.65 and 0.86 and Cronbach's alpha for this factor, respectively, 0.79, 0.73, 0.42, 0.58 and 0.75.

2- Demographic questionnaire (demographic)

Questionnaire was used to collect demographic data using SPSS software reliability coefficient (Cronbach's alpha) was obtained from the questionnaire indicated that the level of acceptability of the research questionnaire.

Demographic Characteristics are included in: Information about age, education, economic, consanguinity, and number of children in the family, father, and children).

**Findings:**

Table 1- Two-group t-test subscale characteristics of divorced and married women

Scale	Marital Status	Average	test statistic	df	Sig level
Neuroticism	Divorced	37.6167	3.166	117.999	0.0020
	Married	33.6333			
Extraversion	Divorced	38.8000	-3.057	118	0.003
	Married	41.8833			
Openness to Experience	Divorced	36.0333	-0.297	118	0.767
	Married	36.2500			
Agreeableness	Divorced	39.700	-4.706	110.752	0
	Married	44.133			
Conscientious	Divorced	45.7667	-0.046	110.153	0.963
	Married	45.8167			

Based on the lower level of significance, t-test for two groups: measures of neuroticism, extraversion and agreeableness of experimental error (0.05); these features are assumed to be the same for married and divorced women will not be accepted. The results in Table indicate that trait neuroticism than married women, divorced women and married

women Extraversion and Agreeableness rates than divorced women. Also, given two group t-test significance level of openness to experience and conscientiousness trait, it can be concluded that divorced women and married significance level of these two features together are significant differences.

Table 2- Chi-Two Test, A comparison of divorced and married persons due to demographic characteristics

Demographic characteristics	Chi-square coefficient	df	Sig. level
Age	16.914	2	0
Education	5.911	1	0.015
Number of children	1.007	2	0.604
n <sup>th</sup> of children	1.780	5	0.879
Paternal family members	22.790	5	0
economic situation	5.283	2	0.0710
Family relatives	0.745	1	0.388

Since the variables are demographic characteristics and marital status category, so check for the difference between the proportions of divorced and married according to demographic characteristics of the Chi-square test is used. According to the table is the chi-square test of significance level demographic characteristics such as education, age and number of children of a father less than 0.05 existence regard to the difference between the features of the proportion of persons is married and the absolute will be accepted. That is an example of the absolute level of education, age and number of

siblings and father are not identical in terms of higher education diploma educated are married. Most people aged 25 to 35 were married, and the majority of families have three children. Due to the significant chi-square test for demographic characteristics of their children, holding a child, Family relatives the economic situation, it can be concluded that the assumption of equal proportion of divorced and married according to these characteristics will be accepted. For example, divorcees are not significantly different in terms of economic status. This claim is true in the case of married individuals.

Table 3: Analysis of variance for variable character education differentiation status

Variable	Marital Status	Significance level, test the equality of variances	test statistic F	Sig level F
Personality Characteristics	Married	0.542	0.227	0.636
	Divorced	0.017	0.583	0.561
Neuroticism	Married	0.828	0.078	0.782
	Divorced	0.717	3.050	0.055
Extroversion	Married	0.904	0.619	0.435
	Divorced	0.586	0.788	0.460
Openness to experience	Married	0.761	0.009	0.925
	Divorced	0.886	2.982	0.059
Agreeableness	Married	0.710	0.030	0.862
	Divorced	0.005	0.660	0.529
Conscientious	Married	0.407	0.205	0.652
	Divorced	0.028	2.249	0.115

Statistical samples of the following three categories: associate degree, diploma and higher diploma are enumerated. According to the Fisher test

statistic significant higher levels of test errors (0.05) to the variable Personality Characteristics of divorced women and their sub-criteria, it is concluded that

Personality Characteristics, neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness of divorced women with the same education. This result is true for married women. For example, a married woman under diploma extroversion significantly different from women with

no higher diploma was considered. It is explained that the assumption of equal variances between different educational Agreeableness divorced women will not be accepted. Thus the test statistic used to assess these variables, the Welch test statistic is that it does not need any precondition.

Table 4 - Analysis of variance for the variable Personality Characteristics, economic status, marital status resolution

Variable	Marital Status	Significance level, test the equality of variances	test statistic F	Sig level F
Personality Characteristics	Married	0.979	3.961	0.025
	Divorced	0.883	1.157	0.332
Neuroticism	Married	0.422	1.364	0.264
	Divorced	0.155	2.632	0.081
Extroversion	Married	0.393	1.497	0.233
	Divorced	0.950	0.055	0.947
Openness to experience	Married	0.005	4.307	0.775
	Divorced	0.950	0.055	0.947
Agreeableness	Married	0.215	3.092	0.053
	Divorced	0.882	0.489	0.616
Conscientious	Married	0.450	1.890	0.160
	Divorced	0.568	0.599	0.553

People sample in terms of socioeconomic status into three categories with weak financial condition, medium and fine are enumerated. According to the Fisher test statistic significant higher levels of test errors (0.05) for the index characteristics divorced women - it's such inferences are neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness Women divorced with different economic situation is the same. This result is true for married women. For example, all three groups of married women with a poor financial situation, women with an average financial status and good financial status of married

women have a degree of extroversion. Significant effect on the economic situation of divorced women and indices character is not married. The results in Table show that the financial situations of married women with different characteristics on 0.05 are different. So that the poor financial situation of married women of character are weaker than the other two groups is significant. Average characteristics of married women with a poor financial situation, moderate and good, respectively, 187.67, 202.69 and 201 have been obtained. This means that the results achieved are confirmed.

Table 5: Analysis of variance characteristics for the separation of variable age and marital status

Variable	Marital Status	Significance level, test the equality of variances	test statistic Fisher	Sig level Fisher
Personality Characteristics	Married	0.328	0.018	0.894
	Divorced	0.071	0.232	0.794
Neuroticism	Married	0.142	1.163	0.285
	Divorced	0.449	3.582	0.034
Extroversion	Married	0.623	0.610	0.438
	Divorced	0.094	0.245	0.784
Openness to experience	Married	0.711	1.558	0.217
	Divorced	0.576	0.718	0.492
Agreeableness	Married	0.900	1.260	0.266
	Divorced	0.093	1.893	0.160
Conscientious	Married	0.805	0.844	0.362
	Divorced	0.020	0.318	0.729

People sample age groups less than 25 years, 25-30 years and above 35 years have been split. According to the Fisher test statistic significant higher levels of test errors (0.05) to the variable characteristics of married women and its sub criteria, it is concluded that personality traits, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientious married women of different age groups is the same. This result is true for divorced women. For example, character and personality of divorced women divorced women less than 25 years, 25-35 years are the same? The character and personality of

women over 35 years divorced women and other groups are equal. Thus the age of divorced women, married and has no significant influence on personality traits. The results in Table show that divorced women with different age groups and levels of neuroticism on 0.05 are different. So that divorced women older than 35 years of neuroticism are more likely than the other two groups. The mean neuroticism divorced women ages 38.83, 36.05 and 42.10 is obtained from the average of results obtained to verify.

Table 6: Analysis of variance for the variable characteristics relative separation status

Variable	Marital Status	Significance level, test the equality of variances	test statistic Fisher	Sig level Fisher
Personality Characteristics	Married	0.151	3.653	0.061
	Divorced	0.372	0.870	0.355
Neuroticism	Married	0.463	0.340	0.562
	Divorced	0.467	0.125	0.725
Extroversion	Married	0.419	0.536	0.467
	Divorced	0.935	1.613	0.209
Openness to experience	Married	0.738	2.487	0.120
	Divorced	0.395	0.627	0.432
Agreeableness	Married	0.257	3.222	0.78
	Divorced	0.938	0.040	0.843
Conscientious	Married	0.725	0.473	0.494
	Divorced	0.992	0.731	0.396

Sample relative to the two categories of people who have a relative with his wife and those who do not share with your spouse, a relative said. According to the Fisher test statistic significant higher levels of test errors (0.05) to the variable characteristics of divorced women and its sub-indicators, this species can be inferred that the relative significance of the impact on the character of married and divorced women and those indicators are below. For example, the degree of openness to experience a relative of his wife the degree of openness to experience, divorced women who did not have any relative of his wife is the same.

#### Discussion and conclusions

Assuming equal variances for trait extraversion divorced women and married at 0.05 will be accepted because of its significant level (0.061) is more than 0.05. Significant t-test equality of variances in the two groups (0.003) of less than 0.05 is evaluated. Therefore assumed to be identical extroversion divorced and married women will be rejected. Average score is higher extraversion

divorced women divorced women deal after the property is less than married women and extroversion are more married women. Research findings in this study are consistent with Mohammadzadeh Ebrahimi (1999) and Zarinh HajiAlian (2005) and Keshavarz (2004) and Abdullahzadeh Garousi (2004) found a significant relationship between marital satisfactions subscales Extraversion. By definition, refers to the outward sociability, love people, preferring the groups and communities, enabled with courage and love chatter and sexual arousal and stimulation, tend to be happy and cheerful, happy, energetic and optimistic and willing to risk (Haghshenas, 2006).

Whatever the output profile wingers is easy to show, as it is difficult to demonstrate the characteristics of introverts. Khvddartr introverted people are so unfriendly, are independent pursuant to uniform and balanced to be lazy and slow movement. When these people would prefer to be alone, it may be said that these people are timid. Necessarily suffer from social anxieties will not implement an introverted person. Although the spirit of these people are not very happy but Brown, condemning other

people are happy or pessimism. It may be strange or unusual characters may appear in some cases. But they have been estimated using a variety of research and conceptual advances in the five-factor model has been triggered (Costa & McCrea, 1990).

According to researchers, these characteristics are not considered virtues or vices and is an important factor for satisfaction or dissatisfaction with life partner characteristics that are in harmony with these features or not. The properties of coordination between partners in terms of introversion - extraversion is greater, the greater the life satisfaction. Two people may be introverted, very happy together an extrovert and an introvert if they are experiencing problems. Perhaps the only test introversion - extraversion testing results show clearer.

Assuming equal variances neuroticism divorced and married women in the 0.05 can not be rejected because of its significant level (0.949) is more than 0.05. Because of the significant level of t-test for two groups (0.002) of less than 0.05, assuming different neuroticism divorced and married women will be accepted. Since the mean neuroticism scores flowing in the trait neuroticism are more divorced women than divorced women, married women.

The results obtained in this study with the results of the study Mohamedzadeh Ebrahimi (2008) and Brent (2005), which is expressed in their study, is significant relationship between conscientiousness and agreeableness and marital satisfaction, there is harmony. The finding in this study with the findings in the investigation of truth (2004) is inconsistent. He stated that five personality traits test, significant predictor of marital satisfaction. Well as the results obtained with Abdollahzade findings and Garousi (2004) is inconsistent because they have found in their investigation between conscientiousness and there is a positive relationship between life satisfactions.

Conscientious people have goals and desires are strong, reliable individuals such as Vaghtshenas, Digman & Takemoto – chock (1981), this index tends to be called a success (Moradi, 2008). These people live in a marriage like other values, have a purpose and plan. Strong desires for a better life, try as they perform their duties efficiently, and most importantly, because they know the job because they want to succeed in the face of difficulties, do not give up too early and decided to try to overcome. These patients due to insufficient character, rather than their ability to believe and feel they deserve and have high self-esteem and internal locus of control. When most people think of the decision and the comfort of your decisions do not

matter. Having concluded that married people also consider all aspects of the work and microscopic, choosing their spouse after marriage, easy divorce and separation do not think and do not spare any effort to keep this relationship. Conversely, those who insist on getting a low score on this scale and large followed in order to reach their goals are important (Haghshenas, 2006. Quoted by Moradi, 2008). This feature may cause problems when you thought erase either drop the issue rather than to challenge it. Thus, as in the present study and previous studies in other countries show Conscientiousness in the average low is approaching divorcees and those can vary. This is while married is close to the average of the high and close to the average in the study, there was little difference between these traits.

The findings in this study is consistent with results Hojati Kirmani (2005) suggest that poor management in an emotional connection with a partner, undue criticism and unfounded excuses for divorced women is the most important feature. In addition, wash and Gerhard (2002) and Griffey and Bruenn (2000), who found relationship between personality variables are associated with conflict resolution practices collaborative conflict management style and a high correlation is consistent with the consent of the couple's life. The findings and conclusions expressed in the research Abdollahzadeh and Garousi (2004) and Brent (2005) have stated that there is no significant relationship between the variables and marital satisfaction savings agreement is inconsistent.

People agreeableness, altruism, with sympathetic and willing to help others and believe that others have the same relationship with them is considered (Haghshenas, 2006). One of the characteristics of these factors, it is believed. The others are honest and well-intentioned. Opposite of that suspicion and mistrust that many studies have shown its efficacy in a broken relationship is considered (Hojati Kermani, 2005). According to the findings, the researchers attribute an important factor in maintaining a positive relationship is marriage. Another trait factor, being compassionate, being a proponent of others and their needs is vital. Obviously if the marriage, each partner has the character and the other prefers to themselves or not, many of the differences are easily resolved. Results (Tiaiflourz, 2008) have confirmed this. Another trait measure this factor is associated. The desires to respect others, dipping anger and forgiveness and forgets and accept. Specifications in collaboration with her husband and married life makes sense and is also positive feeling towards him all of which are components of a successful marriage (Asgarifar, 2001). Married women are expected to meet the

absolute highest average on this scale.

The results obtained in this study is inconsistent with research findings Mohamedzadeh Ebrahimi (2008) and Abdullahzadeh Garousi (2004) suggest that between openness to experience and there is no significant relationship between marital satisfaction and is consistent with findings Burnett (2005), which is expressed openness to experience is negatively correlated with marital satisfaction.

Always open to experience concepts such as curiosity, imagination, and desire is seeking to diversify. Stimuli and situations involving new, artistic sensibilities, interest in music, art, poetry, nature and characteristics of these individuals. Conversely, individuals who score low on this factor are more limited in scope, have emotions and interests, but his interests more stable than the show and desire to maintain social and political status and the more traditional and more conventional. There is freshness and variety in their work. People are envisioned. Interest in art, beauty, music, and not avoid philosophical discussions (Kiyamehr, 2002). The openness to experience, or closed, depending on the need for open and closed positions and useful functions in society is considered (Haghshenas, 2006). According to the above definitions are not justified by differences in the openness of married and divorced women and differences in results may be due to cultural differences and the inside and outside of psychology and its impact on marriage and married life. Probably in the next character elements of active imagination, aesthetic sensitivity, attention to internal emotional experiences and independent judgment, self-gratifying experiences are effective and no impact on interpersonal relationships. Perhaps the logical Iranians prefer to build their interpersonal. A study by the research Haffarian et al. (2009) found that social functioning was significantly less than married women; divorced women have to be consistent. Drakhshan (2005) argues that the social function of components such intimacy, commitment, and pleasure, there is a positive relationship with marital satisfaction and is consistent with the results obtained in this study. The results obtained with NasibAlbka's research (2001), the factors of education and employment of women and children is consistent and they found that women compared with women in conflict with more consistent, higher education and the possibility of being employed is greater. The results of the research results Krahani and Kahani (2007) and batter (2007) found that divorced women are more anti-social and anti-social scale. Also, the results of El Corona and Graham (2004) showed that the expression of divorced women who experience severe loneliness is compatible.

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