

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF CRUDE DIVORCE RATES IN DEVELOPING EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: A PANEL DATA STUDY (1999-2017)

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Abstract:

This study seeks to fill the gap in the literature by investigating socio-economic factors influencing crude divorce rates in developing European countries, which have been previously understudied. It examines the impact of social and demographic factors, economic activity, and the interplay between these elements on the likelihood of crude divorce cases per 1,000 people. A panel dataset from 1999 to 2017 was constructed, and data was gathered from the literature. Using OLS pooled and Random Effect estimation models, the study found that higher levels of education and the employment of women are associated with an increased risk of marriage dissolution. Gross national income and labour force participation emerged as key determinants, with higher income and economic activity correlating with lower divorce rates. The study suggests that employment sector reforms are needed, particularly at the private level. However, the complex nature of divorce calls for a deeper social examination. Future research should consider gender, habitation location, and other social factors such as religiosity and addiction.

Introduction:

Marriage dissolution, influenced by various factors, has seen rising divorce rates in many countries, attracting scholarly attention. While the socio-economic position of males has been linked to family stability, women's resources have shown inconsistent results. European families have constantly changed since the 1960s, with divorce rates doubling. This research aims to investigate the socio-economic determinants of marital instability in developing European countries from 1999 to 2017, addressing the absence of cross-sectional and time-series research for many European nations.



Theoretical and Empirical Reviews:

Theoretical approaches to marriage research include social exchange theory, behavioural theory, attachment theory, and crisis theory. Socio-economic variables such as unemployment, labor force participation, and women's employment have been examined for their impact on divorce. This study also reviews literature on the economic factors of divorce, the employment of women, the percentage of women in the labor force, wage, social factors, the number of children, education, and age as potential determinants.

Methodology:

The study employs a panel dataset of 14 developing European countries defined by the World Bank. Variables such as gross national income (GNI), birth rate, unemployment rate, labour force participation, marriage age, education, and the share of working women were analyzed using OLS pooled estimation and fixed effect models.

Empirical Results and Discussion:

The analysis revealed that GNI, unemployment rate, and labour force participation negatively influence the divorce rate while working women and education levels are positively associated with an increase in divorce rates. The study's findings challenge some existing theories and suggest that economic factors play a significant role in European family divorce rates.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that economic stability is a key determinant of divorce rates, and policy reforms should focus on improving job opportunities and supporting young families. Future research should explore additional social factors to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the determinants of divorce. The sensitive nature of divorce requires a multifaceted approach to policy-making and further investigation.

