



A Glimpse of Divorce Dynamics in Mizoram

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Abstract: This study seeks to identify the demographic, economic, and cultural factors that influence divorce rates in Mizoram, with a particular emphasis on age group, educational level, occupation, place of residence, and wealth index. The analysis draws on the secondary data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) based on an ever-married women sample. Descriptive statistics were employed using SPSS-25, including bivariate analysis such as cross-tabulation. The results revealed that the divorce rate fluctuated from 1992-93 to 2019-21. Lunglei district has the highest divorce rate (96 per 1,000) among all the districts. Urban areas displayed higher divorce rates compared to rural areas. Divorce rates were highest among individuals aged 20 to 24, with a significant decrease in divorce rates among older age groups. Secondary educational attainment was associated with the highest divorce rates. Women employed in the “sales” profession exhibit higher divorce rates compared to those not working. For example, the divorce rate among women employed in sales stands at 200 per 1,000 ever-married women, whereas it is 79 per 1,000 among women not working during the years 2019-21. Moreover, the impact of wealth on marital relationships was noticeable, with higher wealth, the richest wealth index scores, correlating with slightly elevated divorce rates. In 2019-21, the divorce rate stood at 71 per 1,000 among the poorest wealth quintiles and 72 per 1,000 among the richest wealth quintiles. Fewer children are linked with higher divorce rates. The study emphasises the need for policymakers to implement targeted interventions to tackle socio-economic disparities and promote marital stability.

Keywords: Mizoram, divorce, dissolution, separation, marital instability

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Introduction

Over the past few decades, Mizoram has experienced significant societal shifts and changing norms that have shaped the dynamics of family life. For example, there has been a gradual shift from same-caste to inter-caste marriages. Individuals now have more agency in choosing their partners. Additionally, there has been an increase in educational attainment among women, which has led to greater financial independence and decision-making power within marriages. These shifts in societal norms have profoundly impacted the institution of marriage and contributed to the evolving divorce trends in Mizoram.

Divorce has significant implications for individuals and communities, impacting their psychological well-being, economic stability, and social relationships. While there is existing literature on marriage and divorce, this study focuses specifically on Mizoram to contribute to the broader field of social sciences. Mizoram has unique socio-cultural dynamics that influence familial structures and relationships. Mizoram is witnessing a significant shift in divorce trends, reflecting the evolving dynamics within the Mizo community. According to recent data, among the states in India, divorce rates have been the highest in Mizoram. This indicates a need for a deeper understanding of the factors driving this trend.

Understanding the trends and variations of divorce in Mizoram provides insights into how these dynamics shape the community's social fabric. The study aims to explore the factors contributing to divorce rates in Mizoram and understand how these rates have changed over time. By focusing on Mizoram, this study hopes to add valuable insights to the existing body of knowledge in the field of social sciences.

Theoretical Perspectives

The social exchange theory, rooted in sociology, posits that individuals engage in relationships based on a rational calculation of costs and benefits. In the context of divorce, social exchange theory suggests that individuals weigh the rewards and costs associated with staying or leaving a marriage. The theory proposes that individuals are motivated to maximise their rewards and minimise their costs in relationships. Rewards may include emotional support, companionship, financial stability, and social status,

among others, while costs may encompass emotional distress, conflict, financial strain, and social stigma attached to divorce (Donovan & Jackson, 1990).

According to Social Exchange theory, individuals evaluate their marital relationships by comparing the rewards they receive from the marriage against the costs they incur. If the perceived rewards outweigh the costs, individuals are more likely to remain in the marriage. Conversely, if the costs outweigh the rewards, individuals may be motivated to seek divorce as a means of maximising their outcomes (Kreager et al., 2013).

Several factors influence the perceived rewards and costs of marriage, which, in turn, influence divorce decisions. For example, economic independence, employment opportunities, educational attainment, and social support networks can influence individuals' assessment of the rewards and costs of marriage. Additionally, cultural norms, religious beliefs, and societal expectations may shape individuals' attitudes towards divorce and their willingness to endure marital difficulties (Albrecht & Kunz, 1980).

In the context of divorce dynamics of Mizoram, social exchange theory provides a framework for understanding how individuals navigate their marital relationships and make decisions regarding divorce. By considering the interplay of reward costs and external factors, researchers can gain insight into the underlying mechanisms driving divorce trends in Mizoram.

Review of Literature

The term "divorce" comes from a Latin word that means "splitting of a unit." In other words, it is a permanent physical separation between spouses (Michael, 2013; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020). Divorce has a long history, but since the 1970s, social scientists have begun to pay attention to it (Zohmangaihi, 2023). Social scientists' increased focus on divorce since the 1970s is significant because it coincides with several societal changes that may have contributed to the rise in the divorce rate. For example, during this period, there was a shift in gender roles, with more women entering the workforce and gaining economic independence. This increased financial autonomy may have allowed women to leave unhappy marriages. Additionally, societal values surrounding marriage and divorce have

shifted, emphasising personal fulfilment and happiness. These changes may have made individuals more willing to end unsatisfying marriages.

The social stigma surrounding divorced women has weakened over the past few decades. Nowadays, women file petitions for divorce in local courts (Mundu, 2015). According to the 2011 Census, 1.36 million Indians have been divorced, accounting for 0.24 per cent of the married population and 0.11 per cent of the total population (Jones, 2023). Women are divorced more often than men (Zohmangaihi, 2023). In many traditional marriages, women may rely on their husbands for financial support, making it more difficult for them to leave an unhappy marriage. Additionally, unequal power dynamics within marriages, where men may hold more decision-making power and control, can also contribute to higher divorce rates among women. Finally, societal expectations of gender roles may also play a role, with women feeling pressure to conform to traditional gender norms within marriage and seeking divorce when these expectations are not met.

The north-eastern region has a higher divorce rate than the rest of India. According to the census of India 2011, Mizoram has the highest divorce rate (Thadathil & Sriram, 2020). Mizoram's divorce rate is four times higher than Nagaland, which has the second-highest rate (0.88%), and more than five times that of Gujarat, which is the highest rate (0.63%) in mainland India. (Jacob & Chattopadhyay, 2016; Zohmangaihi, 2023; Barnett, 2015; Ngurthangpuii & Geetha, 2017). Several potential social and cultural factors may contribute to the higher divorce rates in the north-eastern region of India than in mainland India (Bernardi & Martínez-Pastor, 2011). One explanation is the differing cultural norms around marriage and divorce. The north-eastern region is home to several different ethnic groups, each with its own unique cultural practices and beliefs (Maconachie, 1989). Some of these cultural groups may have more liberal attitudes towards divorce, making it more socially acceptable and accessible for individuals in these communities to seek divorce.

Additionally, economic factors specific to the region may also play a role. The north-eastern region is known for its economic disparities, with some areas experiencing higher poverty rates than mainland India. Economic instability and financial stress can put a strain on marriages, potentially contributing to higher divorce rates. Finally, unique social dynamics within

the northeastern region, such as higher rates of migration or different family structures, may also contribute to the higher divorce rates.

Factors such as intergenerational transmission of divorce influence the risk factors for marriage dissolution. As divorce became more common, the number of people who experienced parental divorce as children increased. It is well known that growing up with parental divorce is associated with several adverse outcomes later in life, including one's own divorce. Divorce risks are most significant when the wife or spouse has experienced parental divorce (Bergvall & Stanfors, 2022; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020).

Nowadays, people reside in areas far from their hometowns due to urbanisation and migration. Families had been dispersed because of the search for jobs. Divorce rates have risen because of these familial changes. Couples who live and work in towns and cities have extra economic and dating alternatives, encouraging them to depart from unhappy marriages (Ariplackal & George, 2015; Premsingh & Philip, 2014; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020).

The divorce rate varies with the age at which the couple is married. According to the existing literature, divorce rates are highest among younger age groups and decline with increasing age at marriage (Maitra & Gayathri, 2015; Jones, 2023; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020). Women who marry earlier have a higher divorce rate than women who marry later (Rao & Sekhar, 2002; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020). A study conducted in the Lawngtlai district of Mizoram discovered that couples who eloped and married at a younger age had a higher chance of divorce (Ngurthangpuii & Geetha, 2017; Kalmijn, 2007; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020).

Education is a significant risk factor for divorce (Thadathil & Sriram, 2020). According to traditional family economic theories, women with higher education have more opportunities to leave the marriage, destabilising the relationship and increasing the risk of divorce (Becker, 1991; Jacob & Chattopadhyay, 2016). In Andhra Pradesh, divorces are high among couples with higher levels of education (Rao & Sekhar, 2002). According to a study conducted in Kerala, couples with college graduates had a higher divorce rate (Vasudevan et al., 2015; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020).

Unemployment typically causes extra stress for a couple, which leads to marital breakdown (Jalovaara, 2003; Hansen, 2005). Those couples who

experienced financial problems were more likely to face a partnership breakdown (Kiernan & Mueller, 1998). Women's employment can potentially cause conflict between couples regarding the distribution of domestic responsibilities (Amato, 2010).

Couples with living children are less likely to divorce than couples with no children (Bernardi & Martínez-Pastor, 2011). According to Social Psychology, having kids increases marital commitment and, therefore, reduces the chance of divorce. It is also possible that spouses who are unsure about their marriage's stability are less likely to have children.

In terms of marital duration, divorces occur more frequently in the early years than in the later years. People have incomplete information about their partners during courtship, but they learn a lot more about their spouses only after marriage. As a result, early divorces are viewed with suspicion for various reasons, such as incompatibility, value of conflict and personality clashes (Becker, 1991). Nonetheless, long-term married couples face challenges such as child rearing, boredom with the relationship, and gradually separating interests and viewpoints that differ from those of individuals in short-term marriages (Jacob & Chattopadhyay, 2016).

Domestic violence increases instability (Thadathil & Sriram, 2020). More recently, researchers have been looking into the role of technology, specifically social media use, in relationship breakdowns (Clayton, 2014; Jacob & Chattopadhyay, 2016). In north-eastern states like Mizoram, the marriage process is easy, and divorce is subsequently easy (Nongbri, 2001; Xaxa, 2004). The relatively higher status of women in this region may also be one of the reasons (Jacob & Chattopadhyay, 2016; Thadathil & Sriram, 2020). However, it should be noted that in addition to the risk factors discussed above, there are numerous other risk factors for divorce.

Objectives

1. To analyse the temporal evolution of divorce trends in Mizoram
2. To identify the key factors influencing the divorce rates in Mizoram

Data and Methodology

The research questions revolve around examining changes in divorce trends among ever-married women in Mizoram over time. This study

uses secondary data from the National Family Health Survey, which was conducted in Mizoram in 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06, 2015-16, and 2019-21, with sample sizes of 75, 63, 72, 370, and 378 ever-married women, respectively. These rounds cover almost three decades, allowing for a comprehensive examination of long-term changes in divorce trends.

The NFHS employs a multi-stage stratified sampling methodology to ensure representative data. The survey selects clusters from rural and urban areas in Mizoram, and households within each cluster are randomly selected. This methodology allows for the inclusion of diverse demographic groups and ensures that the findings can be generalised to the larger population.

The study includes samples of only ever-married women of various ages, educational levels, and socio-economic backgrounds. These demographic characteristics provide a rich and varied sample for a comprehensive analysis of divorce trends in Mizoram.

Variables

- **Demographic Variables:** The demographic variables consist of age groups to capture variations in divorce rates across different life stages. It also consists of educational attainment to capture how the divorce rate varies with women's educational attainment.
- **Occupational Variables:** Occupational variables were chosen to examine the impact of various occupation categories on the divorce rate.
- **Geographical Variables:** The district and place of residence were included in the analysis to investigate regional and rural-urban divorce rates.
- **Economic Variables:** The Household Wealth Index was included in the analysis to determine the impact of economic factors on divorce rates.

Analytical Methods

Divorce rate is calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Divorce Rate} = \frac{\text{Divorced Women 15-49}}{\text{Ever-married Women 15-49}} * 1,000$$

Cross-tabulation was employed to determine how the divorce rate varies with the socio-economic and demographic backgrounds of women. The analysis has been done on the SPSS-25 version.

Trends of Divorce Rate in Mizoram

This section discusses how divorce rates have evolved over time in Mizoram. The trends of divorce rates in Mizoram provide valuable insights into the dynamics of marital relationships in the state. Figure 1 presents the divorce rates in Mizoram categorised by total, rural and urban areas for the years 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06, 2015-16 and 2019-21.

In 1992-93, the total divorce rate in Mizoram was 67 per 1,000 ever-married women, with rural and urban rates of 53 and 81 per 1,000 ever-married women, respectively. This indicates a higher divorce rate in urban areas compared to rural areas during that period. In 1998-99, the total divorce rate decreased to 32 per 1,000 ever-married women, with rural and urban rates at 33 per 1,000 ever-married women and 30 per 1,000 ever-married women. The overall decrease suggests a decline in divorces across rural and urban areas. The total divorce rate increased to 69 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2005-06, with rural and urban rates at 61 and 77 per 1,000 ever-married women, respectively. This suggests an overall increase in divorces, with urban areas still having a higher rate. In 2015-16, the total divorce rate increased to 92 per 1,000 ever-married women, with rural and urban rates at 73 and 107 per 1,000 ever-married women, respectively. This indicates a notable increase in divorces, particularly in urban areas. The overall divorce rate reduced to 77 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21, with rural and urban rates at 69 and 83 per 1,000 ever-married women, respectively. The total divorce rate showed a declining trend, and the urban areas continue to have a higher rate than their rural counterparts.

Urban areas usually have exceptional socio-economic dynamics compared to rural areas. Education, employment opportunities, and financial stability can affect divorce rates. Cultural norms concerning divorce additionally vary between rural and urban settings. Urbanisation and exposure to modern lifestyles can impact societal attitudes regarding marriage. Urban areas typically have better access to legal support, affecting

divorce rates. Access to counselling services or legal advice can affect the decision-making process of divorce.

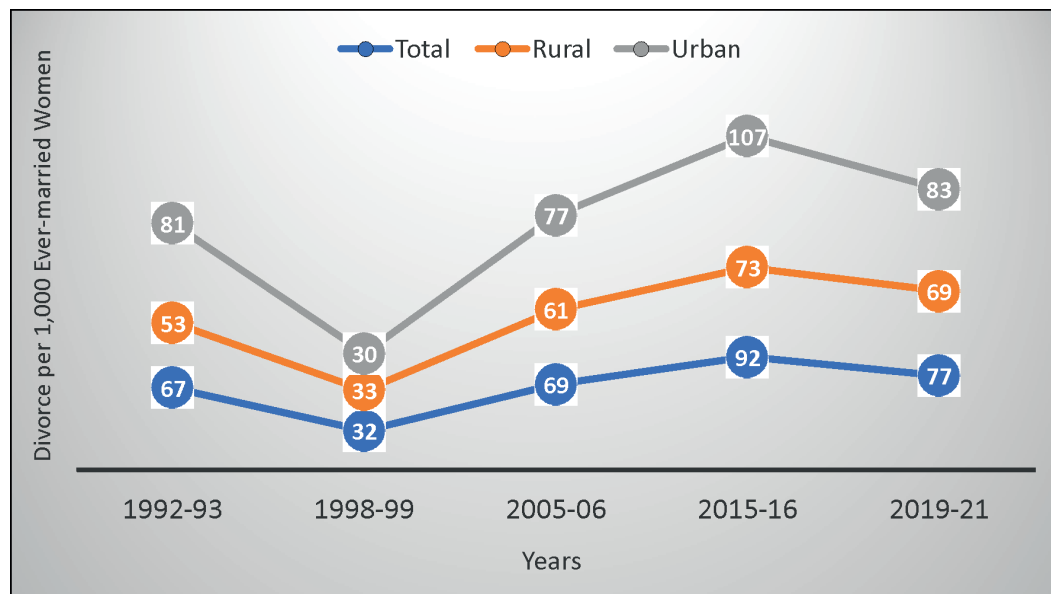


Figure 1: Number of divorced women per 1,000 Ever-married women in Mizoram

Source: National Family Health Survey, 1992-2021

Inter-District Variations in Divorce Rate

This section discusses the inter-district variations in divorce rates within Mizoram. Understanding the unique dynamics of each district is crucial for developing tailored interventions to promote marital stability and address challenges related to family relationships in Mizoram. Figure 2 presents the divorce rates in various districts of Mizoram for 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Mamit district had a divorce rate of 74 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which fell to 65 in 2019-21. This suggests a decline in divorces in the Mamit district from 2015-16 to 2019-21. Kolasib district had a divorce rate of 91 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which increased slightly to 94 in 2019-21. This indicates a marginal increase in the Kolasib district's divorce rate over the years. Aizawl district had a divorce rate of 112 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which decreased significantly to 78 in 2019-21. This suggests a notable decline in the divorce rate in the Aizawl district over the specified period. Champhai district had a divorce rate of 75 per 1,000

ever-married women in 2015-16, slightly increasing to 77 in 2019-21. The divorce rate in the Champhai district increased by 2 per 1,000 from 2015-16 to 2019-21, suggesting a stable trend. Serchhip had a high divorce rate of 125 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which decreased to 95 in 2019-21. Despite the decrease, the district still has a higher divorce rate than others.

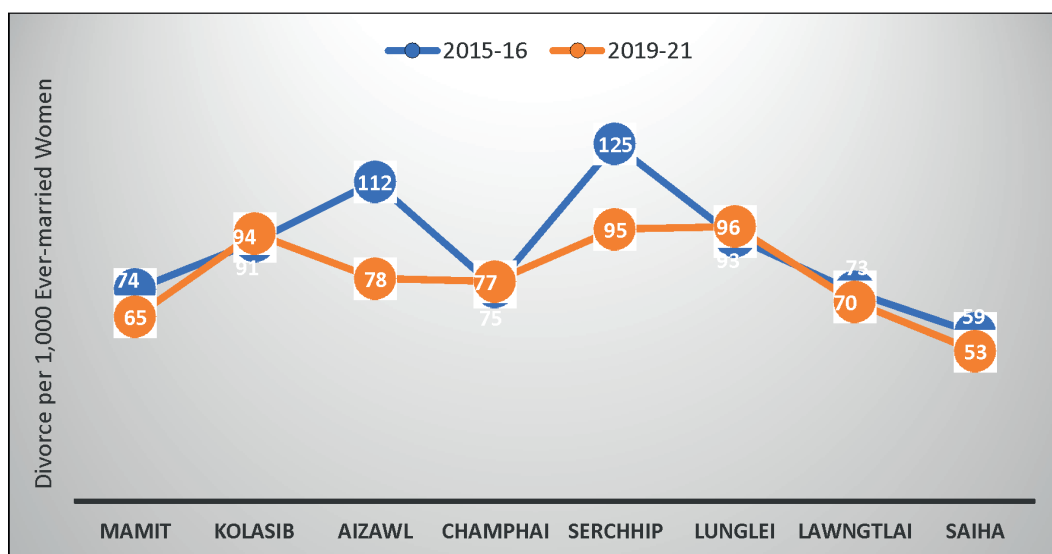


Figure 2: Number of divorced women per 1,000 ever-married women in the districts of Mizoram

Source: National Family Health Survey, 2015-2021

Lunglei district had a divorce rate of 93 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which increased slightly to 96 in 2019-21. The modest change suggests a stable divorce rate in the Lunglei district. Lawngtlai district had a divorce rate of 73 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which decreased to 70 in 2019-21. This indicates a slight decline in the divorce rate in the Lawngtlai district over the specified period. Saiha district had a divorce rate of 59 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which decreased to 53 in 2019-21. This suggests a decline in divorces in the Saiha district over the years. Overall, the data reflect variations in divorce rates across different districts of Mizoram. The higher divorce rate in the Serchhip district may be attributed to education, as the district has the highest literacy rate among all the districts in Mizoram. On the other hand, the lower divorce rate in

the Saiha district could be influenced by cultural factors. The Mara tribe inhabits the district, and marriage is very costly according to their culture, which could also make divorce difficult.

Divorce Rate by Age Group

This section discusses the variation in divorce rates across different age groups, such as 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, and 44-49. Understanding how divorce rates vary by age is crucial for comprehending the dynamics of marital relationships at different life stages. Figure 3 presents the divorce rates in Mizoram, categorised by age groups for 2015-16 and 2019-21.

In 2015-16, the divorce rate for women aged 20-24 was 118 per 1,000 ever-married women, but it fell to 87 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a notable decrease in divorce rates among women in the 20-24 age group over the specified period. In 2015-16, the divorce rate for women aged 25-29 was 125 per 1,000 ever-married women, but it fell to 83 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This indicates a significant decrease in divorce rates among women in the 25-29 age group over the specified period. In 2015-16, the divorce rate for women aged 30-34 was 92 per 1,000 ever-married women, and it further decreased to 67 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a notable decrease in divorce rates among women in the 30-34 age group over the specified period.

Women aged 35-39 experienced a divorce rate of 103 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which increased to 77 per 1,000 ever-married in 2019-21. This indicates a decrease in divorce rates among women in the 35-39 age group over the specified period. In 2015-16, the divorce rate for women aged 40-44 was 86 per 1,000 ever-married women, which increased slightly to 81 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a stable divorce rate among women in the 40-44 age group over the specified period. Women aged 45-49 had a divorce rate of 38 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which increased to 63 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This indicates an increase in divorce rates among Women in the 45-49 age group over the specified period.

Different age groups may experience varying life stage transitions, such as entering marriage, starting a family, or facing the challenges associated with midlife. These transitions can impact marital stability.

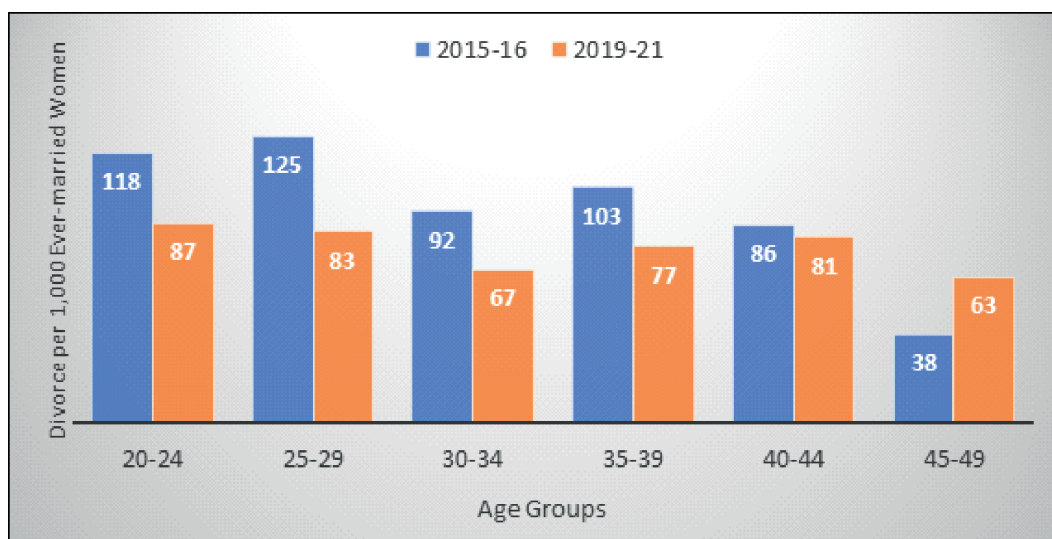


Figure 3: Number of divorced women per 1,000 Ever-married women by Age Groups

Source: National Family Health Survey, 2015-2021

Divorce Rate by Educational Attainment

This section explores the correlation between educational attainment and divorce rates in Mizoram. Understanding how divorce rates vary based on educational levels is essential for discerning the role of education in shaping marital stability. Figure 4 provides the divorce rates among women in Mizoram, categorised by educational attainment for 2015-16 and 2019-21.

The divorce rate among uneducated women was 16 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16. This rate increased to 38 per 1,000 women in 2019-21. This indicates a notable increase in divorce rates among women with no education over the specified period. Divorce rates for women with a primary education ranged from 62 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16 to 57 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests that the divorce rates among women with primary education have decreased modestly over the specified period. Women with secondary education experienced a divorce rate of 107 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, which declined to 80 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This indicates a significant decrease in divorce rates among women with secondary education over the specified period. In 2015-16, the divorce rate for women with higher education was 103 per 1,000 ever-married women,

but it fell to 79 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a notable decrease in divorce rates among women with higher education over the specified period.

Higher levels of education are often associated with increased empowerment and independence. Women with higher education may have better decision-making skills and resources, which can affect the stability of their marriages.

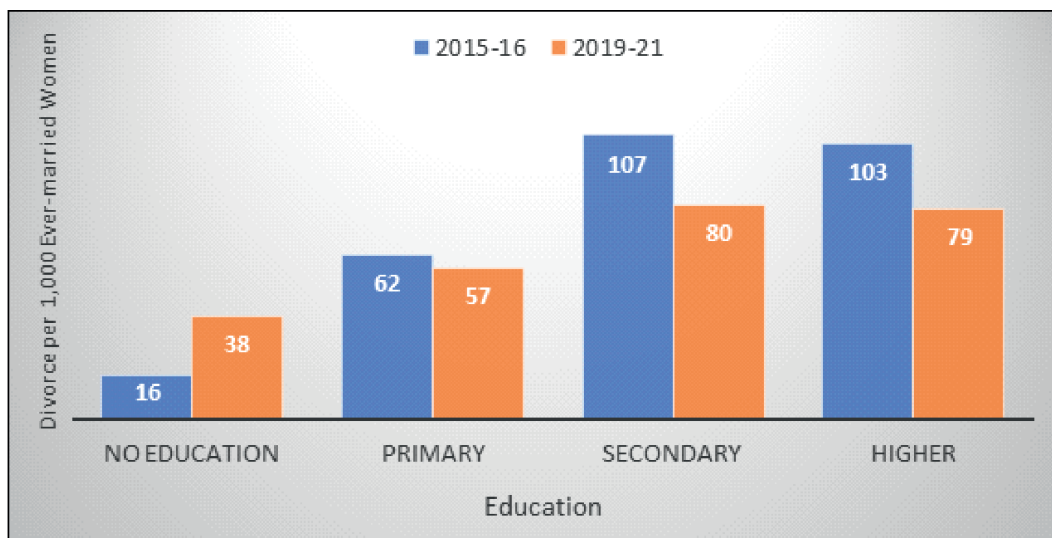


Figure 4: Number of divorced women per 1,000 ever-married women by Educational Attainment

Source: National Family Health Survey, 2015-2021

Divorce Rate by Occupational Category

This section examines the divorce rates across different occupational categories among women in Mizoram. Exploring how divorce rates vary among various professions can provide valuable insights into the influence of occupation on marital stability. Figure 5 provides the divorce rates among women in Mizoram, categorised by occupation for 2005-06, 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Divorce rates among unemployed women were 53 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2005-06. In 2015-16, the rate increased to 67 per 1,000 ever-married women. It further increased to 79 per 1,000 women in 2019-21.

This suggests a general upward trend in divorce rates among women not employed over the specified period. In both 2005-06 and 2015-16, the divorce rate for women in sales was 167 per 1,000 ever-married women. However, the rate increased to 200 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This indicates increased divorce rates among women in sales over the specified period, with a notable rise in 2019-21. Women working in agriculture experienced a divorce rate of 56 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2005-06, which increased to 71 per 1,000 women in 2015-16 and further increased to 91 per 1,000 women in 2019-21. This suggests an overall upward trend in divorce rates among women in agricultural occupations.

The nature of the occupation can influence stress levels and lifestyle factors. Long working hours or frequent travel associated with sales might involve high-pressure environments that can impact family dynamics.

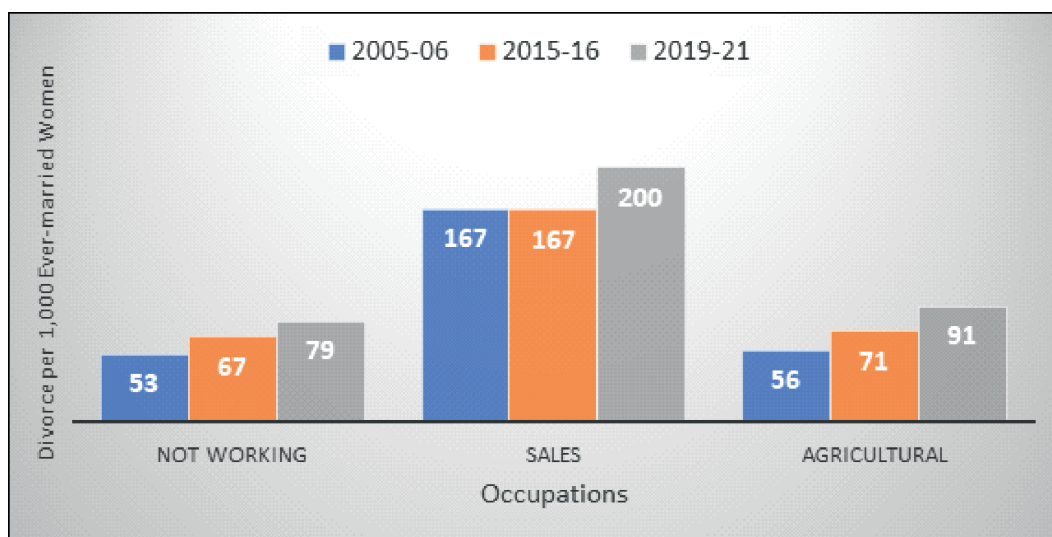


Figure 5: Number of divorced women per 1,000 ever-married women by Occupation

Source: National Family Health Survey, 2005-2021

Divorce Rate by Household Wealth

This section explores the divorce rates based on household wealth in Mizoram. Examining how divorce rates vary across different levels of household wealth can shed light on the relationship between economic status and marital stability. Figure 6 provides the divorce rates among

women in Mizoram, categorised by household wealth for 2015-16 and 2019-21.

There were 42 divorces per 1,000 ever-married women in the poorest households in 2015-16, and this number increased to 71 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a significant increase in divorce rates among women in the poorest households over the specified period. The divorce rate for women in "poorer" households was 53 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, rising to 82 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This indicates a notable increase in the divorce rates among women in the "poorer" wealth category. In 2015-16, the divorce rate among women in middle-income households was 90 per 1,000 ever-married women. Interestingly, this rate decreased to 82 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a decrease in divorce rates among women in the middle-income category over the specified period. In households categorised as richer, women experienced a divorce rate of 102 per 1,000 women in 2015-16, and this slightly decreased to 83 per 1,000 women in 2019-21. This indicates a modest decrease in divorce rates among women in the wealthier category. In 2015-16, the divorce rate among women in the richest households was 107 per 1,000 ever-married women, and it decreased to 72 per 1,000 women in 2019-21. This suggests a significant decrease in

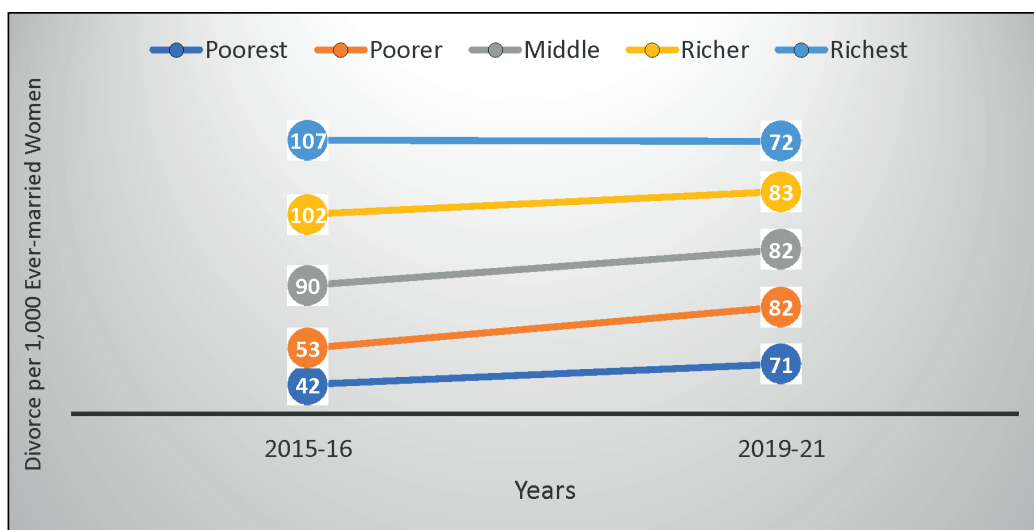


Figure 6: Number of divorced women per 1,000 ever-married women by Household Wealth

Source: National Family Health Survey, 2015-2021

divorce rates among women in the richest households over the specified period.

Economic factors play a significant role in marital stability. Economic conditions and stability may influence the fluctuations in divorce among different wealth categories.

Divorce Rate by Number of Living Children

This section delves into the divorce rates categorised by the number of living children. Investigating how divorce rates correlate with the number of children within a family can offer insights into the influence of family size on marital stability. Figure 7 presents the divorce rates in Mizoram, categorised by the number of living children for 2015-16 and 2019-21.

The divorce rate for women without children decreased from 111 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16 to 94 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a decrease in divorce rates for women without children over the specified period. In 2015-16, among women with one living child, the divorce rate was 179 per 1,000 ever-married women. In 2019-21, the rate fell slightly to 175 per 1,000 ever-married women. This indicates a stable divorce rate for women with one child over the specified period. In 2015-16, there were 104 divorces per 1,000 ever-married women with two living children, significantly decreasing to 67 divorces per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests a notable decrease in the divorce rate for women with two children over the specified period. In 2015-16, the divorce rate for women with three living children was 61 per 1,000 ever-married women, and it is expected to fall to 32 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This indicates a significant decrease in divorce rates for couples with three children over the specified period. The divorce rate for women with four living children was 19 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16, increasing to 43 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This suggests an increase in divorce rates for couples with four children over the specified period. For women with five living children, the divorce rate increased from 53 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2015-16 to 71 per 1,000 ever-married women in 2019-21. This indicates an increase in the divorce rate for women with five children over the specified period.

These findings highlight the complex relationship between family size and marital stability, emphasising the need for further research and support for couples navigating the challenges of parenthood. Understanding these trends can help policymakers and researchers identify factors contributing to marital stability and inform interventions to support couples with varying family sizes.

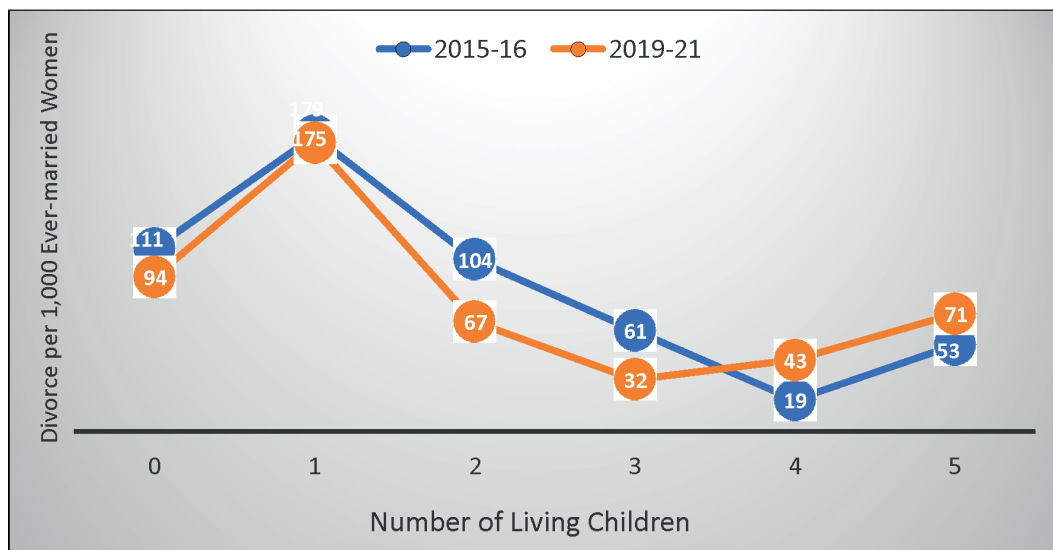


Figure 7: Number of Divorced women per 1,000 ever-married women by Number of Living Children

Source: National Family Health Survey, 2015-2021

Summary and Conclusion

The divorce rates in Mizoram have been tracked across multiple dimensions, including demographic factors, socio-economic indicators, and regional disparities. The analysis covers data from different periods, offering insights into trends and changes in divorce patterns.

Divorce rates exhibit variations among different demographic categories, including age groups, educational attainment, women's occupation, and the number of living children. The divorce rates among individuals aged 20-29 exhibited fluctuations, with specific age groups observing declines while others observed increases. There is evidence to suggest that achieving higher levels of education is correlated with lower rates of divorce. Divorce

rates are analysed based on household wealth, revealing disparities across various wealth brackets. Women from wealthier households exhibit diverse patterns, with some categories experiencing increases and others witnessing decreases in divorce rates. Women's occupation is considered, revealing differences in divorce rates among those working in sales and agriculture and those not working. Sales occupation stands out with consistently higher divorce rates over the years. Divorce rates are analysed in rural and urban areas, highlighting fluctuations over time. Urban areas typically demonstrate elevated divorce rates in contrast to rural areas, suggesting possible socio-economic and lifestyle factors at play.

The divorce situation in Mizoram is characterised by its dynamic and multifaceted nature, shaped by several factors, including age, education, economic circumstances, and occupation. While certain categories exhibit a decline in divorce rates, others demonstrate an increase, highlighting the intricate nature of societal obstacles. Financial stability, educational attainment, and cultural norms influence marital relationships and divorce patterns. The observed variations emphasise the necessity for a nuanced comprehension of the diverse factors affecting Mizoram's divorce. Additional research and thorough analysis could yield a more comprehensive understanding of the fundamental dynamics and contribute to well-informed policies and support mechanisms for families.

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