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**Title: Factors that Increase the Likelihood of Divorce:  
A survey of Married People in Qatar**

**Abstract:**

In this study we provided married participants (n= 379) 18-50 with 17 possible reasons (e.g., physical violence) for divorce and asked them to rate the likelihood of obtaining divorce using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1= extremely likely to 5 = extremely unlikely. The lower the scores the more likely that participants would choose to end their marriage. Half of the participants were men (51.1%), the mean age was 27.98 (SD = 7.29), the majority were employed (72.9%) and had an income of 40,000 or higher (57.5%). Slightly more than half of the participants had less than a college degree (52%). An exploratory factor analysis on the 17 items produced a scale of 11 items that explained 45% of the variance in the data ( $\alpha = .77$ ). A one-way ANOVA using the weighted data showed that women were more likely than men to consider unfaithfulness, alcohol/drug related problems, physical violence, and demeaning, and insulting as important grounds for seeking a divorce. Men, on the other hand, stated that they were more likely to pursue divorce when there were issues related to financial problems, intimate relationship, disagreements about spending money, spending time with friends outside the home, frequent arguments, and fighting and personality differences. Both men and women, however, did not differ on agreeing that lack of respect and appreciation is a potential cause for divorce. Finally, a one-way ANOVA using the weighted data showed that women (M= 2.53, SD= 64) scored lower on the Likelihood Scale, compared to men (M =2.56, SD =73), (F = 27.19, p = .00). Similarly, highly educated people scored lower (M= 2.47, SD= 70) compared to those with lower level of education (M= 2.61, SD= 68) (F = 667, p = .00). The results of this study are important for future research on divorce in Qatar and developing marriage educational programs that targets these issues with a focus on gender differences.

**Bio:**

*Dr. Badahdah works at the School of Psychology, Sociology and Rural Studies at South Dakota State University, US. His research focuses on health and illness, stigma, gender, families, and parenting. He published in several journals including Family Relations, Sex Roles, Child Psychiatry and Human Development, and The International Journal of Social Psychiatry. He serves on the editorial board of Family Relations, an associate editor, for the Journal of Gulf Studies on the consulting editorial board of AIDS and Behaviour.*

## Bio:

Prof Kaltham Al-Ghanim is the director of SESRI. *Prof Kaltham held the position of the Head of the Department of Sociology from 2005-2006. Prof. Kaltham conducted several research related to social issues, culture and human development. She is an author of three specialized academic books and published several articles in internationally renowned peer-reviewed journals. Her interests cover a wide range of issues including woman studies, social problems, values and attitudes, family relations, marriage, gender roles, sustainable development, indigenous culture, and heritage. She led several interdisciplinary research projects funded by various national and international institutions. Prof. Kaltham has working relationships with many national, regional and international institutions as an expert in socio-cultural studies and human development. She contributed to the preparation of many national strategies and plans. She led the Ministry of Culture Strategy Development Plan Team 2011-2013, the Women Strategy Team 2002, the Youth Strategy Team 2002, the Supreme Council of Family Affairs Strategic Plan 1998-1999, the Social Rehabilitation Center Strategy 2010-2011, the Qatar Heritage and Identity Center Strategy 20012, the Preservation of the Arabic Language Strategy 2013, the Center for Behavioral Health Care First Strategic Plan 2014 and the National Strategy for the Workforce 2008-2009. She was also the Head of the team to develop the first Human Development Report for the State of Qatar 2006, and she was a major reviewer of the second and third Arab Knowledge Report. Prof. Kaltham won several prizes; Faculty Service Award AY 2014-2015, Qatar University Research Excellence Award AY 2015-2016, Abdul Hameed Shoman Award, Overall Scientific Production, Alwatini National Award for Voluntary Work.*

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