

A Qualitative Study of Women's Sense of Social and Economic Insecurity before and After a Sham Divorce

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Abstract: The emerging phenomenon of sham divorce is a kind of consensual divorce, the purpose of which is not to separate the couple. Rather, it is filed for other reasons, such as receiving the benefits of being single or divorced. Although it has been an increasing phenomenon in recent years, evidence suggests that most of these divorces are filed for the purpose of receiving the pension of the deceased parents. Therefore, this research aimed to qualitatively study women's sense of social and economic insecurity before and after a sham divorce. A number of 14 women who had filed a sham divorce to receive their deceased parents' pensions were interviewed using the grounded theory method. The sampling method was purposive sampling until theoretical saturation was reached, and Nvivo software was used to analyze the data. The findings of this study indicated the presence of economic and family problems before a sham divorce and family problems and insecurity after a sham divorce for women.

Keywords: sham divorce, social insecurity, economic insecurity.

Introduction

Family, in its general sense, is a universal phenomenon. Family is an entity that exists everywhere because it responds to the needs shared by all mankind. Humans begin their lives in a family, even when a family consists of two people, namely a mother and a child. In a typical family consisting of a mother, father, brothers, and sisters, there is a network of relationships, and since this social unit is of great importance in human life, sociologists call it a social entity. Although the structures and many functions of the family may vary from one society to another, one thing that remains true is that a society is made up of families, and the majority of individuals in a society begin their lives in a family (Mohseni, 2008: 134). Among all social institutions, organizations, and groups, the family has a special and unique role and importance. All those who have thought about the organization of society have emphasized the family and its vital importance for society. Indeed, no society can claim to be healthy if it is not composed of healthy families. Moreover, there is no doubt that none of the social harms could have emerged independently of the influence of the family (Saroukhani, 2010:11). In all cultures, the family is the focal point for the formation of an individual's identity. No individual can be defined apart from his/her family, and the family is the main building block that shapes an individual and his/her personality (Sanaei, 1996:78). One of the important social entities of all communities is the family, which nurtures and supports its members within its context. In today's society, the form and function of the family have undergone changes. Some of these changes include the shrinking size of families (in the form of nuclear families with few or no children) to start a family later in life, the increasing age of celibacy, the increased number of divorces, remarriages, and cohabitations without marriage. As one of the most serious social harms in recent years, divorce has become a widespread problem in Iranian society and has created many challenges for the family as one of the main pillars of any society (Karami, 2018).

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In modern society, we are witnessing the emergence of a phenomenon called sham divorce, which refers to a divorce that is not intended to separate the couple and is filed for other purposes. Although in sham divorce, the husband and wife are legally divorced, but they still live with each other, and given religious teachings that are prevalent in Iranian families, this life together is in the form of a temporary marriage or concubinage. Among the motivations to file a sham divorce, one can mention couples who have an only son and file a sham divorce in order to exempt their son from military service. Likewise, providing services to women lacking a legal guardian is regarded as the second motivation for filing a sham divorce. Sometimes, problems within the family and the pressure they put on couples cause people to seemingly and formally divorce each other and then, after immigrating to other countries, live together again illegally. Sham divorce may impose many adverse effects on couples. For example, the level of their commitment to each other will decrease, and the possibility of parallel relationships among these people will increase; that is, extramarital relationships among these people will increase. If one of the spouses dies during a sham divorce, the rights of the other person are violated, and this has serious economic consequences for him/her. Given the importance of family life and maintaining its cohesion, this paper, titled "A Qualitative Study of Women's Sense of Social and Economic Insecurity Before and After a Sham Divorce," can serve as a tool to raise awareness of the consequences of sham divorce and its adverse effects on families, so that while informing families, it makes women aware of their own rights and provide them with the means to protect their own rights.

Theoretical Background

Although qualitative research does not rely on testing theories, researchers believe that instead of using a theoretical framework in qualitative research, theories can be used in the form of a conceptual framework that assumes the role of a guide in scientific research. Accordingly, the most important theories proposed in the form of a conceptual framework in this research are as follows:

Anthony Giddens' Theory

One of the famous theorists of modernity is Anthony Giddens. In his belief, the most important and the most specific social ruptures are inherent to the modern era. The lifestyles or living conditions associated with modernity have caused people to isolate and distance themselves from all types of traditional social orders (Hashemloo, 2021). Giddens considers the lack of trust, or so-called distrust, among members of society to be one of the most important social calamities that disrupts the order of any society, causing it to face serious problems. Distrust in social relationships and various types of moral deviations at the societal level have also spread to families and human relationships, fundamentally undermining the quality of relationships with others (Giddens, 1997:144). Therefore, when members of a society do not trust each other, they may marry more cautiously, and sometimes, they may even refuse to do so. According to Giddens, during the past few decades, societies have witnessed a shift and transformation in family patterns that was unimaginable for previous generations. The wide variety of family and household forms has turned into one of the daily characteristics of our era. People are less inclined to get married than in the past, and if they do get married, they do so at an older age, and the divorce rate has increased significantly.

This is one of the factors behind the increased number of single-parent families. The number of people who decide to live together and be bedfellows before marriage or even instead of getting married is increasing day by day. In summary, the world of the family life has changed a lot from what it was 50 years ago. Although the institutions of family and marriage still exist and are important in our lives, their characteristics have changed dramatically and significantly (Hashemloo, 2021). Giddens believes that several factors are involved in the discussion of why divorce is increasing day by day, and of course, broader social changes should also be considered. Except for a few wealthy people, nowadays marriage has little to do with the desire to preserve wealth, property, and family status and pass it on to future generations. The more women become economically independent, the less than before economic necessity of marriage becomes for them. The fact that divorce is no longer considered a stigma is partly due to these developments, which exacerbate its rate. The next important factor is the growing tendency to evaluate marriage based on personal satisfaction and contentment with it. The rising divorce rate does not seem to indicate a deep dissatisfaction with marriage itself, but rather a stronger determination to

transform marriage into a fruitful and satisfying relationship (Giddens, 1997:263). According to this theory, today, with the changes in the shape of families and the transformations in the family structure, decline in traditions, the spread of modernity, the increased women's awareness, and changes in the attitudes of individuals and family structures, the negative connotation of the word divorce has decreased, and women with financial support, including their parents' pensions, easily give in to divorce, which in most cases is a sham divorce and is agreed upon in order to gain privileges.

Robert Merton's Structural Pressure Theory

By proposing the theory of "structural pressure," Merton considered deviant behaviors to be the result of societal pressures, leading some people to deviance (Sotoudeh, 2007: 129). In his opinion, two elements are important in socio-cultural structures. These two elements, which are inseparable in analyses, are objectively intertwined and are the goals and means. Goals refer to the intentions, purposes, and interests that are defined and determined by the culture of a society that have become legitimate goals for all members/parts of that society. In fact, goals are the ideal reference frames of behavior that worth striving for. Means are the second element of the cultural structure that determine, regulate, and monitor the acceptable ways to achieve those goals (Kawthari, 2003: 19). Merton emphasizes that if legitimate ways and methods are unavailable to achieve the goal, a group of people will soon choose unauthorized and illegitimate ways to achieve their goals (Shambayati, 2006).

John Bernards' Theory

Changes in the type of family's structure and functions create problems and capacities in the family circle. In other words, some developments are considered positive, while others are considered negative, and if capacities, opportunities, and facilities are used optimally, favorable material and spiritual conditions are provided in family life. However, if the structures weakening the family life are neglected, the foundations of the family will weaken day by day. For instance, in many Western societies where the culture of individualism, unconditional freedom, hedonism, and cohabitation have replaced the family, marriage has gradually lost its traditional value. Therefore, with the prevalence of divorce, free cohabitation, and their negative consequences, studies related to family stability in such societies have been given greater momentum in recent years (Bernards, 2003: 56). According to John Bernards, we cannot consider today's nuclear families to be free from flaws and shortcomings, and social and economic problems, such as violence, infidelity, addiction, poverty, divorce, etc. Examples of these issues are abundantly found in today's life and families, and these factors themselves cause the collapse of families and result in various types of divorce.

William Goode's theory

William Goode considers divorce to be the result of the expansion of the nuclear family and the weakening of traditions. From his viewpoint, as we move from the feudal system to industrialized societies, the frequency of divorce increases. By proposing the theory of global revolution in family patterns, William Goode refers to the wide range of effects resulting from the modernization, the family, and marriage patterns and believes that this process affects marriage and its patterns at different individual and social levels. Based on this theory, Goode considers the changes that have occurred in the family to be the inevitable result of structural changes in society and ideological changes. In his opinion, when ideological changes also occur at the macro level, micro-organizations, i.e., the family, must also adapt themselves to the macro level transformations. According to Goode, the modernization process strongly affects the family institution and its individual and social dimensions at different individual and social levels. Extended family systems and other kinship groups are disintegrating and even creating a global movement toward the supremacy of the nuclear family. Women have gained more freedom to choose their spouses and participate in the families' decision-makings. Free choice of spouse, initial agreement between husband and wife, and the necessity of mutual interest between them are the results of the family's adaptation to modern life. As a result, the number of strictly traditional and familial marriages that characterized traditional cultures has decreased. Disorder in the familial organization or its disruption can be defined as the breakdown of the family unit or the breakdown of social role structures due to the failure or inability of one or more family members to fulfill their roles (Goode, 1973: 248). Therefore, according to William Goode, in today's families, we have witnessed more

freedom for women, and they have been given the right to make decisions about various matters. Therefore, they have the right to choose according to their living conditions, and unlike traditional and extended families, they do not have to give in to problems by force. Divorce is a type of family breakdown and a contemporary issue in modern societies that can be examined according to this theory. To summarize the theoretical foundations, it can be said that given that this research has been conducted qualitatively and using grounded theory, it lacks a theoretical framework, and the above theories were merely used to gain better insights. Although these theories apply to divorce, not sham divorce, since no specific theory was found regarding this issue, an attempt was made to use theories that could be generalized to sham divorce and more closely related to it. According to Giddens, families have different types and forms in different societies, and in most third world countries, extensive changes are taking place in family forms, and among various examples cited in this research, sham divorce is a new and emerging form of today's families.

Also, according to Giddens' theory, distrust in social relations and various types of moral deviations are interrelated, and with the spread of distrust in social relations, various types of moral deviations spread at the societal level. In this research, according to the conducted interviews, one of the reasons for resorting to sham divorce to receive a pension is distrust in an organization. Also, according to Giddens, there is a relationship between the divorce rate and the process of women's liberation and emancipation, and today, women have more power in family life than ever before. As women become more economically independent, the economic aspect of marriage becomes less of a necessity for them than that in the past. According to Merton's theory, structures affect values and behaviors, and deviant behaviors are the result of the structure of society that force some people to act in a deviant manner, and this is also true for women's sham divorce to receive pensions of their deceased parents. According to John Bernards, we have an ideal and unrealistic idea of the nuclear family and find it perfect; however, we ignore its negative aspects. In this study, we also witness the problems and difficulties of these women in their families, both before and after receiving the pension. There is also a relationship between the rate of divorce and modernization in William Goode's theory, who considers divorce to be the result of the elimination of traditional families and the weakening of traditions. According to him, the modernization process has caused changes and transformations in the attitudes and behaviors of individuals and has given women more choice in marriage and decision-making in the family. Sham divorces can also be considered a consequence of this situation.

Experimental background

In a sham divorce, although family members live together, it brings with it challenges and personal, familial, and social issues that, due to the novelty of the subject, few studies have been conducted on it. Most of the conducted studies are focused on legal divorces and the economic, cultural, and social factors affecting them and their consequences (Asadian, 2013), (Karimi, 2016), (Hemmati, 2018), (Niazi, 2020), (Mandegari, 2016), (Meshki, 2012) and (Asgari Nadushan, 2019). Among the investigations related to the topic of sham divorce, a study was conducted by Etemadifar in 2020 entitled "Business Marriages and Divorces in Iran," in which the author explained the structure of family in Iran and examined business marriages and divorces as a social reality. This research concluded that business marriages and divorces, although legal, do not reflect the essence and spirit of law. In these circumstances, the legal system does not have the power to provide credibility to the rules governing the family in itself, and the emerged formal law not only cannot justify the performance of its official executors, but also loses its legitimacy in other areas.

In a 2020 study titled "Sham Divorce from the Perspective of Iranian Law and Religious Jurisprudence," conducted by Maroufi et al. using a library method, the views of Iranian law and jurists were examined and jurisprudential discussions on the subject of sham divorce were discussed. The study mentions that jurists are unanimous that a sham divorce is a valid type of divorce, and that acquiring any type of property or privilege obtained as a result of this divorce is haram (i.e., illegitimate) and illegal. Also, it has been criminalized in Iranian law. S. Akavati (2021) conducted a study in China entitled "A Review of the Status of Marriage Using Fake Divorce Certificates." This study aimed to determine the legal consequences of marriage using fake divorce. Also, to obtain information regarding the legal penalties

imposed on a person who marries using a fake divorce, the employed method considers legal norms with a legal approach. Marriage using a fake divorce is not only subject to civil law but also criminal law, which punishes the perpetrator and the party who participates in the forgery. The result of this research indicates that the marital status filed through fake divorce can be annulled, the parties to such divorce will maintain their marital status as before the marriage, and those who are involved in committing the crime of forgery are sentenced to eight years in prison. In a study called “An Online Application for Distinguishing Real and Fake Divorces in Religious Courts of Indonesia,” Ramandi Wahyu et al. (2021) stated that divorce is a very important document that describes the legal status of the involved parties. There are barriers to the spread of fake divorce in the society. To prevent the spread of fake divorces that can harm society and tarnish the image of the court, some innovations and solutions are needed. Two applications and programs named Telescope and Atara are available as a form of public services used to verify the authenticity of divorce certificates. These two applications have a number of weaknesses in that they are only locally integrated with the case tracking information system of specific religious courts. This research uses a conceptual approach with descriptive method where secondary data is obtained through literature review data collection techniques. The results of this study suggest that updates are needed through improvements in programs such as the integration of a national database via its connections to religious courts across Indonesia to make this information available at the national level.

Wang Jain et al. (2018), in their study titled “Interests-Oriented Fake Divorce Cases in China,” stated that there is little information available about the perceptions of Chinese couples who resort to fake divorce. This study, which presents the results of a qualitative study on the motivations of fake divorces in China, was conducted with purposive sampling of couples. Data were collected through semi-structured and in-depth interviews, and couples expressed their own narratives of the reasons for fake divorce, which was somewhat consistent with previous studies. By enriching the explanations of the motivations of fake divorce and its negative effects, this study suggests that the relationship between the government, policies, or law, and society in contemporary China should be reconsidered. Lukanan (2018) in his study titled “Legal Impact and Procedural Control of Fake Divorce” states that the phenomenon of “fake divorce” has always been prevalent in China. At present, with the extremely high costs of living in first-class cities and various restrictive policies regarding housing purchase, the phenomenon of fake divorce is increasing. Before the housing purchase restriction policies were introduced, people would even queue at the doors of marriage registration offices at night to get divorced, and the number of divorces had to be limited by these offices, which was an unprecedented phenomenon. This research shows that implementing policies restricting housing purchases cannot be a permanent solution to the fake divorce phenomenon.

Research Methodology and Data

This research was conducted with a qualitative approach and using the grounded theory method, and 14 women who attempted to obtain a sham divorce with the aim of receiving their deceased parents' pension were interviewed. The spatial and temporal scope of this study was the Iranian Social Security Organization, Mallard Branch in 2023. The sampling method for these individuals was purposive sampling until reaching theoretical saturation, the type of interview was in-depth interviews, and the subject of study was analyzed using coding in three stages, i.e., open, axial, and selective coding. There is no consensus among researchers regarding the validity and reliability of qualitative research, and some scholars have used concepts similar to quantitative investigations (Iman, 2012). On the other hand, it can be said that in qualitative investigations, the measuring instrument is the researchers themselves; therefore, their skill, accuracy, and competence must also be considered in their validity. In order to examine the validity in this study, the research findings were studied and reviewed by a number of professors, who suggested some issues to be corrected or changed in the final theory. One of the ways to demonstrate reliability is to study its process audit. Reliability results are auditable when another researcher can show the decision path used by the researcher during the interview. Therefore, the researcher controlled the reliability of the data by showing the decision path used by the researcher and also providing all raw data, analyzed data, codes, categories, study process, primary objectives, and questions to the supervisor and advisor. The correctness of all research steps was confirmed by the

careful audit of the experts. In addition, the present study used the intra-subject agreement method to calculate the reliability of the conducted interviews. For this purpose, part of the interviews was re-coded and reviewed by another researcher, and the percentage of intra-subject agreement was calculated, which was more than 70 percent.

Findings

This research aims to study the sense of social and economic insecurity before and after a sham divorce in women, and the characteristics of the research participants are listed in Table 1. It can be said that in general, out of the total number of interviewees, five women were in the 19-29 age group. Six were in the 30-54 age group, and three were over 55 years old. Most of the women were in the 30-35 age group, followed by those in the 19-29 age group. In terms of the educational status, two women were illiterate, two were under diploma, four had high school diploma, three had associate degree, one was an undergraduate student, and two had a bachelor's degree.

Table (1): Background characteristics of the participants by each woman

Code	Age	Education	Previous employment status	Time of marriage	Time of separation	Number of children
1	28	High school diploma	Doctor's Secretary	8 years ago	4 years ago	1
2	32	Bachelor degree	Hairdresser	6 years ago	1 year ago	2
3	50	Middle School Diploma	Tailor	28 years ago	6 years ago	3
4	39	Associate degree	Housewife	8 years ago	3 years ago	1
5	46	Bachelor degree	Office clerk	10 years ago	1.5 years ago	None
6	19	Undergraduate student	Housewife	3 year ago	Divorced 1 year ago	None
7	63	Illiterate	Housewife	40 years ago	5 years ago	2
8	22	High school diploma	Unemployed	5 years ago	2 years ago	None
9	40	Associate degree	Operating theater technician	14 years ago	3 years ago	1
10	58	Middle School Diploma	Housewife	38 years ago	7 years ago	2
11	24	High school diploma	Housewife	6 years ago	2 years ago	1
12	41	High school diploma	Housewife	10 years ago	4 years ago	2
13	28	Associate degree	Employee of a company	6 years ago	4 years ago	None
14	60	Illiterate	Cleaning worker	46 years ago	4 years ago	5

In general, this study examines the findings in two periods: economic and family problems before a sham divorce and family problems and insecurity after a sham divorce. To better understand the sense of social and economic insecurity before and after a sham divorce, open coding was performed by analyzing each interview line by line and paragraph by paragraph, and after that, the concepts and subcategories were created.

Economic and family problems before a sham divorce

The studies in this research show that categories, such as “women's financial needs due to illness and disability of the wife or husband,” “financial needs due to aging and decreased capabilities,” “financial needs for health insurance,” “financial needs due to lack of income,” “financial hardship,” “need for financial support from the family,” “the necessity of meeting the life's needs,” “lack or deficiency of social support in society for women and families,” “financial needs due to unemployment and decreased husband's income,” “financial needs due to unemployment and lack of income for women,” “trying to please the husband,” “living in a patriarchal family and trying to escape,” “husband's addiction,” and

“family disorder before receiving a pension,” were among the economic and family problems that existed before these people attempted a sham divorce and are listed in Table 2.

Table (2): Concepts and categories of economic and family problems before filing a sham divorce

Concepts	Axial categories	Selective category
My husband's disability and my poor living conditions, living on a pension from the Welfare Organization and Imam Committee, insufficient income due to depression and inability to continue working and my unemployment, having the minimum salary due to my husband's illness and disability	Women's financial needs due to illness or disability of the wife or husband	Economic instability before receiving a pension
Economic instability before receiving a pension, getting old and my inability to work in other people's homes	Financial need due to aging and declining ability	
Need for a health insurance booklet due to my illness and the high cost of my treatment, I was forced to get divorced and turn to a concubine in order to receive a salary and a health insurance booklet.	Financial need for health insurance	
My husband's salary is the minimum salary according to the labor law, low pension, my husband is a worker.	Financial need due to lack of income	
Due to need, financial hardship, poor financial conditions	Financial hardship	
Financial support from family before receiving a pension	Need for financial support from family	
I need a pension because I am in need. We were and still are tenants. The income is insufficient due to the high costs of living and university tuition. Having a child made life very difficult.	The necessity of meeting life's needs	
Lack of high welfare in life	Lack or scarcity of social supports for women and families	
Husband has lost his job, quitting addiction and resorting to addiction due to unemployment, my husband is looking for a steady job, lack of sufficient income and decent work, poor financial situation due to unemployment	Financial need due to unemployment and reduced income of the spouse	
Not finding a job for myself, those with a university degree are unemployed, let alone those with a high school diploma	Financial need due to unemployment and lack of income for women	
My husband's opposition to the sham divorce at the beginning, convincing my husband for a sham divorce	To satisfy the husband	Family turmoil before receiving a pension
My husband's lack of commitment	Irresponsibility of the spouse	
I was born into a patriarchal family; my husband made all the decisions on his own	Living in a patriarchal family and trying to escape, increasing financial power and feeling dissatisfied	
Fired from work because of his addiction, divorced because of my husband's addiction	Husband's addiction	

Family problems and insecurity after a sham divorce

According to the interviews conducted with the subjects, the categories of “social extravagance,” “secrecy and cheating,” “possibility of family collapse,” “reduced responsibility of the spouse,” “family tensions due to financial issues,” “increased family conflicts,” “family disputes and misunderstanding with the spouse,” “loss of legal rights as a spouse,” “sham divorce as a form of modern family,” “feeling worried and uncertain about sham divorce,” “inner suffering,” “financial satisfaction and feeling the danger of separation from the spouse,” “increased financial affordability and feeling of dissatisfaction,” indicate the family problems and insecurity in these people after a sham divorce.

Table (3): Concepts and categories of family problems and insecurity after a sham divorce

Concepts	Axial categories	Selective category
Closing the hair salon due to insurance approval, my husband's ignorance of receiving a pension, informing neighbors to confirm the divorce before the inspector, being forced to change the place of residence and pretending to be separated, concealing my husband's addiction from my father and stepmother, hiding our divorce from others and our families	Secrecy and cheating	The desire to escape from the prevailing traditions in order to improve family conditions
The possibility of infidelity from my husband, the feeling of separation and temporary living with my husband because of being a concubine, the disintegration of the family due to the notification of the insurance and the termination of the pension, the bad impact of the concubinage on my life, the actual divorce and filing a complaint with the administrative court and re-pursuing the pension, my husband keeps reminding me that I am a concubine.	Possibility of family collapse	Familial disorders before and after receiving pension
Receiving a pension and my husband's increasing irresponsibility, not pursuing his addiction treatment because of being happy to receive a pension, helping with household expenses has become one of my duties, my husband's lack of commitment	Reduced responsibility of the spouse	
My life is a mess right now, I was divorced and living on pension	Family tensions due to financial issues	
Aggressiveness and nervousness of the husband before and after the divorce	Increased family conflicts	
I do not have a good relationship with him	Family disputes and misunderstanding with the spouse	
Being deprived of dowry and inheritance from my husband if he dies	Loss of legal rights as a spouse	
Agreeing with my husband for a sham divorce, we are interested in each other	Sham divorce as a form of modern family	
Worried about being a concubine, I think I am not taken very seriously anymore,	Feeling worried and uncertain about sham divorce	Feeling of social insecurity after receiving a pension
Feeling guilty about the lie I told	Inner suffering	
Not feeling good about being forced to get a divorce and become a concubine, not wanting a divorce but needing to receive a pension, making a good impression financially but feeling separated from my husband after becoming a concubine	Financial satisfaction and feeling the danger of separation from the spouse	Both creating relative prosperity and challenging
leading to the ability to pay university fees but with a sense of dissatisfaction	Increased financial affordability and feeling of dissatisfaction	

Discussion and Conclusion

It can be said that according to the constructed categories, women resorted to strategies, such as sham divorce and receiving pension, due to economic conditions and family tensions caused by financial and emotional issues with their spouse, meeting livelihood needs, and lack of supportive resources in society. On the other hand, it can be said that in current Iranian society, the values related to divorce have changed substantially. In other words, women's view of the divorce phenomenon is no longer as tough and firm as in the past. This means that the stigma of divorce has disappeared in Iranian society. Considering the research background, the results of the present study confirm the findings of Etemadifar's research on business marriages and divorces in Iran. This is because the results of the present study, like the investigation conducted by Etemadifar, showed that the parents' divorce was filed for the purpose of exempting their child from military service and receiving a pension, which he also called it a business divorce. He states that business divorces, although legal, do not reflect the essence and spirit of laws and argues that in today's society, specialized institutions that should provide the possibility of meeting these needs have deviated from their functions, and this in itself leads the citizens to circumvent the laws and regulations. As mentioned above, the axial category of "financial need due to the conditions of the wife or husband," which can be due to unemployment and a decrease in the husband's income, showed that one of the reasons for circumventing official rights was the functional weakness of the organizations responsible for job creation. Considering the research background, the results of the present study were in line with the findings of the research conducted by Maroufi and Moradi, because they also noted the violation of women's rights and the role of economic pressures in filing sham divorces.

The results of the present study confirm Giddens' theory about the different types of family forms in different societies. Based on the theoretical discussions of the study, Giddens believes that in most third world countries, extensive changes are taking place in family forms, the origin of which is complex. Among the subjects studied in this study, sham divorce is a new and emerging form of the modern family. One of the factors that led women to seek sham divorce and receive a pension in order to achieve financial independence and decision-making power in the family was living in a patriarchal family and trying to get rid of that lifestyle. Awareness of the conditions for receiving a pension was also another factor that led women to seek a sham divorce. The findings of the present study confirmed the relationship between sham divorce and the violation of women's rights. As has been mentioned in theoretical discussions, an inheritance relationship between husband and wife is not established in a temporary marriage; if the husband dies, the wife no longer inherits from him. In the present research, considering the axial category of "violation of women's rights," women became deprived of dowry and inheritance in the event of the death of their husbands. The results also show that women resorted to strategies, such as sham divorce and receiving pensions, due to economic conditions and family tensions resulting from financial and emotional issues with their husbands, meeting livelihood needs, and lack of supportive resources in society. Finally, it is suggested that for further study and research, the set of related categories should be researched and analyzed separately. Also, to alleviate this social problem, the laws related to sham divorce and the establishment of pensions for the children of female pensioners should be reviewed and amended by the relevant institutions and organizations.

Among the limitations of this research, it can be said that due to the sensitivity of the subject and the secrecy of women who had filed a sham divorce and the fear that the Social Security Organization finding out and having their pensions terminated, the sample selection was accompanied by problems, the issue that authors tried to minimize by building trust. Also, due to the lack of sufficient research on the subject of sham divorce, the research literature was not rich enough, which made it difficult to collect research materials.

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