

Investigating the role of couples' personality characteristics in the likelihood of divorce: A discriminant analysis

Afshin Afzali *

Maryam Poorjamshidi **

Akbar Momeni rad **

Introduction

One of the most important challenges that any community faces is divorce. In Iran, as in other countries, divorce has become a social issue. The latest studies on divorce in Iran indicate its increase. The studies emphasize the undeniable role of the individual differences between the couples or the stable personality traits that each of the spouses brings to the context of marital life. The purpose of this study is to develop a divorce discriminant equation based on the characteristics of couples' personality.

Method

The present study is intended to be a practical research. It is based on a quantitative approach and is methodologically located in the category of causal-comparative research. The research population consists of couples applying for divorce and normal couples in Hamadan province in 1396. In this study, a total of 398 couples (796 people) were selected as the sample from the two groups. The research tool was HEXACO-60 Personality Inventory. The HEXACO Personality Inventory consists of 24 facet-level personality trait scales that define the six personality factors named Honesty-Humility (H), Emotionality (E), Extraversion (E), Agreeableness (A), Conscientiousness (C), and Openness to Experience (O). In order to develop a diagnostic model for the groups, the diagnostic analysis was used. Based on the findings of the study, from a total of twelve

* Assistance professor, department of educational sciences, faculty of humanities, Bu-Ali Sina University, Hamedan, Iran, *Corresponding Author*: afzali.afshin@ymail.com

** Assistant professor, faculty of humanities, University of Bu Ali Sina, Hamedan, Iran.

personality traits (six characteristics in men and six characteristics in women), female emotionality, female extraversion, female agreeableness, male agreeableness, male conscientiousness and female openness to experience were necessary to distinguish between divorced and normal groups. Based on the results, female emotionality, female extraversion, female agreeableness, male agreeableness, male conscientiousness, female openness to experience in the final diagnostic equation were introduced.

Results

Based on the results obtained, the equation is as follows: $D = -4.076 + (14.14) * \text{female emotionality} + (+0.129) * \text{female extraversion} - (62.0\%) * \text{female agreeableness} - (0.57) * \text{male agreeableness} + (0.027) * \text{male conscientiousness} - (0.11) * \text{female openness to experience}$.

If this formula is used to predict, and the couple's score is negative, the probability of divorce is higher. Obviously, for couple whose score is positive, based on this formula, the probability of divorce will be less. Also, the Canonical Correlation between couples personality characteristics and divorce rate was 0.41. Based on the results, the average score for the divorced group was -0.45 and for the normal group was 0.44, the gap between these two means indicates that the equation was successful in diagnosing between the two divorced and normal groups.

Keywords: divorce, personality characteristics, couples