

A Sociological Study on the Effect of the Virtual Network (Telegram) on Emotional Divorce among Young Couples (A Case Study of Babol Payam Noor Center)

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Abstract

In the present study, it has been investigated about the effect of the virtual network (Telegram) on the emotional divorce among the young couples. The research method was a social survey including 100 married persons who were members of Telegram. They were selected randomly among the students of University of Payam Noor in Babol, on the basis of Cochran's table. Surveying tool was a questionnaire. Also its validity, with the use of Chronbach's Alpha, was estimated about 0/74. For testing the hypotheses of this study, the Pearson's correlation coefficient was used. The results show that there is no significant relationship between the membership duration, the effect and participation in the social network of telegram. There is also a positive significant relationship between considering the content of social network and the emotional divorce. It also showed that using the above mentioned social network can have positive effect on lifestyle, participation, intimacy and their relations.

Keywords: Social Network, Telegram, Divorce, Emotional divorce, Payam Noor, Babol Center.

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1. Introduction

Human social life starts with social interaction. This engagement or interaction is mutual and creates community groups. Therefore, interaction is a necessary condition for the existence of groups and family groups above all of them, where there are strong ties and strong emotional components.

Accordingly, the family has been known as a primary institution of socialization and ancient natural core of human history and has so far failed to find a replacement for them. And there are families often caused by ignorance of legal norms or disregarded for the principles of life. Divorce leads to the dissolution of the individual, family and community and its negative effects are more for women than men (Parvin et al., 2012).

In fact, the first step in the process of getting divorce is the silent divorce or emotional divorce that is some kind of emotional separation in which husband and wife although live together under a roof, but there is no love between them, the only thing that makes the couples connected is the contract they have accepted it in the beginning of life. And in the long term, despondency between the couples leads them to get divorce officially. And emotional divorce involves the lack of trust, respect and affection to others. And each of the couples is looking for the proof of faults and excommunicating to each other (Lower, 2007, p. 351). Paul declares that the first step of the process in getting divorce is emotional divorce and he represents that the marital relationship is deteriorating which the feeling of alienation is being replaced (Olsen and Differine, 2006, p. 449).

One of the effective factors on silent divorce or emotional divorce is social network which is emerging as a virtual, attractive and pervasive space and it is getting bigger and bigger in the realm of social interactions. J.A Barnes, for the first time in 1954 used the term virtual networks and mostly focused on online virtual community and computer communication (Wallison, 2007, p. 212).

According to what Negroponete has anticipated in 1995, people will be accustomed to the digital social communication of which physical aspect will be meaningless and at that time it will have another meaning with itself and consequently the aspect of location will be omitted thoroughly and a digital planet will be different, whether as big as the earth or as small as a needle (Negroponte, 1995, p. 6). According to the another definition, social networks are online services which allow the people to have their personal profiles in a clear and defined system and they also form new social communication (Wallison, 2007, p. 12) and the users can see other people's profiles and they can communicate with each other (Pumpak, 2000, p. 228).

Accordingly, changes in the present daily life due to technology such as virtual network cause a change in attitudes, ideas and thoughts. This causes further complicated relationships and leads to new needs and behaviors among humans and social networks with the purpose of entertaining the users; they take them away from their family-friendly environment and in violation of Islamic-Iranian values and beliefs follow to dissolution.

Families, especially young couples, because of features such as computers, smart phones and the Internet, are familiar with virtual network and this environment surrounds the cognitive, emotional and practical orientation of them. According to this issue, increasing the amount of network usage among couples, they talk less together and being entertained by these networks. Conflicts among the couples will be increased and after a while it will lead to despondency of the relationship or emotional divorce. Nowadays, the use of virtual networks has become an important social problem in Iran. A large number of conferences have been held in this regard Every year.

In this article, we try to put this issue as an important social issue to see how can the usage of Telegram as a social network effect on emotional divorce among the couples in PNU in Babol City?

2. Theoretical background of the study

Social networks have a great role in today's world and their effects on people's lives cannot be ignored. These sites affect on different aspects of individual and social life, and they are effective even at the community level. Social networks have various functions of economic, political, social, and communication. Communication experts believe that social networks are to reduce face to face relationships. For example, the results of a study in the UK showed that almost a third of divorces in this country is caused by Facebook as a social network (Eslami, 2012). The most important factor of discontinuity of emotional divorce or the fundamental structure of society is the family (Azadi, 2010, p. 3). In emotional divorce, the spouses do not have any love and affection towards each other and they feel no pleasure being together, despite the lack of love towards each other, they live together and they do not tend to be separated (Ferdowsi Pour, 2005, p. 2).

In fact, emotional divorce between couples happens when they do not respond to each other's opinions, expectations and needs. As a matter of fact, a significant decrease in the positive interactions and satisfaction with the relationship between the spouses leads to an emotional divorce. Since the divorce, especially emotional divorce

is one of the main problems in today's society in Iran; there always has been a dispute between sociologists and psychologists. However, explaining the issue and the factors affecting the formation are important. With the development of virtual networks and the reduction of social relations in society and the spread of individualism, the problem has been increased among the couples and leads to discouraging the relationship between them, as well as the emotional divorce. Therefore, we try as much as possible to explore this concept from different angles and with regarding to the opinions and points of view which have been said, we do our best to investigate the issue.

Naimi (2008) has investigated the effect of interaction of the family and the satellite which is leading to divorce between the couples in the city of Gorgan and the results indicate that the presence of the satellite leads to create modern values between the couples and also to reduce the modern values and to balance the values between the couples and to avoid sudden changes or the conflict values between them, there must be a deliberate interact between these two important edges of sociability.

Parvin et al., (2012) has investigated the issue entitled, the study of emotional divorce and the sociological factors affecting it in the city of Tehran. The findings suggest that if the balance of the family structure affected by the external and internal conditions, the effective functions which can make things stronger such as social capital within the family arrangement, the power structure will face a bigger challenge which can lead the couples towards the emotional divorce.

Yazdani et al., (2012) in a study titled, an investigation of the life quality of women with emotional divorce in Shahr-e-Kord, based on Likert scale, the results indicate that the quality of the women with emotional divorce is too low and the life quality of women with a normal life is so high.

Eskafi et al., (2014) has done a study entitled the effect of social networks and emotional divorce in the city of Mashhad and the results suggest the relationship between relational variables, size, endorsed, sponsored, cohesion, connection strengths, intimacy, common activities, as well as centrality and overlapping between couples is effective and intimacy has the most effect on emotional divorce. Among attributional factors, number of children, duration of marriage, being familiar with spouses before marriage and knowing the spouses' characteristics before marriage is more effective on intimacy between couples.

Chan and Mustafa (2008) in a study entitled emotional divorce in Malaysia believe that the three main factors in the country are: infidelity (having sex with someone

other than his/her spouse, love and emotional problems (violence, verbal and physical).

Gorman (2009) believes that the cultural and social changes in the current century have a wide impact on expectation, experience and consequently couples' marital satisfaction. The quality of the marital relationship is as a fundamental role in assessing the overall quality of family relationships. The quality of a marital life has a main role in evaluation of overall quality of family relationship. In this part of the study, reviewing Iranian and abroad journals about emotional divorce has been done. Although the issue of the impact of social network such as telegram on emotional divorce and scientific research especially in Iran has drawn the less attention.

Understanding and analyzing the family is in need of knowing what is good for the family members. The family is primarily associated with community and large social groups and it has to be studied in a large social network of relationships and in gradation. According to this theory, the family consists of the related components that interact with the environment (Yazdani et al, 2012, p. 168)

This theory has been used in the social sciences by Homans. He specifies social relationships, especially intimate relationships, as well as a business in terms of profit and loss and the cost and reward (Luis Cruz and Bernard Rosenberg, 1999, p. 99). On personal and family relationships, the couples also act in the same way. When the profit is more than the cost, the person feels happy and peace for his/her relationship with other people. If the benefit is less than the cost, the exchange will be maleficent and causes to feel unhappy and there will be no peace. According to what experts believe about this issue, based on these concepts, they explain why marital dissolution is not always problematic and leads to another form of divorce i.e. emotional divorce. But because of the fact that the spouses believe there's much less value in other alternative (possibility of remarriage) or they may have a lot of investment in their current relationships or they have children, their marital relationship continues.

Cultivation theory or Graebner Elementary theory is the interaction between media and audience. Cultivation theory is one of the forms of media effects in its cognitive level and it is related to this issue that being in touch with social media can change the beliefs. This theory has been explained to provide a model of analysis to represent the long-term impact of social media that mainly acts at the level of harvest (Ahmadzade Kermani, 2011, p. 336). It can be said that the more they use and the more they spend their time in social networks, the more the members will be affected. In contrast, the less they use and the less they spend their time in social networks, the less the members will be affected. Based on this issue, theoretical debates are about the role of

the communications media affecting the way of shaping the process of emotional divorce and the current study is about the status of Telegram as a social network and its impact on emotional divorce. In other words this study seeks to examine the impact of Telegram as a social network on couples' emotional divorce.

3. Methodology

In the present study, based on the topic, survey research method was considered as the most appropriate method in order to gather the data. The study consisted of married students of Payam Noor University of Babol during the years 2015-2017 (1240 people) who they are still studying. Data have been gathered by using appropriate statistical techniques, simple random sampling from a sample of 100 people. In order to test the reliability of the questionnaire, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used. They questionnaire was in high coefficient (0.74).

4. Research findings

50% of the samples are women and 50% of them are men. The average age of married students aged 19 to 44 years, of which about 64% were aged 25-29 years. About 48% of the sample group was enrolled in human science major. Also, about 86% of the respondents are B.A students and 14% are studying M.A.

About 9% of the samples group use Telegram as a social network daily for less than 15 minutes. About 21% between 15-30 minutes, 36% more than 30 minutes and less than 1 hour, 12% of respondents for 1-2 hours and 22% use telegram as a social network for more than 2 hours and the average duration is 3.17 percent.

The membership duration in Telegram as a social network for 32% of the samples are for less than 6 months, 52% of them for more than 6 months and less than 2 years, 13% of the respondents 2-3 years and 3% of them are for more than 3 years and the average duration of their membership is 1.87.

In order to test the hypotheses of this study, the Pearson correlation coefficient was used. Because the goal here is to determine the relationship between the variables, parametric test and Pearson correlation coefficient were used.

In the first hypothesis, there is a relationship between the duration of membership in Telegram as a social network and the emotional divorce. In contrast, the less is the duration of membership in social network as a user of Telegram; a decrease to let the emotional divorce happens among couples. Based on the results in Table 1, it can be said that since the calculated correlation coefficient (34/0) with 95% certainty is smaller than the critical correlation coefficient table (195/0) and the level of

significance (73/0) is bigger than the surface error which is 05/0, So with 95% certainty, the hypothesis is rejected and the null hypothesis is confirmed. It is concluded that there is a significant relationship between the duration of membership in Telegram as a social network and the user's emotional divorce; which means that by increasing the duration of membership in Telegram as a social network, there will be no effect on decreasing the emotional divorce between couples.

Table 1. The investigation of the relationship of membership duration in Telegram a social network and emotional divorce

| the level of significance | the level of error | The correlation coefficient | Degrees of freedom | the amount | number of samples | Statistical Indicators |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|---|
| 0/73 | 0/05 | 0/195 | 98 | 0/34 | 100 | membership duration in Telegram a social emotional divorce |

According to the second hypothesis, there is a relationship between the use of social network and emotional divorce. That means that the more the use of social network as telegram increases; there will be more chance to let emotional divorces happen. According to Table 2, it can be indicated that the calculated correlation coefficients (-0/136) with 95% certainty is smaller than the correlation coefficient (0/195) of critical table and the level of significance (0/17) is larger than the level of error 0/05, so the hypothesis is rejected by 95% certainty and the null hypothesis is confirmed. It is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the use of social network and emotional divorce, i.e., with increasing the use of social networking, emotional divorce between couples won't decrease.

Table 2. The investigation of the relationship between Telegram usage as social network and emotional divorce

| the level of significance | the level of error | The correlation coefficient | Degrees of freedom | the amount | number of samples | Statistical Indicators |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|---|
| 0/17 | 0/05 | 0/195 | 98 | -0/136 | 100 | Telegram usage as social network emotional divorce |

Based on the third hypothesis, there is a relationship between the cooperation of users in Telegram as a social network and emotional divorce, that means the more the users are active, the more the chance of emotional divorce will be. In contrast, the less the users are active, the less the chance of emotional divorce will be. Based on the

table (3), it can be inferred that the calculated correlation coefficients (0/19) with 95% certainty is smaller than the correlation coefficient (0/195) of critical table and the level of significance (0/057) is larger than the level of error 0/05, so the hypothesis is rejected by 95% certainty and the null hypothesis is confirmed. It is concluded that there is no significant relationship between the use of social network as Telegram and the emotional divorce, i.e., by considering the level of significance (0/057), it can be concluded that with increasing the cooperation and the activity of users in Telegram as a social network, emotional divorce won't increase.

Table 3. The investigation of the relationship of users' cooperation in Telegram as a social network and emotional divorce

| the level of significance | the level of error | The correlation coefficient | Degrees of freedom | the amount of | number of samples | Statistical Indicators |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| 0/057 | 0/05 | 0/195 | 95 | 0/19 | 100 | users' cooperation in Telegram as a social network |
| | | | | | | emotional divorce |

According to the fourth hypothesis of this research, there is a relationship between the way to believe in the content of Telegram as a social network by the users and emotional divorce. The more the users believe in the content of Telegram as a social network, the more the possibility of being affected by emotional divorce will be. In contrast, the less the users believe in the content of Telegram as a social network, the less the possibility of being affected by emotional divorce will be. In Table 4, the statistics of the test and the level of significance are presented. Since the calculated correlation coefficients (0/206) with 95% certainty is greater than the correlation coefficient (0/195) of critical table and the level of significance (0/04) is smaller than the level of error 0/05; therefore the hypothesis is confirmed by 95% certainty and the null hypothesis is rejected. It can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between the way to believe in the content of Telegram as a social network by the users and emotional divorce. The more the users believe in the content of Telegram as a social network, the more the chance of emotional divorce will be.

Table 4. The investigation of the relationship between the way to believe the content of social networks and emotional divorce

| the level of significance | the level of error | The correlation coefficient | Degrees of freedom | the amount of | number of samples | Statistical Indicators |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| 0/04 | 0/05 | 0/195 | 95 | 0/206 | 100 | the way to believe the content of social networks emotional divorce |

5. Conclusion and discussion

Nowadays, new communication technologies and their great highways, specially internet, smart phones and social networks specially Telegram provide a great change in the way of the communication among people around the world. It means that these days by means of internet and by the presence of being in this highway, the opportunity of utilizing the great amount of information in no time and to communicate in written form and meeting people with the lowest cost are possible. Although many changes have caused the advent of this event, after its advent it has caused many other changes by itself. One of these changes is the change in the meaning and the concept of divorce in one hand, and the emotional divorce between the couples in the other hand. In fact, in this world where the explosion of information has been occurred and many people and specially the youth have been exposed to its consequences, the divorce is increasing. The current research by means of quantitative research method is to investigate the amount of social network use on emotional divorce among the married students in Payam Noor university in Babol. Based on these results, it can be said, based on the effect and the consequences of Telegram as a social network, that there is no significant relationship between the variables, like the membership duration, the amount of use and the amount of being active in Telegram as a social network on emotional divorce and this hypothesis of the research is rejected. But there is a positive and significant relationship between the way to believe in the content of Telegram as a social network and emotional divorce of the users with the level of significant 0/04. Hence, this hypothesis of the research is confirmed. Based on this theory, the membership duration and the way to believe in the content of Telegram as a social network are effective on emotional divorce among the users. It can be said that the less the use duration and membership duration, the less possibility of being affected. Telegram can be a chance to cooperate with real world and being in touch with old friends. In the long term, it causes apathy between the couples, change

in the life style and finally an emotional breakdown between couples. According to what mentioned, unfortunately, in our society, social networks are barely used for logical reasons and the media and information and communication facilities are likely to be the reason to transfer the culture of consumerism, object-oriented material, self-indulgences instead of improvement and individual and social development. Communication in Telegram as a social network also has bilateral effects on various aspects of the user's life and his/her relationship. The above information refers to the fact that the users, as well as couples according to their own requirements, use virtual social networks. So it can be indicated that social networks are like double-edged sword.

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