



# RESEARCH OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE PROCESSES FROM A SOCIAL-DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECT

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**Abstract.** In this article, marriage and annulment of marriage, that is, divorce as a demographic process in Uzbekistan are studied from a scientific point of view. Laws on the structure of marriage, the age of marriage for young men and women have been studied. The changes in the absolute number and coefficient of registered marriages and divorces are analyzed. Regions with the highest rates of marriage and divorce, age-sex groups of married and divorced people and changes in it were studied. Divorcees compared to recorded marriages, divorces by number of children, divorces by duration of marriage, average age of divorcees, reasons for divorce and factors leading to divorce are studied based on the results of sociological research, conclusion and suggestion and recommendations are given.

**Key words:** marriage, annulment of marriage, divorce, demographic process, age of marriage, absolute number, coefficient, degree, region, age-sex, group, period of marriage, average age, reasons for divorce.

**Introduction.** Marriage is a social phenomenon that appeared at a certain stage of human history. As society progressed, its form changed and it became stronger. Although the basic laws of the emergence and development of marriage are the same for all peoples of the world, the process of its development and stability has its own characteristics in each nation [9.110 p.]. In Uzbekistan, the secular-democratic form of marriage based on the recognition of the equal rights of men and women is monogamous - single marriage, that is, one man lives with one woman on the basis of a single marriage [3.70 p.]. In ancient times, the priority of men's rights in social life was reflected in family and marriage relations. A man with economic means could marry several women [7.98 p.]. By 1924, polygamy was prohibited and controlled by law in Uzbekistan. In 1927, a code on family and marital relations was developed [3.29 p.].

In each country, the age of marriage is set for boys and girls and is formalized through state, family and marriage laws. In European countries and EU member states, the age of marriage is controlled by the state. In European countries (except Andorra, Malta and Scotland), the age of marriage is set at 18 [15.75 p.]. In France, Italy and Great Britain, inquiries about the health, relative or non-relative of those entering into marriage are carried out by the local authority. Then an announcement will be made in the press and reviewed within two months.

In 1927, according to the law of Uzbekistan, the marriage age for girls was set at 16 years, and for boys at 18 years [10.12 p.]. By 1968, the age of marriage for girls was raised to one year (17). In the "Family Code" (1998), created in the years of independence, the age of marriage for girls is 17 years and for boys is 18 years. Later, the age of marriage was set at



eighteen for men and women according to the Family Code[2.]. In exceptional cases, the age of marriage can be reduced by a maximum of one year at the request of those wishing to enter into marriage. An increase in the age of marriage leads to a decrease in the number of early marriages of girls. The more perfect the marriage law is, the more it can be the main document that prevents divorce. It is known that in recent years, the process of divorce has become a normal situation in our country, and the attitude of young men and women towards the family is changing. As a result, sometimes families are falling apart.

The chapter “Family” of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that “marriage is based on the voluntary consent and equal rights of the parties to the marriage”[1.], that is, marriage is based on the voluntary consent of a woman and a man, and in family relations, husband and wife have equal rights. It is shown that. Today, marriage registration is carried out according to the civil procedure laws and religious customs.

The number of people getting married is regularly registered by special state organizations (CR). Only a marriage registered in the “CR” bodies gives rise to conjugal rights and obligations. The law prohibits a person from marrying another person after being in one marriage and marrying close blood relatives.

**Analysis of literature on the topic.** The issues of interrelationship of marriage and divorce with socio-economic and demographic processes, its specific features are covered in scientific research works of foreign scientists G.S. Becker, J. Hajnal, V. Oppenheimer, V. Hoffman, Duncan and others. For example, in the second half of the 20th century, G. Becker studied the processes of marriage and divorce from an economic point of view. He studied various aspects of family life within the framework of economic approaches [6.813.]. Hoffman and Duncan determined the effect of women’s income and employment on divorce, that the risk of divorce is lower in families with a high male income, and the risk of divorce increases as women’s independence increases [6.431-453.]. At the end of the 19th century Dj. Khajnal studied the European marriage by dividing it into two types, that is, Eastern and Western European, according to their demographic characteristics [14.r.101-143].

The researchers of the CIS countries also conducted marriage and divorce processes in their own directions. In particular, A.P. Khomenko, A.G. Kharchev, V.L. Chuyko, E.K. Vaseleva, A.G. Volkov, V.M. Medkov, V.A. Borisov, A.I. Antonov, A.I. Kuzmin, L.A. Khachatryan, I.I. Eliseeva and others can be mentioned separately. A.P. Khomenko studied and researched the processes of marriage and divorce among urban residents of Ukraine based on the data of the population census conducted in 1923. Also, V.M. Medkov and V.A. Borisov have comprehensively covered the marriage and divorce processes from a scientific point of view. For example, Medkov studied the processes of marriage and divorce by mathematical calculation and the factors affecting divorce in the case of Russia[8.p.75.]. A.G. Kharchev studied the issues of family and marriage [13.p.5.]. Ethnography considered marriage and family relations as one of the main spheres of people’s life. In addition, Kharchev extensively studied and analyzed marriage and divorce processes in his monograph “Marriage and divorce”.

The state of marriage and divorce processes in Uzbekistan, development trends, factors causing divorce were studied in the scientific works of O.B. Atamirzaev, M.R. Borieva, Kh.M. Nazarova, G.Azimova, Kh.Kh. Mamadaliyeva and other researchers. In particular, the impact of marriage and divorce on the family and birth process was studied by M. Borieva [3.123 p.].



Kh.M.Nazarova and Kh.Kh.Mamadaliyeva researched trends in marriages, age of marriage and divorces, causes of divorce in the years of independence[9.100 p.]. and changes in separation dynamics are analyzed [10.15 p.].

**Research methodology.** A number of methods were used to study the processes of marriage and divorce, their specific characteristics from a socio-demographic point of view, and to research its future development. For example, historical comparison, regional analysis, statistical, mathematical, logical reasoning, comparative analysis, structural analysis, systematic approach and sociological methods. Also, legal documents reflecting these processes, statistical data, scientific literature and the results of sociological and demographic research were used in the study of marriage and divorce processes.

**Analysis and results.** According to statistics, 283,800 marriages were registered in Uzbekistan in 2023 (Table 1).

**Table 1**

**Dynamics of the number and coefficient of marriages and divorces in Uzbekistan [18]**

Years	Marriages		Divorces	
	Absolute number, thousand	Coefficient	Absolute number, thousand	Coefficient
1991	270.3	12.9	33.3	1.6
1995	170.8	7.5	21.2	0.9
2000	168.9	6.8	19.9	0.8
2005	184.0	7.0	16.4	0.6
2010	292.3	10.1	17.8	0.6
2015	287.6	9.2	29.6	0.9
2020	296.8	8.7	28.2	0.8
2021	305.2	8.7	39.4	1.1
2022	296.7	8.3	48.7	1.4
2023	283.8	7.8	49.2	1.4

49.2% of arranged marriages were concluded in cities, and 50.8% in rural areas[20.39 p.]. The number of recorded marriages has not been consistent over the years. By 2023, both the absolute number of marriages and the number of marriages per 1,000 population have changed.

In 1991-2023, the absolute number of registered marriages increased from 270.2 thousand to 283.8 thousand, or in 1991 there were 12.9 marriages per 1000 population, and in 2023 this figure was 7.8. So, during the years of independence, the number of marriages increased by 13.5 thousand in absolute terms, while it decreased by 5.1 per thousand per 1000 people.

The number of marriages registered in the regions of Uzbekistan is different, in regions with a high birth rate, the general coefficient of marriage is also high. In



particular, the total coefficient of marriage in Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions is higher than the national average. The general coefficient of marriage was determined by the ratio of the number of married people to the average number of the population of the region.

In 1991-2023, the overall marriage rate decreased in all regions of the republic. Especially in the regions of Andijan, Fergana, Khorezm and the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the marriage rate decreased from 5.6 per thousand to 6.9 per thousand. This situation is mainly explained by demographic and economic-social factors. In particular, the decrease in the number of young men and women entering into marriage, social and economic problems in families had their effect.

It is known that not all those who have reached the minimum marriageable age established by law will not start a family immediately. Among young men and women of marriageable age, some start a family earlier, others later. Some do not start a family at all. In 2023, the average age of men who got married for the first time was 26.5, and that of women was 22.3 [20.]. At the beginning of the 90s, the so-called rejuvenation of marriage was observed in the republic. In 1991, 8.6% of all married girls were under the age of 18, and 34.1% were 18-19-year-old girls. By 2022, this indicator was 0.02 and 32.9 percent, respectively. The majority of married girls (78.8%) are aged 18-24.

In 1991-2022, there were also changes in the age groups of young men who got married. In particular, the number of young men who got married under the age of 20 decreased by 3.1%, and those in the 20-24 age group decreased by 37.5%. On the contrary, in the age group of 25-29, it has increased by almost 3 times, and the weight of those entering marriage at the age of 30 and older has increased by 2 times. It should be said that the marriageable age of girls is 20 and older, one of the important factors of the formation of a strong and healthy family. Also, the fact that young men start a family at a very young age, that is, before the age of 20, and that they are not economically independent means that they will not be sufficiently ready to fulfill the socio-economic task of the family. In addition, boys mature spiritually later than girls. These situations can often cause the bride to not respect the groom enough.

According to the analysis of statistical numbers, first-time marriages have been the majority in all periods. First-time couples made up 89.6% of all married men, divorced and remarried men made up 8.4%, and widowers made up 2%. These indicators are 95% among women, respectively; 4.6%; It was equal to 0.4%. In almost all periods, divorced and widowed women were less likely to remarry than men.

### **Changes in the number and ratio of separation**

Freedom of marriage includes freedom of separation. Divorce formalization, like marriage registration, is under state control. Over time, some of the marriages are annulled due to the death of the husband or wife, and another part due to various disagreements [9.102 p.].

Divorce is a complex social process, which occurs under the influence of a number of factors. The role of marriage in society, types of marriage, existing laws on marriage and divorce in each country, the policy of the state regarding family stability, the role of women in social life, childlessness, family lifestyle, religion, customs, can include alcoholism and drug addiction. Under the influence of these factors, the level of divorce varies in different stages of the development of society, in countries, nations and age groups of the population.

In accordance with the Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the annulment of marriage is formalized by the court authorities upon the application of one of the spouses, and



by the registration bodies of civil status documents in the case of mutual consent of the spouses without minor children.

In 2023, 49,198 marriage contracts were annulled in the republic (Table 1). 60.7% of divorces occurred in urban areas, 39.3% in rural areas[20.]. The main part of the number of divorces was the legal formalization of marital relations that had already been terminated. There are many families who are separated but not legally registered.

According to the analysis of statistical data, in the period 1991-2023, the number of divorces increased in absolute numbers, while its overall coefficient slightly decreased. In 1991, the absolute number of divorces was more than 33.3 thousand, by 2023 this figure increased to 49.2 thousand, i.e. 15.9 thousand, or 0.2 per thousand marriage annulments per 1000 inhabitants decreased (Table 1).

In 1991, the impact of external migration on the high number of divorces was also significant. It is known that as a result of the disintegration of the former Union, most of the non-native peoples moved to their homelands. In some families, because the husband or wife did not want to move, the marriage contract between them was annulled. As a result, the number of divorces has increased.

The most cases of divorce were observed in the city of Tashkent and in the regions of Tashkent, Syrdarya and Andijan. The overall divorce rate in these regions is higher than the national average. There are several factors contributing to the high divorce rate in these areas. One of them is the high percentage of European peoples among the population. It is known that European nations have a higher divorce rate than local nations. The second factor in the high divorce rate is the level of education of the population. The higher the education of the population, the higher the divorce rate.

If we compare the number of divorces in 2023 with the number of marriages concluded in this year, the number of preserved marriages was 83%, and the number of families that canceled marriages was 17%. Or 17 divorces for every 100 arranged marriages. Most of the annulled marriages were those who got married several years ago.

Research shows that 50% of canceled marriages are families without children, 28% are families with one child, and the remaining 22% are families with two or more children [20.41 p.].

Marriages were divided according to the period of marriage as follows: 3.5% of marriages were concluded less than a year ago, and 32% were concluded 1-4 years ago. Also, 27.2% of divorced people were married 5-9 years ago, 27.8% were married 10-19 years ago, and 9.5% were married 20 or more years ago. Comparing the rate of divorce according to the period of marriage of the population compared to 1991, it can be observed that the following changes have occurred: the share of those who divorced up to 1 year and between 1-4 years has decreased. The number of families separated for 10-19 and 20 and more years has increased. In conclusion, the divorce rate among men under 30 has decreased. Divorce rates have increased among men aged 30 and over.

In 2023, the average age of divorced persons was 37.2 years for men and 32.8 years for women [20.44 p.]. According to statistics, the majority of divorces occurred among the population under 35 years of age. In particular, 62.5% of all divorced women were under the age of 35. Due to the low chance of remarriage among divorced women with children, it causes an increase in single-parent families among the population.





A sociological study was conducted by the author in order to deeply study the essence of the issues related to the socio-demographic situation of the marriage and divorce processes. During the research, the reasons for the divorce were studied [17.19b.]. Among the factors causing divorce, it was shown that the couple's worldviews are incompatible, that is, their characters are contradictory to each other. It has been shown that one out of three marriages break up for this reason. Most of the divorced people are young families, and the lack of life skills and experience and unwillingness to compromise are the main reasons. The respondents said that the reason for the divorce is the weakening of moral standards among the population, that is, husband or wife cheating on each other. More than two-thirds of those who commit adultery are men. Divorce is also caused by husband or wife leaving for work in other countries and staying there for years. Among the reasons for divorce, the conflicting relationship between the mother-in-law and other family members gradually ends with the divorce of the couple.

Respondents' opinions about "at what age should girls get married" were studied. According to him, three out of four respondents found the age of marriage for girls to be 23, and one out of five respondents found 20-22 years acceptable. Most of the respondents stated that early marriage of girls has a negative impact on their ability to become a higher educated professional and the birth of healthy children and the health of the mother.

### **Conclusions and suggestions.**

In recent years, the low level of socio-economic and spiritual maturity in marriage has created a number of problems in the success of marriage and is the cause of divorces. One of the main factors in preparing young people for family life is to instill in them the concepts of marriage and family from a young age. Because every person is born and grows up in a family. Also, an important condition for a strong family is to be able to discuss difficult issues of marital problems together.

To strengthen marriages, first of all, it is of great practical importance to teach young men and women about the demographic, social and economic functions of the family, as well as moral culture from a young age. For this purpose, it is appropriate to publish periodic talks, training centers and special literature that will help prepare young men and women for family life.

It is important that the bride and groom undergo a medical examination before the wedding in order for the marriage to be strong. Passing a medical examination creates mutual confidence in those entering into marriage. If the future spouses are healthy, then the unborn children will be healthy. This has a negative impact not only on the child, but also on the family economy, as well as on the development of society.

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