Original article

Prediction of the Likelihood of Marriage and Non-marriage in Divorced Women Based on Personality Traits and Psychological Well-being

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Abstract

Background: Marriage is one of the most important protective factors of persons' subjective wellbeing. For most people, their relationship with the spouse or the partner is the most important interpersonal relationship throughout their lives.
Objectives: The aim of present study was a prediction of the likelihood of marriage and non-marriage in divorced women based on personality traits and psychological well-being.
Methods: The method of this research was descriptive and correlational and statistical society consisted of all divorced women who are a member of the supporting association of divorced women in Region 2 of Tehran in the winter and spring of 2015 and 2016. 200 persons were chosen by purposive and available sampling. For data collection, the participants responded to the Reef's psychological well-being questionnaires and NEO-Five Factor Inventory. Logistic regression was used to analyze the data.
Results: The results showed that among the psychological well-being dimensions, the environmental mastery dimension predicts the likelihood of remarriage positively (P<0.01) and autonomy dimension negatively (P< 0.05).
Conclusion: Among personality factors, agreeableness and openness to experience dimensions predict the likelihood of remarriage positively (P<0.05) and neuroticism negatively (P<0.05).

Keywords: Marriage, Psychological well-being, Women, Personality traits, Divorce

1. Background

Marriage is one of the most important protective factors ofpersons' subjective wellbeing.For most people, their relationship with the spouse or the partner is the most important interpersonal relationship throughout their lives.Therefore, the quality of this relationship is probably an important factor in mental health of persons.For several reasons, the quality of these relationships and mental health are associated.Problems in the interpersonal relationshipsare stressful especially problems with high intensity or chronic. Studies have shown that stress increases the possibility of physical and psychological problems. Conflicts in interpersonal relationships may be as an interpersonal stressful stimulus and increase the probability of mental problems in people.Conflicts in relationships associatedwith negative consequences such as mental health and well-being problems.Consequently, mental health problems can increase the likelihood of conflict in relationships(1,2). Family is the most important unit of society. Because Marriage providesoriginal structure to create a family relationship and nurture the next generationis described as the most important and fundamental human relationship. Evidence indicates that more than 90 percent of the world population will have marriage at least once (3).

Divorce and separation are the main cause of rupture of the most basic structure of society, the family. Divorce means abandonment of the marriage and is a contract phenomenon that allows to the woman and manto rupturetheirmarital bondunder conditions and separate each other(3). Todays,the number of women who have lost their spouses through divorceand must take alone responsibility for their children is increasing.These women feel helpless due to their social and economic pressures.Theyhave often limited and painful life despite public and private financial support.Negative features of their life leads to unhappiness and depression feeling. Divorce and rupture of life leadto emotional imbalance of family members and since it is considered a severe stress, psychiatric disorders are high probabilityparticularly in women who emotional subtlety is amain attribute of their personality ,therefore, it seems that women experience lower psychological well-being (3).According to the Reef's definition (1989) psychological well-being consists of 6factors: 1) self- acceptance (Positive attitude towards themselves), 2) positive relationship with others (warm and cordial relations with others), 3) autonomy (sense of independence and ability to withstand against the pressures of life), 4) purposive life (having a purpose in the life and meaning to it), 5) Personal growth (a feeling of continuous growth)and 6) environmental mastery (individual's ability to manage the environment) (4). The results of one study shows that divorced women in compare to married womenexperienced significantly higher levels of stress and psychological distress at the first years

after the divorce and suffered higher levels of disease at adecade later.These women experience higher levels of stressful life events that ultimately led to depression (5). Personality characteristics are manifested in all fieldsof human life and social relations and it influences on marital adjustment and satisfaction in an important issues such as marriage (6). Five-Factor Model of personality assumes five vast dimensions to the personality that describes and explains a wide variety of sustainable patterns of how people behave. These five dimensions consist of extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and opennessto experience.Extroversion dimension ischaracterized by behaviors such as gregariousness, assertiveness and boldness,agreeableness dimensionby behaviors such as trust,being compassionate, altruistic, consciousness dimensionby behaviors such as discipline, diligence, and restraint, neuroticism dimension by behaviors such as aggression, anxiety, depression, self-consciousness, irritability, and impulsiveness and openness to experience dimension by behaviors such as idealism, rationalism, and reckless (6).Aligned with this study, the otherstudyagreeableness predicted positive relations with others and self- acceptancecomponents. Conscientiousnesstraitpredictedindependence, positive relations with others, personal growth and purpose in life components.

Acceptance traitpredictedenvironmental mastery, independence, personal growth, purpose in life and self-acceptance components.Beta coefficients were representative of the predictive power of six components of well-being by extraversion (7). These researchers concluded that according to the important role of personality traits in predicting of psychological well-beingcomponents, more attention to the role of educational positions is essential todevelopment of personality.On the other hand, the other findings showed that there was negative relationship between neuroticism and marital satisfactionbut extraversion agreeableness and conscientiousness factors had positive correlation with marital satisfaction (8).In the conclusion, the studies that have been done in the field of marriage and family marriage paid attention to the continuation of marriage factors such as the five-factor personality traits and psychological well- being.However, less researchhas examinedthe effective factors of the remarriage of divorced women as a societyvulnerable stratum.

2. Objectives

The aim of this study was to answer this question that do personality traits and psychological well- being that interact with personality traits predict the possibility of remarriage of divorced women?

3. Methods

The method of this research is descriptive and correlational and the purpose of the research is fundamental. The sample size of this study according to the minimum sample size for the correlation and regression studies had been suggested 200 persons (9)consisted of 200 divorced women. Half of them have remarried and the other half have not. In this research, divorced women who are married were chosen purposively.Also available sampling method was used for choosing the divorced women who have not married. Exclusion criteria included physical disabilities and chronic diseases, using medication for mental and physical illnesses and receiving individual and paired psychotherapy.

According to the information that researcher obtained by association authorities through their dossiers, a group of divorced women who are members of this association and have remarried chose purposively and they were referred by the address and telephone number that they had in the association and questionnaires were completed by them after gaining their satisfaction. Also, researcher has attended in the association and chosen divorced women who have not remarried by available sampling (for example, women in the buffet, prayer room, classes, etc.) and conducted questionnaires among them. Strategy of creating balance was used to avoid possible bias in response to questionnaires and to increase the reliability of the collected results.Ethical considerations include ensuring privacy related to confidentiality and anonymity was respected.

The instruments are explained as follows.

Ryff'sPsychological Well-Being scale (PWB)

Psychological well-being scalemade by Ryff (1989) to assess psychological well-being and consists of 84 phrases that assesses six subscales including self-acceptance, positive relations with others, autonomy, purposive life, personal growth and environmental mastery on a Likert scale from "1
= strongly disagree" to "6 = strongly agree" (10).Biabani, Kochaki andBiabani(2008) reported reliability coefficient with retest method for the total scale 0.82 and for self- acceptance, positive relations with others, autonomy, purposive life, personal growth and environmental mastery sub-scales 0.71, 0.77, 0.78, 0.70, 0.78 and 0.77 and convergent validity of Reef'spsychological well-being based on life satisfaction scale, Oxford happiness inventory and the Rosenberg's self-esteem scale reported desirable (11).

NEO-Five Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI)

NEO-Five FactorInventory made by McCrae and Costa (1989) based on a factor analysis of NEO-PI scoresand consists of 60 phrases that assesses five factors of personality including neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness in a Likert scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree (12, 13).The validity of five-factor personality inventory in Ahadistudy (2007) was calculated through factor analysis and Varimax method.The reliability of thisinventory for the five factors using Cronbach's alpha achieved between 0.73 and 0.86(14).

4. Results

198 women experienced divorce participated in this studythat98 of them (49.5 percent) has remarried and 100 (50.5 percent) live alone.33 participants who have not remarried after divorce and 25 persons who have remarried after divorcewere less than 30 years old.34 participants who have not remarried after divorce and 43 persons who have remarried after divorce were 30 to 35 years old.32 participants who have not remarried after divorce and 30 persons who have remarried after divorce were greater than 36 years old.48 participants who have not remarried after divorce and 13 persons who have remarried after divorce had diploma and lower, 8 participants who have not married after divorce and 10 persons who have remarried after divorce had an associate degree.35 participants who have not married after divorce and 51 persons who have remarried after divorce had a bachelor's degreeand 8participants who have not married after divorce and 24 persons who have remarried after divorce had a Master's degree or higher.

Table 1 shows mean and standard deviation ofpsychological well-being dimensions (acceptance, positive relations with others, purposivelife ,environmental mastery, autonomy and personal growth) and personality factors (extroversion, neuroticism, openness to experience,agreeableness and conscientiousness) with mean and standard deviation of ageineach group. Table 2 shows the correlation matrix between the research variables.

Table1. Mean and standard deviation of research variables based on remarriage / non-remarriage after divorce

	variable	Remarriage/None-marriage			
		None-Remarriage		Remarriage	
		mean	Standard division	mean	Standard division
psychological well-being	acceptance	32.42	6.52	36.02	5.19
	positive relationship	35.26	6.25	38.11	5.34
	purposive life	37.02	5.35	40.34	4.55
	environmental mastery	34.41	6.36	39.04	4.53
	autonomy	33.35	6.61	33.37	6.78
	Personal growth	35.54	6.00	39.28	5.23

	Neuroticism	24.89	9.43	18.69	6.97
	Extraversion	25.08	5.67	28.67	4.84
Personality traits	openness to experience	25.26	5.77	28.62	5.20
	agreeable	24.65	5.56	28.21	4.40
	conscientiousness	32.54	7.32	36.52	6.50
Life duration of first marriage		4/84	4/60	2/55	2/82
	age	31/91	5/51	32/36	4/75

Table 2 shows correlation coefficients between personality traits and psychological well-being factors. In this study, two aforementioned factors are considered as the predictor variables of possibility of marriage/ non-marriage after divorce. As the above table shows with the exception of the relationship between openness and agreeableness with the autonomy of subjective well-being ($P< 0.05$), other relationships between variables are significant in the level of 0.01. It should also be noted that the correlation coefficient between neuroticism with other aspects of personality and psychological well-being dimensions was negative and other relationships were correlated with each other positively.

Table2. Correlation matrix of research variables

Research's variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.personality-neuroticism	-										
2.personality-extraversion	-0.627**	-									
3.personality-openness	-0.300**	0.497**	-								
4.personality-agreeableness	-0.481**	0.521**	0.226**	-							
5.personality-conscientiousness	-0.522**	0.569**	0.353**	0.434**	-						
6.well-being-acceptance	-0.553**	0.593**	0.383**	0.339**	0/489**	-					
7.well-being-positive relationship	-0.469**	0.511**	0.280**	0.450**	0/398**	0.561**	-				
8.well-being-purposive life	-0.500**	0.608**	0.425**	0.345**	0/571**	0.664**	0.525**	-			
9.well-being-environmental mastery	-0.633**	0.631**	0.517**	0.425**	0/622**	0.737**	0.605**	0.699**	-		
10.well-being-autonomy	-0.438**	0.362**	0.159*	0.151*	0.263**	0.399**	0.402**	0.278**	0.381**	-	
11.well-being-Personal growth	-0.578**	0.624**	0.538**	0.287**	0.534**	0.701**	0.566**	0.743**	0.684**	0.335**	-

P <0.01& ** P<0.05 *

According to the overall aim of this study was power test of factors of personality traits and psychological well-being variables inpredicting of likelihood of marriage/ non-marriage after divorce.Therefore logistic regression analysis method was used, and only logistic regression assumption (that is the co-linearity) was investigated by assessment of Pearson correlation coefficient between predictor variables.As it can be seen in the above table, the correlation coefficient of any predictor variables is nothigher than 0.85, so it can be said that the linearity assumption did not happen.This finding provide context to test the research hypotheses.

Logistic regression analysis was used to test the research data.Logistic regression analysis showed that a model based on six variables (acceptance, positive relations with others, purposive life, environmental mastery, autonomy and personal growth) compared with an unique modelresults in better prediction to a fixed amount significantly(p<0.001, $\chi^2_{(6)}$= 40.313).The Semi R^2 of Nagelkerke model was 0.246.This finding suggests that psychological well-being dimensions explain24.6% of the variance of possibility of remarriage or non-remarriage after divorce in the women.In other words, this result shows that psychological well-being have an acceptable power to separate persons who remarry or do not remarry after divorce.Success ofprediction for putting personsin the re-marriage/ non-remarriage group was high. So that the success rate of overall prediction was 69.7, prediction rate of remarriagewas 73.5 and prediction rate of non- remarriagewas 66.00.

Table 6.4 shows regression coefficients (B), Wald statistics (Wald), significant level, the odds ratio [Exp (B)] and 95% confidence intervals for the odds ratio for any predictive variables.

According to the Wald testas shown in the table 3, autonomy, environmental masteryamong the psychological well-being dimensions are statistically significant predictors for the probability of remarriage after divorce.

The role of environmental mastery in predicting of the probability of remarriage after divorce was stronger than other psychological well-being dimensions. So that by controlling other psychological well-beingdimensionsthe probability of remarriage after divorce increasesto 1.148with one unit of increasing in the environmental mastery score.Alsoaccording to the results of table 4-6by controlling the effect of psychological well-being, the probability of remarriage after divorce decreases to 0.930with one unit of increasing in the autonomy score.In general, the probability of remarriage after divorce with increasing inthe environmental mastery scoresincreases (P<0.01) anditdecreaseswith increasing in the autonomy scores (P< 0.05).

Logistic regression analysis showed that a model based on five variables (extraversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness) compared with an unique modelresults in better prediction to a fixed amount significantly(p<0.001, $\chi^2_{(5)}$= 42.287).The Semi R^2 of Nagelkerke model was 0.256.This finding suggests thatpersonality factors explain 25.6% of the variance of possibility of remarriage or non-remarriage after divorce.In other words, this result shows that personality factors have an acceptable power to separate the probability of marriage/non-marriage after divorce.Success ofprediction for putting persons in the re-marriage/ non-remarriage group was high.So that the success rate of overall prediction was 68.7, prediction rate of persons who do not remarryafter the divorce was 69.00 and prediction rate of persons who remarryafter the divorce was 68.4.Table 7.4 shows regression coefficients (B), Wald statistics (Wald), significant level, the odds ratio [Exp (B)] and 95% confidence intervals for the odds ratio for any predictive variables.

Table3. Results of Logistic regression analysis for prediction of remarriage/non-remarriage based on psychological well-being dimensions

step	Entered variable	B	Wald	Sig	Exp()B	Confidence intervals (CI) forExp(B)	
	acceptance	0.005	0.016	0.900	1.005	0.926	1.091
1	positive relationship	0.011	0.090	0.764	1.011	0.942	1.084

	purposive life	0.023	0.313	0.644	1.023	0.930	1.125
	environmental mastery	0.138	8.922	0.003	1.148	1.049	1.257
	autonomy	-0.073	6.089	0.014	0.930	0.878	0.985
	Personal growth	0.039	0.707	0.400	1.039	0.953	1.137
constant		-5.548	15.059	0.001	0.004		

According to the Wald testas shown in the table 4, neuroticism, openness to experience, and agreeableness factors among the personality factorsare statistically significant predictors for the probability of remarriage after divorce.

The role of agreeable factor in predicting of the probability of remarriage after divorce was stronger than other personality factors. So that by controlling otherpersonality factors, the probability of remarriage after divorce increasesto 1.091 with one unit of increasing in the agreeable score.

According to the results of table 4by controlling the impact of other personality factors, the probability of remarriage after divorce decreases to 0.949 with one unit of increasing in the neuroticism score.Finally,based on the results of table 4 by controlling the impact of other personality factors,the probability of remarriage after divorce increases to 1.014 with one unit of increasing in the openness to experience score. In general,the probability of remarriage after divorce increases with increasing inthe openness to experienceand agreeable scores (P<0.05) andit decreaseswith increasing in theneuroticismscores (P<0.05).

Table4. Results of Logistic regression analysis for prediction of remarriage/non-remarriage based on personality factors

Step	Entered variable	B	Wald	Sig	Exp(B)	Confidence intervals (CI) forExp(B)	
	neuroticism	-0.053	4/432	0.035	0.949	0.903	0.969
1	extraversion	0.002	0.016	0.974	1.001	0.918	1.090
	openness	0.078	5.724	0.017	1.081	1.014	1.152
	agreeableness	0.087	5.514	0.019	1.091	1.015	1.174
	consciousness	0.013	0.198	0.656	1.013	0.957	1.072
		-3.749	4.487	0.034	0.024		
Constant							

5. Discussion

Results showed that with increasing individual's scores in environmental mastery (P<0.01) the probability of remarriage after divorce increase and with increasing individual's scores in autonomy (P< 0.05)the probability of remarriage after divorce decreases.

In explaining of these findings, it can be said that divorce is one of the social harms that may decrease one's general health and quality of life (15,16). The World Health Organization introduces quality of life index as happiness, satisfaction of life, well-being, self-actualization, independence and freedom from poverty, purposeful function, full physical, mental and social well-being (17). Positive relationship with others is important for the well-being and increases happiness and better performance in the person (18). Psychological well-being has a significant contribution in various aspects of life such as social acceptance and relationship with people. In fact, human well-being depends on interaction and accompaniment of opposite components such as pain and pleasure, ambition and hope against pain and despair (19). Environmental mastery means the person's ability to manage life. Hence, a person who has a sense of mastery over the environment can interfere in different aspects of the environment, change and improve it (20).

In Haffarian's study (2010), the mean of scores of all dimensions of the quality of life (physical health, psychological, social relations and environment) and total score of quality of life of divorced women was significantly lower than non-divorced women (21). This means that non-divorced women reported better life status in terms of four dimensions of quality of life and total quality of life and had greater satisfaction. Autonomy creates when a person recognizes himself/herself as the cause of consequences of himself/herself activities.JaafariNodoushan et al (2015) showed in evaluating and comparing of mental health and compliance and cognitive emotion regulation of divorced women and married women in Yazd that divorced women and married women in the mental health, cognitive emotion regulation and compliance dimensions have significantdifferences (22). The results indicated low level of mental health, cognitive emotion regulation and compliance among divorced women. Hence, divorced women experience lower quality of life than ordinary women. They have greater autonomy, emphasis on their independence in dealing with the problems of everyday life probably and avoid remarriage.The results showed that possibility of remarriage after divorce increases with increasing in the individual'sopenness and agreeableness scores (P<0.05) andpossibility of remarriage after divorce decreases with increasing in the neuroticism scores (P<0.05).

In explanation of these findings, it can be said that personality traits are one of the effective factors on vulnerability or wellbeing (7). The other study found that neuroticism of five-factorpersonalitydimension is significant and negative predictor of psychological well-beingand extraversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness dimensions are also positive and significant predictor of psychological well-being (23).

Openness to experience focuses on people satisfaction to get new ideas and approaches, great imagination, excellent curiosity and multi- dimensional thinking (24).Agreeableness dimension include positive properties such as altruism, humility and good-tempered (25).Openness persons are curious to get inner experiences and around world and their life arefull of experience.These people want to enjoy the new theories and unconventional values (25).Soit may that divorced women with personality traits such as openness to experience and agreeableness deal with remarriage easily and do not avoid it.

Neuroticism refers to the stable and heritable personality trait that includes mood sensitivity to negative stimuli. So people who have high levels of this trait can experience a wide range of negative mood, not only sadness but also anxiety, guilt, and hostility.In addition, several studies have shown that neuroticism predicts more stressful life events(23).Thus, according to the interpersonal problems of neuroticism persons, their avoidance of remarriage is not surprising.

In summary, divorced women experience lower quality of life in the society because of various reasons.Some of these reasons include the stigma of divorce, supplying ofliving expenses alone, and so on.As a result society puts an option as remarriage for these women. However, as the results of this study showed that the possibility of remarriage influenced by personality traits and psychological well-being of these women.

Any research at its core will have a set of limitations.Current studyis not anexception.Limitation of study's typethat was conducted as cross-sectionalproposeslimitations in the field of interpretations and etiology documents of studied variablesthat should be considered.In this research, the study of other variables influencing on the probability of remarriage of these women such as quality of life and socioeconomic status was notpossible.Soit is proposed that current study conducted on ordinary individuals of different socio- economic categories as well as different jobs.Also it is suggested thatresearches with longitudinal design to infer a causal relationship about variables of this study be conduct and the role of other variables such as quality of lifeevaluated in future research designs.

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