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Exploring the Reasons of Divorce in Love Marriages in India: A Qualitative Study from West Bengal

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Abstract

Keywords

Divorce, India, Gender, Love marriage, West Bengal.

In India, arranged marriages remain common, and love marriages are considered with scepticism. Due to the impacts of modernization and shifts in social values, love marriages are gradually on the rise. Even though people select their partners based on love and affection, these marriages still have some unique issues that cause marital disputes. Recently, the Supreme Court of India has observed that the majority of divorce cases result from love marriages. Therefore, this underscored the necessity for further in-depth exploration. This study explores the key reasons behind divorces in love marriages, focusing on personal, family, and social influences. Using a qualitative approach, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 25 divorced individuals from West Bengal, India. Thematic analysis identified ten major reasons for divorces, including infidelity, compatibility issues, pressure on women to leave their jobs, and pressure on men to leave their parents. The research suggests the need for pre-marital guidance, improved communication between couples, and more support from family towards love marriages. This study contributes to the growing discussion on divorce in India and provides information for policymakers, counsellors, and love-marriage couples navigating marital problems.

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Introduction

Marriage has been the bedrock of social organization for centuries. Empirical research suggests marital satisfaction is positively associated with physical, mental, and emotional well-being (Gottman, 2023; Stutzer & Frey, 2006). Even though marriage is frequently seen as a lifetime commitment, not all marriages last. In recent decades, increased divorce rates have been a critical measure of family transformation. Some scholars believe divorce can be vital for promoting personal autonomy and well-being, while others see this trend as upsetting social stability (Härkönen, 2014). Despite the potential personal benefits, divorce carries significant negative consequences. Studies have repeatedly shown that the divorced face more significant psychological distress, increased substance use, and higher incidences of depression than their married counterparts (Amato, 2000; Scott et al., 2013). Rising divorce rates can create an economic disturbance in societies, halting national economic growth, especially in developing regions where marriage is deeply connected with financial independence (Sztaudynger, 2018).

In India, marriage is strongly influenced by familial approval and social obligations (Dasgupta & Basu, 2011; Hui & Triandis, 1986). Broadly, Indian marriages can be categorized into arranged and love marriages. While families initiate arranged marriages, love marriages are self-chosen and typically preceded by premarital relationships based on romantic affection (Chawla, 2006). Despite significant social changes over the last three decades-such as shifts in marriage age and spouse selection (Allendorf & Pandian, 2016; Desai & Andrist, 2010; Prakash & Singh, 2014) - these changes have not fundamentally altered the institution of marriage in India. Within this framework, divorce has long been stigmatized in India. Among South Asian countries, India has the lowest divorce rate, with only 1.1% of the total population divorced (Jacob & Chattopadhyay, 2016). The number of people who have been divorced has almost doubled in two decades (Jacob & Chattopadhyay, 2016). The practice of divorce is most extensively seen in metropolitan cities such as Mumbai, where the number of divorce petitions filed in 2014 has seen a two-fold increase since 2010 (Bhatia, 2021).

All marriages go through periods of ups and downs, but some persist, whereas others terminate. Extensive efforts have been made to understand the factors associated with divorce, especially in Western contexts. The Symbolic Interactionism Theory provides a comprehensive framework for understanding how an individual's self is defined and how society is defined (Blumer, 1986). It posits that individuals act based on the meanings they ascribe to the world around them. This perspective rests on the recognition that language is symbolic, words do not carry meaning inherently, but represent meanings inferred by those who use them (Helle, 2005). Consequently, an individual's interpretation of the world depends on their reading of the symbols, interactions, and details of everyday life. Within this framework, social phenomena such as marriage and divorce can be understood as processes shaped by the interpretation and negotiation of meanings between partners. The primary models explaining breakups of close relationships are rooted in Social Exchange Theory. The Social Exchange or Interdependence Theory of relationships (Thibaut and Kelly, 1959) emphasized the balance between rewards

and costs within intimate relationships. Rewards denote the pleasure, while costs refer to adverse experiences of relationships. The core concept of this theory was based on the personal comparison level, a critical factor that shapes expectations regarding relationship quality. When perceived costs outweigh rewards, or when expectations remain unmet, dissatisfaction arises, often prompting decisions to end the relationship. The equilibrium can be destroyed for many reasons, such as behavioural issues, adjustment issues, extra-marital affairs, and domestic violence. Empirical studies highlighted several factors of divorce, including early marriage, poverty, unemployment, low education, premarital births, domestic violence, frequent conflict, infidelity, and weak commitment (Amato & DeBoer, 2001; Amato & Previti, 2003; Branlett & Mosher, 2002; Clements et al., 2004; Hall & Fincham, 2006). Further, research has also identified factors contributing to divorce in India, such as intervention from in-laws (Khan & Hamid, 2021), dowry issues (Singh, 2013), and domestic violence (Faye et al., 2013)—issues are less common in Western societies.

Among these factors, one that has received significant scholarly attention is the different approaches that are adopted to decide on mate selection. Marital satisfaction can be more or less based on the types of marriage (Hoelter et al., 2004a). A Chinese study observed that women who got married by their own choice were more satisfied with their marriages than women whose marriages were arranged by their families (Xiaohe & Whyte, 1990). Similarly, in a study conducted in Nepal observed that when the spouse was selected by both the person and the family or by the person only, satisfaction with marriage was higher than when the spouse was selected exclusively by the family (Allendorf & Ghimire, 2013). In contrast, a study in Pakistan observed that partially arranged, partially love, and totally arranged marriages were more successful than totally love marriages (Zadeh, 2003). Notably, most studies have treated divorce as a uniform phenomenon without disaggregating its dynamics by marriage type.

Modernization and globalization have significantly reshaped cultural traditions worldwide, including India (Allendorf & Pandian, 2016). Ethnographic research has documented a rise in love marriages across regions, including Haryana (Chowdhry, 2007), Delhi (Mody, 2008), West Bengal (Allendorf, 2013), Ladakh (Aengst, 2014), Gujarat (Netting, 2010), and Andhra Pradesh (Still, 2011). Surprisingly, recent legal and media reports increasingly highlight that love marriages in India are facing unique challenges that may contribute to marital instability. The Supreme Court of India observed that 'most divorces arise from love marriages' (Singh, 2023). The Allahabad High Court also remarked, "Easily entered marriages like love marriages also easily result in a matrimonial dispute between the two." (Sharangee, 2024). While marriages based on mutual affection and personal choice are generally expected to foster greater emotional compatibility and stronger marital bonds, these judicial remarks raise a serious concern. Despite their growing relevance, there is no empirical research that systematically explores this specific concern. Addressing this gap, this present study aims to identify the key reasons for divorce in Indian love marriages to help couples recognize potential challenges early and work towards sustaining their relationships.

Data and Methods

Participants

The study included 25 divorced individuals. Their ages range from 29 to 54 years, with an average age at marriage of 26 years and an average age at divorce of 35 years. The mean duration of marriage was 6 years. There were 13 men and 12 women. Participant data can be seen in Table 1.

The inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) Women aged 15-49 years and men aged 18-54 years, (2) Bengali speaking, (3) legally divorced within the last five years, and (4) not remarried at the time of the study.

Procedures

The Institutional Review Board of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India, reviewed and approved all procedures before the study commenced (IIPS/ACAD//SREC/SD/I0-2492023). The study was conducted from March to September 2023. Participants were selected through a purposive sampling technique, and the sample closure criterion was defined according to saturation expectations. The interviews followed a semi-structured interview guide. The guide focused on key areas, such as an overview of the socio-demographic background and the marriage and divorce processes. The guiding questions were as follows: 'How long did you know your partner before marriage?', 'Did both of your families agree to your marriage?' 'How was your married life?', 'Even after knowing for years, why did you divorce?', 'How did you try to adjust?' 'How long did you take to come out of the marriage?', 'Who initiated the Divorce?' etc.

Entering the field for this study required careful planning due to the sensitivity surrounding divorce in Indian society. There was difficulty in identifying and interviewing participants, as divorce still appears too sensitive and stigmatized. Participants were identified and approached through personal networks, referrals, and social media platforms. The researcher first contacted potential participants informally to explain the purpose of the study and to ensure voluntary participation. The study was conducted through face-to-face interviews. Interviews were conducted as per the participants' availability and geographical preferences. Before each interview, the researcher introduced herself as a PhD scholar from the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, and emphasized that the study aimed to understand personal experiences rather than judge or evaluate them. Assurances of confidentiality and anonymity were given, and participants were informed that they could withdraw at any time. Casual conversations were initiated before recording began, allowing participants to feel comfortable and express themselves freely during the interviews. The duration of the interviews was 40–60 minutes.

This study used thematic analysis to achieve the objectives (Braun & Clarke, 2006). An inductive method was used to uncover themes that emerged directly from the data (Knafl, 1991). The procedure began with verbatim transcription of interviews done in Bengali, which were then translated into English. NVivo 14 was used further for analysis. To become acquainted with the data and take preliminary notes on emerging concepts, transcripts were read multiple times. Second, initial codes were generated based on repeated readings. These codes were "the most basic segment, or element, of the raw data or information that can be assessed in a meaningful way regarding the phenomenon" (Boyatzis, 1998). Third, these

initial codes were collated and grouped into child nodes based on their conceptual similarities. At this stage, 54 child nodes were identified, representing first-order concepts. Fourth, the child nodes were refined, collated, and assigned to relevant parent nodes or sub-themes. At this stage, 10 parent nodes emerged as second-order concepts. Sub-themes lacking sufficient data support were either removed or merged with other related sub-themes. Fifth, two main themes emerged: "Common Reasons across Genders" and "Gender-specific Reasons". Lastly, structured the thematic analysis into a coherent narrative supported by direct participant quotes and illustrative examples.

Findings

Two major themes and ten sub-themes emerged. The first part of the findings section discussed common reasons cited by divorced men and women, and the reasons specific to women and men in the second. The gender-specific reasons highlight culturally specific factors influencing divorce.

Common Reasons across Genders:

The theme reveals that divorce among both women and men arises from a set of interconnected and mutually reinforcing factors that cut across gendered experiences. Although the intensity and manifestations differ, the sub-themes collectively demonstrate that marriages begin to deteriorate when trust, emotional security, mutual support, and respect weaken over time. Participants described how infidelity shattered their emotional security, leaving them unable to hold the relationship together. Many women spoke of oppressive or interfering in-laws, while men recounted manipulation and false accusations from their wives' families, together showing how family pressure consistently intensified marital conflict. Across accounts, behavioural issues such as anger, possessiveness, insecurity, and domination created daily tension and emotional exhaustion for both sides. Participants also highlighted feeling abandoned or unsupported during difficult times, which deepened loneliness within the marriage. Domestic violence contributed to an environment of fear and humiliation for both genders. Additionally, compatibility issues and professional rivalry reflected modern pressures, where unmet expectations, lifestyle differences, and conflicting ambitions challenged the stability of marital life.

Infidelity

The impact of infidelity extends beyond separation or divorce, significantly affecting the emotional well-being of both partners. Participants described how discovering their partner's affair shattered their trust and left them feeling humiliated, rejected, and emotionally broken. Many participants expressed that encountering extra-marital affairs within a love marriage was particularly painful, as it shattered their belief that love-based unions would ensure trust and emotional security. Women spoke about years of loyalty collapsing in an instant when the truth came out, while men shared how their partners' affairs left them shocked and powerless. Hence, infidelity marked the point where love, respect, and hope disappeared, making the marriage impossible to continue.

Participant 10 reflected the deep emotional shock and sense of betrayal she experienced after *discovering her husband's relationship*

with her sister-in-law. Despite sharing a stable and understanding marriage, this incident shattered the foundation of trust and respect she had for him. His actions not only humiliated her but also destroyed the emotional security she once felt in the relationship. Unable to reconcile with such betrayal, she chose to end the marriage. She shared, *"We had no major problem in our marriage. Most issues we managed with our understanding and love. I could not give him a child, but even that he accepted gracefully and never disrespected me. Problems began after my brother's marriage when he (former husband) grew distant and frequently visited their home. Busy with my job, I overlooked the signs until neighbours revealed his affair with my sister-in-law. Though they initially denied it, the truth emerged when they left to be together. I could not understand how to feel or react. After a week or so, they returned and apologized. My brother accepted his wife, but I could not be in the same room. He broke my trust, love, and respect for him."* (*Female, 47 years*)

Participant 17 shared how his *partner's extra-marital affair* weakened his marriage. Although he supported his wife's education and career, the lack of shared time and constant rumours had created tension between them. His trust was finally broken when she left with someone else. As he shared, *" Since I didn't have a strong educational background and we married at a very young age, I supported her (former wife) education. I wanted my wife to focus on her education and build a better future for ourselves. I was often busy with work and couldn't spend much time with her. Even for small things like puja shopping, she had to go alone. I think these small gaps started to create distance between us. Over time, I began hearing rumours about my wife and other men. I tried to ignore them initially, but the constant comments led to several fights.... Then she got a job. I ignored rumours*

about her with one of her male colleagues. In 2017, she became pregnant, and I was overjoyed—until I discovered she had left me with another man. Her phone was switched off. After days of searching, I got to know that she had been seen with a man in the Koikhali area. I tried to communicate with her; she refused to respond. She gave birth without informing me, and he signed as her husband. The final blow came when she told me that the child was not mine, and demanded divorce to settle down with that man permanently." (*Male, 40 years*)

In-laws Interference

The narratives reveal that interference from in-laws was a major source of tension that disrupted marital peace for both genders. Women described oppressive household expectations, constant criticism, and mothers-in-law who tried to control every aspect of their daily lives. Men shared how their wives' parents manipulated situations, demanded financial control, or defended their daughters even when they were at fault. Many felt trapped between spouse and parents, or attacked by extended family members, which intensified marital conflict. Excessive family involvement made it difficult for couples to build emotional security or resolve issues independently, which eventually led them to divorce.

Participant 1 shared how her *insecure mother-in-law* ruined her marriage by constantly creating distance between her and her husband. *"My former mother-in-law feared I would take her son away. Though I never intended to, she constantly competed for his attention, which ultimately led to our marriage's downfall."* (*Female, 43 years*)

Participant 8 shared how her marriage slowly broke down due to *her in-laws' rigid mindset and their excessive interference*. Constant restrictions, unequal expectations,

and daily disrespect made her feel unheard and undervalued. Over time, the love and understanding in the relationship faded, leaving her with no choice but to step away from a marriage that no longer gave her dignity or peace. "*We were in a live-in relationship for three years before marriage, and his (former husband) family seemed modern. But after marriage, I found their thinking was so outdated. His father rudely dismissed my greetings, saying, 'We don't entertain such drama.' His mother expected me to manage all household chores along with my job. Restrictions like 'you can't go out' or 'you can't wear jeans' were unbearable in 2023. Yet, I tolerated it because I loved him. I thought it would take time to adjust to a new family, so I kept my patience. But in the end, it wasn't worth it. My mother-in-law believed that women should simply adjust within the family. She did everything for her son, who worked from 9 to 6, but in my case, she expected me to wake up at 7 in the morning, prepare breakfast, feed her 30-year-old son, and then cook dinner after a long day at work. The mentality needed to change. When I tried to voice my discomfort, my husband would brush it off, saying, 'This is the mindset of outskirt areas, either adjust or leave.' He never stood up for me, so I had to stand up for myself. I clearly remember an argument when I responded to my mother-in-law's complaint. My husband threatened to say, 'I want to call your parents to come here and insult them as you did with my mother.' After marriage, we lost our bond, love, and everything. It felt as if all my efforts were in vain, and the love we once shared began to fade away...*" (*Female, 33 years*)

Participant 22 shared about his **mother-in-law's constant attempts to control** his income, influence his wife, and hide the truth about an alleged affair, creating deep mistrust and tension. The situation escalated when, instead of resolving issues, they retaliated with false legal accusations. This betrayal and hostility ultimately collapsed the foundation of the marriage. " *She (former mother-in-law) wanted my entire income under her control and instigated my wife against me. Then, when I suspected my wife of an affair, her mother defended her, falsely claiming the man was her deceased brother.' Later, when I confronted them with proof, they retaliated by filing a false 498A case against me and my cancer-stricken mother.* " (*Male, 40 years*)

Participant 14 mentioned that the **daily fights between his mother and wife became a source of his marital tension**, which eventually became a reason for his divorce. He shared, "*My mother could not accept my marriage. Every day, they (mother and ex-wife) would fight over petty issues. I tried to make my mother understand, but she never changed. I took a stand for her (ex-wife) when she was right. Whenever I took a stand for my mother, she (ex-wife) either hit me or verbally abused me. Later, my brother got married to a woman of my mother's choice, and naturally, she (sister-in-law) became the favourite one. My mother started comparing her (ex-wife) with my brother-in-law. We were having fertility issues, the doctor said that she (ex-wife) could not get pregnant, which frustrated my mother more. At that time, I also supported her (ex-wife). Now, when my sister-in-law had a miscarriage, my mother blamed her (ex-wife) for doing some black magic and killing the baby. Gradually, her behaviour deteriorated due to these daily fights not only towards my family but also towards our personal relationship. She started slapping me, abusing me, and adopting a reckless lifestyle. Might be in search of peace, she got involved in an extramarital affair. I do not blame her because I knew somewhere my mother was responsible for this breakdown.*" (*Male, 45 Years*)

Behavioural Issues

Across narratives, participants described behavioural problems (i.e., anger,

possessiveness, insecurity, and domination) as daily triggers that strained the relationship. Women recounted feeling dictated, or emotionally suffocated by husbands who could not control their temper or insecurities. Men, on the other hand, spoke about wives who were extremely suspicious, emotionally volatile, or unwilling to adjust. Some realized personality or mental health issues only after marriage, making conflicts more intense and unpredictable. Overall, the sub-theme shows that incompatible or harmful behaviours created a hostile emotional environment that partners could no longer endure.

Participant 9 shared how her marriage was deeply affected by her *partner's extreme anger and controlling behaviour*, ultimately leading her to leave both her marriage and child. Recalling her experience, she said, "*We dated for five years, but I knew we weren't compatible. He (former husband) coerced me into marriage with suicidal threats. After marriage, he became more dominating—I couldn't express myself freely. He was incredibly rude and lacked basic respect in his behaviour, especially towards me as his wife. He believed he had the right to abuse me in any way.... He forced me to accompany him if he wanted to go to a movie, even when I did not want to. He tried to dictate every aspect of my life. Every day was filled with taunts, bullying, and abuse for no reason. He wanted me to behave exactly how he wanted, without regard for my feelings or individuality.*" (*Female, 40 years*)

Similarly, Participant 15 highlighted how *his wife's growing insecurity and possessiveness* gradually turned their marriage into an emotionally draining experience. Her constant doubts and accusations eroded trust and communication, making him feel suffocated. As he said, "*She (former wife) was once*

innocent and loving, but after marriage, she became insecure and possessive. She doubted me over every interaction—even with my sister and our maid. It felt like a relentless cycle—she would doubt me, we would fight, I would have to console her, and then I was forced to have sex, even when I did not want to.... I lost growth in my career and felt trapped." (*Male, 40 years*)

Participant 16 revealed the emotional exhaustion of living with a partner who showed *persistent anger and manipulative behaviour*. Despite his repeated forgiveness and willingness to seek counselling, his wife's refusal to change or cooperate left him feeling isolated and burdened. The lack of mutual effort and empathy in the relationship made him feel as though he was fighting alone to sustain a marriage that had already fallen apart. He shared, "*Before marriage, I dismissed our fights as her short temper. I knew about her anger issues and how she used to get into fights over small things or get involved with other men. Whenever those relationships didn't work, she came back to me saying, 'I was misled and made mistakes, but now I want to be with you.' I loved her, so every time I forgave her and tried to fix things. But after marriage, even minor issues led to intense arguments. In therapy, she was diagnosed with grandiose narcissism. The therapist warned me to avoid reacting to conflicts if I wanted to stay. Suddenly, she refused further therapy, insisting she was fine. I followed everything, stayed silent during her anger, and avoided arguments. But her behaviour never changed. I felt alone in fixing our marriage—I couldn't keep dragging the relationship forward.*" (*Male, 29 years*)

Non-supportive Partners

The narratives highlight that feeling unsupported—emotionally, financially, or practically—made many participants feel alone in their marriages. Women explained how husbands abandoned responsibilities,

refused to help during crises, or left them to manage children and finances alone. Men similarly described wives who dismissed their struggles, avoided responsibilities, or emotionally withdrew during challenging times. These experiences left both genders feeling neglected and burdened, slowly breaking their emotional connection, and led them to divorce.

Participant 4 highlighted the **severe financial and emotional hardship she faced due to her husband's complete negligence and irresponsibility**. His refusal to work or contribute to the household left her struggling to provide for their children's basic needs. She added, "*He (former husband) quit his job without informing and totally stopped caring for our children. I could not understand what to do. Some days, I couldn't even send my daughter to school with tiffin. His father occasionally gave some money from his pension, and I used to buy some food. I took a job at a shoe store. I told him I only needed his 5% cooperation to manage the household, but he declined... Then he left the house.*" (*Female, 38 years*)

Participant 25 reported that his wife's **non-cooperative behaviour** became the primary reason behind the divorce. He clearly stated, "*Despite all my efforts, I could never make her happy. She was unwilling to adjust or understand my financial condition. Instead, she often spent money carelessly. Trying to make her understand was always difficult, and ultimately, living with her became so impossible that I had to consider divorce.*" (*Male, 33 years*)

Participant 2 shared the **deep frustration and emotional trauma caused by her husband's irresponsibility and moral insensitivity**. His complete lack of cooperation and unwillingness to take financial responsibility left her feeling unsupported and burdened. The most painful moment came when he

showed no concern for her dignity or safety, which shattered her trust and respect for him, ultimately leading to the breakdown of their marriage. She recounted that, "*We had just bought a flat and then he suddenly left his job. He never took a single responsibility, not even financial ones. My father arranged a job for him in a private company, but due to his discrepancies, he was fired. Again, I found another job for him, but the same thing happened. After that, whenever I told him to search for a job, he showed no interest — as if it was solely my responsibility to manage everything...The recession hit, and loan payments became unbearable. When I shared this with him, he just ignored my concern. Instead, he told me to ask my colleagues. A colleague offered me a loan in exchange for a night with him. I was devastated. When I confided in him, he suggested me to consider the proposal. At that moment, I knew I shouldn't stay with someone who asks me to stoop so low.*" (*Female, 33 years*)

Participant 14 explained how emotional distance and unresolved conflicts gradually weakened his marriage. As he shared: " *We were good friends for years before entering into a love relationship and then into marriage. At the time of our marriage, I was pursuing my PhD in Bangalore, while she worked at a private company in Chennai. We thought we could manage the distance since we had successfully managed a long-distance relationship before. But marriage is different — it comes with responsibilities and expectations that go beyond what we had anticipated.... We went on a trip; there, I noticed that she had become emotionally distant. I tried hard to reconnect with her, but she did not change her behaviour. I eventually convinced her to start living together. It was then that I realized just how distant we had become in every way — mentally, emotionally, and physically. Despite being in the same space, the bond we once had felt irreparable. Our constant fights affected my work, and my performance declined. Despite repeated warnings from the*

company, I couldn't improve, and eventually I lost my job. When I told her, she simply said, "I think we should get a divorce." I was shattered, facing both job loss and the end of my marriage. " (*Male, 40 years*)

Domestic Violence

Narratives on domestic violence showed that both women and men experienced abuse, though in different forms. Women recounted emotional torture, sexual coercion, and degrading behaviour from husbands and in-laws, which left them feeling unsafe and powerless. It is often believed that domestic violence only happens to women, but violence against men by women is not a new phenomenon (Kumar, 2012). We observed that our male participants cite torture as one of the reasons for divorce. Men reported being slapped, verbally abused, or forced into intimacy, often suffering silently in their marriages. In both cases, the violence created fear, humiliation, and psychological distress. The abusive environments destroy emotional security in those marriages and make divorce the only path to safety and dignity.

Participant 11 revealed severe **domestic violence in the form of emotional, psychological, and familial abuse**. Her husband violated her boundaries, pressured her into inappropriate acts, and shared their private matters with his parents. The constant humiliation, manipulation, and mental torture left her feeling unsafe and powerless, ultimately turning the marriage into her greatest regret. She added, "*Marrying him (former husband) was my biggest mistake. He shared every detail of our relationship with his parents. Things turned disturbing when he and his friend introduced me to a 'swap partners' game. I refused, and he began to distance himself. Another way, his parents were mentally abusive behind closed doors. They*

isolated me, criticized me, and made me feel unwelcome. She (former mother-in-law) refused to let me cook and fed me stale food. I felt trapped in a house where I had no voice, dignity, or support. I was shocked to receive divorce papers when I went to see my ailing mother. I begged him to stay, so he took me back. But he recorded it and replayed it to mentally torture me." (*Female, 35 years*)

Participant 15 shared **his experience of domestic violence in the form of physical and sexual violence** within his marriage. His wife repeatedly pressured him into unwanted and aggressive intimacy, leaving him fearful and hurt. This ongoing abuse gradually shattered his sense of safety and dignity within the marriage, which ultimately led him to divorce. As he shared, "*She (former wife) picked fights over the smallest issues to force intimacy. I dreaded it — she wanted rough sex, leaving me bruised. The worst was when she slapped me in front of our daughter.*" (*Male, 40 years*)

Compatibility Issues

In love marriages, couples usually know each other well for years before marriage. But sometimes, even with all that familiarity, there can be problems adjusting to married life. Meeting someone and living with them are two different experiences. Meeting someone can reveal their traits, but marrying them will teach you how to deal with those traits daily. This journey can either strengthen a person or challenge them significantly. The change from being "boyfriend/girlfriend" to "husband/wife" can bring about shifts in behaviour and require new ways of getting along. When couples struggle to adapt to these changes, it can result in compatibility issues. Some struggled with unmet emotional needs, others found their partner's behaviour drastically different after marriage, and

many described a growing emotional gap they could not bridge.

Participant 3, for example, shared how she **realized that the person she had loved for years became completely different after marriage**. This change played a major role in her decision to get divorced, showing that even love marriages can face serious difficulties. She stated, "*Before marriage, we enjoyed Rabindra Sangeet, but after marriage, he seemed to be so disinterested in those soulful songs. I found no physical or psychological compatibility between us. I am someone who enjoys both deep conversations and casual fun, but he (former husband) was different. I remember cutting my hand while cooking just a few days after our marriage—I expected him to rush over, but he didn't. Another time, I came home drenched in rain, hoping for a romantic moment, but he was indifferent. His lavish spending habits—buying ₹4000 shoes frequently—clashed with my values. We couldn't even have meaningful discussions because that requires a shared willingness to understand and stay together. We did not have that same mental frequency. In the movie 'Saat Paake Bandha', we see a couple with endless ego clashes but also undeniable love and a desire to stay together. If my ex-husband had shown even a fraction of that for me, I would have fought for our marriage. But I couldn't fit him into the frame of what I believed a marriage should be.*" (*Female, 34 years*)

Participant 14 reflected on how **long-distance challenges and unmet emotional expectations** gradually weakened the foundation of his marriage. Despite his genuine efforts to balance academic responsibilities with marital obligations, his wife's growing dissatisfaction and emotional withdrawal created an irreparable distance between them. The physical proximity they later attempted could not revive the lost bond, as their emotional connection had already eroded. His experience highlighted how a lack of emotional understanding and mismatched expectations can silently turn a once-loving relationship into an empty partnership. As he stated, "*We were good friends before marriage, successfully managing a long-distance relationship. At the time of our marriage, I was pursuing my PhD in Bangalore, while she worked at a private company in Chennai. We thought we could manage the distance. But marriage brought expectations we hadn't anticipated. She (former wife) felt I wasn't available enough—if she had a fever or cold, she expected me to drop everything. When she had dengue, I was in the middle of an important PhD presentation and couldn't leave immediately, though I went later. She saw this as proof that she wasn't my priority. Even when we tried living together to bridge the gap, the emotional distance remained. I tried hard to reconnect with her, but she did not change her behaviour. I eventually convinced her to start living together. It was then that I realized just how distant we had become in every way—mentally, emotionally, and physically. Despite sharing the same space, our bond felt irreparable.*" (*Male, 40 years*)

The **lack of personal space** in the marriage was another important problem that emerged throughout the interviews. Participant 15 described how this had a major role in the divorce of his nine-year marriage; "*As an assistant professor, I needed time for academic preparation, but she (former wife) couldn't tolerate being apart from me for long. She would call me eight or nine times a day, questioning my schedule. It started with small inquiries— 'Why didn't you come home for lunch?'—but soon turned into accusations and demands. Even after work, I wanted time for myself and our child, but she expected my undivided attention.*" (*Male, 40 years*)

Professional Rivalry

In the past, pregnancy and child-rearing frequently kept women closer to home,

making them more reliant on their spouses for necessities like food, housing, and financial stability. But the dynamics of society are changing. Women are increasingly taking charge of their fertility, family planning, and career goals these days (Parker et al., 2022). Professional rivalry between spouses is another emerging factor contributing to divorce. When wives outearn their husbands, it can challenge traditional notions of men as breadwinners, potentially leading to marital conflicts and divorce. In some cases, men may initiate divorce due to ego clashes when their wives achieve tremendous professional success (Morgan et al., 1988). Conversely, women may seek divorce when they feel their husband's career or social standing doesn't match their own (Vincent & Laveena D'Mello, 2018). Our female participants talked about their husbands who felt threatened or belittled their work when they progressed professionally. Whereas, male participants recounted how their wives compared them with colleagues or dismissed their efforts, causing them frustration and self-doubt. Instead of supporting each other's growth, couples often slip into silent competition. Over time, this eventually became a reason for divorce among participants.

Participant 5 recounted how *professional rivalry and ego clashes* gradually eroded the emotional bond in her marriage. Her husband's condescending remarks about her income and career achievements created feelings of inferiority and resentment. What once began as a mutual ambition turned into constant competition, replacing love and support with tension and hostility. Over time, their relationship lost warmth and understanding, and the marriage collapsed under the weight of comparison and pride. She shared, "*When he (former husband) got a higher-paying job in Bangalore, his attitude*

changed. He belittled my earnings and mocked my work in front of others. While the words may not seem harmful, the tone in which he said them felt deeply hurtful. When we went out together with my sister, he would make jokes about my career, saying things like, 'How much is she earning? She'll take over a decade to reach my level.' This behaviour began to foster a sense of dislike within me. His words made me resent him, pushing me to work harder just to prove myself. Our marriage became a silent competition rather than a partnership. Instead of celebrating each other's success, we grew distant, and professional rivalry replaced our bond." (*Female, 30 years*)

Participant 16 experienced a similar struggle when his wife, a doctor, belittled his efforts in business. "Every time, s*he taunted me for working under my father. Despite earning well, she (former wife) never contributed a single rupee to our household expenses, claiming it was solely my responsibility. She made negative remarks about me and my efforts and compared me with her colleagues. We could not resolve the gap, and ultimately decided to divorce.*" (*Male, 29 years*)

Communication Gap and Misunderstandings

Effective communication is the foundation of a strong relationship, but when it deteriorates, emotional distance and misunderstandings can take hold. Participants mentioned how long-distance arrangements, busy schedules, unspoken doubts, or repeated misunderstandings created frustration and emotional distance in their marriages. Women described feeling ignored when they needed comfort, while men spoke about simple issues turning into major conflicts due to a lack of clarity. Over time, silence and assumptions replaced honest conversations and pushed marriages towards divorce.

Participant 5 shared how the *challenges of a long-distance marriage created a significant*

communication gap that eventually led to the end of their relationship. She recounted, *"Working in different states with clashing schedules, our conversations became infrequent, turning into cycles of accusations and fights. He (former husband) was with his family, while I was alone in Mumbai, struggling with work and household responsibilities. Over time, he lost interest in communicating, and I started to feel humiliated to beg for his attention. Eventually, we grew apart."* (*Female, 30 years*)

Also, Participant 19 reflected how **unaddressed insecurities and a lack of open communication created huge misunderstandings** that gradually destroyed their marriage. What began as a simple misunderstanding grew into deep mistrust when his wife misinterpreted his social interactions and photography work. His failure to maintain transparency and her tendency to internalize doubts without discussion widened the emotional gap between them. Eventually, unresolved suspicion and miscommunication eroded the trust that once held their relationship together, leading to its breakdown. He stated, *"I moved to Delhi for my PhD in 2014, and everything was fine until 2017. I enjoyed socializing, and she (former wife) never had a problem with that. She visited the campus for couple of times and even interacted with my friend circle too. But she eventually developed insecurity about one particular female friend, whom I failed to sense. For instance, I had organized a biriyani party in my hostel room. That girl with my other friends came and we enjoyed. Later that night, around 3.30 am, she texted me after reaching back to her hostel room just as a courtesy. It was just a polite message, but when I visited home and my wife saw it, she doubted my intentions. Yet, she kept her feelings to herself instead of confronting me.... Photography is my passion, and when that friend requested a nude portfolio shoot, I agreed. I had*

no bad intentions, but I made the mistake of not informing my wife. She later found the photos, felt betrayed, and cut off all ties." (*Male, 40 years*)

Gender-Specific Reasons:

Pressurized to leave work: Unique to Women

Over the past century, India has been transformed gradually from a traditional, agricultural society to a modernized one. And that brought profound transformation in gender relations and family lives. In spite of the lingering gender inequality, persistent increases in women's educational attainment and labour force participation have been recognized as the striking changes in the past century in India. This transformation brought a noticeable shift in men's and women's roles and marital dynamics. This shift is not equal in every stratum. We have noticed that many of our women participants went for a divorce decision as they were forced to leave their work. Several participants explained that they had chosen love marriage with the belief that their partners would respect their lifestyle, ambitions, and career choices — aspects they felt were often neglected in arranged marriages. However, when they later encountered the same lack of understanding and support within their love marriages, the disappointment was profound, leaving them emotionally shattered. Despite being educated, career-oriented, and financially independent, many participants faced constant disapproval for prioritizing their professional ambitions. The verbatims reveal that their partners and in-laws often viewed women's careers as a threat to traditional gender roles, expecting them to conform to domestic expectations after marriage. This restriction on their autonomy and financial independence led to

feelings of frustration, loss of identity, and emotional suffocation. Participants expressed that being forced to abandon their work not only undermined their self-worth but also exposed the persistent gender bias that continues to shape marital expectations, even in love marriages. Over time, this conflict between personal aspiration and patriarchal control created deep emotional distance and resentment, ultimately driving several women to seek divorce.

Participant 6 said, "*They knew about my job and my responsibility toward my mother before marriage. Yet, six months in, his (former husband) family pressured me to quit. When I refused, his mother resorted to mental abuse—body-shaming, restricting my meals, and constant humiliation. She even encouraged her son to have an affair. The worst was when she called my 77-year-old mother, insulted her, and belittled her for relying on my income... She just wanted to punish me as much as possible so that I would accept her instructions.*" (*Female, 34 years*)

In this context, Participant 8 highlighted the ***deep-rooted gender bias and patriarchal mindset that continue to devalue women's professional achievements*** within marriage. Despite her hard work and career success, her in-laws perceived her independence as arrogance rather than accomplishment. The refusal to hire help and the pressure to quit her job reflected an expectation that a woman's primary role should remain domestic. Her husband's silence during her public humiliation by his parents further intensified her emotional pain, leaving her feeling isolated and betrayed in a marriage where her individuality and efforts were never respected. She said, "*When I got a promotion, my workload increased, and I couldn't manage all the household chores alone. Instead of hiring help, his (former husband) family pressured me to quit my job. I refused—I*

had worked too hard to build my career. I did not work so hard only to get married. What was the point of being a top scholar, studying so hard, and acing interviews if I had to give it all up? If I ever responded to anything, his mother would retort, 'You're so arrogant just because you earn.' You can't make such male chauvinists understand that no one, not even a working wife, will silently endure their nonsense. The very last day, when my parents went to their house to take me back home, his father accused my father, saying, 'You could not give proper social education to your daughter; her arrogance destroyed everything.' They put all the blame on me, and my husband didn't say a single word to defend me against his parents." (*Female, 33 years*)

Participant 9 revealed how her ***husband's traditional mindset and lack of support restricted her personal and professional growth***. Despite her aspirations, he viewed her career as secondary to household duties, denying her the freedom to pursue her passion for dance. And she mentioned, "*For him, my career was always optional. He never ever supported me to excel professionally. He wanted me to remain at home and take care of our daughter. I wanted to pursue my dance after marriage, but I could not because of him. He never allowed me such freedom.*" (*Female, 40 years*)

Pressurized to leave parents: Unique to men

We often noticed many of our male participants face the unique challenge of being pressured to distance themselves from their parents, leading to conflict and even divorce. The narratives under this theme reveal that pressure from wives and in-laws to detach from or abandon one's parents became a deeply distressing and decisive factor leading to divorce among these participants. Participants shared that their wives and in-laws often demanded complete

separation from their natal families, undermining their sense of duty, affection, and identity. Many felt that complying would mean betraying their parents, while refusal resulted in manipulation, false accusations, and humiliation. The recurring tension between love and obligation eroded trust and intimacy within the marriage. Ultimately, these experiences highlight that coercing individuals to abandon their parental ties destabilizes the moral and emotional foundation of marriage, making divorce an inevitable act of self-respect and liberation.

Participant 23 shared: "*I went to Philadelphia three times to save my marriage, even during the pandemic. She (former wife) insisted me to leave everything — my father and my career in India — to settle with her. I loved her, but I couldn't abandon my only parent or my work as a professor. When I refused, she chose divorce.*" (*Male, 30 years*)

Similarly, Participant 12 recounted the **pressures placed on him by his wife and her family**. He stated, "*She (former wife) and her parents pressured me to leave my family, but I refused to abandon my mother and sister or become a live-in son-in-law. In retaliation, she spread false rumours, ruining my reputation and even getting me barred from my workplace. I chose to divorce, paying her thirty lakh rupees rather than leaving my parents.*" (*Male, 36 years*)

Participant 22 revealed how intense pressure from **his wife and in-laws to separate from his family created severe marital strain**. His refusal to become a "ghar-jamai" led to conflicts that escalated into false accusations and public humiliation, even affecting his professional life. He added, "*Her mother wanted me to abandon my cancer-stricken mother and live as 'ghar jamai' at her house. She (mother-in-law) wanted to have a control over me*

and my earnings. When I refused her proposal, she (ex-mother-in-law) not only took her daughter with her but also lodged some false cases against me. The Police came to my home and arrested me for that. After getting bail, I realized there was no point in continuing the marriage. Later, when I filed the divorce against her, she apologized but I refused to forgive her." (*Male, 40 years*)

Discussion

This qualitative study sheds light on an underexplored area of reasons behind divorce in love marriages in India. While love marriages are believed to be more resilient as they are based on mutual choice and emotional bonding, our findings indicate that they are not immune to conflict. Traditional Indian studies on divorce often highlight factors such as excessive interference from in-laws, extra-marital affairs, and domestic violence as the primary causes (Chacko, 2003; Madathil & Benshoff, 2008). While our findings align with these established factors, they also offer a deeper exploration into challenges unique to love marriages. This study identified a number of context-specific issues, including behavioural issues, non-supportive partners, compatibility problems, professional rivalry, communication gaps and misunderstandings, pressure to leave a job, and pressure to leave parents. By exploring these dynamics, this study broadens the scope of understanding divorce in the Indian context. This study's findings tried to reinforce these principles by offering real-world evidence.

In line with other studies (Rangarao & Sekhar, 2002; Vasudevan et al., 2015) this study also found infidelity as an emerging dominant reason for divorce among love marriage couples, challenging the assumption that love marriages foster more

significant commitment. While excessive in-law interference in a son's marriage is quite evident in India, this study interestingly supports the Delhi High Court statement ("Parents Should Not Interfere in Daughter's married Life: HC," 2011) by highlighting the growing issue of over-involvement in daughters' marriages as well. Similar to other research (Amato & Previti, 2003; Gottman, 2023), many of our participants shared that they failed and sometimes ignored to recognize problematic traits like extreme anger issues, possessiveness, or controlling behaviour in their former partners before marriage. While some tried to adjust, they eventually found these issues unbearable. One participant tried to adjust to her partner's toxic behaviour for 18 years but ultimately chose divorce for the sake of her child's well-being.

This study's findings are consistent with a Western study (Gander, 1992), in highlighting that non-supportive partners are now becoming another significant reason for divorce. We observed that non-working female participants mentioned this reason when their former husbands failed to support them in household responsibilities and defend them against societal expectations. At the same time, working female participants more often mentioned this reason when their former husbands continued to expect their wives to manage household responsibilities alone. Some research findings suggested that egalitarian households have lower divorce risks than traditional ones (Wang & Davis, 2019). Although fewer in number, male participants also mentioned this reason as one of their divorce reasons when their former wives were not willing to adjust and treat their parents well. We even found that non-supportive partners during financial crises can often be a reason for divorce

among participants, irrespective of their gender.

Domestic violence is a predominant factor associated with divorces in India (Girase et al., 2016). In addition to these findings, this study highlighted that domestic violence is not limited to women only; men also suffered from sexual torture, threats for false legal cases, and money extortion by wives and in-laws that led them to get divorced.

Not so common in Indian literature but aligns with some Western literatures (Amato & Previti, 2003; Scott et al., 2013), compatibility issues emerged as a reason for divorce in this study. Participants often shared that their expectations of marriage did not align with reality. Despite years of dating, they realized that truly knowing someone only happens when living together. Some had experienced extreme space issues, and some had expectation and ego clashes in their marriages that ultimately led them to get divorced.

Studies (Minnotte et al., 2013; Sun et al., 2017) emphasized how strongly gender roles and the division of responsibilities influence marital satisfaction. As economic prosperity and rising incomes reshape relationships, ego conflicts and professional competition between partners have significantly contributed to India's growing divorce rates (Laveena D'Mello et al., 2017).

Interestingly, this study findings highlighted professional rivalry as a reason for divorce in love marriages, particularly among dual-earner couples. Consistent with previous findings of Widyanisa et al. (2018), we identified that long-distance marriages often face challenges in terms of communication gaps and misunderstandings.

As gender-specific reasons, pressure to leave jobs is a significant reason for divorce among women. Although society has changed over time, many men still expect their wives to handle all household duties by themselves, which causes disagreements in the marriage. Women struggle to maintain a work-life balance because they are burdened with domestic and professional responsibilities, which causes significant stress. A recent IIMA survey of 2,000 working women across various sectors found that 67% faced challenges balancing their careers with family and personal responsibilities (Sharma, 2024). Some of the study participants chose divorce to prioritize their financial independence and professional aspirations over marital compromise. In addition, economic stability has empowered women to support their aging parents, challenging traditional expectations that daughters, once married, should no longer contribute to their natal families. Some female participants even reported that they preferred ending their marriages rather than sacrificing their careers and their ability to care for their parents.

Among men, a significant reason for divorce was the pressure to leave their parents behind. In India, it is traditionally expected that women move out of their maternal homes after marriage, while men usually continue living with or near their parents. However, when men faced pressure from their spouses to relocate and leave their parents alone, many chose divorce over moving away. This decision was often driven by a sense of responsibility toward their parents or a refusal to accept the controlling behaviour of their wives.

This study has several limitations. First, regional and cultural variations may shape diverse reasons for divorce in love marriages across India, necessitating further exploration in different socio-cultural settings. Second, while qualitative insights offer depth in understanding lived experiences, integrating these findings with a more extensive quantitative study would strengthen the research's validity and provide a more comprehensive basis for policy formulation. Lastly, while this study focused on individual narratives, incorporating triangulation by including spouses' perspectives could have provided a more holistic understanding of divorce. Future research should adopt such triangulation to enrich contextual interpretations.

Even though this study has certain limitations, it significantly contributes to understanding divorce in love marriages. First, it highlights the role of gender in shaping divorce experiences, incorporating both men's and women's perspectives—an area often overlooked in Indian family research. Second, Love marriages, despite breaking traditional norms, still face societal resistance, emphasizing the need for greater familial acceptance and support. Open dialogue between couples and families can help address early marital challenges. Third, findings also stress the importance of communication and commitment in sustaining love marriages. Finally, there are questions about the effectiveness and long-term viability of love marriages, considering the increase in divorce cases. Despite spending time together before marriage, many couples overlook unresolved issues, which later lead to serious marital conflicts. Therefore, this study recommends obtaining premarital counselling and professional help to address potential issues early and strengthen their marriages.

Given its scope and resource limitations, this study encourages Indian researchers to explore divorce across diverse socio-cultural contexts, including the reasons for delaying divorce and the distinct challenges men and women face during the divorce process in contemporary India. Expanding research in these areas will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of marital transitions and enhance policy effectiveness by modifying outdated frameworks unsuitable for contemporary Indian society.

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Data Availability Statement

The participants of this study did not give consent for their data to be shared publicly, so due to the sensitive nature of the research, supporting data is not available.

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Table 1 Socio-demographic Information of Study Participants

Socio-demographic Indicators	Frequency	Percentage Distribution (%)
Age-group		
29-35	9	36
36-45	13	52
46-54	3	12
Gender		
Male	13	52
Female	12	48
Ethnicity		
General	17	68
Scheduled Caste	4	16
Other Backward Caste	4	16
Place of Residence		
Rural	4	16
Urban	21	84
Educational Level		
Primary	3	12
Secondary	2	8
Higher and above	20	80
Age-difference with Former Partner		
Less than 5	15	60
5-10	9	36
More than 10	1	4
Religion		
Hindu	24	96
Muslim	1	4
Wealth Status *(Self-reported)*		
Poor	2	8
Middle	15	60
Rich	8	32
Marital Duration (Years)		
Less than 5	9	36
5-15	11	44
More than 15	5	20
Family Type		
Joint	3	12
Nuclear	22	88
Total (N)	25	100
Mean age at Marriage *(Years)*		26
Mean age at Divorce *(Years)*		35
Average Marital Duration *(Years)*		6

Source: Author's calculation based on primary data

Supplementary Table 1 Profile of the Participants

NO.	Current Age	Age at Marriage	Age at Divorce	Age Difference	Education	Occupation	Wealth Status	Family Type	Caste	Reason for Divorce
1	43	23	41	5 Years	MA	School Teacher	Middle	Nuclear	General	Behavioural Issue, Infidelity, Domestic Violence
2	33	23	28	2 Years	BA, B.ED	School Teacher	Upper Middle	Nuclear	General	Non-supportive partner, In-laws Interference
3	34	29	31	3 Years	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Upper Middle	Nuclear	General	Compatibility Issues
4	38	18	32	4 Years	Higher Secondary	Business	Middle	Nuclear	General	Non-supportive partner, Infidelity
5	30	26	29	2 months	MA	Private Job	Middle	Nuclear	General	Infidelity, Professional Rivalry
6	34	32	33	6 months	MA	Private Job	Middle	Nuclear	General	In-laws interference, Behavioural Issue, Domestic Violence, Infidelity, Pressure to leave job
7	36	25	32	2 Years	BA	No Job	Upper Middle	Nuclear	Scheduled Caste	Behavioural Issue, Compatibility Issues, Infidelity
8	33	28	32	2 Years	M.Tech	Private Job	Upper Middle	Joint	General	In-laws Interference, Non-supportive Partner, Infidelity, Pressure to leave job
9	40	26	37	3 Years	Ph.D.	School Teacher	Middle	Nuclear	General	Behavioural Issue, Domestic Violence, Pressure to leave job
10	47	25	43	2 Years	Bsc	Government Job	Middle	Nuclear	Scheduled Caste	Infidelity
11	35	28	34	5 Years	MBA	Private Job	Middle	Nuclear	General	In-laws interference, Behavioural issues, Non-supportive Partner, Domestic Violence
12	36	29	33	2 Years	MA	School Teacher	Lower Middle	Nuclear	OBC	In-laws Interference, Non-supportive Partner, Pressure to leave parents
13	33	18	30	1 Years	10th Pass	No Job	Middle	Nuclear	General	In-laws Interference, Compatibility issues
14	40	32	38	2 Years	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Upper Middle	Nuclear	General	Communication gap and Misunderstanding, Domestic Violence, Non-supportive Partner
15	40	30	38	8 Years	Ph.D.	Professor	Upper Middle	Nuclear	General	Behavioural Issues, Domestic Violence, Compatibility issues
16	29	27	28	11 Years	MBA	Business	Middle	Nuclear	Scheduled Caste	Behavioural Issues, Professional Rivalry,

									Infidelity, In-laws Interference
17	40	24	8 Years	10th Pass	Private Job	Middle	Nuclear	OBC	In-laws Interference, Behavioural issues, Professional Rivarly Infidelity
18	35	26	7 years	BA Diploma	Private Job	Lower Middle	Joint	General	Professional Rivarly, Infidelity
19	40	20	7 Years	Ph.D.	Private Job	Middle	Nuclear	OBC	Communication gap and Misunderstanding
20	54	31	5 Years	BSC	Private Job	Middle	Nuclear	General	Professional Rivalry, Infidelity
21	50	25	5 Years	10th Pass	Government Job	Middle	Nuclear	General	Communication gap and Misunderstanding, Infidelity
22	40	35	2 Years	MA	Private Job, Business	Middle	Nuclear	General	In-laws Interference, Non-supportive Partner, Pressure to leave parents, Infidelity
23	30	28	2 Years	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Upper Middle	Nuclear	OBC	Non-supportive Partner, Pressure to leave parents
24	45	29	2 Years	Higher Secondary	Private Job, Business	Middle	Joint	Scheduled Caste	Behavioural Issue, Domestic Violence, Infidelity, Non-supportive Partner, Pressure to leave parents
25	33	30	7 years	MBA	Private Job	Upper Middle	Nuclear	General	Compatibility Issues, Infidelity