

**Socio-Economic and Psychological Aspects of Widows and  
Divorced women  
(A case study of Nooribagh village Bari Imam Islamabad)**



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Divorces women**  
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**Final Approval of Thesis**

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## Abstract

This study deals with the financial and psychological issues faced by widows and divorces. This research is mainly focused on the lives of widows and divorces women in which they faced many difficulties along with their children and families. Divorced and widows brings unprecedented changes. The prevalence of divorce today constitutes a need to thoroughly study the well-being of divorced peoples. This study used a multidimensional definition of well-being to study divorced and widows peoples and other marital statuses. Physical, social, psychological, and socio-economic well-being were used. This study hypothesized that the married and remarried have higher well-being than the never married who in turn have higher well-being than the divorced or separated. It was also hypothesized that some are pre-disposed to divorced and widows. Support was found for the hypothesis that the never married have higher well-being than the divorced or separated. This was true in all four aspect analyses. No support was found for the hypothesis that some are pre-disposed to divorce. Further, support was found for married and remarried having higher well-being than the divorced or separated and never married, but only in regards to psychological and socioeconomic well-being. Partial support was found for physical well-being. The divorced or separated had the lowest or close to lowest adjusted well-being mean of all marital statuses except in the social well-being analysis. Marital status and especially divorce and widows does affect wellbeing.

In accordance with the criteria of anthropological research, the qualitative research methodology was used for the purpose of data collection it includes rapport building, Participant observation, key informants, sampling, interviews, focus group discussion, and daily diary etc. the data was collected from 50 widows and 25 divorces respondents, who were selected through purposivesampling.

**DEDICATED TO**

**My Parents Mr. and Mrs. Mukhtiar Ali Soomro  
and My Brother Zeeshan and Family.**

## **Formal declaration**

I hereby, declare that I have produced the present work by myself without any aid other than those mentioned herein. Any ideas taken directly or indirectly from third party sources are indicated as such.

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Islamabad, 13 August 2018

**Samreen**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In moderate and extremist social orders Widows and divorces are confronting a substantial number of issues. In rustic territories Widows and divorces confront more issues when contrasted with Widows and divorces in urban regions. Ladies getting hitched in their young age are uneducated. It is not a simple assignment for such unskilled ladies to discover an occupation for their vocation and for supporting their family. In provincial zones joint family framework still wins and odds of not getting support from the family are higher than an atomic family framework. Guardians of Widows and divorces are steady however frequently they can't address with the issues of their little girls which constrain them to search for different wellsprings of pay. Living and acquiring for a lady particularly for a widows in our general public is extremely troublesome. Large portions of them are compelled to do work for their living and it likewise require their youngsters to work in an extremely youthful age. After the separation or spouse's passing ladies feel depression sincerely alongside socially. With separate progressively turning into a typical life occasion, societal changes are presently testing this thought as respects to current associates. (Theo G. van Tilburg, 2014)

Divorcess are casualty of financial issue as well as numerous social issues. Divorces dependably feel estranged in their own particular families in light of the fact that it is possible that they are looked at with sensitivity or relatives are terrified of her as though she is some sort of awful sign and will bring misfortune upon them and their up and coming life. Divorces are generally not permitted to go close love bird couples and they can't touch their wedding dresses also. They feel vulnerable and detached when their own relatives don't enable them to try and go close to their own sisters when they are getting hitched.

Widows and Divorvces are compelled to remain inside their homes and they are pressurized to cut off from the entire society with the goal that no sort of bits of gossip can be spread about them. It is troublesome for a widow and particularly a divorced person to locate another spouse for her as in our general public men for the most part take virgin young ladies for their wives. In addition the groups of the Widows and divorced people don't recognize them with these titles of widowhood or flopped in life. Their siblings and their spouses don't welcome them wholeheartedly in their families and their youngsters are over and over treated with separation. In the event that they are acknowledged, for example, their family doesn't keep up that status for longer

timeframe and constrain Widows and divorces to locate a budgetary help for them. Widows and divorced people frequently endure with numerous ailments because of stress or on the grounds that they have the obligation of supporting their entire family. Another issue related with Widows is their depression.

Aged women who lost their husbands face severe problems for their survival. Single mothers whether widow or divorcee could not fulfill the basic needs of their children like food, shelter and education. Many of them can live on the assets left behind by their husbands or on the pension they get after their husband's death. Divorced women are been treated worse than widows. Problem of single mother are linked with the upbringing of children, their future and setting down in life. Till the time children get married and or get jobs they are dependent on the single parent. After that the problems are considerably reduced. (Prabhakar, 2009)

Children often bear the burden of the whole family after the death of their fathers and that's why the children are not able to have good education. But women with young children or no children at all are unable to have this kind of financial assistance as their children are too young to earn. They have to seek for the livelihood on their own but they are too old to start a career or get a fresh job. Moreover the developing countries are facing problems regarding managing the emotionally and socially scattered sections of the society which are more vulnerable. The fact that widowed/divorced women suffer from various psychological stresses is often ignored. It has been proven in various studies that such kind of stresses leads to psychiatric illness (e.g. depression, anxiety, substance dependence). (J. K. Trivedi, 2009)

In other societies when a man dies during his cremation ceremony their wives are also burned alive along with them. This practice is known as Sati. The first mention of this practice was in 510 CCE. In present age the practice of Sati is illegal but many communities in India are still practicing this ritual. Other forms of Sati also exist in modern period like widows renounce all the joys of life and social activities. They shave their heads and eat very simple food like boiled rice only. (Heaphy, 2007)

### **1.1 Statement of the problem**

This research was aimed to study the problems faced by the widows after their husband's death and divorcees after getting divorce from their husbands. Surviving in a hard society under hard

circumstances and financial crises is very much difficult. Another problem associated with widowhood is loneliness. Many widows live by themselves. They suffer the fear of being alone and loss of self-respect as women, They faced to the many practical problems related to living alone. After their husbands they get more stress and go in trauma. I aimed to exploring their ways of livings and their problems which they are facing in the society. In this research I collected the data regarding their ways of dealing with the problems and social hurdles. This research was aimed at how widows and divorcees took the responsibility of their families and why such women are considered as a bad omen for the society. I observed how the widows and divorcees face discrimination in the society.

### **1.2 Objectives**

Any type of report or research has some objectives and goals which keep the research on the track. Following are the main objectives of my research:

- To know the psychological effect on women after the death of their husbands or after a divorce
- To know the socio-economic conditions faced by widows/divorcees
- To study the support widows/divorcees get for their families

### **1.3 Significance of the Study**

Anthropologists have done a lot of work on the problems faced by single mothers. Widows and divorcees face a lot of problems and difficulties from early pre historic period of Islam. Before the emergence of Islam widows and divorcees were treated very badly all over the world but after the emergence of Islam the scenario changed. Islam gave women a high social status to women in the society. Many welfare societies are working on the rights of women. The significance of this study will provide better understanding of the socio-economic issues of widowhood and divorcees.

### **1.4 Locale**

The locale, which I have selected to conduct research is, in village Noori baghbari imam Islamabad. As my topic is socio economic problems faced by widows and divorcees so I selected this area as I collect more information about their lives. The Village Noori Bagh comes under the administration of Tehsil Islamabad which is situated in Bari Imam. It is some 2 kilometer away

from Quaid-i-Azam university Islamabad. It is located beside the tomb of Shah Abdul Latif. The Margalla Hills are located at the site. A stream is following at left side of the village which meets with the Rawal-Dam.

### **1.5 Justification of locale**

The reason why choose this place is that there is not any Anthropological research on the socio economic conditions faced by widows and divorcees that has been done on this area. In this area many cases are found of widows and divorcees who suffering from many problems.

I have done my complete observation on this area very calmly and I found many reasons and problems of widows and divorcees. The area has not already been investigated by any research anthropologically. There are many widows and divorcees faced socio economic conditions in their lives.



## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Widowhood and divorced people are reasonably the most upsetting and hard experience of individuals' lives. The new personality of a widow is extremely hurting which harms her internal identity as well as the entire way of life of a widow get bothered without her partner. In Pakistan and numerous different parts of the world widowhood is not only a lamentable individual distress. It is a staggering condition of diminishment that can provoke monetary demolish and cold-blooded social punishments that are regularly felt for generations.

In this article Van den Hoonaard stated:

*“The loss of the husband and of social interactions (including friendship) that depended on being a couple undermined the widow’s sense of self. At the death of the husband, the old identity as a wife and as a couple became obsolete. The widows described themselves as no longer knowing who they were or how they fit into society. A new identity as a widow thrust upon them, an identity that was not chosen, not welcomed and that was perceived as a devalued social status”*(Hoonaard, 1997)

Articles observed the kind of loneliness and gears experienced by widows living in the United States. The shape consists of subjects of loneliness and love as individuals of deceased husbands. People who make women love, colleagues organizing work and time, partners in division of labor, partners who give social status and privileged lifestyle. Loneliness that was experienced also by widows because it makes it impossible to change the happy life and secondary relationship of a married friend to a deeper one. The author explains the mental stress of women after passing through their husband (Znaniacki, 1969)

It is usually observed that widows are more acceptable for older people than young age. Usually at the beginning of the old age people begin to recognize that generally there is time for life to afford. People began preparing for death and this psychological condition will help them to accept death. Indeed, the tension and sadness associated with the care of a failed spouse can explain the declining marriage satisfaction in later life.

Mathew in his study stated that

*“The loss of a spouse is among the most stressful life events that an individual will experience. Although widowhood is an “expectable life event” for older women but “the duration of the spouse's final illness and forewarning of the death” (Mathews, 1991)*

Herbert in his study stated that

*“Widowhood later in life tends to be more expected than earlier in life. There is a complicated relationship between the timing of widowhood, anticipation of spouse's death, the intensity of grief and the resolution of the grieving process. Some evidence indicates that widowhood is more stressful when it is unexpected and source early in life”*

(Herbert C Northcott, 2002)

In another article, the author expresses his view on the acceptance of widows. He was a view that her husband 's illness had previously decided the death of the death and the death of the husband who alleviated the shock.

*“Widowhood tends to be preceded by a period of time in which men and women provide care for their ailing spouse, usually the wife caring for the husband.”*

(Kendig, 1997)

Researchers investigated how resource and contextual factors define the impact of widows on depression, the loss of spouses and the impact on women's lives. A couple who did not get sick before death has been reported to be depressed more than a woman who was sick before her husband died. This phenomenon indicates that spouse illness may predict the wife of their impending loss and these women mentally get ready for the husband to die soon. Overall sorrow and depression on spousal loss cause many social problems. (K. B. Carnelley, 2001).

In another article, the authors talk about psychological, social and economic problems of the widow

*“The death of a spouse is recognized as one of life’s most traumatic events. The survivor often confronts emotional, economic or physical problems precipitated by the spouse’s death. Some of the enduring difficulties occur immediately and are short lived, but other problems fade away only with time and are much more difficult to resolve”*

(Smith, 1986)

A new position of a woman has a very bad influence on life. In addition to disturbing the psychological state of women, it deprives all social rights, so women's widowed death is taken as a curse. The widow is captured by the death of women, that is, social, cultural, and emotional. The study will reveal the status of the Indian widow. Because of recent modernization and openness to foreign cultures in India, the widow is still one of the worst signs a woman can endure, and women are not necessarily equal here. When her husband dies, the widow often becomes a fugitive who was excluded from family assembly due to the fear that her falling shadow brings bad luck and tragedy. (Burned,2005).

Another report revealed the status of the widow of Indian society. There are more than 35 million widows in India. Here, when you marry a girl and become an old man, you become a widow. Strong disgrace is a toxic existence that marks a widow as deserving of her fate and bad karma brought about the death of her husband. Many widows are aware of being rejected by their husband's family as competition, burden and drainage for the family.

(Amy Toensing, 2013).

A widow can gain help and support from psychological and social problems from family affinities and indifferent families so that her life can be run easily.

*“Having maintained her ties to her own kin throughout the marriage, upon widowhood a woman can claim support from her kin as her ties to her agnates weaken”*

(Schildkrout, 1986).

Cheng, Chan, Li, and Leung show that widows are more problematic in some respects than the elders of Chinese who are parents

(Li, 2013).

In another article it is stated that:

*"In widowhood a women typically face a 7 percent reduction in their median family income in the first two years after widowhood while income remains virtually identical among those who remain married (even after adjusting for family size)"*

(Li, 2004).

Ahn in his article also itemized that:

*"An international study finds substantial reductions in the monthly income of widows in a number of European countries".*

(Ahn, 2005).

Divorce has long been concerned with physical, emotional and economic problems. The author argues about the economic experience of a divorced woman as follows. This study concludes that the financial experience of long-term divorced women is that the economic well-being has deteriorated more than 30% in the early years of divorce and is in a more severe decline than suggested by other studies at the same low level Respectively. This survey follows a cohort of time and practices the last three years of marriage as a basis for comparing economic dropdowns. Participation of labor force is increasing in the change of economic behavior of divorced women, but no additional schools are included

(Stirling, 1989).

A widow after her husband dies loses its source of income when losing a partner and has to face

economic problems in order to deprive them and their children from the basic necessities of food and clothing. Reduction in income is one of the biggest problems faced by widows. In developing countries like Pakistani women there is less access to electricity and resources. It is a patriarchal society, and women gain social status and security from their husbands. In addition to deep emotions of sadness and loss, the widow may face financial and social adversity.

*“Widowhood is a state of great distress of women in Pakistan. To practice a local simile, when a woman becomes a widow, she feels as if the defending chadar from her head has been detached and the status of dependency has been plunged upon her. Most of the complications of survival, which widows face, are associated with poverty and two-thirds of the poor live in the rural areas. Poor women, who do not hold land and prolific assets, live out the rest of their lives on the borders of survival. Those who do hold assets can be subjugated by the strong male culture of Pakistan especially in the rural areas. They are also the sufferers of social and cultural biases and exploitation”.*

(Hasan, 2010)

Hungerford indicated that;

*“The United States and Germany, widows are twice as likely as married women to fall into poverty after the deaths of their husbands”*

(Hungerford, 2001).

In the past 20 years the divorce rate has increased in Pakistan. This rise is mostly seen in financial unrest and neutral and lower classes, and the reasons most frequently mentioned in couple separation are not unstable.

The challenges associated with divorce are complicated due to the financial dilemma faced by women. If a woman is not stable on her own, she has to find a way of income for herself

and her children. In addition, the concept of a woman who lives on its own without being dependent on men is very strange in our social settings. For this purpose, if a woman divorces, she has no choice to return to her parents as a burden to them.

The stress of dealing with skepticism coming from people around it is another long story. A divorced woman is inevitably considered a visible individual with either contempt or sympathy. For women who have to deal with this emotional confusion when the marriage collapses, in a stressful cycle that must balance the priorities of the children, achieve

fiscal stability and make efforts to rebuild their lives Become. There are so many types of stress and the absence of an outlet that resolves dissatisfaction often exacerbates the health condition of women, as a result, they suffer from different psychological problems such as depression, insomnia, heart disease and anorexia (Khan, 2013)

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(Khan, 2013).

The main focus of this survey is to find out that divorce immediately increases the psychological distress and long-term effect on the physical health of the divorced people. The data also supports this hypothesis. After divorce, women feel more pain than married women but reported that their physical health remains the same. However, after 10 years, women who divorced have reported that the level of disease and stress was significantly higher than that of married men.

(Frederick O. Lorenz, 2006).



In this article the writer compared married women's with divorced women's that divorced faced more problems.

*Divorced women experience a greater number of stressful events such as demotions, layoffs, critical illness and problems with their own parents than did married women.*

*(Spillman, Lorenz, & Wickramma, 2006).*

In this article the author Himanshu Sareen tells us that:

Majority of women are dependent on the male members of the family specially the married one who has to revere her children. She is dependent on her husband and has to obey the decision of her husband she is unaware about the major responsibilities that her husband fulfills but when he suddenly leaves her alone shouldering her each and every responsibilities that she has taught then those circumstances she feels insecure from every aspect of life. There is a large gap to become fully aware of responsibilities but she struggles day and night to gain an ideal status in the society. Widowhood presents a married economic, social and psychological problem, particularly in the first year or so after the death of spouse. A major problem of both sexes is economic hardship. When the husband was the principal breadwinner, his widow is now deprived of his income and the nucleus of the family is destroyed.

*(Himanshu Sareen, 2009)*

Married women are totally dependent on their husbands. They are unaware of their responsibilities. When a husband leaves her then they feel insecure, she can't handle things in this way the nucleus of the family is destroyed.

In another article kotwal and Prabhkar state that:

*Single women suffers from a feeling of rage, anger, poor self identity after getting divorce. Most of the women feel rejection, insult, guilt, embarrassment, bitterness, nervousness and anger after their divorce. Financial constraints after divorce of husband are major stressors for the women to grow up their children and fulfill the basic needs of children such as three meals in a day, clothing, school fee and maintain expenses. All these women' problems are associated with child future problems such as emotional, social, physical and behavioral.*

(Kotwal&Prabhakar, 2009).

In this article writer talks about the feeling of single women after divorced, that women feels insult, embarrassment etc. Further writer talks about the financial constraints after divorced by husband from which they grow up their children is Major stress. These problems associated with emotional physical and behavioral future problem of children.

Widowhood is both as crisis because of its suddenness and the sea of changes that it wrought on the life of women and a problem as a woman try to cope with the implications which are usually economic. It represents a life phase believed with problems and loses faced by a widowed woman, who by certain circumstances is in distress yet in the middle of the ocean of life. Struggling to survive. A widow is a tragedy that is exclusively a woman's problem that resigned woman in to the group of marginaliseddefenceless and invisible beings that invariably affects their well being. Poverty is not about income alone. When one is poor his/her good life or well being becomes multi-dimensional, including material and psychological dimensions. Well being is peace of mind, it is health, it is belonging to a community, it is safety, it is freedom of choice and action. It is dependable livelihood and it is source of income and it is food.

(Nnodim 2012)

Widowhood is not just a transition from martial status to another status. Widowhood is more hazardous, painful and more humiliating to a woman than a widower because of the discrimination and ritual sanctions of the society against widows. With the result, Windows in India not



only suffer with economic or social sanctions but also face many psychological consequences, loneliness and in many cases deprivations causing emotional disturbances and imbalance.

(Smith 2002)

Widowhood changes the social and economic status of women all over the world. After the death of the widow's husband, her status changes from a wife that of a widow which her marital status also changes from the central position of a wife to the marginal position of widow. As soon as a woman become widow, it is not only the loss of her late husband but also multidimensional issues that trouble her, including socioeconomic problems that leads her towards psychological depression. Some of the major factors that expose her to disadvantage position is ignorance, powerlessness and vulnerability.

Widows denied access to land a vital production resource and stripped-off of all inheritance from their spouses, except those who have male children. When these occur, it becomes imaginable how such widows could cope with vagaries of life. Old widows do not usually want to remarry after a divorce or a husband's death because old women are beyond the age when they told to do buy husband or relatives. Since an older woman doesn't want a husband's legal control over her, she must rely on other means of subsistence. She may be further from her children's subsistence labour and from their marriages. Fewer mothers are able to arrange their children's marriages for their own benefit. Old women with no children or those children and grand-children do not help them pitied by others, and often describe their situation in tragic form.

( Bledsoe,1980 )

Rearing to remarriage of widows versus widowers, widows prefer to survive their rest of lives with their children as widows, while most of the widowers remarry although they support their orphan children but they choose a new spouse. There are many reasons but most generally is that, they need a housewife, who will meet the house activities and take care of his children, especially among young widowers, who has small children.

Widowhood is not just transition from one marital status to another after the death of the husband. Entering into widowhood is more hazardous, painful and humiliating to women than to a

widower because of the discrimination, ritual sanctions of the society against widows. With the result, widows not only suffer with social and economic sanctions but also face many psychological consequences, loneliness and in many cases deprivation causing emotional disturbance and imbalance. Women, half of the world population, have subjected to various kinds of harassment. Traditional society looked at women as a prey, motivator, and temper; therefore, they were secluded, excluded and attached social stigma. The society has been very harsh towards women particularly widows, who lost their husbands and live without re-marriage. They have been ill-treated, insulted, molested and considered them as bad women. The cruelty to widows has been very severe if they belong to socially and economically well off.

( Smithy, 2002 )

The widow's often considered a socially excluded group. Their exclusion from productive as well as reproductive activities, coupled with their low literacy rate, puts them in an isolated position. Most of the widows are suffering from a lack of basic needs and a large proportion is living outside of safety nets. Relatively young widows with dependent: and elderly widow need special care. Having an adult son does not necessarily ensure regular support for a widow. State support through social security might improve the quality of life of all need windows. For them, state support is essential since most of them are constrained by several factors (social barriers, old age, etc.) in hurling gainful employment.

(Dutta,2013)

The widows also need to provide with education and training, but initially what they urgently need is basic support for their survival as well as dignity. Widows often considered a socially excluded group particularly believed not to have benefited from growth for the same reason their disassociation from the market. From an economic point of View, unpaid domestic work carried out by (non-widowed) women serves the needs of capitalism through, as shown in the Marxian approach, lowering the costs of reproduction and maintenance of the labor force, whereas widows often fail to sand in the domain of social reproduction and thereby confront marginalization, often irrespective of the families socioeconomic status.

ta,2003)

(Dut-

A widow faces tremendous challenge in exercising complete ownership rights on either her deceased husband's property or her share of parental property, due to a very strong tradition of patrilineal ownership. On the other hand, entry of women/widows into the labor market is not only often constrained by their low level of education (or illiteracy) on also by tradition, patriarchal norms, social stigma attached to widowhood, etc. Therefore, stigmatized, poor, unskilled widows often find the casual labor market (where the exploitation of physical labor is very high and wage rate is discriminatory to women as compared to men) their lag resort for earning a living. However, engaging in casual manual work is not often smooth and easy for widows. A widow has either to give up or accept the lowest wages.

Regarding to the author viewpoint it depicts that, women are ignored. They have socialized in such a way that they could not raise their voice against the women's violence. Pakistani societies are considered male dominated and in some of the places females are deprives of some of their rights and this become worse when statuses changes to a widow, than she is totally ignored and her socio-economic role in life shrinks to nothingnes. The fact suggests that widows suffer from both economic and emotional death.

Differences, there was one common thread that wove its way through all their stories- the women's overwhelming concern for their children's wellbeing and their commitment to provide a better future for them.

( Mughal, 2010)

The exploitation of widows and divorced women emerges from the gender descrimination. Widows and divorced have been exploited in every aspect of life, especially they are dragged in to the unproductive activities. The widows after the death of their husbands they could not own the land of their husband; they are just care takers of land until their children reach to eighteen and thus they become illegible to support their family by doing job. Sometimes it has been seen that after the marriage of their children; widows are maltreated by their own son. This type of fear I have observed among some of my respondents.

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

While discussing scientific methodology Russell says:

*“Each scientific discipline has developed a set of techniques for gathering and handling data but here is, in general, a single scientific methodology. The method is based on assumptions: (a) that reality “out here”, (b) that direct observation is the way to discover it, and (c) that material explanations for observable phenomena are always sufficient, and that metaphysical explanations are never needed.”*

(Bernard H. R., Research Methods in Anthropology: qualitative and quantitative approaches, 2006, p. 5)

The aim of methodology lies in seeking answers to questions and finding true and useful information about a particular domain of phenomena in the universe. At many point of time in any discipline there are many techniques and methods available for collecting the required data. I used qualitative methods to collect data.

#### 3.1 Report building

Report building is the very first step in research methodology. It is very essential for every anthropologist to create good rapport with the people of the locale. Report building means establishment of a good relation between the collector and the source. Entering in a new community to get information is not so easy. Researcher should keep a friendly atmosphere with the members of the community. If researcher failed to develop a good relation with the society then it becomes difficult for the researcher to collect the data or information relevant to the topic. Researcher developed a friendly relation with the members of the community in the field by meeting with the people and having conversation with them. It was difficult for the researcher to develop a good rapport or relation with people but it took not more than two weeks to create a good understanding and develop confidence among them. So it was not difficult to collect the information from the community.

#### 3.2 Participant Observation:

In the anthropological research participation observation is considered to the most important techniques for data collection.

According to the Russell:

*Participant observation is both a humanistic method and a scientific one. It produces the kind of experiential knowledge that lets you talk convincingly, from the gut, about what it feels like to plant a garden in the high Andes or dance all night in a street rave in Seattle.*

(Bernard H. R., Research Methods in Anthropology: qualitative and quantitative approaches, 2006, p. 342)

By using this technique I became a part of the community and I observed them as being their member. That was direct way for me to get information from them. It helps me in getting close to people and making them feels comfortable enough with my presence so that I would observe and record information about their lives. I lived according to the native's customs, participating in the most activities that they perform in their daily routine.

### **3.3 Key Informants**

A key informant is a person who is very close to the community and they have information about the whole society. They are also helpful in cross checking of data. Key informant provides a valuable source of data. Key informants should be chosen carefully and they should be from the community. It is necessary because if the key informant is from the same community under study he/she would have all the authentic knowledge of the community. The researcher should take his time while selecting a key informant. I selected two key informants from the community and both were females, one of them was a lady health worker and second was a teacher at government college. They had good knowledge about the people of that society. They helped me a lot for collecting accurate and reasonable data.

*"Good informants are people whom you can talk to easily, who understand the information you need, who are glad to give it to you or get it for you".*

(Burnard, 1994)

### **3.4 Interview**

To know about ones inside thinking, thoughts and explanations interviews are conducted. Interview is a kind of discussion between a respondent and a researcher to have specific objectives. It is a kind of conversation with a specific purpose. Interview is of two types structured and

unstructured. Structured interviews are those that have been formulated in a pattern while unstructured are those that are based on a set plan and they do not have a regular pattern. I used unstructured interviews which helped her to get the basic information about her topic. I also conducted in depth interviews related to her topic which helped her to get the hidden information of the widows and divorcees about their socio-economic problems.

### **3.5 In-depth Interviews**

In-depth interviews are useful when you want detailed information of a person's thought. It provides qualitative data to the investigator. Interview technique is a major key to get information. In-depth interviews were applied by the researcher to get valid and reasonable data from the respondents. Researcher was able to extract the basic and hidden information related to the respondents through this major technique of in-depth interviews.

*"In-depth interviews take the form of conversation in which researcher probes deeply to uncover new clues, to open up new dimensions of problems or to secure vivid, accurate and detailed accounts that are based on the personal experience of the subject."* (Qualitative Field Research)

### **3.6 Focus group discussion**

Focus Group discussion is very helpful in getting different opinions on selected issues in the given period. In this method I conduct interviews a group of people for getting knowledge so that if one member hides the data the other member can share that data. In this method, the group should be heterogeneous in which the respondents ideally should not know each other. This technique used in the research being a very authentic tool to gather primary data according to the topic of the research.

### **3.7 Sampling**

Sampling is a very important part of the research as it gives us a choice to select a certain number from the relevant population. The sample choose by means of non probability sampling. Sampling is a method for an anthropological research that refers to drawing a sample from the whole population. Due to shortage of time, it is very important to select a sample size unit. The total population of the village was 2800 and 350 houses were present there. There were about 100 widows and 40 divorced women. So I took 50 widows as a sample size and took 25 divorced

women out of twenty. I used Purposive sampling for conducting the research. The respondent chosen according to my own judgment; interviews conducted with them for getting useful information on the topic.

### 3.8 Purposive Sampling

“In this technique the researchers purposely choose subjects who, in their opinion, are relevant to the project. The choice of respondents was guided the judgment of the investigator. For this reason, it is also known as judgmental sampling. There are no particular procedures involved in the actual choice of subjects.”

“In such cases the important criterion of choice is the knowledge and expertise of the respondents, and hence their suitability for the study.”

I used this method especially when I made informal discussion with the community people relate to my objective of research .during this I observed many people who gave me reliable data later I selected them for interviews.

**Table 1: Sample unit relating to age group of widows**

Age category	Quantity	Percentage
22	2	4%
25	2	4%
27	3	6%
28	4	8%
32	5	10%
34	2	4%
37	5	10%
38	4	8%
40	5	10%
42	5	10%
43	5	10%
45	8	12%
Total	50	100%

Source: Census Survey

Above table explains the age categories of the widows. According to table out of total 50 respondents selected 2 respondents belonged to age group of 22 years while 2 respondents were 25 years old. Further 3 respondents were 27 years old and 4 came in the category of 28 years. Other 5 respondents were aged 32 and 2 were 34 years old. Other 5 respondents were 37 and 4 respondents 38 years old. Remaining 5 respondents were those having age 40, 5 respondents aged 42, 5 respondents aged 43 and other 8 respondents were 45 years old.

**Table 2: Sample unit relating to age group of divorces**

Age category	Quantity	Percentage
25	2	8%
27	3	12%
28	2	8%
32	3	12%
34	4	16%
37	4	16%
38	3	12%
40	4	16%
Total	25	100%

According to table out of total 25 respondents selected 2 respondents belonged to age group of 25 years while 3 respondents were 27 years old. Further 2 respondents were 28 years old and 3 came in the category of 32 years. Other 4 respondents were aged 34 and 4 were 37 years old. Other 3 respondents were 38 and remaining 4 respondents were 40 years old.

### **3.9 Mapping and Census Taking**

In order to know about the composition and social standing of the area under study a socio-economic survey has been carried out in all the houses of the village. Mapping and census taking technique helped the researcher a lot to get quantitative data. It helped the researcher to get complete information about the community population, educational ratio, occupation and family structure etc. Through the census form researcher got all necessary information about the village.



### **3.10 Daily Diary**

It was to have at least schedule details of the events and the records. For recording, the day-to-day events during the research period daily diary technique also used which helps as a note.

### **3.11 Jotting**

There is no any doubt that human memory is very poor and cannot remember thing for long a time, so jotting is the best technique to remember things because researcher writes those. During research, I used to keep, daily diary with me at all times and made filed jotting on the spot.

### **3.12 Photography**

The researchers use photography during the field research as a non-verbal mechanical aid in order to get and capture informal facts about the people and the locality.

### **3.13 Secondary Sources**

Collecting data from the primary source and from the locale of the study, researcher also used relevant information available in various secondary sources which are relevant to topic like books, journals and newspapers etc.

### **3.14 Field Notes**

The fields notes method used by the researcher keeping its significance in mind to note down every piece of information observe during the research work. The writing of field notes gave an opportunity to the research to re-call the events and mode of discussion make with the respondents and with the common people that is useful to collect data.

### **3.15 Audio Recording**

I used this technique when I make an important conversation with my key informants and other community members. With the use of this technique, easily collected the sufficient amount of required data. I also used some technique during informal interviews.

### **3.16 Case Study**

Case study technique help to record related events an important way of getting into the depth of interviews of the living individuals. A case study should be defined as a research strategy for col-

lecting data regarding research topic for its verification, an empirical inquiry that investigates a phenomenon within its real-life context. Case study research can mean single and multiple case studies, can include quantitative as well as qualitative evidence, relies on multiple sources of evidence and benefits from the prior development of theoretical propositions.

These case studies helped me to understand objectives of the research. The main advantage of case study lies in the richness of its description as the subject is deeply studied. This technique used during field work to get detailed and reliable data. I included case studies for the better understanding of research.

## **4.DEMOGRAPHIC AND AREA PROFILE**

This chapter focuses on the brief profile of the village in order to understand the living conditions, resources, location, culture and many other things which can be helpful to grasp a better understanding of the topic. It is very pertinent to know the background of the location and the culture which influence the socio-economic conditions of widows and divorcees.

### **4.1. History**

The real name of Bari Imam is Shah Abdul Latif Kazmi. He was born in 126 Hijra "1617". His father, Syed Mahmood Shah, resettled his family from Jhelum to a presently called Abpara, which was the barren land then initially. Shah Latif helped his father graze the animals, but left his father at twelve and went to a Noorpur Shanan. He then moved on and went to Gharughashti, a town in district Attock and a reminded discipline. To spiritual knowledge and stand his love for Islam, Bari Imam visited many places included Kashmir, Badakhshan, Bukhara and Baghdad. He not only scholar belonging to different school of thought on various subjects. Later he went to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj. Bari Imam received spiritual knowledge from Hayat-ul-Mir "Zindapir". His Peer gave him the title of Bari Imam, which proves his link to stated that on Mughal empire Aurangzaib Alamgheer himself to come there to pay respect to Bari Imam. His shrine was built by Mughal empire Aurangzaib. It is been renovated and currently being mentioned by the government of Pakistan.

### **4.2. Population**

The total population of the village Noori Bagh Islamabad was twenty-eight thousand. Three hundred fifty households are present some of them are made of mud bricks and rest of them are cemented. From twenty-eight hundred populations, rate of widows and divorcees was above one hundred. Total population of male was eleven hundred and forty-eight and thirteen hundred and fifty-two was the total population of females.

### **4.3 Ethnic group**

There were different caste ethnic groups found in village people use term in "Zaat", Biradri or quom to refer to the caste group following table highlights the caste wise distribution of households.

### Caste based distribution

S.no.	Castes category	No: of caste categories	Percentage
1.	Raja	80	21.1%
2.	Abbasi	74	22.8%
3.	Gujjar	50	14.2%
4.	Malik	35	10%
5.	Mughal	23	7.1%
6.	Mossali	45	12.8%
7.	Golahay	12	2.8%
8.	Mochi	11	3.1%
9	Jut	20	5.7%
	Total	350	100%

Source: Census Survey

According to the table of caste based distribution total 350 house hold were there in village according to census survey. People of the area belonged to different castes. According to above table 80 respondents were Raja by caste and 74 were Abbasi, while Gujjar were 50 and 35 were malik. Other 25 were those having Mughal as their caste and 45 were Massoli. Further, 12 respondents were Golahay, 11 were Mochi and remaining 20 were Jut.

#### 4.4 Language

Potohari is the local language and the mother tongue of the most of the people living in the NooriBagh. Besidepotohari, urdu language is also spoken. People of the village can communicate very easily in urdu language. They have generally Potohari is the medium of the conversation among the people belonging to the all hierarchy groups in the village. People feel much difficult to communicate in english language. The children belonging to upper hierarchy group in the village generally speak urdu with the mixing of the words from English language which is the reflection of their education and the style and broad u. English is the considered as the status symbol as the language of leared person.

#### 4.5 Economic conditions

The village is also stratified along the lines of occupation and division of labour. Some of the people of village are involved in agricultural activities. Some people are doing government jobs as they were educated and avail employment opportunities. There were also few members who were working abroad and send handsome amount to their families living in the village. Most of the people especially from the "Kammi" caste do manual work like laborer, traylor , cobbler, barber, artisan and driver. For manual works people used to move towards nearby city of Islamabad.

#### 4.6 Religion

The religion of the people living in "NooriBagh" is Islam. There was not a single household whose inhabitants belonged to the religion other than Islam. According to the data came from the socio-economic and census survey forms, villages is stratified along the lines of sects. A predominant number of people belong to the Shia sect. This is following by the Baralvi sect. after this comes the Ahl-e-Hadith and the last in sect in number is Deobandi sect.

**Table: 4 Sect based division in village.**

S.No	Name of the sect	Quantity	Percentage
1	Shia	82	35
2	Baralvi (Sunni)	75	30
3	Ahl-e-Hadith	50	20
4	Deobandi (Sunni)	43	15
	Total	350	100

Source: Census Survey

People belonged to different sects as the above table shows. 52 were those who belonged to Shia sect and 45 belonged to Baralvi sect. other 30 were Ahl-e-Hadith and remaining 23 were Deobandi.

#### 4.7 Mosques

Every sect in the village has the mosque and people generally prefer to perform the religious obligations like offering prayers five times a day and the weekly gathering for special prayer of Jummat-ul-Mubarak in the mosque of their respective sect. There are two mosques in the village:

One belong to Brailvi (sunni) sect. and one mosque belong to shia. Beside this there are two Imam Bargah belonging to the Shia sect in which they perform the religious obligations especially in the month of Moharam.

#### 4.8 Religious seminaries

The people in the village are much inclined towards the religious education. This is evident from the number of Madrassas in the village. There are two Madrassas of all the sects which are functioning in the area. These two Madrassas also contain hostel facility as well for the out-sectioned students. One Madrassas is of Ahl-e-Hadith sect. It is for boys only. There is no Madrassas for the sect of shia but they send their children for religious education and recitation of Quran to the Madrassas of Brailvi sect.

#### 4.9 Household Physical Structure

Generally the type of housing reflect the economic positions of the inhabitants. All the houses in the village could be reduced to three types as far the kind of physical appearances and construction style is concerned. the following table depicts situation of houses.

S.No.	Type of houses	No. of Houses	Percentage
1	Packa	140	40%
2	Semi Packa	140	40%
3	Kacha	70	20%
	Total	350	100%

Source: Census Survey

Most of the households in the village are made up of cement and concert stuff and called as "Packa" houses. Almost 40 percentage of the households belong to this category. These kinds of houses depict the higher economic level of the inhabitants. The features of these kinds of houses are that there is separate bathroom, kitchen, drawing room and generally two rooms with a big courtyard. These kinds of houses generally have iron gate in front of the houses. Some sort of lawn in part of the houses is also maintained by growing grass, planting trees and putting flowered plants in "gamlas". The other category of houses which contains similar number of houses the village is called as "Semi Packa" These kinds of houses comprise of almost the same kind structure as those of packa houses but with the difference that it has some part of the houses.

Mostly the people belonging to the middle-class in terms of economic level own these kinds of houses. In few of the houses belonging to this category, some Katcha portion is dedicated to the animals. There are also some 20% of the houses that are "Katcha" in nature. The poor people with lower economic status own this kind of houses. These houses are made up of mud and wood and contain space for accommodating the animals as well. There are some houses in this category that comprise of only one or two rooms and they also lack the toilet facility as well.

#### **4. 10 Family Structure**

In the past, village life was characterized by the extended and joint family systems, but this kind of structure has undergone tremendous changes and has been replaced mostly by the nuclear family structure. People though praise nuclear and extended type of family structures but say nuclear family system as pragmatic and according to the needs of the present world. In the village there are almost 80% of the households in which nuclear family system is operating. In nuclear type, the family comprises of husband, wife and their unmarried children. There are 15 percent households where the type of family was extended in which parents live with their married and unmarried children. While very few families, almost 5 percent, where joint family system was prevalent. In this type of family structure, married brothers live with their unmarried brothers and sisters.

#### **4. 11. Facilities**

The village has got certain facilities therefore it lacks in different life facilities.

##### **1. Electricity**

The village takes the benefits of electricity. Electricity came in the village in 1980. Owing to the availability of electricity in the houses, there are many accessories that people benefit from. Their includes fans, tube light, electric bulbs, TV, fridge, iron, computers etc. The use of electricity facility also indicates the pattern of life and the economic status of the people in the village. The people of upper hierarchy group with strong economic background use expensive items like Air conditioner, Geeser etc. in their houses which are not use these things as they could not afford to bear their expenses. The usually use electricity for routine purposes.

## **2. Health**

There is proper health facility in the village. One Government dispensary was there in the village. There are two private clinics in the village. Ramzan clinic Habib clinic. The checkup from the private doctors and hospitals is highly the matter of affordability rather than choice. People of upper hierarchy and strong economic background go in private hospitals for check up. People of middle class go in government hospitals while the lower class people go in free dispensaries in the village for check up.

## **3. Education**

In the village, people are not very well educated formally. At present people are very much conscious about the education of their children though. They send their children in schools, In the village and outside village, and to madrassas according to the esteem, affordability and ideology. As for the educational facilities in the village are concerned, there are two government schools, three private schools, Asif Public Model school, Sultan Model school. Two Madrassa's one for dars-i-Nizami second for Hafiz-e-Quran. People prefer that the females stay in the village. The majority of females don't go in schools outside the village after the completion of their elementary education. People also send their children to private school. It depends upon their economic level of the parents and the conscious about the quality of education in minds of parents. Generally the enrolment ratio of the children in some sort of educational institute is quite high.

## **4. Communication**

The people of the village have not to face any difficulty as far as transportation to the other areas is concerned. people can very easily go by foot at this point. Most of the people have line telephones as well as mobile phones. there is frequently used mode of communication for the people of the village.

## **5. Shops**

At the very entrance of the village, there is small market in the village. In the village as well there are few shops which people have open in part of their houses. People take the day to day



things from these shops. The things which are not very commonly used in the village are not available at the shops. For This people use to purchase things from the Islamabad city. If people have to take things in large quantity then also they purchase things from Islamabad.

**Figure 1: Market of Village**



Source: Field Visit

## **6. Streets**

The streets in the village are vast generally. Most of the streets are paved with bricks. They are also interconnected with each other which help people to easily move from one place to other. During the rainy season passing through the street is not easy due to the mud.

## **7. Graveyard**

In NooriBagh, there are two graveyards which is the government land. To offer the funeral prayer, there is land dedicated for this purpose. This land is called as "Janazgah" (place of funeral prayer). People from all the sects offer funeral prayer. People from all the sects offer funeral prayer in Janazgah and bury their dead ones in the graveyard.

## **8. Religious Ceremonies**

Religious rituals are celebrated as religious obligations and with enthusiasm and zeal. People participation in the religious rituals is also very significant. Due to the dominance of Shia sect is in the village, month of 'Moharram' is celebrated with religious passion. They rituals performed by

the Shia during this month are very apparent. Majlises (religious gathering) are very common in this month in which the event of 'Karbala' and martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain R.A and their companions R.A has been remembered. Besides this, the Eid-ul-Fitar and Eid-ul-Azha are also celebrated with religious vigor by believers of all the sects. EidMilad-ul-Nabi (the birth of people Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is also celebrated especially designed to celebrate this occasion.

### **9.Marriage Celebrations**

Marriage in the village are predominantly along the lines of caste system. The proposal is initiated by the parents or close relatives of the boy or girl. The women of both sides take the leading role in finalizing the proposal. The usual age bracket of marriage for males and females is 20 to 25 and 17 to 22 years respectively. As for the marriage village is stratified with respect to caste and the religious sect is also considered to varying degree. Out of the caste marriages are non-existent. The preferred marriage is with close relative, in the same caste group and in the same religious sect. The members of Shia and Brailve (sunni) sect can intermarry but here the caste is not to be compromised. The members of Ahlk-e-Hadith, Deobandi (sunni) sect do not marry with the people from Shia sect, but here too the caste is the defining parameter.

Guests are invited from far off places and money is spent very lavishly. Females start singing emoluments at night in the houses of bride and groom almost one week before the marriage. The custom of 'Mehndi' is perform in the houses of bride and groom at the last night before marriage. One the weeding day, relatives and friends of the boy assemble and proceed in the form of procession towards bride's house. This peocession is generally headed by the musical bandor the local drum beaters are called for this. The marriage procession is received by the relatives and friends of the girl's family. This marriage party is then entertained with old or hot drinks depending upon the weather. Afterwards 'Nikah' ceremony is performed which is followed by 'Dua' (prayer) for the long-lasting and happy relationship of the couple. Then the feast is given to all the guests. The famous ritual of 'DodhPelai' is performed by the sisters, cousins and friends of the bride in which milk is presented to groom in a well decorated glass. When the groom drinks the milk, they demand for money in return which is generally negotiated. After this the weeding party from groom's side takes with them the bride and returns to the house of groom. Parents and relatives of bride also give dowry depending upon their economic status.

## **10 Birth rituals**

Birth of the child is the occasion of happiness for the people in the village. Because of the patriarchal nature of the society, Birth of male child is considered as the occasion of great rejoicing and sweets are distributed to friends and relatives. Soon after the birth 'Imam Masjid' or some elder male of the family recites 'Azaan' (call for prayer) in the ears of the child which signifies the birth of the child in Muslim family. On the seventh or tenth day 'Aqeeqa' (Religious celebration of birth) ceremony is performed both for males and female child. generally, one goat in case of girl and two goats in case for boy are sacrificed on this occasion. This is also dependent upon the economic level of the people. Circumcision of boy is performed by the entire local barber who is either done soon after birth or after couple of years.

## **11 Death Occasion**

Death is the occasion of great tragedy for the family and considered as the will of God. The neighbors, relatives and friends assemble in the house of the deceased in order to console the family and also as their religious and social obligation. After the death, dead body is given 'Ghusal' (bath) and kept in the white cotton sheets called as 'Kafan'. Roses and rose water is sprinkled over the body. afterwards, the 'Namaz-e-janaza' (funeral prayer) is performed. For this mourners take the dead body to 'JanazaGah' in the form of procession. They recite 'kalmaShahdat' all the way through. Funeral prayer is offered which is followed by 'fatiha' for the dead. After the prayer one of the close relative of the deceased especially the son stands before the gathering and asks about the financial deals of the deceased and presents himself as the authorized person in case of any recovery or debt. People then have the last look of the face of the deceased, in case the deceased is male. Then people take the dead body in the graveyard where the grave has been dug. The dead body is placed in the grave while reciting religious slogans. At the end 'Fatiha' is again offered and people pray to God for the forgiveness of deceased and his mercy.

## 5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FACED BY WIDOWS

According to research widows face a lot of problems after their husband's death. Widows have to do job for supporting themselves and their children financially because they have no savings before their husband's death. They do not dependent on their parent's and they earn on their own. Brothers also do not support widows because they are also living in hand to mouth conditions. Widows mostly have no sources for earning.

So they have to work outdoor. When I asked them how your parents allowed you to work outdoor they replied that their parents were not in such a condition to support them so they were allowed to work outdoor. People look upon them like bad omen in the society. Mostly people considered widows sinister. Problems they are facing are given below.

- Gender discrimination
- Extra marital affairs
- Resources
- Change in behavior
- Marital status
- Need a job
- Managing without a job
- Social life issues

### 5.1 Gender Discrimination

Some of respondent told the researcher that while working outdoor they have to face gender discrimination. When they go to work in the fields or any other place often they have to listen that they are women and they cannot work like men. Women are paid less as compared to men. During working what men says accepted as compared to women.

Some women work in the fields and some start working as house maids. They wash clothes, do the dishes and clean the house. Such women are paid and people also give food to them. Some women said that they are facing so many problems that now they wish to die and they are just waiting for their death. The money which they get from their jobs is not enough to fulfill the

basic needs of their homes. Sometimes they have to borrow money from their friends or sometime from their relative. They cannot wear good and bright color clothes. I took 50 widows as my sample size. Table below will show how many to them works in the field how many are working as housemaids or doing other jobs.

**Table: Shows type of job about widows**

Type of job	Quantity	Percentage
Work in fields	25	50%
Work in houses	15	30%
Any other job	10	20%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Data

According to field data the table quantity of widows working in field, houses and and doing any other job. Total widows which i have selected for sample size is about 50. 25 widows were working in field while 15 were working in houses as a maid and remaining 10 were doing an other job.

## 5.2 Extra Marital Affair

When they talk to any male members of the society other women of the community starts believing that these divorcees and widows have loose character. They have got freedom after their husband's death or from their divorce. Different people of the community say different things about them. When these women talk to any male of the community people start saying that this women is having an affair with that person. So in order to avoid these false perceptions they avoid talking to male members of the society. After finishing the work they prefer to sit inside their homes instead of going out door because they do not want to hear such type of gossips about themselves.

### 5.3 Resources (Facilities)

Mostly widows women have no resources at all and some have few resources. Those who don't have any resource have to go outside their homes for work. Such women have a number of responsibilities on them like they have to look after their children, have to go visit relatives home when someone is ill or someone is getting married and long with all this they have to keep on working in the fields and homes in order to earn their living as they have no other option. They don't have sufficient resources and their living conditions were undergone.

**Table: Relating to the widows have facilities and some have not.**

Facilities	Quantity	Percentage
Widows have facilities	8	16%
Some Widows have not facilities	42	84%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Data

### 5.4 Change in Behavior

one of my respondent said that before the death of her husband behavior of their relatives and friends towards them was always good and pleasant but after their husband's death behavior of friends and relatives changed suddenly. When they go to their brother's home or to their parents home they are not welcomed whole heartedly. Brothers' wives do not greet them and they avoid sitting with them for a long time. Same is the behavior of their brothers with them.

### 5.5 Marital Status

Almost all women do not marry again. When I asked the reason behind not getting married again the respondents replied that if they get married again no one will look after their children or may be their husband's family will not keep their children. Some of them replied they do not want to remarry because they do not want to give place of their husband to anyone else. Parents of one of a widow wanted to remarry their daughter but their daughter's in-laws were not willing for this. After sometime she got married. This was the basic reason the widows do not remarry.

## **5.6 Need for a Job**

After husband's death widows have no resources except few. For them it is very difficult to survive in the society without having resources or source of income. Such women are not dependent on parents or any other member of society or relatives they start doing job on their own to fulfill the basic needs of their family. No one was ready to help them in such circumstances.

## **5.7 Managing without Job**

Those women who do not go out from their home for work they start doing indoor business like making of kilns and few of them stitch clothes of the women of the village. Only two of them have cattle's and they sale milk of those cattle's to earn their livelihood.

## **5.8 Social Life Issues**

After husband's death women have to face many problems. As mentioned above by me according to my respondents they have no savings, no assets or no any other source of income because of this they need to find a job in order to fulfill the basic needs of their children and themselves. But they have to look-after other social issues along with this. For example when someone in family is ill and she cannot go there for some issues or personal reasons relatives and other people criticize them.

### **5.8.1 Case study**

Name: Jannat

Status: Widow

Age: 40

Number of Children: 4

Education: nil

Cast: Golahay

Family type: Nuclear

Jannat was a widow. She was 40 years old. She had four children 3 daughters and one son. After eight years of marriage her husband died. Her children were very young that time. She got no

support from husband's family. She had only one brother and four sisters. Her sisters and her brother took much care of her whole family. They all supported her as best as they could. After one year of her husband's death she thought she has to struggle on her own. She did not want to take support from any one. She decided to open a shop. She faced a lot of problems when she took a decision to open a shop. Because her sisters belonged to an upper class family and she belonged to middle or it could be called lower class. She was married with her uncle's son. They fulfilled their needs hardly so they did not support JannatBibi. But JannatBibi's brother and sisters helped her a lot. When she opened a shop some people said to her sisters look what kind of work your sister is doing. Her sisters said to her to close the shop.

She said to her sisters will you bear the burden of our whole family forever. They refused to support her throughout her life. She said what's wrong with you people. She knew well how she would manage the responsibilities of her family. Her husband left a house on the main road of the village. She gave that house on rent to a family. People said she is having an affair with the man living in the house she has rented. Because of these rumors she asked that family to leave the house immediately and they left. As time passed her daughter zara got a job in a bank Alfalfa. She said my daughter is helping me. Her daughter is her second hand. She faced a lot of problems. Only her sisters and her brother has helped her otherwise no one supported her in any way. She was not educated that was a great problem for her. She did not get money from Benazir scheme after her husband's death. She felt like darkness was everywhere and each and everything has finished in this world. Her in-laws said she is a bad omen for the society and the family that's why her husband has left this world so soon. Due to all these tensions she suffers from headache all the time. She has lost one of her kidney due to tensions. She had some issues related to blood pressure also.

### **6.8.3 Case study**

Name: Shahida

Status: Widow

Age: 32

Cast: Jutt



Number of Children: 3

Family Type: Joint

Education: Nil

Shahida was widow. She was age of 32. She belonged to a middle class and Jutt family. She had three children two daughters and one son. Her daughter's name was Frah, Mehwis and son's name was Iftikhar. Two years has passed of her husband's death. Before her husband death she lived with her in laws and after death she has been living with them. Her husband took the responsibility of whole family and fulfilled the basic needs of family. From the beginning she suffered a lot of problems. Her husband left some acres of land after his death. After her husband's death her brother in law said that he can't take responsibility of her and of her children. Her brother in law claimed a share in the land. He allotted half of his land to his nephew and rest to his own. After two months her in law refused to take responsibilities of her and her. At that time her sons were not old enough to support her. After having breakfast she sent her children to school and she went to the lands to look after the land. After finishing her work she comes back to home and prepare lunch for her children. She buys uniform, books and fulfilled the basic needs of her family from the money which she earns from the land. After one year her sisters in laws claimed a share from the earnings of land. Her mother in law said from this money she could be able to buy some basic things for her daughter's dowry. First two years Shahida accepted her demand but third year she denied giving the money from the earnings of land.

Shahida was upset and disturbed from the behavior of her in-laws. She did not wanted support from any member of society or relative. She could manage all the expenses of her house on her own. She faced lot of difficulties while managing the expenses of house but she could do that. After the death of her husband she never wore colorful clothes because she could not bear the criticism of people. She thought one day when her son will grow up he will support her and she will be free from tension. She was facing blood pressure issues. Before her husband's death she was not the patient of blood pressure but after the death she was.

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FACED BY DIVORCED WOMEN**

Divorce as a social issue which involves the legal dissolution of marriage and the couple is separated. A divorce happens after a husband and wife decided not to live together anymore due to their family problem. They agree to sign legal paper that makes them each single and again allow them to marry other people if they want to do so. In addition, the study investigated pre and post-divorce challenges and problems faced by divorced women are given below.

### **Problems faced by divorced women during their divorced cases and after the divorce:**

There were several problems which were faced by the respondents in their pre and post-divorce life. Divorcee women faced various difficulties and challenges related to social, familial, financial, emotional and psychological problems. Problems of Pre-Marital life are given below:

#### **Problems faced by Mother-in-law:**

It was found that some informants were not having good relations with their mother-in-law. A respondent says that "My mother-in-law always gave comments to me about giving birth to female child because she gives preference to male child. My sister-in-law also treated my daughter as a curse. But I had no option except to tolerate these derogatory comments".

Another respondent told different experiences. She said that "My in-laws behavior was rude and unfair towards me due to the reason of dowry. They tortured me physically. Once they didn't give me food for seven days and on the seventh day they poured kerosene oil on my entire body and lit the matchstick. Due to this my whole body burnt. I couldn't even think of remarriage as who will accept me in this situation".

#### **Problems faced with sister-in-law**

One of my respondent said that "My separated sister-in-law also stays with my marital family. She always tried to brain wash my husband against me. This aggravated the violent behavior of my husband towards me. Also presence of her kids increased the quarrels".

Respondents also stated that if their husband would have loved them then they would have easily tolerated the exploitation, but the disrespect and the problems such as: husband non-supportive

nature, exploitative behavior, in-different attitude became more problematic for them. In addition to this there were serious problems which were intolerable for the informants. They were: husband involvement in extra-marital affairs comment for male child, physically emotionally, verbally and mentally tortured; alcoholism and drug addiction, cheating, abnormal behavior; emotional attachment and the pressure of dowry.

### **Post- Divorce Problems**

After divorce informants faced different type of problems such as: social rejection, blame by relatives and siblings, family support, challenges related to getting a separate house, economic hardships, harassment and exploitation, problems related to emotional attachment, psychological problems such as: depression, health problem, tried to kill herself, trauma, feeling loneliness and lack in confidence.

### **Social Rejection**

Few stories of women revealed that divorce resulted social rejection. Some of the respondents also shared that they were treated as belonging to a different group because of their divorce. And they did not share same kind of relationship with her friends as earlier. They stated that the status of divorced women deteriorated as compared to married one. They feel ashamed that they are no longer married and too frightened to make contact with old friends. They also shared that before marriage and after marriage friends have same relationship but when they know about divorce they try to keep distance due to their social prestige. One of my respondent said that “After I become a divorced woman, my relation with my friends deteriorated. Many of my friends did not want to spare time with me. I was working as a teacher in an institution. But after I become a divorced woman. I was forced to change my jobs frequently because co-workers and friends behaved with me rudely, due to the reason of my divorced status”.

From the above describing, one can understand that the life & social status of divorced women are negatively affected their life in the family and society. Some of the informants shared that they did not have the same relation with their siblings as it was before divorce. Few of them identified the reasons for the bad relation with the siblings. Other respondent told me that “After my divorce the environment in my mother’s house was unexpected and unbelievable to me be-

cause I saw a change in my brother's and sister's attitude towards me. They did not accuse me directly but their behavior was totally changed. Sometimes they made me to understand that I am a stranger in that house. So I should not involve in family decisions and matters. Since my two children were very small and I had to stay only with my mother because my father was not alive”.

### **Blame on Divorced women**

Few of the informants shared that they were blamed for their divorce, especially by their relatives or some times by their siblings even her elder brother blamed her.

“My elder brother blamed me for my divorce. Moreover my other siblings did not try to understand what psychological pressure. I was passing through. However I tolerated all this because of my children. Some of my relatives said that you are responsible for the dissolution of your marriage, they also blamed me for my incapacity to continue my marital life”.

### **Challenges related to getting a separate house**

According to the interview, i found that before getting divorce some informants stayed separately while some informants lived with parents. Two participants shared that they did love marriage therefore their parents didn't support them after their. They tried to find a separate house for themselves but being a divorce woman was unable to get it. The story taken from the following one woman illustrates this point very well.

#### **5.8.2 Case study**

Name: Sumera

Age: 27

Status: Divorced

Education: 5<sup>th</sup>

Number of Children: 2

Family Type: Nuclear

Cast: Mughal

Sumera was a divorced woman. She had two daughters. At the time of divorce her second daughter was two months old. She belonged to sheikh family and a labor class. Sumera told when she got married behavior of all the members in laws was good with her. All members of her family loved Sumera. Sumera told that behind the reason of her divorce was the birth of her second daughter. Her mother in law had wished a baby boy but when Sumera gave birth to a baby girl her mother in law got angry at her. Her mother in law said if you will give birth to a girl again then we will divorce you. Sumera felt afraid and upset. At the time of her second girl her mother in law Bakhtain said to her son to divorce his wife. After two months Sumera was divorced by her husband. After divorce she did not want to go to her parents because they could not take the responsibility of her and her daughters. She went to the Numberdar of the village and requested him to give her a room to live in. He gave her a room. Sumera with her two little daughters started to live in that room. Numberdars family was so nice they took care of them.

When I went to the house of Sumera's in-laws to know the truth behind the divorce, Bakhtain who was her mother in law of replied yes it is no doubt she did gave us no son so my son divorced her. Neither she could leave them at home nor could she bring them at work. At the entrance of the village there is a private school. She went to the principle of school and requested her for an employment. She gave her a job of a peon. She worked all the time in school. After 3 o'clock she went to home and prepared lunch. She saved money which she got from her job. She was very upset about the future of her daughters. After finishing her work she spent all the time with her daughters. She did not remarry because she do not trust men now. She never felt alone herself. She was the patient of depression.

## 6. SUPPORT WIDOWS GET FOR THEIR FAMILIES

Widows adopt different ways of earning. Some of them work in the fields, some works as housemaids. Housemaids as discussed earlier get money and sometimes food. On Average a women earns five thousand rupees per month. From this money they fulfill the basic needs and pay school fee of their children. There was a woman who used to make Qaleen (Carpets) and from selling them in the Market she gets a handsome amount of money. Some women stitch clothes of the people of the village. Some of them get support from their parents and a few are those who are supported by their own children. How widows are supporting their families and from who they are getting support is given below.

- Support from parents or husband's family
- Support from their children
- Financial support
- Family support
- Double role
- Support from government scheme

### 6.1 Support from Parents or Husband's Family

According to respondents Mostly widows are not dependent on their parents or their husband's family. They do not get any kind of support from both the families. There are very few women who are being supported by their parents or their brothers are supporting them. further they said that their brothers took the responsibility of their children .They look after their children. There are very few children that can go to schools because their mother's brothers had taken their responsibility. Other children do not go to school because their mothers are unable to afford the expenses of their education.



**Table shows quantity of divorced women getting support or not:**

<b>Support</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Getting support	16	32%
Getting not	34	68%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field Data

Above table shows how women are getting support from their parents. Only 16 women are getting support from their parents but 34 are those who earn on their own.

### **6.2 Support from their Children**

There are very few widows who are getting support from their own children. The reason why most of the widows are not getting support from their children is because their children are very young and are unable to work in order to support their mothers. Those who are getting support told the researcher that their children are their second hand and they share their burden. Researcher took 75 women as a sample unit. Out of 75 women 50 were widows but there were only 17 to 18 women who were getting support from their children.

### **6.3 Family Responsibility**

Widows try their best to fulfill the basic needs and responsibility of their families. They wake up early in the morning and prepared breakfast for their children. After serving them they leave for work in the fields and few of them go for their work as housemaids where they wash clothes and dishes, clean the homes and iron the clothes. Those children who go to schools their mothers drop them off before leaving for their work. Their mothers fulfill their basic educational needs by doing labor work in the fields and other jobs. They work hard day and night for the nourishment of their children and for the basic home needs.

### **6.4 Financial Support**

There are very few women both widows who get financial support to meet the needs of their families. After husband's death mostly people particularly relatives turn their back towards them. Such women are helpless because they have no support behind them and their husband have left no resources and savings for their survival in life. This is a tough and hard time for them.

## **6.5 Double Role**

They face a lot of difficulties and problems while playing a role of both as a father and a mother. They have to work out door and also have to look after their children and other social activities. They face a lot of trouble as they have double duty now. They are unable to spend enough time with their children as they used to do this before. They consulted their male colleges about labor issue and any other matter related to job. That is difficult for them to handle the outdoor matters.

## **6.6 Support from Government Scheme**

There are few women who are getting support from government scheme such as Benazir scheme. From Benazir scheme they get three thousand rupees and this money is able to share a little bit of burden of their responsibilities. Other women told the researcher that they never got any kind of support from the Government scheme. According to their views and opinions the head of the village took money from the scheme for the distribution in the village but he never distribute the money in the poor and helpless people. He keeps this money to himself. There were only 2 women who were getting help from the scheme but rest of them were not getting any kind of support.

### **6.1.1 Case Study**

Name: Khalida

Status: Widow

Age: 45

Number of children: 5

Education: Nil

Cast: Abbasi

Family Type: Nuclear

Khalida was 45 years old and had five children. Her husband passed away eight years ago. Her husband used to drive a truck for a landlord. He was earning a good bit of money. Their financial conditions were quite good until her husband passed away. Her husband's driving was the only source of income for their family and that's why they had to face a lot of financial problems. As



she was already not living with her in laws so any expectation of support from their side was not possible. It was very difficult for one person to manage the whole house for herself. In the beginning she was so shocked that she found the whole world turned away from her.

Her in-law's behavior was already not too good so any expectation of get support or help from their side was useless. Khalida's one son and a daughter were adults and they supported her as much as they could. Her son used to do labor work with other masons of his village to earn a bit for his family and her daughter could stitch clothes so she started stitching clothes of village women at home. Khalida started to work as a maid in few houses. The money they earn was barely enough for the household needs. Most of the people who used to stitch their clothes from her daughter pay half of the labor and many requested to pay after few days but they never paid her. She asked her daughter to stop stitching the clothes and after six months her daughter stopped stitching clothes anymore. Khalida continued to work in houses and started to work along with labors. She had to face discrimination in the field as men used to claim that they carry more weight than woman so they must be paid better than a woman. These women used to work in group and the wages were distributed among them after men were paid well before. The neighbor's behavior was quite good in the beginning but then turned their backs fearing that Khalida may ask for help. Hardships of life gave Khalida psychic disorder as it was very difficult to survive in such conditions and she was too vulnerable to the society. She also had backbone and blood pressure issues. She requested government for some help through Benazir Income Support program but she was never awarded with any kind of financial support from that forum.

## SUPPORT DIVORCES GET FROM THEIR FAMILIES

Divorced women considered bad omen in society. That's why no one want to give them any kind of support but some respondents told me that they are supporting their families on their own behalf and from who they are getting support are given below:-

- **Financial support from ex-husband's family**
- **Financial support from parents of divorcee**
- **Social and financial support from her children**
- **Perform double responsibilities**

### **Financial support from ex-husband's family:**

In case if a divorcee bear children from her husband the she is supported from her ex-husband's family on the humanitarian note. The family try her best to remain in contact with her due to love and caring attraction towards children. But this case is very unique and attached with those divorcees who bear children from her ex-husband if there is no baby birth than she remain detached from her ex-husband's family. This means, she obtain financial support at certain level from that family even after divorce.

**Table shows quantity of divorced women getting support or not**

<b>Support</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Getting support	15	60%
Getting not	10	40%
Total	25	100%

Source: Field Data

Above table shows how women are getting support from their parents. Only 15 women are getting support from their parents but 10 are those who earn on their own.

**Financial support from parents of divorces:**

After getting divorce, she start living with her own parents which become only source of her shelter and food. It means, she consider her parents the most secure and safe for her life and children. Though, she face different challenges even she lives at her parents' home in the sense that parents dislike to support her in long run. And they try their best to re-marry her for the sake of her social wellbeing. Though, she spend her remaining life with this little support and do not agree to even think for re-marriage in order to avoid facing divorced again.

**Social and financial support from her children**

In case if divorcee has children from her husband than this is like a lottery for her. She remain secure throughout life and spend a better life with the socio-economic support provided to her by her children. Even then, she does not think about making another knot. This situation alarm a raise in child-labour.

**Perform double responsibilities:**

The divorced faced a lot of difficulties and problems too while perform double responsibilities of both as a father and a mother. They have to work out door and also have to look after their children and other social activities. They face a lot of trouble as they have double duty now. They are unable to spend enough time with their children as they used to do this before. They consulted their male colleges about labor issue and any other matter related to job. That is difficult for them to handle the outdoor problem without husband.

### 6.1.2 Case Study

Name: Rofan Bibi

Status: Divorced

Age: 43

No. of Children: 2

Cast: Jutt

Education: Hafiza

Family Type: Joint

Rofan Bibi is a divorcee .She is 43 years old. At the age of 26 she got married. She has 2 children. After five years of marriage her husband divorced her. When I asked her what was the reason behind your divorce she said her mother in law wanted to remarry her son. Mother in law's behavior was not good with her. Husband's behavior was also not good. After divorce she did not need any job because her mother has ordered her sons to take full responsibility to their. For three to four years her brothers took the responsibility of her but after that they stopped supporting her as they were unable to afford her expenses. After that she needed a job or to work out door for her and for her mother. She used to teach read Quran to village children. Parents of those children used to pay her with money or sometimes with wheat and rice. Teaching Quran was her only source of income. When I asked her did your living condition changed she said before the divorce she used to get dressed well and had her own home to live in but now everything is changed. She did not get married again because of her mother. In the beginning she dependent on her parents but now she is fully independent. She is not getting support from any government scheme. She is engaged in many diseases such as lungs problem, and mental disorder etc.

## **7. PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS ON WIDOWS**

This objective describes briefly about the problems which widows are facing in the society and the problems which they have to face after the death of their husbands. These problems have been identified during the research by in depth interviews of the victims. These lines also focuses on the reasons behind these problems which have an intense influence on the lives of the widows particularly after the death of their husbands.

### **7.1 Psychological Effect after Husband's Death**

After their husband's death they felt there is no more life left behind for them. After the death of their husbands they have spent three to five years in trauma. They felt like their presence has no meaning after their husband's death. When I asked them what was your feelings after your husband's death they said that many times we have considered dying as we cannot live in such a cruel society. How can we live in this society alone? The main or basic reason at that time was the lack of resources and no money to run our family or to look after our children. There were many other problems waiting for us. All these problems or tensions affected our minds badly.

For a long period of time after the death of their husbands they were unable to take care of their children as they were living in trauma. Before their husband's death they had no disease but after their husband's death they are suffering from different kinds of diseases. Due to tensions some have blood pressure problems, lungs disease and depression etc.

### **7.2 Bad Oman**

The women who become widow in their youth are alleged as bad omen by their relatives and colleagues as they think that their husbands had died because of them. Widowhood in youth is considered as a bad omen for the whole society and these widows are even not allowed to go near a bride or a newlywed couple. People think that these widows may transfer their bad omen to these newlywed couples. Even the unmarried young girls don't like to talk or interact with these widows for the fear of bad omen.

### **7.3 Feelings after the Death of their Husbands**

After the death of their husbands they felt they have got nothing left to live for in this world. They were worried about how they would manage all the responsibilities alone. They had no finance for survival of life in the society.

### **7.4 Value/Importance**

Widows felt like they were alien of some other planet or were treated almost like slaves, as in both cases they don't hold any kind of importance or value in the society. They felt like that their membership from the house had been expired and it requires to be renewed. But the life was quite opposite while their husbands were alive and they enjoyed a much esteemed status in that house with lot of respect and dignity. Their opinion in every decision to be taken for the house was essential in the past but this incident had snatched every right they used to practice in that house. They were even refused of freedom of expression. Their in-laws used to answer in return that they had their right in this house while they were with their husbands but this is not the right time to demand their share in this house.

### **7.5 Impact on Social Life**

The social life of these women was affected badly because they were all alone to manage all the activities and events around them. Their interaction with the people around them was reduced due to the burden of duties. They had to manage all the issues all alone along with managing their children's life. These duties kept them busy day in and out. Second reason behind the reduction of interaction was that their colleagues and relatives started to avoid them by the fear that they will ask for some help from them which they didn't want to do.

### **7.6 Inferiority Complex**

The widows consider themselves inferior to others as they are treated like aliens. They are not respected as they were respected while their husbands were alive or were with them. There are a few widows who were even expelled from the house right after their husband's death. They were left alone in the whole world without any support. They were even kept away from every wedding ceremony in the society. That's why they considered themselves inferior to other as they are not allowed any kind of pleasure of life.

### **7.7 Consequences of Discrimination on Mind**

Before getting widow they were treated by other males with respect and honor but right after that incident that respect's target was diverted. There were still some males though who treated them with honor and dignity even after their marital status was changed. There were some odd numbers who conceived their request for help as they had some kind of soft corner for those males. When these women came to know about the intentions of these males they start to avoid any kind of interaction with them. But some women still had to face these issues as they had no way out of their problems. This behavior by the males disturbs their minds and they cannot recover from this disturbance for days. To keep away from these problems the only way they sorted out was to avoid every male whether they belonged to their family or are colleagues at work as it was affecting their minds with a massive depression which disturbed their daily routine as well.

### **7.8 Psychiatric Disorder**

I took a sample of 50 widows. There were only 8 women out of 75 which were healthy or had no disease. 67 were suffering from different kinds of diseases i.e. TB, BP, Hepatitis and a few had very severe mental disorder. They were introduced by these diseases after becoming widow or getting a divorce. They couldn't bear the burden of managing all the things indoor and outdoor simultaneously. The massive depression with no one to support dragged them into suffering of diseases. The second reason of this massive depression was the mocking from the society.

#### **7.1.1 Case study**

Name: Khadeja

Status: Widow

Age: 42

Number of children: 3

Education: nil

Family Type: Nuclear

Caste: Raja

Khadeja was a widow. She was 42 years old. She had 3 children two sons and one daughter. She got married when she was 22. Her husband died 5 years ago. At the time of her husband's death her children were not in such a condition to support their mother. She had no savings at that time. At that time she was not getting support of any kind from her parents as well as from her husband's family. After two years of husband's death she sends her son to Sahiwal for work. Her son's name was Kareem. Kareem started earning 600 rupees per month. He used to work in a small hotel where he was working as a waiter. He worked 2 years at that hotel in Sahiwal and after two years he went to Lahore but there he fell ill and returned home. Khadeja works in the houses of village as a housemaid. She washes the clothes of the member of the house and they pay her 4000 rupees per month. According to her 4000 per month are not enough for fulfilling the basic needs of her family. So in order to earn more she also works in the fields. When she could not fulfill the basic needs of her children she takes loan from the villagers and after some time she returns their money. She said before her husband's death behavior of the relatives and friend was good but after the sudden death behaviors of all the people changed towards her. She told the researcher that when she went to her parent's home her brother's wives did not give quality time to her. They do not like to sit with her. Now all my children go to school but three years ago both my daughters were getting education from Madrisa. I try my best to manage the responsibility of my family. For almost two months I was in trauma and I felt that there is no purpose left for my life after my husband's death. I felt like there is no importance of my presence. When I see women with their husbands I wish that my husband was alive too and I don't have to face problems that I am facing now. All these tensions are effecting on my mind badly. Today I am a patient of depression. Most of the time I suffer from high blood pressure and I don't feel well. This makes my children upset when they see me in this condition.



## PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS ON DIVORCES

The psychological problems of divorce on divorced women that influenced directly or indirectly them. Under this category, there are some issues which are categorized for an easy understanding. Based on the interviews conducted on divorced women, different forms of psychological problems were observed.

When the informants were asked about the psychological impacts of their divorce, majority of them reported that the divorce left them in depression and health problems, because they had not been able to continue their marriage for the rest of their life.

### **Problems related to emotional attachment**

Lack of emotional attachment was identified by few of the informants. Divorcees were not getting emotional support from their husband. One respondent told me that “We were poor, the problem of food and plenty clothes were regular due to financial critical situation. I didn’t go to school. My father is a rickshaw puller and mother is a maid servant. My parents were abusive towards each other but emotionally they were very close. She told that I got married without my parents consent. After that my parents broke off all the relations with me. I was emotionally attached with my husband but he never cared my emotions. He became drunker and abused me verbally. I don’t have any esteemed memory with him. Our relation became so bitter in later days that there was no space for love. Thus, this was totally unexpected end of dreams of my life”.

### **Health Issues**

The women faced health problem after their separation with their husband because they were worried about her children’s education and their future. After divorce their physical condition

deteriorated very badly. They didn't want to take divorce because they were worried about their children basic needs, they were very upset and disappointed. They were very helpless concerning to handle all those things together. Some of divorced women sick because of their mental stress. Even though they don't care what others think about their divorce. They couldn't overlook all problems.

**Suicide:**

One informant tried to kill herself due to under the pressure of social disgrace of divorce, Many times they felt that there must be someone who can understand me. They feel separated. At such time, they think of killing herself. They were so depressed and felt loneliness. They have taken care of her parents but they could not take care of herself.

**Trauma:**

Divorce is a social phenomenon. In sometimes it results in serious consequences that a divorced woman reaches to stage of trauma. Their divorce is a biggest trauma in their life and then they are not interested in any activities, They were facing depression and the most difficult thing during the divorce process was lack of money, the lawyer asked for money every now and then it took a long time for me to get divorced.

**Feeling lonely and alone**

The other form of psychological consequence that investigated through interview was the problem of loneliness. Few participants expressed that their life as divorced woman was one of feeling lonely and alone. One respondent told me that after divorce I faced many problems. It's a fact that males are always at higher and they have superior position in the society in comparison to women. At that time I feel that I don't have anyone in my life to which I can tell and share my feelings.

**7.2.2 Case study**

Name: SadiaBibi

Status: Divorced

Age: 25

Number of Children: 1

Cast: Abbasi

Family Type: Nuclear

Education: Nil

SaidaBibi was a divorced woman. She got married at the age of 25. But right after one year of her marriage her husband divorced her. She had one daughter. Her daughter name was Nasreen. After the immediate divorce from her husband, she was kicked out of her house and her sister in laws said she is a bad omen for the society and also for their home. Her daughter was in her womb at that time. She was too much upset because she had no financial support for her survival. She went to her parents as this was her last option. Her brothers supported her. She used to stitch clothes to earn money. She arranged money for the basics needs of her family through clothes stitching. She also worked in the fields. Her family gave her permission to workout door. When the researcher asked her about the circumstances in which she had to face gender discrimination she said she did not see gender discrimination. She did not remarry because of her brothers. Her mother died and there was no one to look after her brothers so she did not get married again. She faced a lot of problems while managing her social life. She had to look after her brothers and along with this her daughter too. After divorce she suffered from typhoid which left an effect on her tongue. She can't speak well. Nobody can understand her easily.

She took care of her brothers for many years but now when her brothers are married they asked her to leave their home. She has fulfilled her responsibilities very well. She admitted her daughter in the school. She is getting education. She is not getting support from any government scheme. Nobody supported her. Psychiatric disorder is due to her divorce. She lived almost 7 years in trauma.

## 8. PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE LIVES OF WIDOWS

In this chapter I am briefly describing the problems related to the lives of widows. This provides a brief data, collected through in depth interviews. This data helped to extract the problems which these women are facing in their lives. The data has been collected through the interviews of victims in the specific region.

### 8.1 Economic Problems

When the women are left alone without any kind of support, it's the time when their social problems are getting started. Only few are provided with any kind of investment or assets from their husbands but many of them neither have any kind of assets left by their husbands nor savings/investments that's why they have to face a lot of social issues in the society. Many of them are compelled to seize the education of their children as they have no money to bear the expanses of their education. They also face problems in dealing with the social events in the family as the labor they do for their financial support is not even sufficient to manage the household expanses and it is not possible to deal with other matters under such kind of circumstances. There are a few who have to starve due to the unavailability of the labor or any other hindrance compelling them to leave the job. Their financial burden seeks relief by borrowing money from the neighbor and they return them later whenever they have money in hand.

#### 8.1.1 Case Study

Name: Mumtaz

Age: 45

Status: Widow

Number of Children: 3

Cast: Jutt

Education: Nil

Family Type: Nuclear

Mumtaz was 45 years old and belonged to a middle class Jutt family. Her husband died five years ago. She had three children Ajmal, Imtiaz and Amna. Amna is her eldest daughter. Mumtaz had savings of about six lakh rupees. She saved that money by selling her husband's buffalos. But that money was in her brother's account who lives in Bahawalnagar. They used to tell her that her money is safe and secure in his bank account. But when Mumtaz demanded for the money he refused to give her. He told her that he gave that money to her husband for his medicines expenses and even refused from any kind of money he took from them. Reality was that her brother returned only one lakh and ten thousand rupees. Other than that money Mumtaz had a plot of 10 marlas in Bahawalnagr. But when her father died her brother transferred that plot to his name and denied Mumtaz's share. He only allotted her two marla's.

She faced the reality of her relatives' right after the death of her husband and she also felt a sudden behavior change from her relatives. Her in-laws turned their backs on her because her brother refused her to give her share in the land and money. They felt that she will return to them for help. Mumtaz sold her two marla land and saved that money in her own bank account in order to use that money for her children's marriage.

Mumtaz told that she has four buffalos and she sells the milk and butter obtained from those buffalos to manage the household expenses. Mumtaz managed her children's educational expenses from those buffalos. She used to borrow money from milk collector whenever she had to pay the electricity bills. Very often she used to work in the cotton fields as she needed more money for her social activities. Mumtaz managed her house and social activities very efficiently.

### **8.1.2 Case study**

Name: Haleema

Age: 37

Status: Widow

Cast: Malik

Number of Children: 3

Education: Nil

### Family Type: Nuclear

Haleema was a 37 year old widow who belonged to a very pious and humble family but financially very poor. Haleema had three children Sadia, Ameen and Farooq. Ameen was her eldest son who is 15 years old. When her husband died her children were very young and were unable to help her. It has been nine years since her husband left her. Haleema lived in a nuclear family her husband left her parents after the first year of marriage. It was quiet difficult for Haleema to manage the whole house alone with the burden of three children. It was a very big loss for her and her children as she felt alone in the whole world. She was emotionally so much hurt that it was like an end to her own life. Haleema's all assets were an old father, a brother and three children. Her brother was married as well and had three children. He was also financially very weak and was unable to support her sister. No one in the world stretched hand for help neither from family nor from colleagues. Haleema used to work in corn fields in summer and as a helper in loading the truck. She also used to pick the cotton in the season and in winter she used to work as a labor in the adjoining areas. One day while loading a corn truck she hurt her back due to a strong jerk of load on her head. This pain ever increasing pain couldn't let her walk even.

Even with such worst conditions she used to work in the fields in order to earn a bit of loaf for her family. Haleema was left with no savings and even she had no other source of earning than to work in the fields. It was very difficult for her to manage her home and her social life as well. In the need of attending a funeral or a marriage ceremony she used to send her son to attend or quiet often she took the matters in her own hands. She had to earn along with managing all those social activities in her family and colleagues. After a few years her son got a job in a factory situated in Lahore. Now with the two earners in the house earned enough to feed the mouths. But it didn't last long and Saeed got returned home due to sickness and her back pain increased so badly that she couldn't go to the field works or any other job she had in the past. She even couldn't manage to go to the hospital for her and for her son's treatment. The ever tightening financial conditions lead her children to the darkness of illiteracy as well. Then her daughter learned needle skills and started working to share the burden. But not much she could add to their family needs as they spent few days starving in the whole weak. She is now tired of brutalities of life and waiting for her death as she only can rest in peace after death.

### **8.3 Change In-Laws Behavior**

After the death of husband the behavior of in-laws takes a sudden change in towards the widow and even to their children. Their behavior during the presence of her husband but after his death they even refuse her share in her husband's property or assets. There are a few in-laws who expel the widow along with her children but a few allow them to live in their house but all the expenses have to be borne by the widow herself. They are even compelled to share their earnings with their in-laws but only a few have the courage to avoid such kind of pressure from their in-laws. When the in-laws expel them they move to their parents' house and then manage their own place to live in due to the pressure from their brothers' wives.

#### **8.1.3 Case Study**

Name: Farhana

Status: widow

Age: 32

Children: 2

Cast: Mossali

Family type: Joint

Education: nil

Farhana lost her husband at the age of 32. She had two children Fatima and Farhan. Right after one month of her marriage she was expelled from her in-law's house and she started living in her parent's house since then. Her in-laws alleged that their son (Farhana's husband) take more care of Farhana's parents as compare to his own parents because of this they asked their son to leave his home and to join along with his wife and his in-laws. Her husband was a taxi driver. He used to spend all the money he earns on the household needs and never spent a penny on himself. When her husband died her sibling's behavior started to change as her financial support was stopped along with her husband's death. Farhana's mother passed away long ago and all she had was an old father who was helpless in front of his sons. Her sisters in law didn't say it to her that she is an overload on their earnings but they always used to mention the only source of house

earnings. Her children were not allowed any pleasure of life and were told that their mother earn no money so they don't deserve those pleasures i.e. fruits, candies etc. These miseries dragged her to psychic disorder as she was emotionally hurt due to her sibling's behavior. She was left with no financial support or supporter as her in laws had already rejected her and her sibling had also changed their behavior after her husband's death. She didn't have any kind of savings or support from which she could manage a place to live with her children. She bore her sibling's behavior for six months and then she left along with her children to find a source of earning in order to raise her children by her own. She went to her relatives for help and one of them understood her problem and allowed her to live with them. She was not satisfied for living with them but it was her only way out. Farhana used to wash their plates and helped them in other household chores. After sometime she felt that some members of that house were not happy with her presence.

After living there for two months she left to live in someone else's house and they gave her a room to live in until she finds a living place for herself. She was running mad due to these miseries and worries which lead her to psychic disorder. She worked for hours day in and day out. She was going through the worst days of her life and had almost become a psychic patient.

#### **8.4 Availability of children Support**

The women having younger children are unable to support their mother financially, they can't help their mother to ease the burden of the household chores as they are too young to work and earn for their mother. The adult children are able to work outdoor and can earn the livelihood not only for themselves but also for their parents as well. Sons work in the fields while the daughters stitch the clothes to add a bit in the household needs. In this way these mothers seek relief by the help provided by their children and their worry of spreading their arms in front of other people is vanished by this.

#### **8.5 Job Issues**

Women have to leave their house in order to find a job as they know if they don't do a job nobody is going to share their burden. Mostly the women are illiterate so to find a better job for themselves is a serious problem for these women. So they have to work as a maid, housekeeper or helper in any school or organization etc. They have to face living issues when they have to



leave the town for the job sake. The limitations of their earnings don't allow them to afford a better house. A few are literate and Hafizas who can easily secure a teaching job in school or in Madrissas. The narrow minded people of the society look down up on these women due to their outdoor job as they consider women's place in the house only.

#### **8.1.4 Case study**

Name: JannatBibi

Status: widow

Age: 28 years

Number of Children: 2

Cast: Gujjar

Family Type: Nuclear

Education: upto 5<sup>th</sup> standard

Before the death of jannaBibi's husband she lived in a separate home and her husband was a bus drive. They could easily manage their expenditures, and she had no need for a job. But when her husband died she didn't have any kind of savings with her. This was because her husband's income was not that much to do savings as well. They only could manage their livelihood with that money. After death of her husband the family came under crisis. She only had two daughters and no son; they were also very young at that time. After death of her husband she lived in a separate home for one year. She was hafiz-a-Quran so she used to go for Daras near city Arifwala to teach Quran. She used to 7 thousand rupees from that job. She suffered many hardships when she used to go to teach the Quran. She had to travel a lot in order to reach her destination. No one created any kind of issues on her job or her character. All the people who lived in her village usually said that she suffers a lot for her daughters. And she cannot ask her family to support her because they were also not that much finically strong. So her family also didn't stop her. She had two brothers and they did work on daily wages. So they cannot support her either.

One day she was going for bus stop on her way she met the owner of her husband's bus. They both husband and wife were going somewhere and they gave her lift in their car. From that day her in laws start blaming her that she didn't do any job, she lied to us. She felt very bad she only knows how she earns money for her children. From that gossip she came under stress and became sick. Than her in law's asked her to come to their house as they can afford their expenditures and her brothers also force her to shift. Now since two years she is living there. Her in law said that the women of their house didn't go out for work so she stop doing her job. She looks after the whole house and also the children of her brother in laws. And her sister in-laws didn't do anything they treat her as a maid of their house. She cook food but when her brother in laws came into house their wives serve the food to them and give her and her daughter's food to eat which is left in the their plates. Her daughter's cry for milk but they are get refused every time. When she was telling me the story she start crying. She tells me she is bearing many hardships while living there and she is worried about the future of her daughter's.

#### **8.1.5 Case study**

Name: Saira

Status: Widow

Age: 45

No. of Children: 2

Cast: Golahay

Family Type: Nuclear

Saira was a widow. She was 45 years of age. She had two children, one daughter and one son. She got married when she was 19 years old. After ten years of her marriage her husband died. One month after her husband's death her in-laws expelled her from her home. At that time she was quite alone. No one helped her in such difficult time except her sister. That time was a very complex situation for her because she had no place to live or even no food to eat. She decided to go out of the village for job. She went to Lahore for finding a job. That was a difficult time and complex situation for her, reason was that she did not know any one there. She started to live in

data Darbar. After some days she managed to find a job for herself as a maid. She used to wash clothes and ironed them. They paid her five thousands rupees per month and gave her meal to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. They gave her a one quarter to live in. They treated her very well. She admitted her children in school.

People started gossips about her character in a village. They said she got married in Lahore that's why she did not come back. After three years her sister in law died and she went to her funeral. Every woman asked her whether she got married in Lahore? She did not understand what she should do. But she did not give response to them. Then she went back and after ten years of work in Lahore she came back to her village and purchased land to make a house of her own in the village. Now she was living in the village since three years. She worked in the fields and washed clothes in evening at Numberdar's house. Now she wants to marry her daughter and she wants to give her a good Dowry. Her sister supported her. She said her first and foremost responsibility will complete when her daughter will get marry.

#### **8.6 Impact on Mind due to the loneliness and Economical Issues**

Due to the loneliness women feel like they are left alone in the world with nobody to take them under consideration as they feel that they have lost their mere presence. Managing the household chores is not only difficult for them but also impossible as many of these women can't recover from the agonies. Loneliness along with the pressure of managing the household chores drives them crazy and even can't look after their children. Many of them collect themselves to recover from the nightmare they are passing through for the future of their children but they also fall in the hands of different diseases.

##### **8.1.6 Case study**

Name: Maryam

Status: Widow

Age: 35

Number of Children: 4

Caste: Jut

Education: nil

Family Type: Joint

Maryam was a widow. She was 35 years old. She got married when she was 20. her husband died three years ago. She had four children two sons and two daughters. After her husband's death she became mentally unstable. Her husband was murdered by her nephew. She was in trauma for three years after the death of her husband. After her husband's death her in-laws kicked her out and refused to give custody of her children. Children wanted to meet their mother but their uncles and aunts did not allow them to meet their mother. After six months of husband's death her mother died. After one year her in-laws returned the children to their mother. But in-laws did not gave back her eldest daughter .They said she could meet once every two months. She was dependent on her brothers. Her brothers looked after her and her children. She admitted her children in a private school which was near her home.

Her elder brother took the responsibility of her children. But she told that the behaviors of her brother's wife have changed. They treated her children cruelly. Benazir scheme supported her. She got three thousand rupees after two months. When I asked her any other member of community helped you? She replied no, everyone here is selfish. People think just about themselves. People do not take tension about any one. Now she is much better. She decided to work in a school as a maid. They will pay her seven thousand per month. She wanted to support her family because her parents have been bearing her burden for the last three years.

### **8.7 Children Custody and Remarriage Issues**

Many of the in-laws expel the widow from their house but they also refuse the custody of the children to their mother. Many of the women who become widow in a very young age are expelled after being accused of bad omen and their parents face serious problems when they try to remarriage their widow daughters to secure their children, their in-laws refuse to allot the custody of their children. Many of these widows avoid remarriage due to the better future of their children. In this regard these widows have to seek the help of law but many of them can't afford the judicial procedure and are blackmailed by their in-laws. Widows also avoid remarriage due to the unsecure future of their children in the new house of her in-laws.

### 8.1.7 Case study

Name: Fozia

Status: Widow

Age: 25

Education: 4<sup>th</sup> Standard

Number of Children: 2

Cast: Malik

Family Type: Joints

Fozia was twenty five years old widow. She belonged to a very poor class and belonged to Malik Cast. She had two children one daughter and one son. Fatima and Ahmad. Her husband passed away two years ago. Her in-laws barred her from her home and she started living with her parents but her in-laws refused to give her the custody of her children. Her parents wanted to remarry their daughter that's why her in-laws refused to give her children. Her parents filed a case in a court and after court decision, her in laws returned her children. She was very upset and disturbed because she had no resources and savings for her survival in the society.

She had a skill of making Qaleens. So she decided to make Qaleens. She found links who can sell her Qaleens in the market. When she met that person she told him about her problems. He appreciated her and took responsibility to sell her Qaleens. That person released her tension. She started make Qaleens and she earned a handsome amount of money from this. She was happy from her work. Now she can bear the burden of her family and fulfill their basic needs. Her brother was very greedy and hungry. He demanded all the money from her that she earned by the job. She could not fulfill her demand because her brother was drunker. Her brother asked her to leave the home if she could not fulfill his demands. She got upset at his foolish act. Her parents decided to remarry her in Lahore. She also wanted to remarry because of her daughter future.

She wanted to wear colorful clothes but she could not wear. One day she wore dress in pink color and mostly women criticized on her. They said that she had no sorrow of her husband's death. She had some medical issues related to blood pressure. Her parents supported her as much as

they could. She thought if her husband was alive today she would have not faced such problems. Where her parents wanted to marry her they people said that they will take complete responsibility of her children.

### **8.1.8 Case study**

Name: Rani Bibi

Status: Widow

Age: 38

Number of Children: 1

Cast: Moosali

Education: Nil

Family Type: Joint

Rani Bibi was a widow. She was thirty eight years of age. She belonged to a poor family of labor class. Her caste was Malik. She got marry when she was 25. Her husband passed away eight years ago. She faced a lot of problems after her husband's death. She has only one son. Her in-laws expelled her out from her home and refused to give her son. She went to court and filled a case against them. After the decision of court her in-laws returned her son. She had two brothers but they did not support their sister. She had no savings before the death of her husband. Even she had no place to live in. She was living with her husband's friend's family.

She decided to work in the fields and she starts getting three hundred rupees per day through labor. As time passed she started having medical issues because of tension of financial crises and as she was completely helpless. Many people of the community criticized her just because she was living with another family. She had no other option instead of this. She felt totally alone after her husband's death. Everybody from relatives turned their back to her. She could not bear more criticism of people so she decided to move from there and requested her brothers to keep her with them. Her brother's wives were not happy with their husband's decision because they did not want to live with her. They disliked her and her son.

When she was on job her brother's wives treated very badly along with her son. As mentioned above she was having some health issues and to do labor in such condition was very hard for her but despite of this she had to do labor because she could not bear more criticism of her brothers wives. She is waiting for her last breath

### **8.9 Criticism on Colorful Clothes**

When the women become widow or divorced, it's a myth in the society that they can't wear the colorful clothes as it may bring bad omen for themselves and for the people around them. If they wear the colorful clothes people start criticizing them as they say that they don't have any agonies for the death of their husband. They say that they are happy with the freedom they got after the death of the husband to wander around anywhere they want to. Many of these widows want to wear colorful clothes but they avoid wearing the clothes due to the criticism they have to face from the society.

#### **8.1.9 Case study**

Name: Rani Bibi

Age: 38 year

Status: Widow

Education: Nil

No. of Children 1

Cast: Chaudhry

Family Type: Nuclear

Rani Bibi belongs to a poor family in which everybody was uneducated. So she was also uneducated. She got married in the age of 20. After four years her husband died. When her husband died her sister in laws fights with her and used to beat her. She used to blame her that her brother is dead because of her. They said she is cause of her husband's tension so because of this he had a heart attack and he died. In the nourishment of her daughter they didn't help her. Nobody

helped her. She didn't even ask anyone for her help. Because she thought that when she can earn by herself then why asking anyone for help. Before the death of her husband she lived with her in laws and after the death she lived there. After 13 years even her in laws didn't take her and her daughter's responsibility.

After the death of her husband she started working as a house maid in other people's home. In the very beginning they asked her to wash their crockery only. But after sometime they know that she is widow and had no other work to do so they started taking advantage of her position and without increasing her pay they forced her to do their whole work at home cleaning, washing etc. she leave her daughter in home in her absence her in laws show bad behavior to her daughter and they beat her and also order her to do the household work. Then she admits her daughter at village government school. And in holidays she takes her daughter with her where she works. They give them food in the evening and they also give them old clothes. She lived a miserable life. When her daughter became 16 years old she married her. She had some money which she saved from Benazir income support and her brother also helped her. She purchased a bright color dress on her daughter's demand, but her sisters in laws blamed her that she is living a happy life she had no sorrow of her husband's death. She gifted that dress to her daughter because of that gossip. After marriage she realizes that the person to whom she married her daughter is very greedy. He demand lot of things for them firstly he asked for a pedestal fan, the widow fulfill their first demand but after that they demanded for TV and said that if they didn't fulfill their demands he will divorce her daughter. They know that I cannot bear that so I fulfill their demands. Her sisters in law start blaming her that she is in a affair with uncle of her son in law so that she gave that much things to her daughter.

She said she is fed up of that life how she fulfills their demands. Firstly the death of her husband and then the troubled life of her daughter. She didn't know what to do. She became the patient of depression.



## **PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE LIVES OF DIVORCES**

In this chapter i discribe the problems related to the lives of divorces:

### **CASH FOR WORK ACTIVITIES (DOMESTIC):**

A divorcee start making her living by working at small scale in other houses. She adopt the status of maid. She earns and bear living of her children. A divorcee work in nearby houses, factories, companies, textile and cosmetic industries. By working at different places, a divorcee earn mon-ey for her survival and for survival of her children. She learn skills and techniques to work pro-fessionally in technical environment.

### **WORK PLACE HARASSMENT:**

A divorcee feel un-satisfied and insecure when she is harassed at work place and in office envi-ronment. People do not see her with respect and dignity. She is being trapped at every step. The environment at office become nuisance day by day for her if she disclose that she is divorced.

### **SOCIAL EXPLOITATION:**

Social exploitation remain at very peak in our society in case of divorcee. When a women re-ceive divorced, she remain in-secure in male dominant society. Every one try to use her for his own interest without making a knot. It became harder for her day by day to survive in the soci-ety. Therefore, a divorcee try to secure her respect by doing hard at her own. She always want to spend a happy and secure life like every normal women spend in the society.

### **SOCIAL STATUS AND CHANGING BEHAVIOR:**

A divorcee does not obtain prestigious respect in the society after getting divorcee. Her social status does not allow her to live independently in the society. A divorcee perceive a changing behavior day by day from the people living around her. Mostly people try to tease her and devel-op harsh rumors and arrogant behavior towards her. Due to this, a divorcee losses her confidence day by day in the society and passes a grieved and deprived life forever.

### **Character Evaluation**

After divorced women are left alone in the society with negligible moral support from their families. In our society it is a part of husband's duties to protect the dignity and honor of her wife. Whenever they try to seek help from any male member of the society or their family people start an enduring criticism on their character. They blame them that the major reason behind their divorce is the bad character they had before widows are included in such kind of character analysis of the society. Whenever anybody sees them standing near or talking to any other male, doubts arises regarding their character and it's the worst scenario widows and divorcees face.

### **7.8 Relatives Turn their Backs.**

Before getting divorced or becoming widow all the people in the surroundings and in the relatives respect them but right after the divorce or the death of husband every relative and colleague turn his back upon them. They turn their backs up on them for the fear of any kind of request for help from the victims. Many of the victims shift with their brothers or parents and help them in managing the household chores along with working outdoor. When brothers are married, many of them change their behavior after getting married. Their sister in-laws can't bear victims' presence in the house and compel them to leave their house. The women who are living separate, whenever they visit their brothers' house their sisters' in-laws don't pay heed to their presence due to the fear of request for help.

### **Economic hardships of divorced women**

Economic aspect is the effective component of the society. Every happiness, trust, support and sympathy or tension, clash, quarrel and marital appropriateness in the family is the causes of economic factors. The divorce rate is higher in spouses have more expectation from each other, faced economic hardship and gone far from their residence due to the economic achievement.

The other economic consequences of divorce on women. The problem of women after divorce is an economic issue also. Family member has different reactions to divorce and separation. Sometimes, spousal support and child support is denied to women, when this happens, women are put under stress to bear the burden of a single parent. Times were tough when there were two family members earning and now that it has come down to one, and that situation is very difficult to her. Most of the informants were not working before divorce, but they took jobs after their divorce to

adjust to their economic expenses. Some women are start to work so that they are not become burdens to their families.

#### **8.1.10 Case Study**

Name: Haleema

Status: Divorced

Age: 43

Cast: Mochi

Family Type: Joint

Education: Nil

Haleema was a divorcee. She had one daughter her name was SugranBibi. After divorce her husband refused to hand over her daughter. She had no financial support to survive. She went to her parents after divorce. She had to do a job for earning livelihood. Her parents or brothers allowed her to work outdoor. Her brothers also used to go out door for job along with their sister. When researcher asked her did the behavior of the relatives changed after divorce she replied, 'I do not go to relatives home so I never seen such a difference in their behavior'. Her brothers supported her and she also fulfilled her responsibility as well. She supported her family by doing work outdoor.

When sometime she wears colorful clothes people say different things but not on her face. Sometime behavior of her brothers' wives change. She sold her cow and installed water pump in her home. She did not remarry because she said when she did not get comfort from her ex husband or in laws then how I will I get comfort from another one. This was the main reason behind this. Her living conditions are automatically changed after her divorce she never worked but now she has to work. She is getting support from government scheme. Otherwise no one form the society or from relatives supported her.

#### **8.1.11 Case study**

Name: Jameela



Age: 28

Status: Divorced

Number of Children: 2

Cast: Gujjar

Status: Widow

Education: Nil

Family Type: Joint

Jamela was a divorced woman. She belonged to a Shaikh family and labor class. She had twin baby boys who were one and half year old. She got divorces six months back. She said after divorce she faced a lot of difficulties and lot of problems. Many members of the society criticize her. People said she in having an affair with the boy of Sukhera family that's why she got divorce from her husband. People were right. Her husband did not divorce her but she demanded for a divorce. Researcher went to Jamela's in-laws to know about the truth behind her divorce, her mother in law replied that she treat her lies as her sister. All members of the house loved her very much. Jamela did not want to live with us. She went to Lahore with her husband but there she said I want to live with my parents because I am not happy with you. Her husband ignored this and for some days he left her wife Jamela with her parents. After spending some days with her parents she came back and demanded a divorce. Jamela's mother in law told that in such circumstances her son Raouf divorced her. And her mother in law told that she was warned by many people about her affair with a Sukhera boy that was the reason why she did not want to live with her son.

Whatever Jamela's mother in law told, was right. Jamela said she was mad and fool that she demanded for divorce because after divorce she faced a lot of difficulties and problems. She faced criticism. Her in-laws were very nice with her. After divorce she was living with her parents but the behavior and attitude of her sisters is changed. Jamela used to work as a labor. Her sisters used to take care of her babies but after one month they said they could not take care of them.

Jamela used to take her children along with her at work. Her babies cry a lot during her working hours but she had to bear all that.

She bought milk powder for her babies from the earning of her labor work. She got support from the Benazir scheme. She gets three thousand rupees from the Benazir scheme and fulfills the basic needs of her babies. She said her parents wanted to remarry her and she also want this to because she could not bear the criticism of the members of the society.

## 9. CONCLUSION

The widows and specially divorcees are looked down in this conservative society and these women have to face a lot of problems and difficulties in the society. It is also been noticed that the women living in rural areas are facing more problems comparatively to the women living in the urban area. The reason behind this phenomenon is that the women are married in a very young age in the rural areas while in the urban women are married in their adulthood and the young married women remain illiterate due to early marriage which causes problems in their marital life. Moreover illiteracy deteriorates the situation even worse after the death of husband or divorce as they have to take the responsibility of the house and the children and to secure a job to bear the financial burden. The only job an illiterate woman can seek is to do labor as they have no experience and knowledge. For such cases handling the daily life issues becomes very difficult. Women who have adult children are being supported by them but women with young children are in real trouble. These women have to face not only economic but social issues as well. In India situation is much deteriorated for the widows. They are treated with very bad behavior and there are still many areas where 'Satti' is being practiced. Satti's traces are found back in 510 CCE as the widows were buried alive along with her husband or was burnt alive. It is abandoned by the laws now a days but it is still being practiced.

The males prefer to marry young girls over matures which causes an increase in the number of widows which remains unmarried. Another reason behind the large number of unmarried widows is that they don't accept any marriage proposals because of their children. They fear for the future of their children.

Widows and divorcees lose their status of respect after the death of their husband or divorce. It has affected their lives which are changed drastically. The majority of these women were left with no financial support or any kind of savings which could be used in the need of hour. Women with the adult children were being supported by them but women with the younger children were in trouble to manage the things around them.

Gender discrimination was a major problem faced by the women who were compelled to work out-door. They were paid less than the males as they claim that they work better than females. Even their relatives turned their backs upon them and they changed their behaviors toward them.

The very same people changed their behavior to avoid any kind of request for help from these women. They feared that if they interact with these women they had to help them for their problems. The handful of people helped them like the landlords or the head of the village (Nabardar). If any women didn't have the place to live in she was allotted with a house or a living place by these men but none other.

The women who became widow in a very young age was considered by the society a bad omen as they think accuse them for the reason their husband's death. They even avoid wearing colored clothes and if they wore it for once in a blue moon, people used to criticize them for just wearing colored clothes. They say that these women (widows or divorcees) have no agonies in their heart for their husbands. The divorcees were tagged with a bad character as the society think that they were divorced for their character. But the reality is much different a few were divorced for inability to give birth to a baby boy and a few were compelled from their in laws house as they were accused of theft.

In some cases in laws used to treat their daughters in law with respect and dignity but right after the death of their husband they lost their status in the in law's house and a few were even compelled from the house. These women feel that after the death of their husbands they have lost their importance in the house. They were facing many kinds of diseases by bearing the burden of the house all alone and the poisonous words of people also added a lot into their agonies.

These women wanted to educate their children but the poverty hindered their dream to be fulfilled. A few of these women managed to work day in and day out to manage the educational expanses of their children. They even didn't remarry to keep their children away from the problems. They were facing a lot of problems to manage the household expenses. They used to borrow money from their colleagues and friends and used to return them afterwards. There were few women who couldn't even manage food for themselves. They used to eat bread with water for once in a whole day and they couldn't collect themselves to work and earn because of agonies but afterwards they were compelled to work for their children. Most of them were waiting for their deaths as this was the only way to peace.

## **Questionnaire:**

### **Psychological Effect after the Death of Husband:**

- Do you feel that psychiatric disorder is due to the death of husband/divorce or due to the age factor?
- What are the impacts on the social life after the death of the husband/divorce?
- For how much period you suffered from the agonies of your husband's death/divorce?
- What kind of behavioral differences you faced while interacting with male family members after the death of husband/divorce?
- How this reaction effected on your mind while combating with these problems?
- How do you feel when it comes to your mind that you are a widow/divorcee?
- Are you considered as a bad omen for your family or society?
- What did you feel after the immediate death of your husband/divorce?
- Do you feel that your presence has no meaning or has no importance after the death of your husband/divorce?
- Do you feel yourself inferior to others after this incident? If yes then why?
- How did these feelings affect your routine life?

### **Socio-economic problems faced by widows/divorcees:**

- How you earn your livelihood?
- Did you need a job for finance to your family after husband's death or divorce?
- How you arranged money for the basic needs of your family?
- If you faced financial difficulties then was it hard for to find a job?
- Did your family allow you to work outdoor?
- In which way you find gender abuses/discrimination while working outdoor?
- What kind of behavioral difference you have faced after husband's death/divorce?
- Did you face any problem while managing your social life?
- How did you manage your household resources?
- Did your living conditions change after your husband's death/divorce?



- Which kind of problems you face when you interact with married or unmarried women?
- Why didn't you marry after losing your spouse?
- Did the society accept you with the title of widow/divorcee?
- What kind of financial support you get from your husband's family?
- Were you dependent on your parents?
- Did any other person except your parents support you? If yes, then what kind of support?

**The support of widows/divorcees to their families:**

- How do you manage the responsibility of your family?
- Did your parents bear the burden of your family?
- Were you dependent on your family?
- Are you doing any job?
- If you are not doing any job then how do you manage?
- Did your children or any other member of society helped you?
- What kind of problems you are facing while playing a role both as a mother and as father?
- Did any government scheme support you to support your family?
- Did anyone financially support you to meet the needs of your family?
- Had you ever worked for finance to support your family before your deceased husband?
- What kind of problems are you facing while supporting your family?

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