

## Women-the Best of Creatures in World: Are They Upholding the Premise?

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**Abstract:** Women are the best of creatures no matter what part of the world they reside in. However, the premise is being questioned because of the high rise of divorce rates in many parts of the modern- world where humankind behaves with a business mentality in work, life and activities without reservation. In reality, the collapse of marriage is not a sudden event. It happens at an onset moment. It is a process during which various factors lead to a decision- for divorce. The purpose of this study was to build a theory about the process of divorce, which can be suitable to all cultures or faiths without reservation. All factors involved in the process are categorized into two parts: Expectation-factors and Causal-factors. The net profit (NP) staying in the marriage is calculated based on the weight assigned by each spouse for each Expectation-factor. Net-loss (NL) is calculated based on the weight assigned by each spouse for each Causal-factor. The difference between NP and NL guides a spouse or both for a decision on opportunity correcting errors or living separately but no divorce or divorce. The findings of this study can be helpful to professionals gaining better knowledge on extending help for their reunion or smooth divorce approach for the betterment of both. It can further be helpful to authorities responsible for divorce prevention and improving marriage-relationship by counseling based on the result(s) of this study emphasizing their future plans. It can be helpful recovering wives' or husbands' shortcomings without letting the other party knows about them. This framework can be helpful to wives sharpening its qualities, which can be helpful upholding the premise, *Women the best of the creature*. Thus, the answer to the question posed in the title depends on who we ask.

**Keyword(s):** *Self leering & correction, Family separation, Breakup, Separation but not yet divorced, Counseling and Divorce*

### 1. Introduction

With changing times, the role of women in society has acquired new dimensions. It is palatable saying that women are the best of creatures no matter what part of the globe they live in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century-world. The reasons are in many folds. They are the creators of life. As a woman, her roles are significant ensuring: be it a loving daughter, an affectionate sister, a supportive wife, a selfless mother or a mother-in-law. She is the contributor & nurturer in family and to loved ones that enable her to be magic-wand psychologically. Her contribution empowers her children. In return, the society they live in becomes powerful. She plays her roles simultaneously and effectively with charismatic approaches that are very much productive in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century modern world (Rahman, 2019c). However, in many parts of the world today, the philosophical premise, *the best of creatures*, is being questioned in a sense: whether they are upholding the premise? With the progression of technology, *especially*, the ICT and then opportunities for rapid changes in norms & customs of societies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century *era*, this premise is becoming further vulnerable (Tokunaga, 2011; www.opinionfront.com). Traditionally, some bigots in human society have always looked upon women as *inferior* to men with expectations of submissive acts to men.

These extremists believe women do not have an individuality of their own. The traditional philosophy about women belongs to ancient eras except for philosopher Plato who said "if women are expected to do the same work as men, we must teach them the same things" (ThoughtCO.com). However, Socrates said, "women should have the same pursuits and activities as men, but in all of the women are *inferior* to men" (ThoughtCO.com). On *contrarily*, Plato Republic said, "Women and men have the same nature in respect to the guardianship of the state where one is weaker and the other is stronger". Relating to the philosopher's comment "one is weaker and the other is stronger", it is palatable saying here that the philosopher probably had meant it about biological aspects of human-body-formation. On inferiority issues, philosopher Aristotle went further and said "Women were fit only to be the subjects of male rule. Aristotle further said "Women are born to be ruled by men in a constitutional sense, as citizens rule other citizens (ThoughtCO.com). Since after the ancient-fanatics, over the periods as of today's modern world, there have been huge changes in the

progression of women's status in human society. In this journey, today women have voting rights. Today, while most countries or political-arenas tend to think that the role of women, in society.

It is as important as that of men when it comes to legal, educational, socio-economic, or religious matters. However, often some bigots tend to employ different yardsticks ([www.Opinionfront.com](http://www.Opinionfront.com)). And now man-dominated political rings in countries of the world are taking advantage of this vulnerability ([www.opinionfront.com](http://www.opinionfront.com)). In an aim to benefit from this dichotomy, in some cases, women are utilizing their body magic in multi-faucets in the world of business-mentality without boundary (Rahman and Islam, 2021; Rahman, 2019c). In reality, 21<sup>st</sup> Century human-society lives in a complicated world of business-mentality country-wise where no mother feeds a baby unless the baby cries (Rahman, 2021d). And now man-dominated political rings in countries of the world are taking advantage of this vulnerability. It is no different in Bangladesh, the Muslim majority a southeast Asian country. Bangladesh is a three-tiered country where peoples' lifestyles, like in many Asian countries, vary from city areas to urban areas and then to that of rural areas. In practice, a rural environment has different lifestyles compared to that of urban or city areas. City(s), *especially*, the Dhaka-City lifestyle gets further murky. This is because there is always an upward trend that people prefer more to move into Dhaka for some appealing reasons no matter who we ask.

This upward-trend *scenario* influences the creation of mixed lifestyles, a combination of city and something other than the city. It is an undeniable fact that, from a socioeconomic perspective, location is important even within a city scope (Li, 2016). The nature of the neighborhood in which a person resides affects the set of lifestyles available to that person due to differences between various neighborhoods' degrees of affluence and proximity to natural and cultural environments. On this point, it would not be overstated saying that lifestyles of residents in cities namely Banani, Gulshan and Baridhara, etc. are relatively somewhat different than that in other areas in Dhaka - the capital of Bangladesh. This is because most of the foreigners in Dhaka reside in these three cities where most of their workplaces are located. Secondly, the living costs in these areas are comparatively higher. Thus, it is palatable to believe that most residents here face multi-culture backgrounds flavored lifestyles that tend to be liberal and is driven by mostly individual's monetary affordability. Relying on an exclusive report of the Prothom Alo on divorce issues, on September 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2018, the Daily Star Newspaper reported: "a divorce takes place every hour in Dhaka City" (Nowshin, 2018). Referring to data statistics reports published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the newspaper further states that in the past seven years, the divorce rate has increased by 34 percent throughout Bangladesh (Nowshin, 2018).

From on City area perspective, as reported by the Prothom Alo, over 50,000 divorce applications were filed in Dhaka North and South City Corporations in the past six years where the total population was 8.5 million in the year 2017 (Hossain et al., 2018). Based on City Corporations records, the majority of the filers were female (Hossain et al., 2018). The high rising divorce rate is obviously alarming no matter what culture or faith we are talking about. From an economic perspective, marriage is a part of satisfaction in a competitive market where couples can be expected to derive more satisfaction or higher utility from being married than from remaining single (Becker, 1973). In his work, Becker hypothesized that lack of complementary attributes such as attractiveness, education; salary, etc. could well explain a significant chunk of separations or divorces among couples. On sociological as well as psychological aspects, individual lifestyle influences relationships of both personal and impersonal (Li, 2016). It transpires on a daily basis. As a result, the dynamics of such relationships are constantly changing. Thus various factors that dictate an individual lifestyle can be inside or outside of an actual relationship. These factors can contribute to a better relationship or can influence the relationship that can end up with a breakup (Rahman, 2019c).

Thus, with self-driven efforts & willingness, wives or husbands or both should have a list of factors that are, needed to make it better or needed to control for keeping healthy relationships in families. However, this kind of framework where wives or husbands or both can use it for assessment of probable factors helps to understand the direction of the relationship. But it was missing in relevant literature until now. This study takes on the challenges to fill this gap in the literature. It is expected that the proposed theoretical framework can help to change a couple's decisions, reducing anger towards other-half, stopping breaking-up-decision, or it can help on decisions resolving the marriage sooner than delaying for the greater interest of parties involved. This model or framework can be utilized without reservation of a culture or faith globally. In other

words, based on the model's facilitation of self-assessment empirically parties' can resolve the matter faster or can correct their own acts without letting other-half know about it. It begins with raising the question: why breakup or divorce happens? Is breakup or divorce an outcome of lack of complementary attributes? Is *business-mentality* over *approaches to reconcile* taking place when it comes to a separation decision or a divorce decision?

## 2. Literature Review

Family dissolution has long been regarded as an important issue socially and academically. Several theoretical approaches are relevant to establishing the causal relationships between some socio-economic and cultural factors and marital disruption (South, 1986; Li 2016). However, despite some literature on the influence of the determining factors on the divorce trends, most of them are concentrated in rich countries and the western world. And thus there is no agreement globally on the determination of marital dissolution (Rahman, 2019c). This is because cultures, laws of marriage/divorces, etc vary from society to society, country to country globally. Secondly, several recent empirical studies have examined how the determinants of marital dissolution or separation vary by marital duration (Becker et al., 1977; Heaton et al., 1985; Morgan and Rindfuss, 1985 and Thornton, 1978). These analyses are somewhat constrained by Western societies or developed countries basis and data limitations are therefore unable to examine whether many of them often-cited predictors of divorce or separation interact with the length of the marriage. Moreover, several of these studies limit their sample to couples in the middle or higher stages of the marital life course. However, in today's world, divorces are seen in the very early stages of marriages whereas South and Southeast Asian countries are very good examples. Obviously more theoretical and empirical studies on divorce and its determining factors in Asian countries are badly needed.

This is because the trend of divorce is widespread in South and Southeast Asia as it is in many developed countries. However, the rates of divorce in Pakistan and many countries are lower than that in developed countries (Mahmood et al., 2016). Thus the purpose of this study is to build a model, which allows us to test for time-related differences in how qualities or characteristics of wives, husbands and marriage contexts affect the probability of divorce or separation. Furthermore, it can be helpful to have a model in the relevant literature that can ensure either the wives or husbands or the both are facilitated for having productive discussions on knowing each other's short-comings in aim to overcome it for good. In other words, the proposed model can facilitate or help to know own fault(s) or factor(s) that are annoying the other half, i.e. wife or husband in the family. It is very important in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century era where both husband & wife are busy for survival competing with high-rise demands or desires for ensuring 21<sup>st</sup> Century market facilitation in multi-faucets. This study takes on the challenges to fill this gap in the literature. It is expected that the proposed theoretical framework can help change decisions, reduce anger towards other-half, stopping breaking-up-decision, which can be generalized without reservation of a culture or faith globally. In other words, based on the model's facilitation of self-assessment empirically parties' can resolve the matter faster than not letting the other sides know it.

**Theoretical Basis:** Going back to the growing-up-age-life of human beings, most would say that a man and a female fall in love with each other and then they get married and live happily after that. It might now sound to be a fairytale. Of course, life is not a fairytale. The truth is that many marriages end in divorce no matter what faith, society or country in the world individuals live in. This dichotomy-reality raises the question: why marriage and then why separation or why divorce?

**Theory of Marriage:** In 1973's, Gary Becker introduced the famous theory of marriage in terms of economics. Becker's analysis was based on two simple principles. First, given that marriage is almost always voluntary either by the couples or their parents. Therefore using the theory of preferences he explained marriage. Here couples or their parents can be expected to derive more satisfaction or higher utility from being married than from remaining single. Second, Becker held that a market in marriages can be presumed to exist since many men and women compete as they seek mates. Each person tries to find the best mate subject to market conditions. He draws out a theory of marriage that says that each person will tend to pair with someone with whom the chances of maximizing their household production of goods and services are

the highest. The set of household goods and services include tangible goods the market provides as well as non-market goods such as shared pastimes, or the joys of raising children.

The couple's level of satisfaction is determined both by market and non-market earnings. But, given that time and effort spent on raising market earnings can diminish non-market earnings, each couple uses economic principles to allocate the scarce resource of time. While spouses are likely to differ in market earnings, both theory and empirical evidence suggested likes tend to attract more when it comes to other attributes such as education or physical attractiveness (Becker, 1973). He argued such attributes such as education or beauty are complementary inputs in the production of non-market goods and services whereas wage income could be substituted by one partner for the other. The lack of complementary attributes could well explain a significant chunk of separations among couples, Becker hypothesized.

**A Reality Check Based on Culture & Society-Wise:** It would not be overstated to say that the marriage process is mostly driven by religion where marriage law guides it to be officially completed in a society they reside. Since cultural and religious variations in societies differ from one to other, the marriage process varies. Therefore, marriage has different forms, meanings, and structures in different cultures, religions and laws of society in which they reside. Such as in Muslim marriages, dowry or gift system is one of the segments under Shariah that make the process different from systems of other marriages. However, it has been changing parallel to the passages of time. Today, in many countries, especially, western countries, two males or two females are allowed to be married and live happily after that. On the same token, dowry and its payment system are becoming one of the important factors that influence the divorce rate in most Muslim countries. The controversy begins with setting up the amount of dowry. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century world, since humankind behaves with strategies of business mentality in work, life and activities (Rahman, 2017a; 2019b), the dowry system is becoming a profit or money-driven vehicle that influences the divorce rate in general. It further makes the separation or divorce process miserable for parties, especially, for male. In Muslim populous countries, marriage is different from the thing that is undergoing in Christian populous western cultures and societies. Gary Becker's assumption "marriage is almost voluntary" might not survive in cross-examination in many Muslim populous countries.

This is because firstly Muslim marriages are mostly dominated by the Shariah laws and then local marriage laws. Under Shariah, Marriage is a religious duty and is consequently a moral safeguard as well as a social necessity. Accordingly, as cited in the literature, Islam does not equal celibacy with high "taqwa" / "Iman". It is also mentioned, "Marriage is Prophet's tradition who so ever keeps away there from is not from amongst the Prophet". The choice of a partner should be the one with the most taqwa (piety). Secondly, Asian culture, especially, the rural culture sees the aged but single or unmarried people in criticized eyes. In other words, s/he becomes shameful in society if s/he remained single in a lifetime. However, like in many parts of the world, Muslim populous countries are experiencing an increase in divorce rates (Abolfaz, 2016). Most studies on divorce issues have tried to explore the factors leading to divorce. These studies have found out differences in education, occupation, unsatisfied or unmet expectations, and opinions along with the interference of relevant others into the couple's life. It is also challenging to know or identify exactly all the causes or factors that have prompted the decision for divorce no matter where the parties involved reside in the globe. Thus, the purpose of this study is to construct a computable paradigm on how a couple reaches the decision of getting divorced. More specifically, this study approaches to introduce a scientific-model entitled Theory of Divorce, which can be palatable to all cultures and religions underpinning marriage laws wherever the couple resides.

**Theory of Divorce:** A divorce is an event that affects couples, children, family members and the community where a divorce or separation cannot take place unless two people were officially married earlier. This dichotomy raises the question: why divorce? How does a spouse or both of the family decide for divorce? It is palatable to believe that humankind behaves with a business mentality in their works, lives and activities with others no matter what culture or society they live in. In this approach, humankind maximizes the satisfaction or utility of their investments or efforts and minimizes incurred costs or losses, which jointly derive them to be aggressive (Rahman, 2019b). The potency of this approach is higher in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century than that in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, which was higher than that in the earlier Century and so forth. It is also

reasonable to say that situational variables can exert powerful influences over human behaviors in multi-faucets (Rahman, 2021c).

On the same token, one of the key elements of human behaviors is humans have a greater fear of loss than the enjoyment of success. It is well recognized that the collapse of a marriage is not an outcome of the decision based on a sudden event. It is the consequence of accumulated events in conjugal life where the husband or wife or both of the family have moved forward based on the calculation of benefits and costs of its actions, investments and future i.e. opportunity cost. Since humankind mostly leads his or her life on strategies of business mentality in work, life and activities, it is no different than that for any other decision-making process. These are all together, in aim to be on the benefit sides or to marginalize loss or pain incurred from being married, a spouse or both of the family decides to move forward with options. These options can begin with getting professional help and divorce can be the last option. This raises the question: what is the right time? What is the decision criterion that supports a spouse staying married but living separately or just getting divorced?

**Your Expectation Loses Its Luster:** Starting to forget why you got married, to begin with? This is definitely a sign that your marriage is heading toward the danger zone. It could mean one of two things. Firstly, both usually lead to the same unfortunate outcome, despite the fact that healthy marriages are critical to society and can benefit everyone involved including the community at large. As a reason, it could be that expectations were unclear to both of you, to begin with. Or it could be that one was unclear about the other one's expectations, to begin with. Either scenario enhances the importance of dating without questioning whether it is western or eastern culture or whether it is in Christian or Muslim populous countries. If vital checkpoints like objectives and a clear level of satisfaction or eagerness are missing, you could be spinning your wheels, spending unnecessary money, time, efforts, etc. and still not feeling fulfilled. Secondly, it could mean that you've lost your passion for fulfilling your expectations, one of the biggest propellers when times get tough. Without this drive, who or what else will push the spouse or family relationship forward other than thinking to live separately or move for divorce? In between the two, many options such as counseling, family level discussion, etc. can take place without reservation of culture or religious faith.

If none of the in-between options is working, you now face a dilemma of equivalent retaliation tit-for-tat behaviors in many faucets as they are categorized here as Causal Factors. Underpinning calculated results in most cases, your action may begin with sleeping separately in the same home. If this calculated result gets worse, your action reaches another level i.e. living separately but not divorced yet. This is because humans have a greater fear of loss than the enjoyment of being trouble-free. Secondly, since cultivating a solid marriage takes time & work and since you try to merge your lives evolved from many factors that can be a bumpy ride but still beautiful, this situation may inspire the spouse(s) to seek professional help. The presence of children, if any, in the family makes this approach faster & smoother for a better outcome. However, if no children, the utilization of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ICT facilitation, especially, using social networking sites such as Facebook and then surrounding, especially, workplace-influences can slow down the efforts seeking for help. And then spouse (s) moves further with tit-for-tat behavior and then put forward new efforts for meeting new ones in the competitive market of marriage. In this scenario, dating no longer be a constraint even parties belong to Asian culture or Muslim religion where dating is prohibited or very limited in practice.

**Factors Identification and Categorization:** In an aim to capture all probable reasons or causes or factors that derive a spouse or both to get married and then in some cases move for divorce, this study identifies & categorized them in two categories. The first category is entitled Expectation Factors. It has sixteen components or factors. The other category is entitled Causal Factors, which has sixteen components or factors. These factors were identified from two different sources. The source was relevant literature on marriage & divorce in different cultures such as western, Asian and South East Asian cultures and different religions such as Christian and Muslim. The second source was a direct survey, which was conducted on selected recently-divorced male and female located in Dhaka City with the cooperation of Dhaka City Corporation (North), Zone-3. It is important to note here that a divorce will not officially be complete unless it goes thru the process and is approved by a local government entity such as Union Parishad or City Corporation. Spouses or both who ask for a divorce in Bangladesh are required to attend family counseling

(called Shalish Board) of welfare organizations before being granted a divorce decree without culture or faith reservation.

**Expectation Factors of Spouses for being Together:** They are the factors or reasons that influence getting married so that these expectations can be met on the way of living happily after in conjugal life. It is palatable to say here that dating might become instrumental in sensing what portion of the expectations could be achieved and what portion couldn't be. With this phenomenon, sometimes breakups between dating couples are observed in many cultures & faiths and obviously, it is not a big deal because it is considered to be a way of understanding each other in multi-facets. On the same token, meeting these expectations can keep tight the couple in marriage. It is also reasonable to say here that the strength of each expectation factor may vary with the passage of time where some might be neutralized in aim to achieve other expectations. Or it might get bigger to recover from the previously lost one.

The following sixteen reasons or factors are identified as Expectation Factors where additional can be added or few can be deleted in the calculation process using equations as spelled out. However, the total number of Expectation Factors must be the same as the number of Causal Factors.

**F<sub>1</sub>** = Factors that can keep tight in marriage  
Expectation of having companionship and hope to bond for life  
Expectation of fulfilling religious obligation  
Expectation of loving behaviors  
Expectation of cooperative behaviors  
Expectation of caring behaviors  
Expectation of compensative efforts  
Expectation of thankfulness to each other  
Expectation of having children  
Expectation of upholding attractiveness (first appearance)  
Expectation of respectful each other  
Expectation of truthfulness to each other  
Expectation of financial supports  
Expectation of overcoming social & religious barriers  
Expectation of relieving family from family burden or pressure or anxiety  
Expectation of sexual desire fulfillment in a trusting long-term relationship  
Expectation of ensuring financial security for life

**Causal Factors of Spouses on Separation:** They are the factors or causes that directly influence the decision of a spouse or both to sleep separately in the same home or live separately or to divorce. These are Causal Factors that can ruin the strength of marriage where higher severity influences the decision faster. On the other hand, lower severity poses to linger the decision process where it may go away in the passage of time or it may accumulate and becomes a higher-severity influence. It is reasonable to say here that Causal Factors may appear before getting married in some cultures where dating is traditional and it might influence the breakup of the couple if these factors reach their severity. In Muslim or Asian culture, dating is prohibited or very much limited. Thus here Causal Factors are irrelevant before marriage or conjugal life. It is also noted here that the severity of the causal factor may vary in the passage of time where some might be neutralized or it might get bigger and reaches its severity level. The following sixteen causes or factors are identified as Causal Factors where additional can be added or a few of them can be deleted in the calculation process using the equations as given. However, the total number of Causal Factors must be the same as the number of Expectation Factors.

**F<sub>2</sub>** = Factors that can ruin the strength of marriage  
Criticism / Defensive  
Little time of husband spending at home  
Domestic violence or violent behaviors  
Gender role conflicts  
Mistrust or suspicious each other or infidelity  
Financial issues  
Not satisfied emotional needs and infertility

Lack of empathy and companionship  
 Sexual dissatisfaction  
 Extramarital affairs  
 Substance abuse  
 Conflict with family-in-laws  
 Dowry/gift related problems  
 Unemployment of husband  
 Humiliated by her husband in front of others  
 Personality problems

**Decision Criterion of the Spouses:** Mathematical calculation that derives humankind decisions underpinning the theme of business mentality for work, life and activities with other(s) are as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{\text{economic}} &= \text{EVA} = \text{NP}_{\text{being married}} - \text{NL}_{\text{staying married}} \\ &= \sum P_i (f_{1i}) - \sum L_i (f_{2i}) \end{aligned}$$

Where

EVA = economic value added

NP<sub>being married</sub> = net profit staying in marriage → net satisfaction being married

NL<sub>staying married</sub> = net loss for staying married → net loss for staying married

Where

P = profit or satisfaction staying in marriage and  $f_{1i}$  = each Expectation Factor

L = loss for staying married and  $f_{2i}$  = each Casual Factor

In this case, EVA is the measure of male or female or both satisfaction or benefits by deducting its losses from staying in the marriage. EVA can also be referred to as economic profit. This is because it attempts to capture the true economic profit or worthiness of a male or a female or both households.

Three decision criteria are

$\Pi_{\text{economic}} > 0$  → stay married and live together

$\Pi_{\text{economic}} < 0$  → seek for divorce

$\Pi_{\text{economic}} = 0$  → stay married but live separately

In this theoretical approach, the woman, or man or both who would decide to dissolve her or his or their marriage will become the observer since she or he or both will be the most competent to report on what was critical for them in arriving at that decision.

**Significance of this Contribution:** In the relevant literature, most studies exploring the divorce process and developing theoretical frameworks have been carried out based on a particular culture or faith, which cannot be generalized to another culture or religion (Abolfaz, 2016). Thus, the main purpose of the study was to explore the process of reaching the point of decision on identifying own fault, affording for discussion with other-half for compromise or correction errors or decision on divorce from the viewpoint of all cultures or all faiths, not just one culture or faith. So that it can be instrumental to build a mathematical paradigm of divorce: Theory of Divorce. Since this contribution is one of a kind and since it was not introduced in literature before, this paradigm is expected to be an addition to behavioral intention theories in literature where comments are welcomed. In addition to expected comments, an empirical investigation is carried out to cross-examine the paradigm.

### 3. Methodology

Eighty respondents were selected in Dhaka City, Bangladesh with multi-cultures and faith backgrounds as a primary data collection source. Respondents in primary data consist of twenty (20 + 20) married homes, twenty divorce males and twenty divorce females and were given copies of the questionnaire at random, which they will fill and return to the researcher. The questionnaire consisted of items covering sixteen possible reasons or factors for marriage and sixteen possible causes or factors of divorce as mentioned in the literature on divorce. Here twenty married homes represent forty respondents where they are: twenty males and twenty females. To maintain confidentiality & accuracy in response, both husband-wife will respond separately using 5 points Likert Scale. The primary data statistics in this study were collected using a survey questionnaire and 5 points Likert Scale for scoring each factor in both categories. More specifically the

respondents were well informed on how to score for each variable in both categories. In the case of the Expectation Factor – 0 (zero) points were assigned if it hasn't been absolutely met yet and 5 points were assigned if it has been met to its fullest. In between this situation, the respondents had the option to score as they feel it appropriate. Similarly, in the case of Casual Factor – a 0 (zero) point was assigned if its strength is at the beginning stage and 5 points were assigned if its strength reaches its severity level. In between these two, the respondents had the option to score as they feel it is appropriate.

**Study Population:** The primary data were obtained from well-structured questionnaires and direct interviews. The study targeted twenty married homes (20 + 20), twenty separated men and twenty separated women in Dhaka City (North), Bangladesh without culture or faith reservation. Participants were randomly recruited through the Dhaka City Corporation- Zone 3. Spouses or both who file for divorce in Bangladesh are required to face Salish Board- facilitation by City Government or Union Parishad before being legally granted a divorce decree. Spouse or both who had filed for divorce and completed three sittings with the Salish Board and got approved for divorce contacted for completion of the survey questionnaire. Purposeful sampling was used to collect data. Participant selection, data collection, and data analysis continued until theoretical saturation was reached. Data collection was ceased after 5 of each group namely: home ((husband + wife = 5 x 2) divorced-male and divorced-female as it was clear that no new themes emerged. Before starting to fill out the questionnaire, participants were clearly informed about the purpose of this research and were ensured on privacy issues. With this clear message in hand, they were agreed to answer questions in survey form. They evaluated Expectation Factors as well as Causal Factors that are applicable to them. It must be noted here, assigning value for each factor was based on an assessment of how does he or she currently feels about it.

**Data Collection Instrument:** The instrument used for the collection of primary data on this study was a prepared questionnaire and direct interview. This questionnaire is divided into three parts. The items in the questionnaire were structured in such a way that would enable the respondents to assign scores as they feel or weigh for each factor based on the time they are filling up the questionnaire. In other words, the value for each factor will be assigned based on s/he is filling it up, not based on past or future.

#### 4. Results

**Demographics:** Home group: 5 married and stay together couples were provided a questionnaire and interviewed in this study. The mean age was 31.15 for women and 35.2 was for men. In this scenario, few women were barely older than men. All couples worked out. In terms of education, three men had a master's degree and two had a bachelor's degree. Among women, one had a master's degree and three had a bachelor and one had a high school degree. The median length of marriage was 3.25 years. Four couples had children and one couple did not. All couple's dowry amount was significantly high.

**Split 5 Group:** Divorcing couples were provided a questionnaire and interviewed in this study. The mean age of the participants was 32.2 years old for women and 34.8 for men. In all 5 marriages, men were older than women ( $m = 5.25$ ). Two couples were dual careers while the other three marriages husband & wife both worked out of the house. In terms of education, three men had a master's degree, two had a bachelor's degree. Among women, two had a master's degree and three had a college degree. The median length of marriage was 3.5 years. Three couples did not have any children and two of them had two children each. All couples had a moderate amount of dowry or gift provision. The demographic characteristics and calculations for decisions are summarized in Table 1.

#### Discussion

**In Case of Home Group:** The Home group of this study emerged as a journey to a bumpy ride but still beautiful, which was a summarized expression in interviews of this group. The outcome of these interviews further reveals that fulfilling Expectation Factors most of the time neutralizes unwanted agony between the two. In most cases, being thankful & compensative efforts to each other played significantly keeping them tight in a relationship. Financial Expectation and securities on future financial issues dominated their agonies in the home. It appears that most of the women's expectations in case of many factors were too high. In other



words, since extensive dating options were missing and at least three of the five had arranged marriage, these women were in desperations from the early age of their conjugal lives. In interviews, the Homegroup couples almost anonymously indicated about the annoyances caused one to other while using Facebook or similar to something else. However, they worked it out by addressing the issues. On Causal Factors, two couples had indicated probable cheating issues. However, it appears that they were trying to make them zealous each other. For example, one spouse clearly indicated that he was carrying other woman's picture in the wallet to make his wife zealous and was trying to give her a lesson.

Obviously, because of their truthfulness, they worked it out for fulfilling each other's Expectation Factors in the future. Another couple indicated that they had attended Quantum Sessions – psychological treatment sessions. The outcome of this was very helpful to their behavioral changes related to Casual Factors. Personality problems, criticism/defensive, suspect each other and humiliation in front of others, etc. were important for making changes of their Casual Factors in conjugal life. Overall, underpinning business mentality approaches, each family couple had positive EVA or economically based on their self-assessment using questionnaires. In other words, the accumulated net profit (NP) was higher than the net loss (NL) staying in the marriage. These calculations and balancing efforts are keeping them to be together and are enjoying the beauties of their marriages. The mean of NP was 51.2 for men and it was 53.6 for women. These values are almost equal, which suggests that men's and women's hard works in the relationship are comparative and competitive with good reasons. On net loss from Causal Factors, the mean of NL was 45.8 for men and it was 43.6 for women. The scores of mean NL for men and women were again close to each other, which suggests man women's hard work in a relationship are comparative with good reasons.

**In Case of Split Group:** The split group of this study emerged as a journey to marriage collapse. This journey conveys the meaning that reaching the point of decision to divorce is not an onset and sudden decision. Instead, it is a process, which is made during the passage of time. Couples started their journey with a lack of understanding of each other's Expectation Factors. On Causal Factors, couple's dysfunctional attitudes about self, spouse, families, life, children, etc. were emerged in conjugal life. On top of this, some personal characteristics such as being irresponsible, not tolerant, and self-centeredness influenced as other steps toward the journey of marriage collapse and increased the gap between the couples.

**Table 1: EVA Outcome and Decision based on Participants' Assessment of Two Categorized**

Group	Participant	Age	$\Sigma$ NP	$\Sigma$ NL	$\Sigma$ NP - $\Sigma$ NL	Decision
Home	M <sub>1</sub>	37	51	43	8	Stay in marriage
	F <sub>1</sub>	30	56	40	16	Stay in marriage
	M <sub>2</sub>	42	45	43	2	Stay in marriage
	F <sub>2</sub>	34	48	43	5	Stay in marriage
	M <sub>3</sub>	33	64	44	20	Stay in marriage
	F <sub>3</sub>	34	60	45	15	Stay in marriage
	M <sub>4</sub>	32	48	40	8	Stay in marriage
	F <sub>4</sub>	34	48	45	3	Stay in marriage
	M <sub>5</sub>	32	48	48	0	Stay in marriage but live separately
	F <sub>5</sub>	27	56	56	0	Stay in marriage but live separately
Split	M <sub>1</sub>	35	44	64	24	Divorced by man
	M <sub>2</sub>	36	42	56	14	Divorced by man
	M <sub>3</sub>	37	40	56	16	Divorced by man
	M <sub>4</sub>	33	40	64	24	Divorced by man
	M <sub>5</sub>	33	38	62	24	Divorced by man
Split	F <sub>1</sub>	33	42	64	22	Divorced by woman
	F <sub>2</sub>	31	48	64	16	Divorced by woman
	F <sub>3</sub>	33	38	80	42	Divorced by woman
	F <sub>4</sub>	36	38	56	18	Divorced by woman
	F <sub>5</sub>	28	32	64	32	Divorced by woman

**Factors:** Expectation Factors and Causal Factors

Overall, underpinning business mentality approaches, each family couple had negative EVA or economically based on their self-assessment using questionnaires. In other words, the accumulated net profit (NP) was lower than the net loss (NL). On top of this outcome, the positive effort for balancing out was missing in couples' conjugal lives. As a result, the relationship had entered into danger zones. Therefore, rather than enjoying the beauties of marriages, they had engaged in tit for tat behaviors and finally they got divorced. The mean of NP was 40.8 for men and it was 39.6 for women. These two values are almost equal, which suggests that men and women both were aggressive in tit for tat behaviors in their conjugal lives. On net loss from Causal Factors, the mean of NL was 60.4 for men and it was 65.6 for women. Here NL means value for women was higher than NL mean value for men, which suggests men's aggressiveness was stronger than that of women. See Table 1. In summary, in this case, the marital system was unable to function correctly, so letting the couples farther away from each other. The consequences such as experienced lack of mutual entertainment, fulfilling the expected roles, communication, informing each other on decision making, etc. were found among the troubled couples. Financial issues also caused long hours working and increased dissatisfaction and tension.

**Recommendations on Ways to Curtailing the Magnitudes of Divorce Rate:** It is well recognized that the trends or rates of living-separately or divorce are significantly higher than before in today's human society. However, an unhappy marriage doesn't have to end in divorce. With this goal in mind, this study was undertaken and accordingly, an effective-decision framework has been developed, which can be utilized by wives or husbands or both in a family for check & balance from time to time. More specifically, following the guideline as noted in this study, both should prepare a list of Expectation-factors and Causal-factors. And let each other knows about it. And let the other half know about it for discussion on discrepancies. Sound like it is workable within educated families by themselves. What about those who do not have literacy enough? Overcoming this limitation, marriage-services or marriage-counseling organizations can facilitate using this framework.

Also, in practice, while individual files for divorce, under Divorce-law in many countries such as Bangladesh, the authority requires officially contacting both parties and facilitates for discussion in aim to dissolve the matter. Thus, the authority may wish to follow the framework or model that has been developed in this study. On the same token, based on calculation, the authority can justify its ruling, which can be convincing & meaningful to parties involved. Besides counseling services underpinning the findings of this study, the following factors or practices can be advised for ensuring tranquility in marriage life. In other words, the following steps can save a marriage from divorce.

- a. Accept partner's feelings.
- b. Validate partner's feelings.
- c. Retreat in aim to overcome the dilemma.
- d. Discuss and make new rules with common grounds.
- e. Appreciate partner's good works and be with a partner in partner's psychological sufferings.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Women are the best of creatures no matter what part of the world they reside in. However, the premise is being questioned because of the high rise of divorce rates in many parts of today's world where business mentality in work, life and activities dominates human behaviors for making self-correction, efforts for compromise or even in process for divorce. The collapse of a marriage is not a sudden event that happens at an onset moment. It is a process during which various components lead to the collapse of marriage. The purpose of this study was to build a theory to identify the determinants or factors that are causing problems for wives or husbands or both even though each may know it or not. It can be suitable to all cultures or faiths without reservation for resolving a problem or for decision wives or husbands or both. All factors involved in the process are categorized into two parts: Expectation Factors and Causal Factors. Net profit (NP) staying in marriage can be calculated by self assigning weight for each of Expectation Factors and similarly, net loss (NL) can be calculated by self assigning weight for each of Causal Factors.

The difference between the two calculated values can guide a spouse or both for the decision on divorce. The findings of this study can help the professionals to gain a better knowledge of how a spouse or both divorcing couples view their experience of deciding on divorce. Also, the findings of this study can help authorities responsible for the prevention of divorce and improving marriage to consider the result of this study in their plans, and perform efficient and culture-based programs. These programs can help recover wives' or husbands' shortcomings without knowing other parties about it, which is very important in today's world where self-respect is seen to be more important in human society. This framework can be helpful to wives sharpening their characteristics or qualities for preserving the premise of Women as the best of the creature. In this process, wives' own efforts and wiliness are very important, which can discourage today's bigots' behaviors. Overall, the outcome can help prove "Women are not inferior to men" in today's modern world. Thus, the answer to the question posed in the title of this article depends on who we ask. Further empirical studies could provide new insights into this issue.

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