



**A Sociological Study of the Relationship Between Idealism of
Development and Attitude towards Divorce
(Case Study: Married Males and Females Over 18 years
old)¹**

Samad Adlipour² and Jafar Ahmadpour Parvizia³

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1. INTRODUCTION

The development programs and the introduction of modern values in Iran have brought some structural, functional and attitudinal changes, and the family institution was also affected by these changes. For example, divorce has increased in recent decades in industrialized countries and cities, especially in most of the developed countries, including the big cities that are exposed to the process of modernization and development plans. In Tabriz, especially among the young people, divorce has become a normal issue, which is no longer taboo like before. It means that divorce is considered as a social reality like other phenomena in the society. Many people think that divorce has also less disadvantages and it is not considered as a negative issue as before. In addition, many people consider divorce as a confident way to get rid of family disputes and problems. Since Tabriz is one of the big and industrial cities of Iran and it has been subject to the entry of modern western values due to its proximity to European countries (e.g., Turkey and Azerbaijan) having numerous satellite networks, the main question is whether there is a relationship between the idealism of development and the attitude towards divorce in Tabriz city?

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²PhD in Economic Sociology and Development, Tabriz University (Corresponding Author), E-mail: Samadadlipour@gmail.com

³PhD student in Sociology, Zanjan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Zanjan, Iran, Email: Ahmadpour@Asia.com

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The current research is a survey and the data were collected using a questionnaire in 2018 in Tabriz city. The statistical population of the research includes the Tabriz households who were 563,660 households according to the Population and Housing Census in 2016. After conducting the pre-test and determining the variance of the study trait (variance of the dependent variable), the sample size was estimated to be 600 people using Cochran formula and a multi-stage cluster sampling method. Two methods of face validity and construct validity were used to determine the validity of the items. The reliability of the items was measured by Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient which was higher than 0.70 for all variables.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As Table 1 shows, according to the obtained significance level which is less than 0.05, there is a direct correlation between the development idealism and its components with the attitude towards divorce. This means that with any increase in the idealism of development and its components (individualism, rationality, universalism, secularization of religious beliefs, reflexivity and gender egalitarianism), people's attitude towards divorce becomes positive and the enormity of divorce is reduced.

Table 1. the results of Pearson correlation coefficient between development idealism and its dimensions with attitude to divorce

Independent Variables	Pearson correlation	Sig.
Individualism	0.17	0.001
Secularization of religious beliefs	0.41	0.001
Universalism	0.28	0.001
Rationality	0.17	0.001
Reflexivity	0.45	0.001
Gender equality	0.23	0.001
Development Idealism	0.49	0.001

In order to determine the impact of the components of development idealism on the respondents' attitude towards divorce, a step-by-step multiple regression test was used. All the assumptions of the regression test were observed, so the Durbin-Watson test value (1.75) was in the acceptable range (i.e., from 1.5 to 2.5). It shows that the errors or residuals are independent from each other; the tolerance test values were all higher than 0.70 and it indicates that there is no high correlation or collinearity between the independent variables. Among the components of development idealism, only the components of reflexivity and secularization of religious beliefs had a significant impact on the respondents' attitude towards divorce, and the components of universalism, rationality, individualism and gender equality did not have a significant impact on the attitude towards divorce, then they were removed from the model. The coefficient of explanation is 0.25 and it indicates that the variables of reflexivity and secularization of religious beliefs



could explain 25% of the variance of the respondents' attitude towards divorce. The impact of reflexivity and the secularization religious beliefs were 0.32 and 0.26, respectively. This means that these components play a big role in reducing the enormity of divorce and forming a positive attitude towards divorce.

Table 2. Results of Multivariate Regression Test to explain respondents' attitude towards divorce

Variable	B	Standard deviation	Beta	t	sig	Tolerance	R	R ²	F	sig
Reflexivity	0.18	0.023	0.32	8.14	0.001	0.78	0.50	0.25	102.22	0.001
Secularization	0.10	0.015	0.26	6.62	0.001	0.78				

4. CONCLUSION

The findings of the current research indicate that there is a direct correlation between the idealism of development and its components with the attitude towards divorce so that the increase in the development idealism and its components (individualism, rationality, universalism, secularization of religious beliefs, reflexivity and gender equality), people's attitude towards divorce becomes positive and the taboo of divorce is faded. Among the components of development idealism, the highest degree of correlation relates to reflection and normalization of religious beliefs. However, regarding the findings of the current research, it should not be considered that idealism of development and its components are main cause of divorce in our society, and people believing to modern values have a positive attitude towards divorce; Rather, what makes the relationship between idealism of development and the attitude towards divorce meaningful is its side effects brought by the development and causes the increase of divorce statistics and removes the enormity of divorce in the society. Due to the occurrence of changes and social developments (urbanization, education, use of mass media, high rate of population, etc.), the process of development idealism causes changes in people's values and attitudes, and it leads to some changes in the structure, meaning system, values and functions of the family. Therefore, the above-mentioned situation led to partial acceptance of divorce in the society and removing the enormity of divorce.

Keywords: Development Idealism, Reflexivity, Secularization of Religious Beliefs, Attitude towards Divorce, Tabriz City

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