



Love and Marriage Index in Economics

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Abstract: Why should Economics only measure per capita gdp or human development in terms of education and life expectancy? What about Love and Marriage? Aren't Love and Marriage as Important as Money, Education and Life Expectancy? And globally divorce rates are increasing tremendously? What is the point of all this economic development if divorce rate is more than 50% and children are born outside wedlock? This paper proposes a new Love and Marriage Index in Economics that measures stability of marriage and love in family.

I. Introduction

As a young person I used to croon a silly song "Love makes the world go around". My more practical friend said "Money makes the world go around – Love makes the trip worthwhile". I thought, but did not say – "Without Love, there is no reason for the world to go around". Beatles the famous rock group of 60s sang – "I don't care too much for money – money can't buy me love" and "Love is all you need"

The Christian Bible says – "Man does not live by Bread Alone"

But Economics is all about the Bread. And that is so stupid.

The 19th century and 20th century have seen tremendous technological developments leading to global prosperity. However this is accompanied by an exponential increase in divorce rates and reduction in duration of marriage. Also a lot of children are born outside of wedlock.

This paper proposes something revolutionary and suggests a new index in Economics called – Love and Marriage Index.

Marriage and Divorce

Divorce rates have increased tremendously in 19th and 20th Century. Duration of Marriage has decreased drastically. In most western nations divorce rates are around 50%, which means that 1 out of 2 marriages end up in divorce. The duration of marriage is less than 10 years while ideally it should be around 50 years or more. Here are divorce rates of nations:

Nation	Divorce Rate(%)
India	1
Mexico	15
Turkey	22
Luxembourg	87
Spain	65
USA	46
France	55
Russia	51
Source: India Today	

Children Born Outside of Wedlock

A very large proportion of children are born outside of wedlock. In 13 OECD countries (Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, France, Iceland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, and Sweden) more than 50% of children are born outside of marriage, with rates particularly high in Mexico (70%), Costa Rica (73%), and Chile (75%). In four other OECD countries (Israel, Japan, Korea and Turkey), by

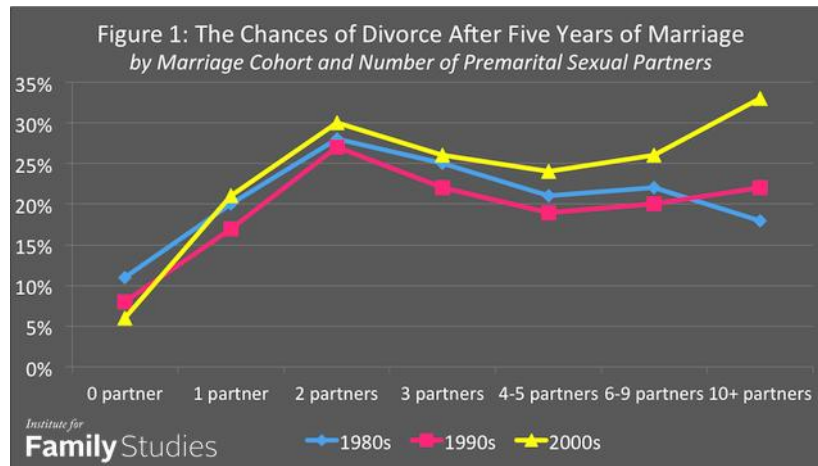
contrast, less than 10% of children are born outside of marriage. In Japan, Korea and Turkey, the rate is as low as around 2-3% [3]

Premarital Sex is responsible for Divorces and Children Outside of Wedlock.

That extramarital sex should lead to divorces should be obvious. But very interestingly there is strong correlation between premarital sex and divorce rates. Also it should be obvious that if there is



premarital sex then there could be children born outside of wedlock.[5]



Thus the increase in divorce rates and children is due to premarital sex as much as due to extramarital sex. Hence if people of the world reduce premarital sex and extramarital sex it should be possible to reduce divorce rates drastically and percentage of children outside marriage.

Let us measure divorces and children outside wedlock

Hence it is suggested that one measures divorces and children born outside of marriage with a new love and marriage index for nations of world, just as there is Gini Index or Human Development Index or Happiness Index. The formula for Love and Marriage Index (LMI) is

$$\text{LMI} = (\text{Percentage Divorce Rates} * 0.50 + \text{Percentage Children outside Wedlock} * 0.5) / 100$$

Once nations measure Love and Marriage Index, nations can focus on improving marriages.

Clearly a higher LMI is worse than a lower LMI.

And since there is strong correlation between Premarital Sex and Extramarital Sex and higher divorce rates and higher percentage of children born outside marriage, hence nations can focus on reducing premarital sex and reducing extramarital sex so that they can reduce divorce rates and reduce children born outside marriage.

Love and Marriage Index is as important as Human Development Index or Gini Coefficient or Happiness Index or even per capita GDP in purchasing power parity or nominal basis.

II. Conclusion

The 19th and 20th century has seen exponential increase in divorce rates. The 20th century has also seen great increase in percentage of children born outside of wedlock. This is a collective human tragedy that accompanies an unprecedented level of economic development.

Love and Marriage are just as important as Education and Healthcare and Food and Housing. Hence it is important for Economists to measure Love and Marriage Index.

The formula suggested for Love and Marriage Index (LMI)

$$\text{LMI} = (\text{Percentage Divorce Rate} * 0.5 + \text{Percentage Children out of Wedlock} * 0.5) / 100$$

Higher LMI is bad and lower LMI is good. Nations can be ranked on LMI.

Nations must compile this data. And a nation success should be as much measured by Love and Marriage Index as much as per capita GDP, Human Development Index or Gini Coefficient.

Now it is also known that there is strong correlation between premarital sex and high divorce rates and indeed children born outside of marriage.

Hence nations can improve their ranking on LMI by creating a culture where premarital sex and extramarital sex are avoided and prevented.

References:

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