

Marital Dissolution in South Africa in a Rural-Urban Perspective: 2011

1. Background:

Statistics estimate suggests that marital dissolution (divorce/separation) is high and on the increase in South Africa and these developments calls for concern. Marital status distribution in South Africa indicates that over 2% South African population are currently divorced or separated, rising up to 2.7% among the population 15-54 years in the country (Census, 2011). In numbers, this translates to close to 624,154 South Africans who are either divorced or separated in 2011 alone. As a population not accredited with high level of marriage i.e. were only about 31% are married (Census, 2011), this development also calls for concern. In South Africa, the highest number of divorces took place in the urban areas (68%); compared to the rural areas (32%) of the country (Census, 2011). Thus, indicating that marital dissolution are distinctive along the rural-urban divide in South Africa. In all, these proportions are said to be above average when compared to those of other sub-Saharan African countries. Against this backdrops, this study will explore the incidence of marital dissolution among women in South Africa from the rural and urban perspectives. Specifically, the study will dwell on the socio-economic factors associated with marital dissolution among women 15-54 years in South Africa, using the Census 2011 data.

2. Study Objectives:

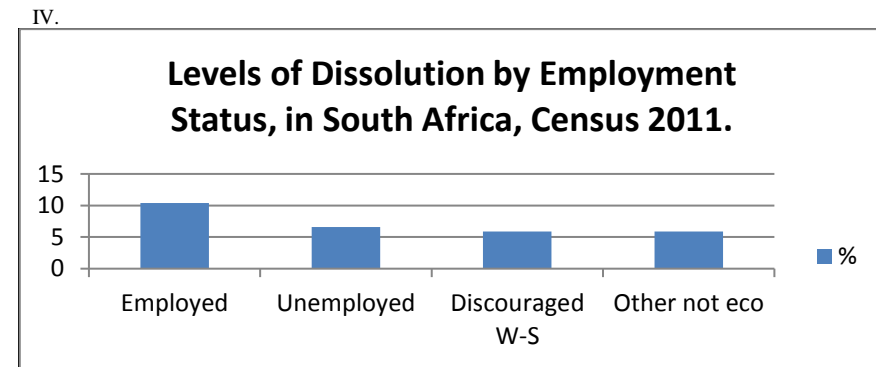
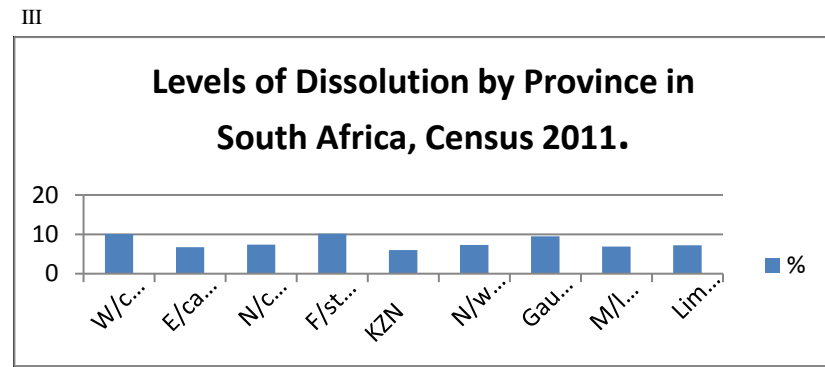
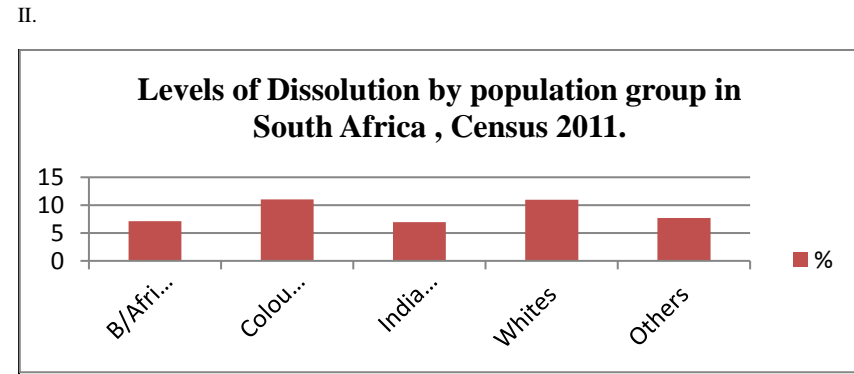
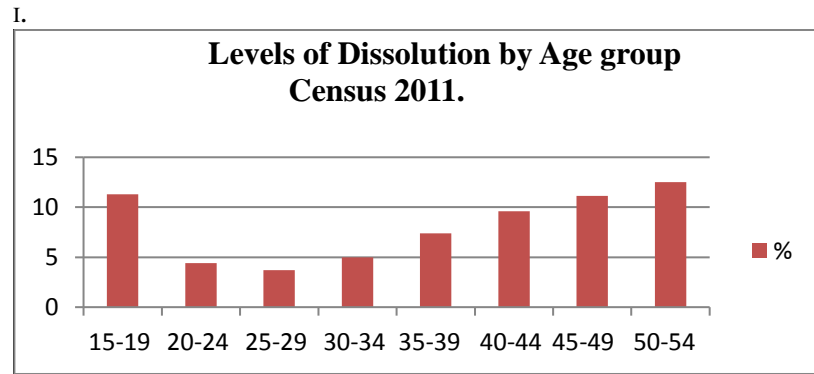
The general objective of this study is to critically explore the socio-economic determinants of marital dissolution among women 15-54 years in South Africa, using the Census 2011 data. Specifically, the study will highlight on the levels of marital dissolution among these women in South Africa, identify selected socio-economic and contextual characteristics associated with marital dissolution and investigate whether the factors significant at the rural area of South Africa is consistent at the urban area of the country among these women.

3. Methods:

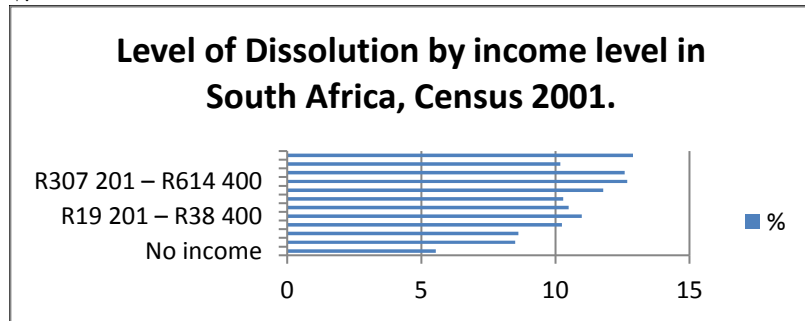
The study used the Census 2011 data collected by Statistics South Africa to critically examine the levels and role of four groups of characteristics (individual, educational, economic and contextual characteristics) in determining dissolution among women aged 15-54 years in South Africa. Analysis was carried out at the bivariate and multivariate levels using the chi-square test and binary logistic regression techniques. Controls were made for urban-rural areas of the country to identify the differentials in their odd ratios and predictors.

4. Analysis:

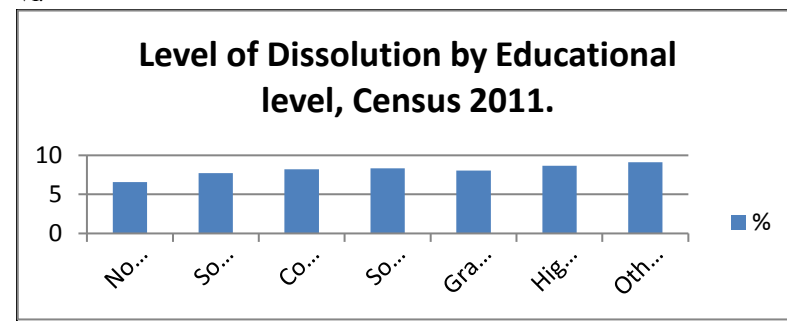
4.1. Figure i-viii: Levels of Marital Dissolution by selected characteristics in South Africa, Census 2011.



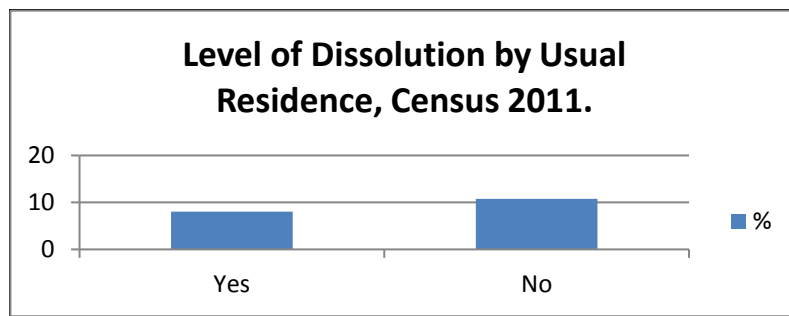
V.



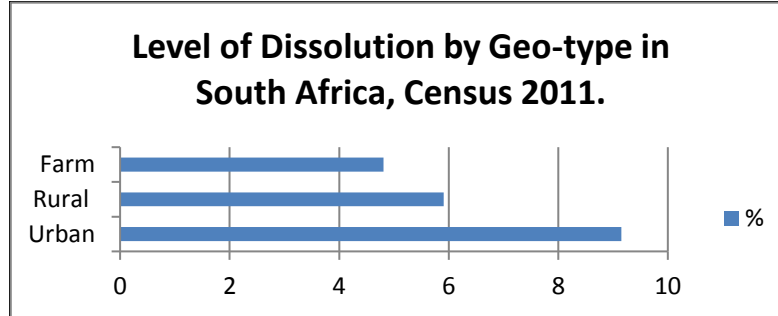
VI.



VII.



VIII.



4.2. Regression Analysis:

Table 1: Results of Binary Logistic Regression showing Odds Ratios (OR) of selected socio-economic characteristics predicting marital dissolution among women aged 15-54 years in South Africa, Census 2011.

Characteristics	Test 1 (Background Model)		Test 2 (Economic Model)		Test 3 (Education Model)		Test 4 (Contextual Model)		Test 5 (Adj/ted & Unadj/ted)	
	<i>OR</i>	<i>CI</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>CI</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>CI</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>CI</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>OR</i>
<i>Age group:</i>										
15-19	RC								RC	
20-24	0.33**	0.31-0.37							0.32**	0.36**
25-29	0.27**	0.25-0.29							0.24**	0.30**
30-34	0.35**	0.32-0.38							0.32**	0.39**
35-39	0.53**	0.49-0.57							0.48**	0.59**
40-44	0.70**	0.65-0.76							0.64**	0.78**
45-49	0.84**	0.78-0.91							0.79**	0.92*
50-54	0.95	0.88-1.03							0.94	1.05
<i>Population group:</i>										
Black African	RC								RC	
Coloured	1.50**	1.44-1.56							1.40**	1.63**
Indian/Asian	0.07*	1.01-1.14							1.05	0.93**
Whites	1.41**	1.37-1.46							1.28**	1.61**
Others	1.05	0.90-1.23							1.08	0.98
<i>Province:</i>										
W/Cape	RC								RC	
E/Cape	0.76**	0.73-0.80							0.87**	0.64**
N/Cape	1.70**	0.64-0.76							0.77**	0.71**

F/State	1.22**	1.15-1.28			1.26**	0.99
KZN	0.66**	0.63-0.70			0.72**	0.56**
N/West	0.85**	0.80-0.90			0.98	0.70**
Gauteng	1.12**	1.08-1.16			1.07**	0.91**
M/Langa	0.78**	0.74-0.83			0.91**	0.63**
Limpopo	0.86**	0.81-0.90			1.08*	0.67**

Employment Status:

Employed			RC		RC	
Unemployed			0.97	0.93-1.01	1.09**	0.60**
Discouraged W/S			0.86**	0.81-0.92	1.01	0.54**
Other not eco			0.82**	0.79-0.85	0.79**	0.55**

Income Level:

No Income			RC		RC	
1-4800			1.50**	1.40-1.60	1.58**	1.56**
4801-9600			1.54**	1.45-1.63	1.58**	1.64**
9601-19200			1.83**	1.75-1.91	1.79**	1.94**
19201-38400			1.89**	1.80-1.98	1.83**	2.09**
38401-76800			1.80**	1.71-1.89	1.72**	2.00**
76801-153600			0.78**	1.69-1.87	1.74**	1.98**
153601-307200			2.00**	1.90-2.10	1.93**	2.24**
307201-614400			2.22**	2.07-2.39	2.10**	2.49**
614401-1228800			2.11**	1.85-2.40	1.96**	2.35**
1228801-2457600			1.60**	1.28-2.02	1.56**	1.78**
2457601+			2.29**	1.81-2.88	2.01**	2.54**

School Attendance:

Yes					RC	
No					0.93**	0.89-0.97
					0.80**	0.91**

H/level of Edu:

No/schooling	RC			RC	
S/schooling	1.22**	1.14-1.30		1.07	1.23**
C/primary	1.27**	1.18-1.37		1.13**	1.29**
S/secondary	1.30**	1.22-1.38		1.21**	1.31**
Grade 12/ Std. 10	1.22**	1.15-1.30		1.07	1.26**
Higher	1.37**	1.28-1.45		0.87**	1.40**
Other	1.41**	1.17-1.70		1.01	1.39**

Usual Residence:

Yes			RC		RC
No			1.31**	124-137	1.12**
					1.37**

Mother alive

Yes			RC		RC
No			1.07**	1.04-1.09	0.93**
					1.11**

Father alive

Yes			RC		RC
No			1.26**	1.23-1.29	1.03*
					1.22**

Geo-Type:

Urban			RC		RC
Rural			0.62**	0.60-0.63	0.80**
Farm			0.51**	0.50-0.55	0.51**
					0.52**

** (Sig.) = Strongly Significant at 5% level (i.e. P < 0.05)

* (Sig.) = Strongly Significant at 5% level (i.e. P < 0.05)

OR=Odd Ratio, CI=Confidence Interval

4.3 Rural and Urban controls:

Table 2: Results of Binary Logistic Regression showing Odds Ratios (OR) of selected socio-economic characteristics predicting marital dissolution among women aged 15-54 years in the Urban and Rural South Africa, Census 2011.

Characteristics	Urban S/Africa		Rural S/Africa	
	OR	CI	OR	CI
Employment Status:				
Employed	RC			
Unemployed	1.02	0.97	0.89*	0.81-0.97
Other not eco	0.93	0.85-1.01	0.80**	0.72-0.89
Discouraged W/S	0.90**	0.86-0.95	0.66**	0.62-0.72
Income Level:				
No Income	RC			
1-4800	1.54**	1.41-1.69	1.47*	1.32-1.64
4801-9600	1.72**	1.59-1.85	1.17**	1.06-1.31
9601-19200	2.04**	1.93-2.15	1.33**	1.23-1.45
19201-38400	2.09**	1.97-2.22	1.38**	1.23-1.56
38401-76800	2.22**	2.09-2.36	1.04	0.88-1.22
76801-153600	2.34**	2.21-2.49	1.14	0.97-1.34
153601-307200	2.87**	2.65-3.01	1.11	0.89-1.38
307201-614400	3.12**	2.87-3.39	1.35	0.88-2.08
614401-1228800	3.11**	2.70-3.58	1.32	0.47-3.67
1228801-2457600	2.42**	1.89-3.08	0.38	0.05-2.78
2457601+	3.27**	2.56-4.20	0.88	0.21-3.64
School Att:				
No	RC			
Yes	0.92**	0.88-0.97	0.69**	0.63-.75
H/level of Edu:				
No/schooling	RC			
S/schooling	0.06**	1.11-1.36	0.94	0.85-1.03
C/primary	1.25**	1.12-1.40	0.93	0.82-1.06
S/secondary	1.15**	1.06-1.27	0.97	0.88-1.06
Grade 12/ Std. 10	0.92*	0.83-1.01	0.78**	0.70-0.87
Higher	0.76**	0.69-1.14	0.70**	0.61-0.81
Other	0.91	0.73-1.14	0.89	0.49-1.61
Mother alive				
No	RC			
Yes	1.14**	1.10-1.17	0.89**	0.91-1.09
Father alive				
No	RC			
Yes	1.31**	1.27-1.35	1.05*	0.99-1.11

** (Sig.) = Strongly Significant at 5% level (i.e. P < 0.05)

* (Sig.) = Strongly Significant at 5% level (i.e. P < 0.05)

OR=Odd Ratio, CI=Confidence Interval

5. Results and Conclusion:

Findings show that dissolution is highest among women aged 15-19 years (11.3%), lowest among those aged 25-29 years (3.7%) and maintains an increasing pattern over older age groups. Dissolution was highest in the urban areas (9.2%) and amongst the coloured (11.0%) and white (10.9%) population groups. The lowest dissolution rate was observed for the Indian/Asian population group (6.9%). All variables tested at the bivariate level were found to be strongly associated with marital dissolution ($P < |z| = 0.000$). At the multivariate level, age, employment status, income level and educational level were found to be significantly related. Also, patterns at the urban areas of South Africa were found to be consistent at the rural areas of the country. This study concludes by recommending that findings from the study be considered by the government in her programme and policy development around family formation incidences in South Africa.

References:

- Adegoke, T.G. (2010): Socio-cultural Factors as Determinants of Divorce Rates among Women of Reproductive Age in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria. *Studies Tribes*, 8(2): 107-114 (2010). © Kamla-Raj 2010.
- Coltabiano, M. and Castiglioni, M. (2008). Changing family formation in Nepal: Marriage Cohabitation, and First sexual intercourse. *International Family Planning perspectives*, 34 (1) 30-39.
- Palamuleni, M.E. (2010). Recent Marriage patterns in South Africa 1996-2007. Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology. Volume 7, Number 1, January 2010.
- Palamuleni, M.E. (2011). Socioeconomic determinants of age at marriage in Malawi. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*. Vol. 3(7), pp. 224-235, July 2011 Available online at <http://www.academicjournals.org/IJSA> ISSN 2006- 988x ©2011 Academic Journals.
- Palamuleni L.G. & Palamuleni M.E. (2017). Spatial Variation of Age at Marriage in South Africa. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 29(1): 39-46. Available online at <https://doi.org/10.1080/09718923.2011.11892953>.
- Statistics South Africa (2011). Key findings: Marriages and divorces. *Statistics South Africa*, Pretoria.
- Statistics South Africa (2016). Community Survey 2016 Data. *Statistics South Africa*. Pretoria, 2016.