The Socio-cultural Variables of the Divorce Phenomenon.

(Anthropological Study in At-Turra village)

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Abstract

This study seeks to describe and analyze the major socio-cultural variables related to the phenomenon of divorce in At-Turra village. To investigate such phenomenon and its constant rising percentage, the researcher used the ethnographic method which entailed participant observation as well as extended interviews with both the divorced and their families. Analysis of ethnographic data reveals that neglecting the socio-cultural and economic norms existing in the society plays a crucial role in destabilizing emotional relationships between the married couple due to internal factors related to the family itself or external ones manifested in the intertwined Shari'a teachings, tribal norms and traditions, and major transformations in the society. Moreover, the study shows that there is a strong relationship between beliefs, values and norms of the society and the rising rate of divorce. Family problems are indeed related to the system of values existing in the society which entails marriage customs and traditions, choice of partner, and relationship between couples and their families' interference in this relationship.

The results of the study stress the need for an effective cooperation and coordination which would involve society members, organizations, and institutions, whether social, religious, or legal, to deal with and control this problem. Furthermore, further historical studies by specialists to study and document details of this problem as well as the sociocultural and economic contexts associated with it are urgent if we are to propose solutions to it.

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