

Dear All

I am sure a number of you followed the Johnny Depp – Amber Heard divorce proceedings. This was a celebrity couple going through a public divorce. It generated lot of coverage across the world for the claims and counterclaims made. I looked up the topic to see what one can learn from this topic. Here are my learnings:

1. A divorce is a process of terminating a marriage. Divorce is unfortunately an event where the whole event is spent thinking about the past. Nothing is about the future.
2. Only two countries in the world do not allow divorce – the Philippines and the Vatican City.
3. Many countries have allowed divorce only recently – Italy in 1970, Brazil in 1977, Spain in 1981, Argentina in 1987, Ireland in 1996, Chile in 2004 and Malta in 2011.
4. Divorce varies by country because of legal and cultural traditions.
5. There are many things happening in this area. Many more young people are living in, many people have postponed marriage, this trend is helping drop divorce rates across the world.
6. The world is also adapting to a changing set of norms. Separation times are dropping. In France , separation terms before final divorce are now 1 to 2 years aa compared to 2 to 6 in the past, Scotland has also dropped separation time.
7. India has one of the fewest divorce rates in the world at about 1 %.
8. Length of marriage has a bearing, in US it is about 8 years and Germany it is about 14.9 years.
9. Lack of compatibility and extreme arguments are the two most cited reasons for divorce.
10. The most popular reason for divorce in Russia is lack of money.
11. Remarriage actually increases likelihood of divorce, so if one marries more, then the chances of a divorce are higher.
12. Early marriages i.e. marrying between 18 and 22 actually result in higher divorces in the US.
13. There are tough and valid lessons people draw from divorces are : you lose something to get something – you get back control over your time – you learn how to share – time and co-parenting of kids – your appearance improves – pain is a good teacher, there is no divorce without some pain – you get stronger for it.

Shiv