

DIVORCIALITY. DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION REGARDING DIVORCE

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This study presents the evolution of the divorce in Romania in the period 1940-2001 and the main generating factors. We also bring into attention young people's reporting to divorce as to a nonexperienced situation. This is the valuation of a questionnaire regarding divorce as perceived by 305 subjects, young people enrolled in colleges and universities in Bucharest, used in a research bearing the title "The family – socialization instance, keeper and transmitter of values", between 2002-2003. Marriage setup based on psychological comfort and sexual satisfaction to a larger extent than based on the need to have children has generated a change in the mentality regarding the divorce.

1. DIVORCIALITY. DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS, URBAN RURAL DISPARITIES

Divorciality "represents the demographic phenomenon expressing the frequency of divorces within a certain population. Divorce is the legal modality to dissolve marriage. Divorce is an event, divorciality is a phenomenon" (Mitrofan, Ciupercă, 1998, p. 136).

Divorces depend upon environment. In urban areas, especially in capitals, they are 2-4 times more frequent than in rural areas. During 1923-1938, in Romania, less than 8,000 divorces by year were declared, in 1938 they exceeded 13,000, while in the period 1935-1939 the divorces annual average was 11,381, that is 6.6 divorces for every 100 existing marriages (Banu G, 1944, p. 238, 302).

In Europe and North America in the period 1950-1970, divorciality rate grew up and then remained constant or decreased due to the extension of consensual free unions (Mihăilescu, 2000).

Despite the increasing number of divorces, the divorciality rate in Romania is lower than in Western Europe and the USA.

In Fig. 1 is represented the evolution of divorces in Romania in the period 1940-1989. Over a period of approximately 25 years we can notice the increase of the number of divorces. The year of 1967 is marked by a significant decrease of divorces due to some legal acts regarding the divorced, enforced in October 1966. After 1967, the rate increased moderately until the year of 1970, becoming a 4 times bigger in 1975. In the period 1975-1989 divorciality is maintained, with small differences, at a similar level with the year 1965.