

Kreager, Derek, Richard Felson, Cody Warner, and Marin Wenger. 2013. "Women's Education, Marital Violence, and Divorce: A Social Exchange Perspective." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 75:565-581.

PRIMARY ARGUMENT: The authors argue that educated women are more likely than women without a degree to leave violent marriages, weakening the usual negative relationship between education and divorce.

IMPORTANT DEFINED CONCEPTS:

- Marital Satisfaction: In this study, this was measured by asking women how much they loved their husbands and how much they felt their husbands loved them.
- Marital Victimization: Physical violence enacted by an individual in a legal marriage against their legal spouse, measured by the quantity and severity of physical altercations between spouses.
- Proportional Earnings: A metric that evaluates the wife's financial independence and negotiating power within the marriage by dividing her salary by the total household income.

PRIMARY FINDINGS:

1. The authors found that a higher educational attainment was strongly and significantly associated with a lower risk of divorce, supporting the idea that educated women tend to have more stable marriages than those with less education. Educated women are also less likely to enter violent relationship.
2. The study revealed that there was over a 10% greater probability that educated women would leave their abusive marriage, compared to uneducated women. With greater resources and higher standards for marriage, educated women will be able to see alternatives as more desirable.
3. In marriages with high victimization, women with greater incomes were more likely to get divorced than women with low incomes. But in nonviolent relationships, women with higher proportional earnings are less likely to get divorced than those with less earnings.
4. In marriages with high victimization, women with greater incomes were more likely to get divorced than women with low incomes. But in nonviolent relationships, women with higher proportional earnings are less likely to get divorced than those with less earnings.

KEY QUOTE: "Thus, women with economic resources were likely to leave unhappy marriages, regardless of whether they involve abuse. Similarly, degree-earning women were more likely than less educated women to leave violent marriages, regardless of their feelings of dissatisfaction." (578)

QUESTION(S): Is a pattern similar to the one described in this article found for men? Are educated men more likely to leave abusive marriages? Are educated men less likely to be violent? Are uneducated women more likely to be married to uneducated men since they're probably not meeting men in college settings? Does educational homogamy (i.e., a relationship where both partners have college degrees) also imply that the marriage will be less violent?