

## **Should or Shouldn't: What Make a Spouse Decide to Divorce?**

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This paper is based on the data of Hanoi Family Survey 2010 funded by the GCOE program. Collected information is basically similar to the questionnaire of the EASS Survey 2006 with amended questions on attitude towards divorce issue. 1,219 respondents aged 18 and older, among them 1,100 ever married were randomly chosen for interviews in 24 wards and communes of Hanoi Capital city (Vietnam) during 2010-2011. The paper analyses the attitudes of respondents towards the situations where the wife or the husband is likely to file a petition for a divorce, including (1) a spouse has extramarital affairs, (2) a spouse is physically or psychologically violent, (3) the couple is in economic difficulties, (4) the couple is seriously different in lifestyles, (5) a spouse ignores the other, (6) a spouse is ill or weak, (7) a spouse is childless, (8) a spouse is unemployed, and (9) a spouse is addicted and gambler. According to the preliminary analysis, violence between husband and wife is considered the most important reason of divorce that is followed by gambling, extramarital affairs and conflicts in lifestyles between husband and wife. Health status, childlessness or economic difficulties are not considered a main reason to get divorced. Gender difference in the respondents' opinions is almost insignificant, however, the attitude of respondents is considerably different between urban and rural areas, between those are well-educated and low-educated, between those who work in the farms and non-agricultural professional and self-employed. The difference is also stark significant in terms of age cohorts. For instance, urban 2 dwellers are more likely to agree to divorce in almost all situations. More welleducated respondents than lower-educated respondents say yes to divorce if the couple has domestic violence but they make up a small proportion of those who would file a divorce if a spouse is childless or has extramarital affairs. Multivariable analysis has been applied to identify the extent to which the abovementioned factors influence the decision to divorce of a spouse.