

THE EFFECT OF MEDIA AND ECONOMICS ON THE CHANGE OF DIVORCE RATE IN MOROCCO

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ABSTRACT

Morocco is experiencing many social and technological advances since the King Mohammed VI stepped up to the throne in 1999 (Transforming Lives and Communities, 2013). Statistics show that Morocco is experiencing an intense decrease in poverty reaching 9% in 2012. It is also witnessing an increase in GDP, education and internet usage in the last ten years (World Bank, 2012). The technological and economic growth have played a role in shaping the Moroccan culture during the past decades. One of the major changes that the Moroccan society is witnessing today is the increase in divorce rate, reaching 13% in 2010 (Shikhani, 2010). Using secondary type of data collected by the HCP (Haut Commissariat au Plan), Euromonitor, and World Bank, some major factors affecting the change in the divorce rate in Morocco were identified. These factors affecting divorce rate were studied for both males and females in two separate regression models. Both models suggest that the divorce rate is related to the different levels of education, average age at marriage, annual income, media exposure, fertility rate, and the Moudawana family code. The results show that in the model regarding male, the significant variables are fertility, Moudawana family code, primary school, and media usage. However, in the model regarding female, the significant variables are Moudawana family code, secondary school, female higher education, and media usage.