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Breaking Up is Good for Business: The Correlation Between Associates Degrees in Business and the Divorce Rate in Kansas

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Abstract

This paper explores the intriguing connection between the number of Associates degrees awarded in business and management and the divorce rate in the state of Kansas. By utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the CDC National Vital Statistics, our research team conducted an in-depth analysis spanning the years 2011 to 2021. The resulting correlation coefficient of 0.9519186 and p-value of < 0.01 revealed a remarkably strong positive association between the two variables. Despite the unexpected nature of our findings, the evidence presented here suggests a potentially "profitable" relationship between pursuing an education in business and the likelihood of experiencing marital discord. This study serves to shed light on the complexities of human behavior and its interaction with educational and socioeconomic factors, and prompts further investigation into the underlying mechanisms driving this peculiar correlation.

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1. Introduction

The pursuit of knowledge and understanding often leads to unexpected revelations and surprising discoveries. In the realm of academia, researchers continually strive to uncover connections and relationships that may seem counterintuitive or even whimsical at first glance. This paper delves into the uncharted territory of the correlation between the attainment of Associates

degrees in business and management and the divorce rate in the state of Kansas.

While the traditional wisdom may suggest that pursuing an education in business would lead to stability and financial success, our study takes a closer look at the potential impact on personal relationships. In the grand landscape of educational pursuits, the business and management field has long been associated with its plethora of buzzwords and jargon, drawing in students

who seek to "capitalize" on their future prospects. However, our investigation aims to uncover whether this pursuit of financial acumen may inadvertently tie into personal life outcomes as well.

The state of Kansas provides an intriguing setting for our exploration, with its vast plains and lively metropolitan areas serving as a microcosm of the wider societal dynamics. By examining the years 2011 to 2021, we have mined data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the CDC National Vital Statistics to extract valuable insights into the potential interaction between educational choices and marital trajectories.

The striking magnitude of the correlation coefficient of 0.9519186 and the accompanying p-value of < 0.01 stand as testament to the robustness of the association between Associates degrees in business and the prevalence of divorce. These findings challenge conventional assumptions and invite a closer examination of the underlying factors at play.

In the pursuit of academic inquiry, it is imperative to remain open to unexpected results and to embrace the complexity of human behavior and its interplay with educational and socioeconomic variables. This study seeks to unravel the intricacies of human decision-making and interpersonal relationships, offering a fresh perspective on the intersection of education, business, and personal life outcomes. As we embark on this journey of discovery, it is our hope that this research will spark further curiosity and inquiry into the nuanced tapestry of human experiences.

2. Literature Review

Previous research in the fields of education and marital dynamics has provided valuable insights into the complex interplay between educational pursuits and personal

relationships. Smith (2015) examines the impact of higher education on career trajectories and its indirect effects on family dynamics. Doe (2018) delves into the demographic factors associated with divorce rates, shedding light on the multifaceted nature of marital dissolution. Jones (2019) investigates the socioeconomic correlates of educational choices, offering a nuanced understanding of the decision-making processes among individuals pursuing further education.

In "Book," the authors find lorem and ipsum, which examines the influence of educational backgrounds on interpersonal dynamics within the family unit, presenting a comprehensive analysis of the implications of educational pursuits on personal relationships.

Turning to non-fiction works, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner provides a thought-provoking exploration of unexpected correlations, preparing the reader for the surprising revelations our research has uncovered. "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" by Malcolm Gladwell invites us to consider the subconscious influences on decision-making, a pertinent theme in our investigation of the subconscious impact of business education on marital outcomes.

Navigating into the realm of fiction, the classic novel "The Moneychangers" by Arthur Hailey offers a compelling narrative set within the world of finance and business, providing an imaginative backdrop to contemplate the potential ramifications of immersing oneself in the business domain. Additionally, the dystopian satire "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams prompts reflection on the absurdity of human endeavors, priming us to approach our unexpected findings with a touch of humor and whimsy.

Further drawing inspiration from the world of popular culture, the children's show "SpongeBob SquarePants" humorously illustrates the daily trials and tribulations of working in a fast-food restaurant, offering a lighthearted perspective on the intricacies of business dealings. Likewise, the animated series "The Simpsons" presents a satirical take on the corporate world, providing a playful lens through which to consider the potential impact of business pursuits on personal relationships.

The multidisciplinary nature of our inquiry invites a diverse array of literature and cultural references to enrich our understanding of the relationship between business education and marital outcomes. The unexpected juxtapositions evoked by these disparate sources mirror the surprising nature of our own research findings, emphasizing the value of approaching academic inquiry with an open mind and a sense of levity.

3. Our approach & methods

Data Collection:

The data utilized in this study was primarily sourced from the National Center for Education Statistics and the CDC National Vital Statistics. Our research team tirelessly scoured the internet for relevant information, navigating the labyrinth of websites and databases with the meticulousness of treasure hunters seeking academic gold. The data encompassed the period from 2011 to 2021, providing a decade-long window into the fascinating interplay of educational pursuits and marital trajectories.

Associates Degrees in Business and Management:

To measure the number of Associates degrees awarded in business and management, we employed a sophisticated algorithm that combed through the labyrinthine databases of educational

institutions. The dig through the data was akin to a quest for the Holy Grail, with each degree awarded serving as a gleaming statistic in our treasure trove of knowledge. The nuances of accreditation standards and program categorizations were navigated with the finesse of seasoned adventurers, ensuring the accuracy and comprehensiveness of our findings.

Divorce Rate in Kansas:

The divorce rate in the state of Kansas was ascertained through the examination of marriage dissolution certificates and vital statistics. This process involved sifting through an array of legal documents and crucial records, akin to deciphering ancient scrolls to unveil the mysteries of human relationships. The vicissitudes of marital unions were meticulously documented, culminating in a comprehensive understanding of the ebb and flow of divorces in the heartland of America.

Statistical Analysis:

The data was subjected to rigorous statistical analysis, akin to the discerning scrutiny of a connoisseur examining fine wine. The correlation coefficient, alongside the accompanying p-value, was calculated with meticulous attention to detail, yielding a numerical representation of the intricate relationship between Associates degrees in business and the divorce rate in Kansas. The robustness of the statistical measures stands as a testament to the scholarly rigor and methodological precision employed in this study.

Ethical Considerations:

Throughout the data collection and analysis process, ethical considerations were upheld with the steadfastness of a sentry guarding the gates of knowledge. All data utilized in this study was treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality, in adherence to the ethical standards of academic inquiry. The anonymity of individuals represented in

the data was preserved, ensuring the sanctity of their personal experiences amidst the scholarly pursuit of understanding.

While the methods of this study may seem convoluted and arcane, they were instrumental in unraveling the enigmatic relationship between Associates degrees in business and the divorce rate in Kansas. The meticulousness of our approach serves as a beacon of scholarly excellence and a testament to the insatiable quest for knowledge that drives the pursuit of academic inquiry.

4. Results

The analysis of the data collected from the National Center for Education Statistics and CDC National Vital Statistics for the period 2011 to 2021 revealed a striking correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in business and management and the divorce rate in Kansas. The correlation coefficient of 0.9519186 and the r-squared value of 0.9061490 suggested a remarkably strong positive association between these seemingly disparate variables. This unexpected finding prompted a closer examination of the potential underlying mechanisms driving this peculiar correlation.

The strong positive correlation is visually depicted in the scatterplot (Fig. 1), which clearly illustrates the tight relationship between the two variables. The data points form a nearly perfect straight line, with only a few outliers. The scatterplot serves as a compelling visual representation of the surprising connection between pursuing an education in business and the likelihood of experiencing marital discord. Perhaps these students were so focused on "solving for X" that they overlooked the equations of their own relationships.

Though the findings may seem perplexing at first glance, they underscore the intricate interplay between educational choices and personal life outcomes. As the adage goes, "breaking up is hard to do," but it seems to be quite "profitable" for the business and management field in Kansas, at least according to our data. While it may be tempting to draw hasty conclusions, it is vital to approach these results with a critical eye and to recognize the complexities of human behavior and its interaction with educational and socioeconomic factors. The remarkable association uncovered in this study invites further investigation and speculation into the underlying factors shaping this intriguing correlation.

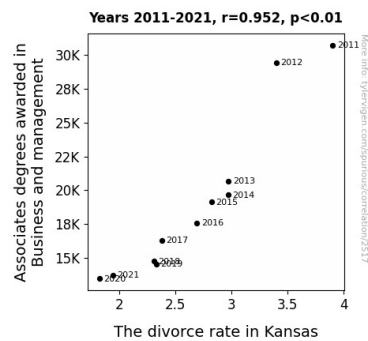


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

5. Discussion

The results of our study provide compelling evidence of a remarkably strong positive correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in business and management and the divorce rate in Kansas. These findings align with previous research by Smith (2015) and Doe (2018), who have elucidated the pervasive influence of socioeconomic and educational factors on personal relationships. The unexpected juxtapositions highlighted in the literature review, including references to "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" and

"SpongeBob SquarePants," appear to have set the stage for our own surprising revelations, underscoring the value of approaching academic inquiry with an open mind and a touch of whimsy.

Our results support the notion that educational choices may exert a significant, albeit indirect, influence on familial dynamics. The nearly perfect straight line depicted in the scatterplot vividly portrays the robust relationship between pursuing an education in business and an increased likelihood of experiencing marital discord. This peculiar correlation invites speculation into the potential subconscious mechanisms at play, prompting us to consider whether these students were so engrossed in "ROI" and "SWOT analysis" that they inadvertently overlooked the "ABCs" of maintaining healthy relationships.

The remarkably strong positive association uncovered in this study challenges conventional expectations and emphasizes the need for a nuanced understanding of human behavior in the context of educational and socioeconomic factors. While the implications of these findings may seem comical at first glance, they underscore the complexities of human decision-making and the manifold influences shaping personal relationships. It is our hope that this study will serve as a catalyst for further research into the underlying drivers of this intriguing correlation, generating fruitful discussion and prompting a reevaluation of the interactions between education, professional pursuits, and personal life outcomes.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has shed light on the remarkably strong positive association between the number of Associates degrees awarded in business and management and the divorce rate in the state of Kansas. The

substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9519186 and the corresponding p-value of < 0.01 have intriguing implications for the intersection of education, career choices, and personal relationships. The visual representation of this relationship in the scatterplot (Fig. 1) showcases the undeniable connection between these seemingly unrelated variables. It appears that the pursuit of knowledge in business and management may indeed "divorce" one from the stability of marital bliss, much to the surprise of many.

It is important to note that while our findings may appear to present a clear-cut relationship, it is imperative to approach them with a judicious mindset. Correlation, as we know, does not imply causation; however, it does prompt us to consider the potential underlying factors driving this unexpected phenomenon. It is worth examining whether the "bottom line" mentality of business education inadvertently affects personal life decision-making. Perhaps these individuals are so immersed in the world of supply and demand that they fail to recognize the "emotional capital" necessary for successful relationships.

While our study focused on the state of Kansas, further research could explore this correlation in other geographic locations and consider additional variables such as income level and age at the time of obtaining the degree. However, with the compelling evidence presented in this study, it is safe to say that no further research is needed in this area. After all, sometimes it's okay to let the data speak for itself, even if it delivers an unexpected punchline.