

Factors affecting the marriage of minor girls from their perspective and its relation to some variables in Jordan

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Abstract

This study investigates the factors affecting early marriage (economic, social, psychological, legal and factors pertaining to media), qualitative and social characteristics, ways to reduce this phenomena from minor girl's perspective and the differences between affecting factors according to: age at marriage, family monthly income and place of living variables. The data was collected via a questionnaire from purposive sample of (130) minors of varied different cases of service seekers at Jordanian Women's Union and the department of Chief Justice; and statistically analyzed using SPSS. The results indicate that the factors affecting early marriage are average in general and the most prominent social-cultural factors are: a suitable husband, beliefs and social traditions and extended families. The most prominent economic-financial factors are: the girl's desire to have a better standard of living, low family income and fathers' inability to provide financial support for girls' education. The most prominent psychological factors are: girls' belief that marriage brings freedom and independence, escaping domestic violence and ill treatment as well as the belief that marriage helps girls mature and become responsible. The prominent legal-media factors were: lack of strict regulations on the marriage of girls under the age of sixteen, lack of interest in amending the laws pertaining to marriage terms and conditions in addition to the fact that permitting child marriage among refugees increases early marriage in the Jordanian society. The results also indicate that there are no differences among the factors affecting early marriage according to age at marriage and family monthly income variables. It is indicated that there are differences according to the place of living variable in the interest of camps' residents compared to cities and villages' residents. The study presents recommendations some of which are: raise public awareness among parents, enforcing a law prohibiting marriage under the age of 18, involving national and international institutions in solving the problems facing the families, making guidance programs for the young people intending to marry to raise awareness about the importance of marriage and the role of each of them and standing up to the challenges they encounter.

Keywords: affecting factors, early marriage, minors, Jordan

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I.Introduction and background

The contemporary society witnesses big transformations in all fields: scientific, economic, political, social and cultural. Since change is the law of life, the effects of this transformation necessitate meditation to clarify the different events in order to understand and overcome the sudden transformations. The change hit the social construction and hasn't been confined to a certain system; it is spreading like cancer in the society. The impact of change differed among societies according to immunity of each society whether social, cultural, political, or economic (Issat, 2017).

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is considered one of the developing countries suffering from many social problems as a result of this transformation, especially, in the social aspect. Alien social phenomena occurred and started threatening the entity and constitution of the society hindering its stability and coherence. The most important social system that is endangered to dismantle as a social institution is the family which enjoys a special regard by different disciplines one of which is social science and social service. In order to understand the reality of change hitting this institution, the factors that contributed to this change and the problems that have threatened this system preventing it from performing its effective roles, this study highlights a very important family issue which is early marriage whether for young females or males. The study also brings to the fore the most important factors contributing to the increase in this phenomenon according to different statistics issued by government, civil and international organizations.

Family: Concept, types and characteristics

Family is the basic unit and essential foundation in building a society; and it is defined as: A social biological organized group consisting of a man and a woman (having a marital bond) and their children. It is also defined as: A social basic permanent group that is the source of morals and it constitutes the first pillar to control individual's behaviors and the frame within which the human receives first social life lessons.

From sociological point of view, family means a man and a woman or more live together on the basis of entering sexual relationship approved by society and the resultant rights and duties like taking care of children who are the outcome of this relationship and bringing them up .

There are two main types of families:

First: Extended families: They are a common type in communities other than industrial communities and a family is a solidifying group where property is common and authority is for the head of the family or the grandfather. It also means a number of linked families whether the kinship is paternal or maternal, living in one house and it doesn't differ significantly from the compound

Second: Nuclear family: A small group characterized by its size, made of a husband, a wife and their unadult children; and it is independent from the rest of the local society. This special form of family is considered an important characteristic of modern industrial societies because it expresses individuality reflected in property rights, general social laws regarding happiness and individual satisfaction, and freedom from family control.

As for family fundamentals and general characteristics, they are subject to the following considerations:

1. Family is the first cell in the social life; it is the basis for the social structure and it is the most common social phenomenon; no society lacks the family institution as it is the foundation for stability in the social life.
2. Family is based on situations and expressions approved by the society. It is not an individual or volitional act, it is societal. It is based on society expressions in its origin, development and situations.
3. Family is considered the general frame that restricts individual's behaviors. It forms their lives and lends them its nature and characteristics. It is the vehicle of social awareness and national heritage and civilization carried from one generation to another, (Rashawn, 2008).
4. Family as a social system that affects other social systems and is affected by them. Therefore, the family life in a politically stable society is supported, strong and subject to state's care where there are a lot of legislations to achieve family happiness such as: social solidarity, social security and insurance and social and medical care. But in the unstable or backward societies where families receive no social care to prevent social diseases, we see the social system is set for deviations as juvenile crimes and family tension.
5. Family is considered an economic unit and this seems clear if we look back at the history of family. It met all life requirements and needs and fulfilled all economic activities.

Marriage: Concept, type and characteristics

Marriage is deemed one of the most important social systems in the life of the individual and society. It is a legal bond between the two genders and it compromises the customs and traditions and built on respect and mutual cooperation between the two partners. Marriage customs differ from age to age; it started simple as acceptance between male and female and as societies and religions developed, they contributed to correcting the procedure of marriage and stipulated terms and conditions the two genders must fulfill to get married. It is well known that men and women complete each other, but this complimentary relationship is not clear due to varying characteristics and the quality of relationships that they make. The natural complementary relationship for the two genders is clear in some outputs such as: style of emotional, sexual and reproduction behavior which are considered universal, permanent and stable.

Marriage is considered the way to association and partnership and a prelude to build a family life between a man and a woman who agree to have each other as a partner in a joint life and each one is a party aiming at fulfilling his/her instinctive and emotional needs. Each party is prepared to participate in achieving the joint goals that marriage and family are based upon. Arabic Oxford encyclopedia defines marriage as concluding a legal agreement between a man and a woman to live and share property, and the married woman assumes her husband's family name.

The most important and dangerous social system in the life of human beings and society as it guarantees a permanent relationship between a man and a woman to bring up their children and it guarantees wealth transfer and

acquisition of cultural and social status. It is a legal association between the two genders and it is expired within limits set up by the society and whoever violates these limits will be punished.

As illustrated above, marriage is a social system and a procedure taken as a preliminary condition to make a family and it must fulfill the terms and conditions determined by customs or law regardless of their shape. And then marriage is considered a social system that contributes broadly to group organization and control of sexual instinct. It is based on preference for a permanent relationship between the two parties and a desire for shared life. Marriage can be considered an important social institution having certain rules and regulations differ from society to society, but are similar in main features and marriage occurs in human communities in several shapes.

Early marriage: concepts, factors and impacts

Concepts pertaining to early marriage are different according to the legal age of marriage in societies. It is generally clear that the legal age for marriage in most civil laws in Arab and western countries is 18 for both genders in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in its first article where a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years and this emphasizes the necessity that every child should enjoy all rights stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) where early marriage at any age below eighteen is not stated.

Concluding a contract between a man and a woman with the aim of making a family before both or either one becomes eighteen years old that is the legal age when the individual becomes eligible to do any act with his/her property, pointed out that early marriage is a contract between a man and a woman violating the assumed age, taking into consideration that the legal age for marriage is eighteen as stated in the Personal Status Law of Jordan of 2010, defines it as: the marriage where one spouse is under eighteen which means that this spouse is a child according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child where a child means every human being below the age of eighteen. But there is an exception according to paragraph B of the same article allowing for marriage at the age of fifteen within exceptional circumstances determined by the judge.

The factors leading to early marriage are various and distributed as social, cultural, economic, psychological and legal such as: the family hurries up to marry their children, especially, girls fearing that they are prone to deviation or harassment, or they want to avoid criticism, degrading and mocking from others that their girl is persona non grata. They also fear of spinsterhood (which starts at the age of eighteen according to some people). Some early marriages arise from economic problems like poverty and family's low living standard. In addition, the family's big size and increase in livelihood expenses leads the person in charge of the family to hurry and marry the girl at early age. Orphanhood (loss of a parent or the person who works to support the family) as well constitutes an important factor affecting early marriage with a number of cases.

Several studies showed that the economic factor constitute the major cause of early marriage whereas from the point of view of some people the girl is considered an economic burden that can be gotten rid of by marriage. The second cause is social, cultural and ethical. The third cause combines economic and ethical aspects inasmuch as it is considered that marrying girls at early age protects them from deviation.

Excuses to and trends in early marriage can be summarized as follows:

- Social and cultural factors like customs and traditions.
- Poverty and low life standard for the head of the family.
- Abundance of money or good economic standard for some families encourages them to hurry up to marry their male children.
- Orphanhood (death of the head of the family or both parents) and distributing children among relatives.
- Illiteracy, big family size and the resultant burdens; the big family size constitutes expenses burden and early marriage becomes a solution (Al Sharjabi, 2005).

With regard to the resultant impact of early marriage, most studies in this field indicate that early marriage leads to negative consequences in several aspects whether economic, social, cultural, vocational, educational or health and growth related, especially, with girls. The overall growth with girls is generally harmed because they leave schools at early age before completing their education. Therefore, their skills are limited and they don't get opportunities to work. Early marriage is directly and indirectly linked with poverty, unemployment and not achieving sustainable development where the woman is one of its basic pillars. The big gap between the ages of girls and their husbands leads to inequality between husband and wife based on the social types and others .

Early marriage in Jordan: legal and statistical perspective

The data provided by Jordan National Council For Family Affairs for (2017) indicates that the rate of early marriage for girls aged (13 to 18) is 7. 4 %). New regulations for the marriage of minors were published in the official gazette no. 5472 under the title "Regulations of allowing marriage for those who completed fifteen years not eighteen years of age No (1) for the year 2017 in pursuance to Article (10) paragraph B of personal status law no. (36) for 2010. These regulations came into force as of August 1st, 2017. The regulations allowing people under the age of eighteen to marry for 2011 were cancelled. As for article (4) of the regulations where they stipulate the conditions to grant a permit for marriage: "The court should observe the following to grant a marriage permit: 1- the man proposing to the girl should be eligible in accordance with the provisions of article (21) of the law. 2- The judge should verify complete consent and choice. 3- The court should verify the necessity required by public interest whether bringing benefits or avoiding evil and the means of achieving what it deems suitable. 4- The difference in age should not be more than fifteen. 5- The proposing man should not be married. 6- Marriage should not be a reason to quit education, 7- The proposing man should prove ability to spend, pay the dowry, and prepare a marital home. 8- Presenting an accredited medical examination certificate. The total cases of marriage were 77,700 in 2017 out of which 10,434 marriage of girls minors aged (15 to 18) with the rate of (13.4%). In Jordan there are 213 marriage contract registered daily including 29 cases of early marriage. (71) Divorce cases are registered (judicial and consented) out of which are (15) for girls early marriage (divorce in the first year of marriage). And there are (207) divorce cases for minor girls regardless of the year of marriage (Jordanian Women Solidarity Institute, 2019).

Study problem:

The study problem lies in recognizing the factors affecting the phenomenon of early marriage in the Jordanian society from the perspective of minor girls who suffered dearly from early marriage at different stages of life and consequently they were denied their rights to grow, mature and get education in a natural way. They became young mothers shattered between the reality of personal, physiological and psychological maturity on one hand and family and children maintenance and bearing responsibility at early age on the other hand. There are several factors contributing to reaching this confusing state in all aspects: psychological, social, economic, legal and factors pertaining to media in ways that adversely reflected on their lives.

Not only in Jordan, but most societies in developing countries suffer from this phenomenon. The increase in this phenomenon necessitates studying it and the factors affecting it. This segment of society, minor girls, and other segments of society suffer from various problems (social, psychological and economic) that affect their adjustment and future integration in the society. Therefore, this study was conducted to recognize these factors, their impact on minor girls' life and the ways to overcome these factors and stand up to them. The study problem is summarized in the following question: What are the factors affecting early marriage from the perspective of minor girls themselves?

Study Objectives

This study aims at recognizing the factors affecting early marriage (economic, social, psychological, legal and factors pertaining to media) from the perspective of minor girls , their qualitative social characteristics, and the differences between affecting factors according to: (age at marriage , family monthly income and place of living variables).

The importance of study

This study is important because of the increasing number of early marriage cases in Jordan from all social classes as indicated in documents issued by the department of chief justice, the National Council for Family Affairs and several civil society institutions, The study is also important as it highlight the factors affecting this increase from the perspective of minor girls who seek service at the Jordanian Women's Union and other institutions to receive consultancy, see children after divorce and receive different aid services in an attempt to bring into view these factors and to reduce their effects. Moreover, the results of this study provide the professionals, practitioners and decision makers with basics in dealing with this phenomenon and turning it down as much as possible as proposed in the recommendations section in light of the shortage in studies in this regard.

II. Literature Review

Many studies discussed the issue of early marriage form different perspectives national, Arab and universal; most important of these studies are:

Minor girls' marriage between commoditization and trade: a case study for tourist marriage in Egypt. The study aimed at recognizing the reasons leading to this phenomenon which starts with the low economic standards, the cultural heritage which perceives girls as a source of worry that society seeks to get rid of them, lack of awareness due to illiteracy and the spreading of corruption, lack of legal umbrella that prevents violating the humanity of girls, and the fatwas (legal Islamic opinion) legislating and encouraging marriage. The field study revealed that the girls' desire to marry guys from the gulf to escape poverty. It was clear that girls wanted to enjoy wellbeing because the gulf guys enjoy good financial status and that is the main reason for this marriage and this can be generalized for all cases especially because those who agree on this marriage were present in all study cases.

Shaqboua's study (2015) entitled "Early marriage in Syrian refugee Camps in Jordan – Field study at Za'atari camp."

The study aimed to recognize the reasons of early marriage in Za'atari Camp from the perspective of married girls under the age of eighteen, their families and those who work with cases of early marriage. The study concluded several findings that there is high rate of early marriage in Za'atari camp reached (73.3%) and most cases were below eighteen inside the camp due to reasons pertaining to refugee circumstances, residing in the camp, seeking security, and the social, economic, psychological and living circumstances. The study clarified the role of active organizations to provide various awareness workshops and psychological, social and legal support to different age groups for both genders to reduce early marriage cases.

Al-Jawamees Study (2014) entitled "tenth graders and secondary level students' trends towards early marriage in Amman". The study aimed at recognizing the trends of tenth graders and secondary level students at public and private schools in Amman towards early marriage by investigating the extent of students awareness in grades ten, eleven and twelve regarding the concept of marriage and marriage contract and the extent of their tendency to early marriage. The study also aimed at determining students' motivations for early marriage, social pressures affecting the decision to marry and students' preference between education and marriage. The study concluded: there is high awareness with students on the concepts of marriage and marriage contract and recognizing the legal age of marriage in Jordan. The study also showed that students' tendency to early marriage was low and they didn't have desire to marry at their age then. The study also showed that poverty that students' families suffered from was one of the most important social factors affecting the decision to get married whereas the impact of teachers' role to push under performer students to leave schools was the lowest factor affecting early marriage.

Iknane & Cisse, 2010, entitled: "Early marriage, reproductive health and human rights in Mali". This study aims to collect basic information about early marriage and reproductive health in Timbuktu city in the south of Mali where early marriage is very common. The sample included (388) ladies and girls from six suburbs of Timbuktu and five health centers. The methodology of the study was collecting information to assess the practices related to early marriage. The study concluded the following results: 85% of girls married guys from the same family. 97% of the cases were arranged marriages by parents, 3% of the cases were free-will marriages, 58% of the cases were girls under eighteen, 39% were girls of the age group (15 – 17), 19% married before they were 15, women gave birth to seven children in average and every one experienced the death of a child at birth.

Summary of literature review

It is clear from the above mentioned that all studies investigated early marriage and showed the reasons leading to this phenomenon and its impact on all counts: social, economic, legal, factors pertaining to media, psychological, cultural and others in a way that resulted in the spreading of this phenomenon and its aggravation. It adversely reflected on the reality of societies and lead to a decline in achieving sustainable development where the woman is considered the basic unit of it. The studies clarified the consequences of the spreading of this phenomenon in all respects.

Study questions:

This study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What are the (social-cultural) factors affecting early marriage from the perspective of minor girls?
2. What are the (economic-financial) factors affecting early marriage from the perspective of minor girls?
3. What are the (psychological - physiological) factors affecting early marriage from the perspective of minor girls?
4. What are the (legal-media) factors affecting early marriage from the perspective of minor girls?
5. What are the ways of dealing with this phenomenon and reducing it from the perspective of minor girls?
6. Are there differences of statistical significance at the level of significance ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) for the factors affecting early marriage attributed to the variables: (age at marriage, family monthly income, place of living)?

Definitions of key terms:

For the purpose of this study the concepts are defined as follows:

- Early marriage: It is the marriage where one spouse is below eighteen years old which means he/she is a child according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child where a child is defined as a human being below the age of 18 .

- Minor: Every girl gets married before the age of (15), but there is an exception allowing for marriage at fifteen under exceptional circumstances as defined by the judge.

Affecting factors: The reasons leading to early marriage.

III. Methods and procedures

Study methodology: Social survey by sampling is used because this method collects maximum amount of data and information in less time, effort and cost. It doesn't only describe the phenomenon, but it goes beyond by analyzing and interpreting data to produce results that can be generalized.

Study population and sample:

The population of the study are all girls married early before the age of eighteen (early) and the marriage contract was concluded by the judge in a Sharia court under the exception stated in the law in addition to service seekers from Jordanian Women's Union and the Department of Chief Justice. The total number of the cases of minor marriages according to the report of (2017) was (10,434) case whose age (15-18) with a percentage of (13.4%) of total marriages.

The sample of study: A purposive sample was selected from the population of the study by distributing the questionnaire of the study to the girls seeking service from the Jordanian Women's Union and the Department of Chief Justice and they were chosen randomly according to the date of their visits. The sample consists of (130) early married girls. The implementation took three uninterrupted months to obtain the required data.

Study tools:

For the purposes of this study data was collected in the following ways:

1. **Study Questionnaire:** This study used a questionnaire as a main tool in collecting data and it was designed based on related research papers and studies, in addition to, the literature review. The questionnaire was prepared in a professional way to collect data inasmuch as it achieves the study's objectives and answers its questions. The questionnaire has three parts. The first part included the social characteristics of the participants from minor girls. The second part was designed using 5-point Likert scale where the responses vary as (strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree) and this shows the point of view of minor girls regarding the affecting factors (social, economic, psychological, legal, pertaining to media) and the third part includes open questions.

Validity of the tool: Some professionals in the field were consulted to assess the validity of the tool which included (92) items. Then some of the items were amended in accordance with the objectives of the study and opinion of research reviewers. Then the questionnaire was finally drafted to include (80) items.

Reliability of the tool: The internal consistency was calculated (Cronbach's Alpha) and this was conducted for each field separately and then for the whole scale and the value of coefficient was (0.915) which is considered acceptable for the purpose of the study. Table (1) shows the coefficient.

Table (1): Results of consistency of the factors affecting early marriage from the perspective of minor girls

Field	Number of items	Value of Cronbach's Alpha
Social-cultural factors	29	0.933
Economic-financial factors	15	0.914
Psychological-physiological factors	19	0.875
Legal-media factors	17	0.876

overall	80	0.915
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Table (1) shows that the fields of factors affecting early marriage highly enjoy internal consistency, it is (0.915) for overall questionnaire, (0.933) for Social-cultural factors, (0.914) for Economic-financial factors, (0.875) for Psychological-physiological factors, (0.876) for Legal-media factors. All the above values are considered appropriate and acceptable for the purposes of the study and they indicate suitable consistency values.

Statistical Analysis:

To answer the research questions, the statistical software package SPSS was used to analyze the responses. The respondents have evaluated the research factors on a 5 point Likert Scale. Descriptive measures such as mean and standard deviation were used to evaluate the answers. After that, the variability of answers was also evaluated using f-test and t-test techniques. The significance of each factor was evaluated according to the ratio of scale range over the mean of answers $(1-5)/3=1.33$. In view of that this ratio has given a score for every factor; the factors were considered of low significance if the ratio was between 1 and 2.33, of medium significance if the ratio was between 2.34 and 3.67, and of high significance if the ratio was between 3.68 and 5.

IV. Presentation and discussion of the results of the study In

this part, the results of the study are presented and discussed as follows:

Presentation of the results related to the questions of the study:

- 1- What are the (social-cultural) factors affecting early marriage from the point of view of minor girls?
- 2- What are the (economic-financial) factors affecting early marriage from the perspective of minor girls?

Are there differences with statistical significance at the level of significance ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) for the factors affecting early marriage attributed to the variables: (age at marriage, family monthly income, place of living)?

To answer this question the suitable statistical test for the variable was used as follows:

1- Age at marriage variable:

The means and standard deviations were calculated for the responses of the sample for the variable “age at marriage” for the questionnaire as a whole and table (2) illustrates the results:

Table (2)

Means and standard deviations for the scale as a whole according to “age at marriage” variable

Field	Age at marriage	n umber	mea n	Sta ndard deviation
Factors affecting	Less than 12	1	3.34	0.7

early marriage	years old	1		86
	From 13 – 15 years old	3 7	3.71	0.6 03
	From 16-18 years old	8 2	3.51	0.5 72

Table (2) shows apparent differences among the means with statistical significance at the level of significance ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). One-way analysis of variance was used and table (3) illustrates that:

Table (3)

Results of one-way analysis of variance for the factors affecting early marriage according to “age at marriage variable”

Id	Source of variance	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares	F value	Level of significance
Age at marriage	Between groups	2 .125	2	1 .063	.355	0.038
	Within groups	4 0.220	1 27	0 .317		
	total	4 2.345	1 29			

The results in table (3) indicate that there are differences of statistical value at the level of significance for the factors affecting early marriage attributed to “age at marriage” variable and this is based on the calculated F value that is (3.335) with level of significance of (0.038) and these values are considered statistically significant because the calculated level of significance was less than (0.05); to determine the level of significance .

This section discusses the study’s results and recommendations as follows:

Discussion of the results related to the questions of the study:

1- (social-cultural) factors affecting early marriage:

The results indicate that the means for the sample of the study ranged from average to high. The social-cultural factors affecting early marriage are in the following ranks. First: Presence of a suitable husband is a motive to marry girls early. Second: Social beliefs and customs as fate and others. Third: Early marriage increases in extended families of numerous members. The least factor affecting early marriage was “early marriage achieves social acceptance for the girl”. It was preceded by “less cooperation and solidarity among members of a society”. This reason is attributed to the fact that most minor girls married early because of the main factor which is the presence of a suitable husband who is in most cases a relative or a person of blood link; and this point corresponds to the following point regarding beliefs and social customs related to religion for conservative families. The third

factor “early marriage increases in extended families of numerous members” also stems from the desire to relate to other families by marriage which enhances their power and becomes good support for them and these beliefs are deeply rooted in Arab communities’ descendants of Bedouins. These results are compatible with the results of Sa’em’s study (2007) about “Early Marriage” which was conducted in Yemen and it concluded that the customs and traditions have a main role in rooting the problem of early marriage in the Yemeni society. This is compatible with the reality of the Arab societies who share similar cultures and civilizations.

2- (Economic-financial) factors affecting early marriage:

The results indicate that the means for the theme of economic-financial factors for the responses of the sample was confined between medium and high. In the first rank comes “desire of the girl to get a better life standard” and the second rank was “low family income increases tendency to early marriage”, in the third rank comes “father's inability to pay for daughters' education”. The least ranking factor was “family's desire to maintain their economic wealth”. It was preceded by “Desire of some families to get girls' dowries”.

Based on the above mentioned, it is clear that the economic factors have the biggest effect on early marriage regarding the reasons like increase in the tendency to get married early and defending it. Thus, the main reason for early marriage is pressing economic factors like: poverty, unemployment, low income, not fulfilling the basic needs and others. Therefore, the girl is forced to escape by getting married to have a better life that is more fulfilling for needs and desires. This was indicated by most population of the sample of the study. This result agrees with the results of most previous studies related to early marriage like Al Zyood’s Study (2012) which showed that most economic reasons related to poverty and the financial status of the family. Al Kharoof (2007) discussed that the reasons that make the judges conclude marriage contracts for girls whose age is under eighteen are related to different economic and social matters like easing financial burden on the family and in like manner the study of Pyseing in Africa (2009).

3- (Psychological-physiological) factors affecting early marriage:

The results imply that the means for Psychological-physiological factors for the responses of the sample were bound between medium and high. "Girl's belief that marriage will achieve for her freedom and independence" comes in the first place. It is followed by "Running away from family violence and ill-treatment". Then, “Marriage helps the girl mature and becomes responsible” comes in the third place. The results show that the issue of marriage is linked with women's awareness and their psychological and emotional maturity, their ability to understand marriage life and the requirements thereof and their role. Some pressing psychological circumstances that many girls suffer from in our societies like violence, severity, constriction, restriction of freedom, inequality, lack of work experience and dependency on family compel girls to accept early marriage as a means that helps them achieve the psychological factors that help them actualize themselves and fulfill psychological needs. Some of these results conform with the results of Jonsker & Tamarsory (2010) in Sri Lanka finding out that early marriage affects girls more than boys as it is considered one of the most practices resulting from discrimination based on the social type and biased against the woman and her situation. The least affecting factors was "girl’s role confined to marriage and reproduction”. It was preceded by "fulfilling sexual need in a legitimate and acceptable way". This expresses the extent to which girls reject the way the traditional societies regard the woman and her role in the society to be

confined to reproduction and bringing up children. Rather, her role is a partner in the building and developing the societies along with men. Moreover, girls respect customs and traditions according to the way in which they were brought up regarding fulfilling the sexual desire in a legitimate and acceptable way as demonstrated in the study of Al Jawamees (2014) with reference to the society's trends on the idea of early marriage.

4-What are the ways of dealing with this phenomenon and reducing it?

The results illustrate a group of suggestions presented by the girls regarding the ways of dealing with this phenomenon and reducing it. The suggestion that comes in the first place is "public awareness for family, girl and society as a whole". Then comes "developing a law that prohibits marriage of persons under the age of eighteen". It is followed by "Educating girls and treating them positively". The suggestions conform with all previous factors regarding early marriage according to their themes and most important of them all is public awareness as a basic requirement, especially, for the family and this emphasizes the role of social organizations and institutions in this field along with intensifying their role regarding awareness programs, activation of laws and education ,especially, for girls to be able to determine their future life and take independent decisions.

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