



Full Length Research Paper

Social and economic problems faced by divorced women in Jordan

Hajar T. Nassar

Al Balqa Applied University

Accepted 18 November, 2015

This study aims at investigating the social and economic problems facing the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014, and also it aims to know the effect of divorced women's age, and academic level on the problems they face. The study population consisted of all the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 and their number is (2479) women. The study sample consisted of (113) divorced women whose age between less than 25 years, and 25 years and above, and the researcher distributed a questionnaire among them to investigate the social and economic problems facing them. The researcher used t-test to show the results. Means and standard deviation were used to analyze data, the results of each paragraph in the questionnaire was analyzed separately. T-Test was used to examine questions concerning the variables of major and year. The results showed a statistically significant differences in the views of divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 about the social and academic problems they face, lack of statistically significant differences at the level ($\alpha = 0.05$) due to the age variable and the presence of statistically significant differences at the level of ($\alpha = 0.05$) attributable to the academic level variable.

Key words: Divorced women, social problems, economic problems

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is one of the most important social systems, which is the legitimate way for a family construction, which derives its significance from the Layout value system prevailing in Arab societies, marriage based on solid foundations of love, harmony and friendship and relations of reciprocity normal working to find some kind of autism in the feelings and attitudes of the members of the family unit ensures survival construction of family and continuity and make it able to achieve the goals and roles assigned to it and distancing it from disintegration and delinquency factors. But divorce is a social problem and is considered an important factor in family disintegration and collapse. (Qaisi, and Majali, 2003)

Islam recognized the seriousness of divorce on the family and society although it is permitted by the impossibility of common life or for compelling reasons such as natural aversion, lack of understanding, lack of

agreement between the couple, and the husband's absence for a long time, or injury to a spouse with Chronic illness or sterility of a couple, although it is permitted to them but it does not count in a state of anger, and it is not permissible by Islam. (Abu Laila, 2001)

Since the family is the first step in building the society, the rise in divorce rates is an important indicator of the existence of a defect in that building, the phenomenon of divorce has become widespread with mounting statistical rates, either in Western or Arab communities, including the Jordanian society. Thus, the family in Jordan exposed to changes in the construction and functions, appeared impact on the rise in domestic violence or divorce disintegration rate, and thus when the rising number of families disintegrate in divorce, it is expected that the number of community members who are exposed to the

negative effects of the largest, and these effects can accommodate infect systems social within the community. (Ghazwi, 2007)

The problem of divorce is considered from the phenomena that characterized by the nature of privacy despite the fact that its impact beyond the individual to include the community as a whole, the parties affected by divorce harm caused to their moral and material for a long time, resulting in an imbalance in the personal, family and social relationship. This phenomenon has become an obvious problem in our communities, haunts our lives and fueling discord between us and tearing the social fabric of our construction and make us people have beliefs took root where masculinity authoritarian where its luster declaration of divorce. Is divorce Force highlighted the man to extend his influence and to prove his manhood? Does the man divorce when he wanted simply to divorce? What motivated the divorce in our society? (Ayman, 2010).

Statement of the Problem

Divorced women in Jordan live in a hard and complex situation, these women faced many social and economic problems specially those who are not educated and don't have jobs. Because the Jordanian society is a closed society and there are social values spread in it, divorced women always face problems socially and financially. The researcher in this study tried to investigate the social and economic problems faced by these divorced women.

Questions of the Study

1. What are the social and economic problems the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 face?
2. Are there any statistically significant differences in the problems faced by the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 attributed to the age (less than 25 years, 25 years or above)?
3. Are there any statistically significant differences in the problems faced by the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 attributed to differences in the academic level (less than Tawjihi, Tawjihi, and Bachelor degree)?

Purpose of the Study

This study aims at investigating the social and economic problems facing the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014, and also it aims to know the effect of divorced women's age, and academic level on the problems they face.

Definition of Terms

Divorced women: Is the woman who was the dissolution of her marriage contract for any legitimate reason.

Social problems: problems related to the traditions and values spread among the members of the Jordanian society and affected the life of the divorced women.

Economic problems: related to financial problems faced by the divorced women in Jordan.

Limits of the study

This study is limited on divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014, and the tool used in this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Some researchers conducted studies to investigate the challenges and problems faced divorced women, the researcher here will review some of them.

Booth and Amato (2001) analyze the relation between divorce and distress, using a three wave American panel, where individuals are sampled in three years that were chosen randomly. They model distress as a function of the time to divorce, and the years since divorce, using recall data from the divorce date. The authors find that stress levels are high close to the divorce date, but subsequently decline as time passes. Pevalin and Ermisch (2004) explore what mental health does to the probability of divorce, rather than what shapes mental wellbeing. Sun (2001), Sun and Yi (2002) and Videon (2002) study young people's reactions to parental divorce. Amato (2000) and Wang and Amato (2000) examine the role of individuals' attitudes in predicting who will recover most fully from divorce. Johnson and Wu (2002) study the same U.S. data as Booth and Amato (2001), but with an additional wave, 2000, and a different statistical method. They conclude that it is only those divorcees who remarry who psychologically recover

The results of the study conducted by Ibrahim (2002) about the self-concept among single Jordanian women summed up the existence of statistically significant differences on self-concept due to the different age and educational level. The study included 3 categories (divorced, widowed, unmarried permanently). The study did not reach to the differences in the level of self-concept is attributed to marital status. She used measure of "Tessie" to self-concept Which applied to (280) of single women.

Shobin et al., (2002) had study in America, to know the relationship between women's work and divorce. This study found considerable support for the hypothesis that the economic opportunity of women's work is a factor in ending the unhappy marriages But it does not affect the happy marriages and the participation of wife in work not increase the risk of divorce if both partners are happy. Bevvino (2002), conducted a study to examine the relationship between finding a meaning to life after a divorce and the consequent adjustment. The study sample consisted of 119 volunteers and volunteer in

various stages of divorce. The researcher using a list of post-traumatic growth as well as the emotional separation standards and good mental health, depression and alcohol, In addition to this answer two unopened answers questions on specific reason for the divorce as they see as well as the effects and aftershocks of divorce by their perception. He found that the women answered on the cause of the divorce was about physical ,emotional or sexual abuse. women gave more positive effects of divorce than men especially in the fields of psychological growth and maturity and sense of independence. However not get any return for sex differences in the levels of good mental health, depression or alcohol.

Sakraida(2002), conducted a study entitled transitional phase for divorce and adaptation responses and behavior, which aims to improve the health status of middle-aged women using preview deliberate and court records. Preview criteria included divorced women aged 34-54 and was conducted the data collection process across two phases, the first data collection via email include self-adaptive responses and the second collection of interviews. The result was that most participants have depressed and difficult to cope with the new situation.

METHODOLOGY

Population of the Study

The population of the study consisted of all divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 who were (2479) divorced women.

Sample of the Study

The sample of the study consisted of (113) divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 in 2014, the researcher distributed a questionnaire among them to investigate the social and economic problems they face.

The instrument of the Study

The researcher familiarized herself with a number of previous studies on the problems faced by the divorced women and the tools used, and have developed a special questionnaire in order to know the problems faced by the divorced women who are registered at National Aid Fund. The questionnaire consisted in its final form of (30) items,

it was designed based on the quadrant Likert scale. The study included several variables such as age (less than 25 years, 25 years or above) and the academic level (less than Tawjihi, Tawjihi, and Bachelor degree).

Reliability of the Instrument

To check the reliability of the questionnaire the researcher applied the study on a pilot study consisted of (5) divorced women who were excluded from the study sample with a period of two weeks between the first time that the questionnaire was distributed and the second time. The reliability of the study tool was calculated using the Cronbach's alpha coefficient calculation and the result was 0.89, and this is considered appropriate to conduct such a study.

Procedures of the Study

This study was applied throughout a month. The nature of this study is quantitative. a questionnaire was distributed to know the social and economic problems faced by the divorced women whose number is (113) divorced women only. The researcher collected the questionnaires and the data were then statistically analyzed using statistical packages for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Statistical Analysis

In order to process the data, the result of each paragraph in the questionnaire was analyzed separately using means and standard deviations. T-test was used to find differences in the age and the academic level.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to reveal the social and economic problems faced by the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014; also it aims to investigate the effect of age of divorced women and the academic level on the problems they face.

To answer the first question: What are the social and economic problems the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 face? The researcher extracted the means and standard deviations of the paragraphs of the questionnaire and **Table 1** shows the results.

Table 1: Means and standard deviations of social and economic problems faced by divorced women from their point of view

Item	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Social problems					
1	113	2	5	3.63	1.188
2	113	2	5	4.13	.991
3	113	2	5	3.88	.991
4	113	4	5	4.50	.535
5	113	4	5	4.75	.463
6	113	2	5	3.63	1.188
7	113	2	5	4.25	1.035
8	113	1	5	3.25	1.488
9	113	1	4	2.38	1.188
10	113	2	5	3.38	1.188
11	113	2	5	3.75	1.165
12	113	4	5	4.38	.518
13	113	3	5	4.38	.744
14	113	2	5	3.75	1.035
15	113	2	5	4.25	1.035
Economic problems					
1	113	3	5	4.38	.916
2	113	2	5	3.88	1.246
3	113	2	5	3.63	1.302
4	113	2	5	3.25	.886
5	113	1	5	2.88	1.458
6	113	1	5	2.38	1.506
7	113	1	3	1.38	.744
8	113	1	4	2.13	1.356
9	113	2	5	3.88	.991
10	113	2	5	3.50	1.309
11	113	2	5	3.50	1.069
12	113	1	4	2.50	1.069
13	113	1	5	3.63	1.302
14	113	2	5	3.88	.991
Y15	113	2	5	3.75	.886
Academic Problems	113	3	5	3.88	.544
Psychological problems	113	2	4	3.23	.569
All Problems	113	2	4	3.23	.569
Valid N (listwise)	113				

Table 1 shows the existence of statistically significant differences in the views of the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 about the social and economic problems they face. As shown by the results of the questionnaire which was distributed among (113) divorced women about the problems they face. The means and standard deviations were calculated and results showed that the paragraph No. 5 received the highest mean which was (4.75), paragraph 7 got less mean, it was (1.38). The results also showed that the mean for social problems was (3.88) which is higher than

the mean of economic problems which was (3.23), which means that the divorced women pay more attention to the social problems and suffer from social problems due to the absence of special programs for the divorced women.

The answer to the second question: Are there any statistically significant differences in the problems faced by the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 attributed to the age (less than 25 years, 25 years or above)? T-test was used to find differences in the age, and Table 2 illustrates this.

Table 2: T-Test to find a sign of the differences depending on the age

	Age	N	Rank average	Total ranks
Social Problems	Less than 25 years	53	4.67	14.00
	25 years or above	60	4.40	22.00
	Total	113		
economic Problems	Less than 25 years	53	5.17	15.50
	25 years or above	60	4.10	20.50
	Total	53		
All Problems	Less than 25 years	60	5.17	15.50
	25 years or above	53	4.10	20.50
	Total	60		

It is clear in [Table 2](#) the lack of statistically significant differences ($\alpha = 0.05$) attributed to the age in the case of social problems as the mean of the divorced women who are Less than 25 years reached (4.67), while it reached (4.40) for the divorced women who are 25 years or above. On the other hand, the results showed that divorced women who are Less than 25 years also face economic problems than the divorced women who are 25 years or above with a mean of (5.17) (4.10) respectively. It appears from the results that the divorced women who are Less than 25 years have social problems and economic problems slightly more than divorced women who are 25 years or above, which requires that all the

members of the society to work hard to help divorced women to get rid of these problems through setting up special programs to develop their talents and help them get rid of some of the obstacles they face.

The answer to the third question: Are there any statistically significant differences in the problems faced by the divorced women registered at National Aid Fund in Jordan in 2014 attributed to differences in the academic level (less than Tawjihi, Tawjihi, and Bachelor degree)? T-test was used to find differences in the academic level, and [Table 3](#) illustrates this.

Table 3: T- test to find a sign of the differences depending on the academic level

	School year	N	Mean
Social problems	less than Tawjihi	30	6.50
	Tawjihi	43	3.75
	Bachelor degree	40	4.00
	Total	113	
Economic problems	less than Tawjihi	30	7.25
	Tawjihi	43	3.25
	Bachelor degree	40	4.25
	Total	113	
All problems	less than Tawjihi	30	7.25
	Tawjihi	43	3.25
	Bachelor degree	40	4.25
	Total	113	

Seen from [Table 3](#) the existence of statistically significant differences ($\alpha = 0.05$) attributed to the academic level. Where in the case of social problems, the mean of the students of the tawjihi level divorced women was the highest rate and reached (6.50), followed by bachelor degree level with a mean of (4.00), while the tawjihi level divorced women got the lowest mean which is (3.75). In the case of economic problems it was shown that

divorced women who are less than tawjihi received a mean of (7.25), followed by bachelor degree divorced women with a mean of (4.25) and finally the tawjihi level divorced women with a mean of (3.25). As seen from the results, the divorced women who are less than tawjihi received the highest mean in the two cases: social problems and economic problems. Probably this is due to the fact that, divorced women who are not educated are

not well qualified to face such problems.

CONCLUSION

In the Arabic societies in general and the Jordanian society in particular, the divorced women in most cases face many social and economic problems due to the social traditions. Divorced women are always looked down from the rest of the members of the society. Besides, divorced women don't have the chance to get a good job same as the rest of the women because the economic situation is very difficult in Jordan. Especially that the results show that most of the divorced women are less than tawjihi level. Moreover, divorced women in most cases have also children and need expenses, divorced women face many economic challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The researchers came up with some recommendations

- 1- Conducting further studies on the topic and investigate more problems faced by the divorced women other than the social and economic problems.
- 2- The researchers recommend designing special programs to care for the divorced women and conduct extensive activities in order to meet the needs of this category and help them to be qualified in order to find jobs.

REFERENCES

- Abu Laila (2001) marry and build a family, pp. 203-208
- Al Ibrahim A (2002). Self-concept among a sample of single Jordanian women, un published thesis, Al Yarmouk university, Irbid, Jordan.
- Amato PR (2000). Consequences of divorce for adults and children. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* , 62,1269-1287.
- Ayman SH (2010). Social and cultural variables of the phenomenon of divorce (an anthropological study in the town of turrah), Damascus University Journal - Volume 26 -issue III and IV
- Bevino DL (2000). Divorce Adjustment Of Function Of Gender. *DAI B760/12-P.6353*
- Booth A & Amato P (2001). Divorce and psychological stress. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 32, 396-407.
- Ghazwi F (2007). Social and economic reasons for divorce in northern Jordan: An Empirical Study in Irbid Governorate, *Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences*, (34) 1.
- Johnson DR & Wu J (2002). An empirical test of crisis, social selection, and role explanations of the relationship between marital disruption and psychological distress: A pooled time-series analysis of four-wave panel data. *J. Marriage Fam.* , 64, 211-224.
- Pevalin DJ & Ermisch J (2004). Cohabiting unions, repartnering and mental health. *Psychological Medicine*, 34(8), 1553-1559.
- Qaisi and Majali (2003). The reasons for divorce in Karak governorate, *Journal of Educational Research Center, University of Qatar*, p. 18, p. 174
- Sakraide T (2002). Divorce Responses, And Health Promoting Behavior Of Midlelife Women, *DAI-B62/12*, .5646.
- Sun Y (2001). Family environment and adolescents' wellbeing before and after parents' marital disruption: A longitudinal analysis. *J. Marriage Fam.* 63, 697-713.
- Sun Y & Li Y (2002). Children's wellbeing during parents' marital disruption process: A pooled time-series analysis. *J. Marriage Fam.*, 64, 472-488
- Videon TM (2002). The effects of parent-adolescent relationships and parental separation on adolescent wellbeing. *J. Marriage Fam.*, 64, 489-503.
- Wang H & Amato PR (2000). Predictors of divorce adjustment: stressors, resources, and definitions. *J. Marriage Fam.*, 62, 655-668.