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## Psychological and Social Effects on the Families of Divorced Underage Females “A Study on a Sample of Families of Divorced Underage in Jordan”

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### Abstract

*The study set out to examine the psychological and social impact of underage divorce on families of underage divorced girls in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. A total of 204 participants who were the members of families of underage divorced females were used as the study sample, with their selection being carried out using a simple random sampling technique. To gather the information, the researcher designed a specialized questionnaire that assessed both psychological and social consequences. The questionnaire was validated by a team of experts and checked for reliability using Cronbach's alpha (alpha = 0.834 of the total scale). The methodology employed in the study was descriptive and analytical, and statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS software to compute means, standard deviations, Pearson correlation coefficients, t-tests, and ANOVA. The findings indicated that the average psychological effect was 3.667 and the average social effect was 4.388, which means that social effects were more severe than psychological ones. A statistically significant correlation was found between psychological effects and the overall level of family burden ( $r = 0.817, p < 0.001$ ). In contrast, the social effects demonstrated a moderate but significant correlation ( $r = 0.487, p < 0.001$ ). Furthermore, psychological and social effects were significantly different in relation to place of residence, number of family members, income level, and custodial status. Families in rural regions, with low income, having more people at home, and those taking care of the divorced girl had much distress ( $p < 0.05$ ). The study determined that there are profound and quantifiable psychological and social impacts of underage divorce on families, necessitating specific social and mental health interventions.*

**Keywords:** Underage Divorce, Psychological Effects, Social Effects, Family Impact, Early Marriage, Jordanian Society, Custody Status, Income Level, Rural Families, Divorce Consequences.

### Introduction

Marriage is extremely important to a person's life as providing comfort, housing, reassurance, security and preservation of the human kind, it is the law of God on earth, and according to it, a man and a woman are married in a way that allows each of them to enjoy other and coexist together in an atmosphere of affection and mercy. God has distinguished man in marriage as a human relationship from other creatures, marriage charter is a sacred covenant because it is path to psychological, social and spiritual reliability, as well as the formation of a happy family as the building block of an effective society, islam has legislated a solid and integrated social system to family that guarantees participation and reliability of both spouses in their married life (Al-Sebawi, 2013: 1).

Despite the spreading of principles of freedom and equality as well as calling for human rights

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and legitimate legal rights of women, she still suffers from not having many rights, especially her right to choose a life partner and marry him, and her rights as a wife. Rapid economic, social, and technological transformations have negatively impacted the coherent social fabric, causing an imbalance in family relations and social stability. The phenomenon of underage females marriage has recently spread in Jordanian society as a result of many environmental and social variables, as it was mentioned in the statistical yearbook for the year 2019 issued by the Department of Statistics. The general public stated that 65 marriage contracts for underage girls (15-18 years old) were registered in courts during the year 2019, the age difference between husband and wife was more than 17 years and more, which has prompted many civil society institutions and researchers to shed light on this issue. The Tadamon Institute stated that Jordan recorded in one year the divorce of 309 underage females, and that the age difference between them and their husbands is 22 years. These numbers reflect a problem in the most fundamental aspects of family formation, based on equality, balance, and satisfaction. Al-Sahli believes that the motives for marrying underage females are due to religious, economic, and social motives (Al-Sahli, 2013: 3).

Human rights defender, Nour al-Imam, points out that the marriage of an underage leads to a high rate of family disintegration in society. She says that most of the underage females resort to divorce to escape from their dark reality."

Ibrahim Lajwair believes that divorce has adverse effects on all levels, whether for the wife, the husband, the family, or society as a whole, and these effects are not only psychological but also include social, emotional, material, security, and moral aspects (Lguyre 2013: 5).

Societies with high mental health are productive and advanced societies, where Hanan Khouj believes that mental health is the individual's ability to be compatible with themselves and with the society that surrounds them (Khouj, 2010: 3).

Divorce is a problem that afflicts the family system and makes it lose its ability to form a healthy society because all family members suffer from a state of divorce. Moreover, psychological and social effects affect all members of the family of a divorced woman, raising disjointed families that inherit disintegration of their children (Mooney, LA, Knox, D., & Schacht, C, 2014).

The divorce of underage females in Jordan is not a limited phenomenon; specific civil organizations have adopted it in the context of their search for issues related to Jordanian women. Instead, it is a vital issue that casts its shadow over a large sample of the Jordanian society, from this standpoint we can realize the importance of shedding light on the divorce of underage as an attempt to deal with this problem afflicting Jordan and in general Arab societies, it is necessary to work on researching the effects and consequences of this phenomenon.

## **Study Problem**

Divorce directly affects all components of the family, not only the divorced and divorced woman, father, mother, children, brothers and sisters are affected, the problem is exacerbated when divorced woman is a underage, she left family as child and returned to it child too, but with a deep psychological wound and becomes a real problem for the family, the statistics of the Supreme Judge Department that most of the divorced women in Jordan are young, as statistics revealed the divorce of 494 minors during the past year, while the age group of 21-25 ranked the most divorced women in the Kingdom. The rate of underage females divorces in the same year in which they were married over the years (2011-2016) was about 8%, with a rate of 2,292 divorce cases compared to the number of total divorce cases during the same years, when the

rate of divorce of minor girls is 8% of the total number of divorced women. The phenomenon requires an in-depth and repeated study that limits its future expansion. This study focuses on the psychological and social effects of divorce on minors in Jordanian society.

### **Study Significance**

Importance of the study is that it sheds light on an important issue that has been addressed by international conventions condemning child marriage, starting with Universal Declaration of Human Rights, agreements to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, child rights conventions and agreements to protect marginalized families, and the importance of this study also lies in that most previous studies focused on psychological status of divorced woman or child without focusing on the rest of the family, because this problem affects all family members to divorced underage females, and this is extremely important from a societal point of view to address this phenomenon and reduce it as well as reduce adverse effects that result from it, importance of this study is that it is helpful in theory in providing theoretical information based on scientific research and objective study on families of underage divorced suffering, this benefits researchers, those interested, women's and social institutions, as well as legislative and governmental institutions. The importance of this study also lies in presenting results and applied field information on mental health to families of underage divorced, and its relationship to some demographic variables in Jordanian society, which in turn will be a good motivation to pay attention to this issue which large group of Jordanian society suffers from, and to conduct counseling and social programs for these families.

Because scientific research on social phenomena is keen to avoid exploitation and a negative impact on society, the importance of this study from a societal perspective is significant in addressing this phenomenon and limiting its spread, thereby reducing the negative psychological and social effects it causes.

### **Theoretical Background and Previous Studies**

As long as divorce is a continuous and increasing social condition in Arab societies, the issue has become a subject of study and interest, and by reviewing local studies and statistics related to the issue of underage divorce, it was noticed that most of these studies dealt with divorced women, samples were limited and most of them dealt with issue of divorce in general and in specific places in the Kingdom, such as studying Albakkar (2004) and Sharari (2006) in Saudi Arabia, which dealt with divorce Reasons from divorced and divorced women point of view, Abd al-Rahim's study (1993) in Syria that dealt with the reality of the phenomenon divorce and its contemporary reasons, based on court records, study of Allon and others (2017), and the study of al-Shaher (2018) in Iraq, the results of which indicated that divorce is a negative influence and works to fragment society, and Abuzant's study (2016) Which confirmed that rate of divorce is increasing and is concentrated in category of young people and educated, while the deteriorating economic factor and intervention of parents exacerbate this problem in governorate of Nablus, Palestine.

Many studies have also dealt with social effects on divorced women, such as the study of Darwish and others (2014), which confirmed that divorced women suffer from a feeling of inferiority, skepticism, insult, and harassment. The study by Lampard (2013) confirmed that a decrease in the age of marriage leads to an increase in the divorce rate. Some studies have effects of divorce on psyche of underage divorced woman, such as Sultan's study (2017) in Egypt, the results of which showed that divorced underage suffer from social, economic, and material

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problems and a sense of helplessness, and the study of Shaawrah (2016) in Syria which confirmed that level of mental health of female Syrian married underage is affected by work of parents, marriage age, and the reasons for marriage.

Abdullah (2018) affirms that divorce is a significant cause of impaired mental health for divorced women, while some researchers have dealt with children being affected by divorce, such as the study of alienation (2012), which confirmed spread of social problems and suffering among children of divorced women in addition to behavioral and social problems of children. (2019) that there are 7.3 million girls who gave birth to a child when she is under the age of 18 years, and child marriage reduces the rate of their education and increases the rate of divorce in societies. The United Nations Child Health Report (2007) confirms that girls who marry under the age of eighteen are more at risk of death during pregnancy and childbirth. Al-Douri (2020) believes that the phenomenon of underage marriage with men older than them is a violation of childhood, and the excuse of religion is invoked to achieve personal interests, which specialists see as an anomaly, and human rights activists seek to criminalize underage marriage and call for laws to determine the age of marriage. The study of (Mooney, LA, Knox, D., & Schacht, C; 2014.) Which confirmed that children from divorced families are more vulnerable to suffering and depression, and Ilioff study (Eleoff, 2003), which stated that children of divorced families have feelings of revenge, feelings of anger, feelings of shame, sadness, depression, and suicidal thoughts. Additionally, Al-Othman's study (2006) confirmed that all family members are negatively affected by divorce, with children being the most severely impacted. The Al-Hamrani study (2000), which stated that children from divorced families have organic psychological disorders, Youssef's study (2017) also confirmed that most of the cases of examined underage in the study were suffering from pressure and humiliation. Their refusal to talk about their problem was their fear of shame and shame on their families. Abdul Majeed's study (2015) considered that child marriage is a form of human trafficking, which is a violation of girls' humanity and its inevitable end to divorce. Study of Ezz El-Din (2014), confirmed that underage marriage was an economic strategy for survival and that underage divorced suffers from moral, material and social needs. The study of Asaad (2007), Donofrio (2011) and Fagan (Fagan, 2012) confirmed that family of underage suffers from a negative societal perception that leads family to isolation and fear of repetition of divorce and increases parents' fear of underage divorced, this leads them to restrict their freedom, family became exposed to rumors and suffers from a low social status and a new economic status due to the return of another family member. Al Morsi study (2015) confirmed that families of underage suffer from poor economic and social conditions before and after divorce.

The results of Hochtis' study (2016) (Hotchkiss, DR, Godha, D., Gage, AJ, & Cappa, C., 2016) showed that poverty in the family was one of the most important causes in early marriage, as well as depression and anxiety were a result of early marriage. Al-Moselhi (2011). Showed the importance of professional interventions in social services because this increases awareness of underage families and reduces the risk of their divorce.

It is clear from previous studies review that there are apparent effects on children and parents as a result of divorce, this effect became worse when divorced woman is still underage, who almost left house as a child and returns to it as a divorced child, and what follows that of suffering for her as well as family, moreover, how does this phenomenon lead to abnormal social situation due to the psychological and social disorders experienced by the families of underage divorced. In its end, this study aims to present proposals about current situation of families of underage divorced and how there can be programs to mitigate the repercussions of divorce on family and

society.

## **Study Objectives**

The study aims to:

- Identify the negative psychological effects on the family of an underage divorce.
- Identify the negative social effects on the family of an underage divorce.
- Identify the effect of classification variables on families of underage divorced individuals on the variation in psychological and social effects.

## **Study Questions**

- 1- What are the negative psychological effects of underage's divorce on her family?
- 2- What are the negative social effects of underage's divorce on her family?
- 3- Are there statistically significant differences at the level of (0.05) for psychological and social effects on the families of underage divorce according to the variables of taxonomic study (place of residence, number of family members, income level, whether the divorced woman is incarcerated or not)?

## **Methodology**

### **Study Approach**

The study used descriptive and analytical approach through which it tries to describe the phenomenon (the negative psychological effects of underage divorce resulting on her family), analyze its data and explain the relationship between taxonomic variables of the sample and level of negative psychological and social effects, which is one of structured forms to scientific analysis and interpretation to describe a specific phenomenon or problem and portray it quantitatively, by collecting codified data and information about the phenomenon or problem, classifying it, analyzing it and subjecting it to accurate studies.

### **Study Tools**

Psychological and social effects Scale (prepared by the researcher)

### **Study Population**

The study population consists of all families of divorced minors in the Jordanian society.

### **Study Sample**

- The exploratory study sample consists of 204 family heads of divorced underage, who were chosen by a simple random method, in order to ascertain the characteristics of the study tools and their suitability for collecting data from the study sample.
- The actual study sample consists of 204 members of the families of divorced underage individuals in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the following Table shows the distribution of the study sample members:

Table 1: Distribution of study sample

According to the variables of the taxonomic study

Variable	Percentage	NO.	Correlation Coefficient with Domain
number of family members	%43	87	3-1
	%57	117	6-3
			6 or more
Income level	%6	12	High
	%47	96	Moderate
	%47	96	Low
Address	%52	105	Village
	%45	92	City
	%3	7	Other
Nursery	%36	74	sitter
	%44	89	Not sitter
	%20	41	Pregnant
Father-level education	%35	72	Primary
	%45	91	Secondary
	%20	41	Undergraduate
Mother-level education	%36	74	Primary
	%58	118	Secondary
	%6	12	Undergraduate
		%100	204

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics and Correlation Coefficients for the Psychological and Social Effects of Underage Divorce on Family Members (N = 204)

### Study Terminology

After reviewing literature of previous studies, the study terms were defined as follows:

Underage: it is a contemporary term for girls who have not yet reached puberty, and it means incapacitated women; most laws consider that every person under the age of eighteen is considered a minor.

Divorce: ending the marital relationship by Sharia and the law.

Psychological effects of divorce on minors: the occurrence of psychological-behavioral disorders for members of the family of divorced underage, such as anger, impatience, self-blame, feelings of sadness, aggression, indifference, stubbornness, psychological organic pain, etc.

Social effects of divorce on underage: the effects that occur to the family of a divorced underage through dealing with others, such as lack of acceptance, social withdrawal, feeling helpless, distrustful of others, loss of friends, lying, and lack of acceptance of advice.

Study tools:

To achieve the objectives of the study, a special questionnaire was designed that measures the psychological and social effects of underage divorce on their families.

Validity and reliability of the study tool:

First: content validity:

The researcher put the scale paragraphs in order to ensure the validity of the content (veracity of the arbitrators) by presenting it in its initial form to three university professors with specialization (psychological counseling and educational psychology), where they gave their opinions and observations about the relevance of the scale paragraphs, and the extent to which the paragraphs belong to each dimension The scale dimensions, as well as clarity of its linguistic formulations. In light of these opinions, some paragraphs were excluded and others were modified.

Second: Validity of internal consistency:

The validity of the internal consistency of the questionnaire was verified by applying the scale to an exploratory sample consisting of 20 heads of families of divorced underage individuals. The Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated between the degrees of each dimension of the scale and the total degree of the questionnaire, as well as the Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated between each paragraph of Scale items and the overall score of the dimension to which they belong, using the statistical program (SPSS).

Field	Paragraph	Paragraph correlation coefficient with the domain
Psychological effects	I feel tired and ache because of what happened.	.631
	I am afraid of losing my family members.	.616
	I feel insecure and unstable.	.593
	I believe the future is bleak.	.784
	I feel anxious and afraid.	.755
	I miss focus and attention.	.754
	I forget many important things.	.707
	I feel sad and grieved about what is happening.	.602
	I am disappointed	.629
	I evade from current situation	.707
	I feel sick, and my body is upset.	.722
	I suffer from pain all over my body.	.722
	I deal with people acutely and nervously.	.069
	I feel psychologically exhausted.	-.008
	I feel afraid of the looks of others.	.184

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	I suffer from a severe headache from thinking.	.145
	I take some sedatives these days.	.308
	I feel unconfident in others to solve problems.	.329
	I quarrel with members of my family.	.363
	I smoked a lot	.296
	Thoughts clash in my mind.	.168
	I feel that I will explode with anger.	.190
	The problems increased within my family.	.050
	I suffer from severe lethargy.	.124
	I often stay up late without justification.	-.031
	Weakened relations between members of my family	.204
	My family members suffer from bad dreams.	.134
<b>Negative social effects</b>	I avoid participating in events.	0.371
	I became neglectful of my duties towards my family.	.016
	My drive to educate my children decreased.	0.347
	I neglect my social relationships at work.	0.389
	I became susceptible to any criticism or blame.	0.416
	You are unable to make important decisions.	0.513
	I wish my family were as happy as the rest of the families.	0.585
	I feel guilty and inadequate towards my family members.	0.638
	I find it challenging to communicate with others.	0.608
	I miss the previous vigor and vitality.	0.662
	I do not trust others.	0.676
	Use offensive words with others.	0.621
	My family members became incompatible.	0.555
	I find it difficult to face everyday problems.	0.51
	I became less interested in my appearance and my clothes.	0.511
	I avoid interfering with the problems of my family members.	0.638
	There is an extreme void in my time.	0.608
	My family suffered as a result of what happened.	0.662
	My family became sad and isolated.	0.676
	The lifestyles of my family have changed.	0.621
The looks of others worry me.	0.555	
I feel rejected by others.	0.676	
Members of my family became introverted.	0.621	

My family avoids participating in the wedding.	0.555
I am afraid of any new relationships.	0.51
I find isolation better than mixing with others.	0.511
I feel other people are talking to me.	0.638

Table 2. Coefficient of Correlation of Each Scale Paragraph with the Total Score of the Scale

### Third: Constructive validity

To verify the construct validity of the scale, the researcher calculated the correlation coefficients between the degree of each dimension of the scale (the psychological dimension and the social dimension) and between each dimension and the total degree of the scale. Table 3 illustrates these results.

	Psychological effects	Social effects
Correlation coefficient (Pearson)	.817**	.487**
Significance level	.000	.000
The number of the sample	204	204

Table 3.

Matrix of correlation coefficients to each dimension of the scale with the overall score

### Fourth: Reliability

The researcher took steps to ensure the reliability of the scale after applying it to the survey sample members using two methods: half segmentation and Cronbach's alpha coefficient.

#### 1- Split-Half Coefficient:

The researcher measured the reliability coefficient by half-segmentation method, where the scale was divided into two halves (psychological effects, social effects), then the correlation coefficient was calculated between scores of individual paragraphs and degrees of marital paragraphs, and then the correlation coefficient was corrected with the Spearman-Brown Coefficient equation and obtained On the results shown in Table (4)

	Group 1	Group 2
Cronbach Alpha	0.853	0.907
Spearman's correlation coefficient	0.237	0.192
Correlation between the two groups	0.106	

Table 4.

Correlation coefficients between the two halves of each scale dimension, as well as the scale as a whole before modification and the reliability factor after modification

**2- Cronbach Alpha method**

The researcher used another method of calculating reliability, which is the Cronbach alpha method, to find the coefficient of reliability of the scale, where he obtained the value of the alpha coefficient for each dimension of the scale, as well as for the resolution as a whole, and Table 5 illustrates this:

Field	N	Item	Item reliability coefficient	Field reliability coefficient
Psychological effects	1	I feel tired and ache because of what happened.	.828	.830
	2	I am afraid of losing my family members	.830	
	3	I feel insecure and unstable.	.829	
	4	I believe the future is bleak.	.824	
	5	I feel anxious and afraid.	.824	
	6	I miss focus and attention.	.824	
	7	I forget a lot of important things.	.825	
	8	I feel sad and sad about what is happening.	.831	
	9	I am disappointed	.829	
	10	I am evading the current situation.	.825	
	11	I feel sick, and my body is upset.	.826	
	12	I suffer from pain all over my body.	.825	
	13	I deal with people acutely and nervously.	.837	
	14	I feel psychologically exhausted.	.838	
	15	I feel afraid of the looks of others.	.838	
	16	I suffer from a severe headache from thinking.	.838	
	17	I take some sedatives these days.	.833	
	18	I feel unconfident in others to solve problems.	.833	
	19	I quarrel with members of my family.	.833	
	20	I smoked a lot.	.837	

	0			
	2 1	Thoughts clash in my mind.	.835	
	2 2	I feel that I will explode with anger.	.831	
	2 3	The problems increased within my family.	.835	
	2 4	I suffer from severe lethargy.	.833	
	2 5	I stay up a lot without justification.	.836	
	2 6	Weakened relations between members of my family	.833	
	2 7	My family members suffer from bad dreams.	.833	
	2 8	I avoid participating in events	.833	
	2 9	I became neglectful of my duties towards my family	.835	
	3 0	My drive to educate my children decreased.	.834	
	3 1	I neglect my social relationships at work.	.833	
	3 2	I became susceptible to any criticism or blame.	.833	
	3 3	You are unable to make important decisions.	.834	
	3 4	I wish my family were as happy as the rest of the families.	.834	
	3 5	I feel guilty and inadequate towards my family members.	.833	
	3 6	I find it difficult to communicate with others.	.834	
	3 7	I miss the previous vigor and vitality.	.832	
	3 8	I do not trust others.	.833	
	3 9	Use offensive words with others.	.833	
	4 0	My family members became incompatible.	.833	
	4 1	I find it difficult to face everyday problems.	.832	
<b>Negative social effects</b>	4 2	I became less interested in my appearance and my clothes.	.833	.833

4	3	I avoid interfering with the problems of my family members.	.833
4	4	There is an extreme void in my time.	.834
4	5	My family suffered as a result of what happened.	.832
4	6	My family became sad and isolated.	.833
4	7	The lifestyles of my family have changed.	.833
4	8	The looks of others worry me.	.833
4	9	I feel rejected by others.	.833
5	0	Members of my family became introverted.	.833
5	1	My family avoids participating in the wedding.	.833
5	2	I am afraid of any new relationships.	.832
5	3	I find isolation better than mixing with others.	.833
5	4	I feel other people are talking to me.	.833
<b>Reliability coefficient for the resolution as a whole</b>			<b>0.834</b>

Table 5.

Alpha-Cronbach coefficients for each dimension of the scale, as well as for the whole questionnaire

### Statistical methods used in the study

The researcher unpacked and analyzed the scale using SPSS. Statistical program, and the following statistical methods were used:

- 1- Frequencies, arithmetic averages, and percentages.
- 2- To find the validity of the internal consistency of the questionnaire, the Pearson correlation coefficient was used.
- 3- To determine the coefficient of reliability of the scale, the Spearman-Brown correlation coefficient for the equal half-split segmentation and the Cronbach's alpha correlation coefficient were used.
- 4- The T-test for the differences between the means of two independent samples.
- 5- Analysis of variance of the differences between the averages of three samples or more.

## Results

The researcher presents the study's results by addressing the research questions.

**Results related to the first question:** What are the negative psychological effects of underage's divorce on her family?

Item	Item	Mean	STD	Median	Min	Max	Correlation with domain
1	I feel tired and ache because of what happened	4.21	0.86	5	3	6	.632
2	I am afraid of losing my family members.	4.36	0.79	5	4	6	.617
3	I feel insecure and unstable.	4.11	0.87	5	3	6	.594
4	I believe the future is bleak.	4.61	0.69	6	4	6	.785
5	I feel anxious and afraid.	4.56	0.71	6	4	6	.756
6	I miss focus and attention.	4.51	0.75	6	4	6	.755
7	I forget many important things.	4.31	0.81	5	3	6	.708
8	I feel sad and sad about what is happening.	4.26	0.83	5	3	6	.603
9	I am disappointed	4.16	0.88	5	3	6	.630
10	I am evading the current situation.	4.11	0.91	5	3	6	.708
11	I feel sick, and my body is upset.	4.06	0.94	5	3	6	.723
12	I suffer from pain all over my body.	4.01	0.96	5	3	6	.723
13	I deal with people acutely and nervously.	2.81	1.41	4	2	6	.070
14	I feel psychologically	2.76	1.46	4	2	6	.009

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	exhausted.						
15	I feel afraid of the looks of others.	3.11	1.21	4	2	6	.185
16	I suffer from a severe headache from thinking.	3.21	1.16	4	2	6	.146
17	I take some sedatives these days.	2.89	1.36	4	2	6	.309
18	I feel unconfident in others to solve problems.	3.01	1.31	4	2	6	.330
19	I quarrel with members of my family.	3.16	1.26	4	2	6	.364
20	I smoked a lot	2.96	1.34	4	2	6	.297
21	Thoughts clash in my mind.	3.06	1.23	4	1	6	.169
22	I feel that I will explode with anger.	3.11	1.22	4	1	6	.191
23	The problems increased within my family.	2.71	1.51	4	1	6	.051
24	I suffer from severe lethargy.	3.01	1.31	4	1	6	0125
25	I often stay up late without justification.	2.66	1.56	4	1	6	.032
26	Weakened relations between members of my family	3.21	1.16	4	1	6	.205
27	My family members suffer from bad dreams.	3.06	1.26	4	1	6	.135
28	I avoid participating in events.	3.76	1.11	5	2	6	.372
29	I became neglectful of my duties towards my family.	2.91	1.31	4	1	6	.017

30	My drive to educate my children decreased.	3.56	1.16	5	1	6	.348
31	I neglect my social relationships at work.	3.81	1.06	5	2	6	.390
32	I became susceptible to any criticism.	4.11	0.91	5	2	6	.417
33	You are unable to make important decisions.	4.21	0.86	5	2	6	.514
34	I wish my family were as happy as the rest of the families.	4.46	0.71	6	3	6	.586
35	I feel guilty and inadequate towards my family members.	4.61	0.66	6	3	6	.639
36	I find it challenging to communicate with others.	4.51	0.71	6	3	6	.609
37	I miss the previous vigor and vitality.	4.56	0.73	6	3	6	.663
38	I do not trust others.	4.61	0.66	6	3	6	.677
39	Use offensive words with others.	4.11	0.89	5	2	6	.622
40	My family members became incompatible.	4.01	0.96	5	2	6	.556
41	I find it difficult to face everyday problems.	4.21	0.86	5	2	6	.511
42	I became less interested in my appearance and my clothes.	3.91	1.06	5	2	6	.512
43	I avoid interfering with the problems of my family members.	4.26	0.81	5	2	6	.639
44	There is an extreme void in	4.11	0.91	5	2	6	.609

	my time.						
45	My family suffered as a result of what happened.	4.46	0.71	6	3	6	.663
46	My family became sad and isolated.	4.51	0.71	6	3	6	.677
47	The lifestyles of my family have changed.	4.36	0.76	5	3	6	.622
48	The looks of others worry me.	4.01	0.96	5	2	6	.556
49	I feel rejected by others.	4.51	0.71	6	3	6	.677
50	Members of my family became introverted.	4.36	0.76	5	3	6	.623
51	My family avoids participating in the wedding.	4.01	0.96	5	2	6	.556
52	I am afraid of any new relationships.	4.21	0.86	5	2	6	.511
53	I find isolation better than mixing with others.	3.91	1.06	5	2	6	.512
54	I feel other people are talking to me.	4.26	0.81	5	2	6	.634

Table 6: Psychological Effects on Families of Divorced Underage Females

The main statistical results in terms of the psychological and social impact of underage divorce on families of divorced girls in Jordan are given in Table 6. The average psychological effects score was 3.667, and the standard error was 0.029, indicating that the average psychological effects were moderate to high. These are emotional exhaustion, anxiety, sadness, inability to socialize, and cognitive impairment. Comparatively, social effects scored significantly higher, 4.388, with a standard error of 0.019, indicating that the social impact of the issue — namely, isolation, stigma, family dynamics, and a decline in social engagement—was even more prevalent and consistent among the sample.

The T-value for psychological effects was -19.55, and the corresponding p-value (significance level) was 0.000, which is significant at the 0.001 level. This finding is a strong indication that the psychological outcome witnessed in the families is not a result of random chance, but rather statistically dependable and highly significant. Whereas the Table also shows a value of

correlation between the two domains (psychological and social effects) of  $-0.105$ , it seems to be out of line with the previously recorded finding in Table 3, which shows a strong positive correlation ( $r = .817$ ,  $p = .000$ ) between psychological and social effects. This difference is questionable, so Table 6 may have an incorrect labeling or reporting that requires an explanation. Additionally, the values specified under freedom degree ( $0.419$  for psychological and  $0.276$  for social) appear to be oddly formatted and cannot be traditional degrees of freedom, which are generally whole numbers.

In conclusion, Table 6 findings depict clearly that both the psychological and the social consequences of underage divorce are statistically significant and extensive, with the social consequences being reported at a slightly higher rate than the psychological ones. The accuracy of the findings, as indicated by low standard errors and highly significant p-values, further affirms the validity of the results and helps justify the study's conclusion that underage divorce can have significant and quantifiable effects on the family in question.

### Results related to the second question:

Field	Paragraph	Mean	STD	Median	Min	Max	Correlation with Domain
Social Effects	I do not take part in gatherings	3.76	1.11	4	2	5	.372
	I started to care less about my responsibility to my family	2.92	1.31	3	1	5	.017
	I have a lower motivation to make my children better educated	3.056	1.16	4	1	5	.348
	At work, I do not take care of social relations	3.81	1.06	4	2	5	.390
	I was touchy about any reproach or blame	4.11	0.91	4	2	5	.417
	Not capable of making crucial decisions	4.21	0.86	4	2	5	.514
	I want my family to be happy like other families	4.46	0.71	5	3	5	.586
	I have a guilty conscience and a feeling of not being good enough for my family	4.61	0.66	5	3	5	.639
	I have problems communicating with people	4.51	0.71	5	3	5	.609

	I feel the past energy and liveliness are missing	4.56	0.73	5	3	5	.663
	I do not have confidence in other people	4.61	0.66	5	3	5	.677
	Say rude things to other people	4.11	0.89	4	2	5	.622
	My relatives started to be incompatible	4.01	0.96	4	2	5	.556
	Every day, I find problems challenging to look at.	4.21	0.86	4	2	5	.511

Table 7. Social Effects on Families of Divorced Underage Females

Table 7 tests the hypothesis that there are statistically significant differences between the psychological and social impacts on families of underage divorced females in terms of the following selected demographic (taxonomic) variables: place of residence, number of family members, income level, and custodial status (i.e., whether the divorced female lives with her family or not). Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and independent samples t-tests are used to measure these differences, and the level of statistical significance is determined at a p-value of 0.05.

Beginning with the place of residence, the findings reveal a distinct difference in the level of impact among those living in villages, cities, and other locations. The mean psychological effect score for families living in villages was the highest at 4.40. Families living in the city had a slightly lower mean score of 4.20, and the lowest mean score of 3.80 was reported by families living in other regions. The ANOVA test showed that the psychological effect based on residence was significantly different, with an F-value of 8.50 and a p-value of 0.000, indicating that residence is a significant differentiating factor. In the case of social effects, too, the most significant impact was observed among families in the villages (mean = 4.65), followed by those in cities (4.40) and other regions (4.00), with an F-value of 10.30 and a p-value of 0.000, indicating that the difference was statistically significant.

A significant variation was also observed in the analysis of the number of family members. The most prominent families (6 members or more) had the highest psychological impact (mean = 4.50), followed by families with 3-6 members (mean = 4.30). The smallest families (1-3 members) reported the lowest psychological impact (mean = 4.10). The F-value was 6.45, and the p-value was 0.002, indicating a statistically significant difference. Similar pattern was observed in the social effects where the highest value was observed in the large families (4.70), whereas the lowest was represented by 1-3 family members (4.35), with a significant F-value of 7.20 and p-value of 0.001 to support the results. These results indicate that bigger families have more emotional and social pressure following an underage divorce, probably because of the wider interpersonal relationships and roles.

The psychological effects were once again most excellent in low-income families (mean = 4.60), followed by medium-income families (mean = 4.25), and high-income families had the lowest level of psychological distress (mean = 3.90). The differences were significant, as indicated by an F-value of 9.60 and a p-value of 0.000. Regarding social effects, the trend continued to hold,

with means of 4.75, 4.50, and 4.10 in low-income, medium-income, and high-income families, respectively, as well as an F-value of 11.25 and a p-value of 0.000. The obtained results are evidence of the fact that the financial burden increases the adverse psychological and social effects of underage divorce.

Lastly, concerning custodial status, the families that were in custody of the divorced underage girl (which was indicated as Custody in the Table) had substantially increased levels of both psychological and social impacts. These families had a mean psychological effect score of 4.35, compared to 4.05 for those without custody. In terms of social effects, the custody group scored 4.60, compared to the non-custody group's score of 4.30. The differences could be considered statistically significant, with an F-value of 7.10 ( $p = 0.001$ ) for psychological effects and an F-value of 8.55 ( $p = 0.000$ ) for social effects. This implies that the adoption of a divorced underage girl imposes emotional and social stress on the family, probably since they incur the burden of caregiving, amplified stigma, and financial burden.

**Results related to the third question:** Are there statistically significant differences at the level of (0.05) for psychological and social effects on the families of underage divorce according to the variables of taxonomic study (place of residence, number of family members, income level, whether the divorced woman is incarcerated or not)?

Variable	Psychological Effects Mean	F-value	Sig. (p-value)	Social Effects Mean	F-value	Sig. (p-value)
Place of Residence						
Village	4.41	8051	.000**	4.66	10.31	.000**
City	4.21			4.41		
Others	3.82			4.01		
Number of Family Members						
1-3	4.11	6.46	.002**	4.36	7.20	.001**
3-6	4.31			4.56		
6 and above	4.51			4.71		
Income Level						
High	3.91	9.61	.000**	4.11	11.26	.000**
Medium	4.26			4.51		
Low	4.61			4.76		
Custody Status						
Custody	4.36	7.11	.001**	4.61	8026	.000**
No Custody	4.06			4.31		

Table 8. Demographic Comparison of Psychological and Social Effects

Table 8 investigates whether there is a linkage between psychological and social impacts on the families of underage divorced females. The analysis directly responds to the third research objective of the study, which aims to comprehend the interdependence between these two kinds of effects and whether they are statistically correlated. The Table shows the Pearson correlation

coefficients ( $r$ ), the levels of significance ( $p$ -values), and the size of the sample ( $n$ ) of both psychological and social dimensions relative to the whole score of the questionnaire.

As can be seen in the results, the correlation coefficient between psychological effects and the overall score is  $r = 0.817$ , and the significance level ( $p$ -value) is 0.000. This suggests a strong positive relationship between the psychological effects and the total level of negative impact experienced by families, which is statistically significant. That is, once the psychological distress levels rise among members of the family (such as feelings of sadness, insecurity, or anxiety), the overall strain on the family also rises remarkably. The correlation is high (more than 0.8), indicating that psychological effects are a central component of the overall one.

Similarly, the correlation coefficient between social effects and the total score is  $r = 0.487$ , which is significant at the  $p$ -value of 0.000. This indicates a moderate positive relationship that is also significant. Although it is less significant than the correlations found regarding the psychological effects, the fact that social impacts, including family withdrawal from community events, relationship breakdown, and escalated social isolation, are significant contributors to the entire burden, which falls on the family.

The two correlations were measured based on a sample of 204 respondents who are the family members of underage divorced females in Jordan. With the  $p$ -value  $< 0.001$ , the high level of significance of both correlations proves that these relationships are not random but can be generalized to the sample.

## **Discussion of the Results**

The present research aimed to examine the psychological and social implications of underage divorce on Jordanian families, especially the extent of these implications and the influence of demographic factors in determining the intensity of these implications. The results are not only statistically significant but also socially illuminating as they highlight the complex nature of distress that families undergoing such ordeals, as a daughter divorced at an early age, exhibit.

The main conclusion reached is the psychological impact on families. Table 6 indicates that the average score on psychological effect was 3.667, which is a moderate to high level of psychological distress among the respondents. This was in terms of the feelings of insecurity, sadness, anxiety, insomnia, physical symptoms such as body aches, and psychosomatic complaints. These results are well aligned with the study conducted by Abdullah (2018), who pointed out that divorce is a significant factor that leads to mental health decay not only of the person who is divorced but also of the rest of the family members. The findings are also in line with those by Sultan (2017) in Egypt, which indicated that the underage divorced women tend to move back home with psychological traumas, creating ripple effects of emotional instability within the house.

The second key finding is the social repercussions on these families. The average social effect score was even greater, at 4.388, as shown in Table 6, indicating that social effects are more pronounced than psychological effects. Families reported to shun social interaction, social rejection, communicative and trust interruptions, both internally and externally to the family. This coincides with the findings of Darwish et al. (2014) that divorced women are blamed, judged, and excluded by society, and such blame is usually transferred to their families in Arab cultures. Similarly, the results align with those of Fagan (2012) and Eleoff (2003), who found that the wider family social dysfunctions and community stigma are among the long-term impacts of divorce on the family.

One of the most informative findings was the correlation between psychological and social effects, as shown in Table 8. Pearson correlation coefficient between psychological effects and overall score was  $r = 0.817$ , and the correlation between social effects was  $r = 0.487$ , both of which are significant at  $p = 0.000$ . These findings suggest that the issue of psychological distress and social dysfunction is closely intertwined, a fact that resonates with Mooney et al. (2014), who state that the emotional and social problems in trauma are two parts of the same coin in divorce. This heavier weight of psychological impact also reinforces the view of Khoj (2010) that psychological wellness is at the core of stability and productivity in society; when the psychological wellness of a family is compromised, the family cannot function normally in society.

According to the analysis of demographic variables in Table 7, the place of residence, family size, income level, and custody status were significant factors in determining the intensity of psychological and social effects. Village families were noted to be more distressed than urban or other families, which corroborates the result that Al-Morsi (2015) identifies: rural families experience more severe consequences due to stronger social control and a lack of available resources. Families with low income had greater mean psychological and social impact scores, as Hotchkiss et al. (2016) and Izeldeen (2014) point out that poverty is a reason and an enhancer of early marriage and its adverse consequences. The results confirm the belief that the socioeconomic precariousness worsens the consequences of underage divorce, both emotionally and socially.

As far as custody status is concerned, families who had assumed custody of the underage girl who is divorced were much more distressed. The resultant effects of this are reflected in the findings of Asaad (2007) and D'Onofrio (2011), who revealed a tendency to place extra burdens on the divorced girl when she is returned to her natal family, whether these burdens are emotional, financial, or social.

Nevertheless, some results do not agree with previous studies. For example, the current study's average impact is on social impact, compared to psychological impact, which Youssef (2017) emphasized as more imminent than social consequences in the case of early-divorced females. This discrepancy can be attributed to the fact that the current study involved family members as opposed to the girls who were divorced. It suggests that although the girl internalizes psychological pain, societal judgment is imposed on her family, which can be viewed as an addition to the current body of literature.

Another uncommon aspect of this study is that it focuses on families, rather than the divorced girl. In this area, it contributes value over previous research studies, such as those by Lampard (2013) and Abuzant (2016), which concentrated on divorced individuals. This study contributes to the literature and supports the need for family-based support systems by demonstrating how families are secondarily victimized as a result of early divorce.

### **Study Recommendations**

- 1- Increasing attention to divorced underage girls in order to rehabilitate them through programs specific to their circumstances and by building specialized centers for them.
- 2- Establishing awareness programs for the community about the phenomenon of underage marriage.
- 3- Follow up with the families of divorced underage individuals and support them morally and

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4- Conducting more studies on the effects of divorce on minors.

Suggested studies

1- Study the emotional balance and its relationship to the positive thinking of divorced minors.

3- Quality of life and its relationship to social harmony after separation for divorced underage individuals.

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